



### Farewell to Joan

We are very sad to say goodbye to Joan Inglis at the end of May.

Joan has been Norfolk County Council's Project Manager for Supporting Disabled Parents since 2006, when the Joint Protocol between Adult and Children's services began.

Joan has coordinated, organised, trained and encouraged hundreds of local social workers and family welfare workers to be aware of what can be done for disabled parents who may need support to look after their children.



In a complex multiagency world, Joan found ways of getting people to talk to each other, so they could work together for the benefit of disabled parents and their children.

She looked out for disabled parent's interests through many changes and reorganisations, and made sure new plans would include our needs.

Local authorities all over the country ask Joan to tell them how to improve the way they work with disabled parents, yet despite this expertise and all our NDPA efforts, Joan's post has been cut.

Joan is a supreme professional and we will miss her caring diplomacy that improved lives for so many disabled parent families in Norfolk.

In the future, there won't be one person to sort out problems when services to disabled parents don't work well, and there have been many in the past.

There won't be anyone to remind the powers-that-be that early support to disabled parents and their children saves costs and prevents inequality, or that early support helps to reduce young caring, improves school attendance and raises children's achievements.

Both adult and children's services insist that supporting disabled parents is now "business as usual". They mean services should work automatically. It's tough enough now for some disabled parents to work with the system, and we know it won't get easier.

Our response is to try to increase our capacity to make sure everyone working with families knows how things should be done. This is a big ask for a small group of volunteers. **We need business, admin, finance and marketing skills. If you can help in any way, please get in touch.**



Find us on  
**Facebook**

NDPA is now on Facebook, so if you're into internet social groups, this is for you.

We have just set up the page which we will begin to add to shortly.

If you already use facebook please look for the page and join to get updates on your facebook wall. Also 'like' it and spread the word about the group!

If you have any suggestions about what we could have on our facebook page, or have any problems with it please contact [kirstenfrancis68@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenfrancis68@gmail.com) .



If you are interested in facebook but you don't use it at the moment why not ask family, friends and people you know if they use it and if they will help get you started?

It's a great way to be in touch with family and friends and know what's going on in the world.

If you prefer strangers not to see any information about you, you can keep your security settings high so that only the friends you choose can see anything you write or any pictures you add.

## West Norfolk Independent Living Network

Norfolk Coalition Of Disabled People (NCODP) is piloting the West Norfolk Independent Living Network.

At a time when Personalisation and Independent Living are at the front of new initiatives, this is an exciting opportunity for you to:

- Get your voice heard
- Find out information about Independent Living
- Network with groups in your area

...and there's tea and biscuits!

**Friday 10 June 2011**

**9.30am – 1.00 pm**

**West Norfolk Professional  
Development Centre, Kilham's Way,  
Kings Lynn, PE30 2HU**

Featuring market stalls for groups and the public, funding information and Jane Norman from Disability Rights Norfolk with info on changes to DLA.

Also, have your say about independent living in West Norfolk.

- If you are a group/organisation and want to book a stand
- If you are an individual and you want to come along
- Or if there is anything we can do to make this session more accessible to you (e.g. large print, hearing loop)

Contact Penny Parker on 01508 491 576 or [penny.parker@ncodp.org.uk](mailto:penny.parker@ncodp.org.uk)



## Report on the Annual General Meeting 2010

The 2010 Annual General Meeting was well attended, being a double event with the launch of our Access All Schools report earlier in the day.

We were joined by Norman Lamb MP who spoke about the Government's new ideas and answered questions.

We gave him copies of the schools report to take to Prime Minister David Cameron, and the ministers for education, and health and social care.

The report, and an easy read summary, can be downloaded from our website [www.norfolkparents.org.uk](http://www.norfolkparents.org.uk) by clicking on the button on the front page.

We had planned to develop the schools research work by training disabled parents to take disability awareness into schools.

Unfortunately, because of the cuts in NCC services, we now need to prioritise our basic work in a different way. There will be more information on this soon.

Our 2010 Annual Report can be found on <http://www.norfolkparents.org.uk/our-past-work-is-saved-here.htm>

## Don't have access to the internet?

Tell us if you'd like to know more about the website topics in this newsletter, and we'll find another way to get it to you.  
Phone 01553 768193

## Are you a disabled parent who needs support?

Phone Social Services on 0344 800 8014, and ask for an assessment as a disabled parent.



## How was it for you?

We'd like to hear from any disabled parents who are in the process of getting support from social services, or anyone having reviews of their support, especially those who are starting to use Personal Budgets.



## Changes in the committee:

We're pleased to welcome Ann Franklin and Kirsten Francis to the Committee.



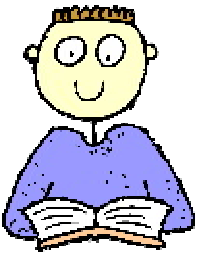
Russell Simpson, our newsletter editor stepped down at the AGM. Thanks, Russell for all your fab work and support since NDPA was formed in 2005.



## What are the highs and lows of employing Personal Assistants in a family situation?

How do you get your PA to do what you intend? How do you avoid arguments, and PAs becoming too involved with your children?

Send us your tips to share with other parents. Phone 078 525 989 54 and leave a message for a call back, or email [info@norfolkparents.org.uk](mailto:info@norfolkparents.org.uk)



## Book review wanted!

**A Monster Calls** by Patrick Ness is a new book for older children and young adults which is getting great reviews.

Conor's mother is having treatment for cancer. The monster shows up just after midnight. As they do. But it's not the one he was expecting. This one is ancient and wild. It wants the most dangerous thing of all, it wants the truth.

A darkly mischievous and painfully funny tale, *A Monster Calls* is a moving novel of coming to terms with loss. If you or your children have read it, let us know if you'd recommend it for other families when parents have serious conditions.



## Great opportunity for an interesting and satisfying hobby!

WE need a new editor for our newsletter - three or four times a year, when you want to from home. Give it a try!  
More info from Kathy on (01553 768193)

## Dads Included

Dads Included is an online community for everyone with a serious interest in fathers and fatherhood. Create your own profile, sign up as a Dads Included Champion, read and take part in fatherhood-related forums and set up networking groups.

[www.dadsincluded.org](http://www.dadsincluded.org)



Use our newsletter and website to share your ideas or concerns with other parents  
Your contributions are always welcome!

**Norfolk Disabled Parents Alliance**

**Choice Support Equality**

**Tel: 078 525 989 54**

**email: [info@norfolkparents.org.uk](mailto:info@norfolkparents.org.uk)**

**[www.norfolkparents.org.uk](http://www.norfolkparents.org.uk)**

