



Welcome to the latest edition of the Face 2 Face Network newsletter!

We would love to know what you think of the newsletter – email us with your comments.

We will continue to produce the newsletter quarterly and would welcome information about network events, websites and news for inclusion, please email face2facenetwork@scope.org.uk with any information you would like to share.



Network News

Still recruiting in Gloucestershire!

Thanks to funding from The Barnwood Trust, Face 2 Face is setting up a new scheme in the Gloucestershire area. If you would be interested in becoming a befriender in this area, then please contact Juliet Blackburn on 0844 800 9189 for more information.

Face 2 Face diaries for 2008 – calling all befrienders!

The network is hoping to produce a Face 2 Face diary for 2008 and in it we would like to include a 'Befrienders' Top Ten Tips'.

Do you have any tips for befriending that you think would be useful to others? It may only be a small thing to you but could be something another befriender hasn't thought of, so all ideas welcome.

Please contact juliet.blackburn@scope.org.uk with your top tips!

Face 2 Face website

For further information on Face 2 Face including more news please visit our website www.face2facenetwork.org.uk

Our website includes a general introduction to Face 2 Face, provides information on the befriending process, details how to become a befriender, provides network funding information, questions and answers, news, contact details for local schemes and details on our online and telephone befriending service.



FACE 2 FACE LAUNCH

Parents and professionals, together with a local BBC reporter, packed the room for the launch of the Face 2 Face service in Exeter, Mid and East Devon. A successful collaboration between the local charity "A Brighter Tomorrow" and Face 2 Face meant that the original dream of providing emotional support for parents locally can become a reality for Doug and Deb Barnes.



Doug Barnes, Chairman of A Brighter Tomorrow, described how his experiences with his daughter had motivated him to start the charity. Support from statutory bodies Devon PCT and Devon County Council was gratefully acknowledged.

Co-ordinator of the scheme, Trish Oliver, paid tribute to the commitment and passion of the volunteers. Nine befrienders are ready to befriend and four families are receiving the service already.



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Lizzie Jenkins, head of Face 2 Face, gave a presentation that put the service in a national and international context.

Miles Hapgood, Head of Devon PCT Families and Children's Services, presented each volunteer with a certificate and goodie bag.

Everyone enjoyed chatting to each other over lunch. There was a great atmosphere as professionals and parents alike applauded the provision of such a valuable service.

For more information or to refer into the service please contact Trish Oliver by phoning 01392 360465/01392 219952 or email at patriciajoliver@hotmail.com

F2F East Herts

F2F East Herts recently had a training course, and three weeks of advertising resulted in 17 applications. Unfortunately 5 could not train immediately, leaving the scheme with 12 suitable applicants - the largest group trained in the area. The course started at the beginning of May.

The existing 10 befrienders are still working hard and until now have had no spare capacity so the scheme can now advertise the service again with the expectation of new befrienders available in September.

Searching for funding continues and is very time-consuming so if anyone has any ideas for possible revenue funding streams please contact teresa.ivison@ntlworld.com.

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F2F In the North

Liverpool and Stoke have been assessed by the Mentoring and Befriending organisation for approved provider status.

Stoke is training nine new befrienders and is going to be involved in the Strengthening Families DVD.

NE Lincs.

A sleep clinic is about to be set up in NE Lincs and Co-ordinator Jacqui Wood says, "I am really excited about this! So many of our referrals and parent volunteers experience sleep deprivation as a result of the sleeping patterns of their children. It is widely known that sleep deprivation can greatly affect quality of life."

Now NE Lincs is about to promote a service new to this area. Face 2 Face befriender Tina Blanchard undertook training with Sleep Scotland and, along with colleague Vicki Hill, can now offer this specific counselling service to help parents – and their children – establish more regular sleep patterns.

Another Dads' Breakfast was held on 28 April and a Dads' Messy Play Day was held on Saturday 12 May. Although there were just four dads, along with their special needs children and brothers and sisters, it was a pretty busy and fun time. More details on both events can be found on our website at www.face2facenetwork.org.uk.



News in General

In The Picture, Scope's ground-breaking project, which aims to promote the inclusion of disabled children in early years picture books, continues to grow – here is some of the project's latest news.

Fully Informed Children – Training Workshops are being delivered around the country. The team has developed a toolkit and training aimed at supporting organisations to develop practices to include all children. The training is delivered in practical workshop-style sessions and offers delegates the opportunity to develop ways of sharing information in their work. Places are still available on the Birmingham workshop, which will be held on 21 June 2007. If you are interested in attending or would like to find out more email inthepicture@scope.org.uk

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In April, project manager Susan Clow collected the **Big Draw - Drawing Inspiration Award** for In The Picture, which was highly commended for session plans aimed at children. The plans have proved so popular that they are still available to download from the In The Picture website – so if you would like to give them a go with any children you know please visit:

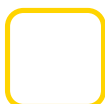
<http://www.childreninthepicture.org.uk/TheBigDraw2.htm>

New to the **Children's Area** of the website is a video version of Little Bo Peep as never seen before! It is a Signalong version of the well-known nursery rhyme and shows children having great fun dressed up as sheep! Also new to the children's area is another picture for children to download and colour – this one shows children on a "bug hunt" and they are using sign language.

New resources have been added to the website including an information sheet for inclusion training, photographs in the photo image bank and more children's artwork in the children's gallery.

Finally, project manager Susan Clow took part in **Just One More Book! Children's Book Podcast**. Susan talked about the work of In the Picture, how it all began and discussed some of the issues faced by the children's book world when including disabled children in story books. You can listen to the podcast or download a transcript at:

<http://www.childreninthepicture.org.uk/index.htm>



Holiday Cottage in Brittany, France

This newly renovated cottage is about 40 minutes' drive from St Malo on the northern coast of Brittany. It is situated on the edge of a small character village, only a few minutes from the medieval town of Dinan. This property has been specifically designed with easy access in mind, to cater for elderly or disabled people on the ground floor. There is a large secure rear garden and a good size gravel yard and parking area to the front. Numerous beaches and local attractions ensure the perfect family holiday.

For more details please contact Juliet Blackburn on 0844 800 9189 or by email at juliet.blackburn@scope.org.uk

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Strengthening Families Update

Research shows that families of disabled children can experience considerable stress resulting in a negative impact on their parents' relationship. The Strengthening Families training day equips workers to support families in an empathic manner. The training focuses on the emotions that families may be facing, developing active listening skills and putting the theory into practice.

Working with parents and leading professionals in the field including Professor Hilton Davies, Contact A Family, Relate and Sunfield School, the Strengthening Families Project has developed a one-day training package for professionals and volunteers so that they can offer more effective relationship support to families. It is the only one of its type in the United Kingdom and is already gaining widespread interest from professionals as well as the media.

Strengthening Families is running one-day courses in the following areas:

25 June 2007 - Wakefield

15 October 2007- Manchester

14 September 2007 - North East Lincs

The cost per delegate is £85 (including lunch).

Alternatively if you have several members of staff who you feel would benefit from this training, you may prefer to run the course in-house. We are offering to run the course for up to 12 people at a reduced cost of £500*. Your organisation would have to provide the venue and lunch for delegates.

*This reduced fee applies only to the first 60 organisations who apply.

For a background to the training, an overview of the modules covered on the course and our leaflet giving information about the in-house course, please contact Pamela Molloy. If you would like a booking form for either the one-day or in-house course, please email pamela.molloy@scope.org.uk or call 07734 133004.

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The Strengthening Families project has been awarded a grant of over £17,000 from the DFES. The grant will be used to research and produce a DVD to highlight the difficulties parents face within their relationship when they have a disabled child. The team is working closely with Women and Theatre Ltd who aim to write a piece of theatre with parents for the DVD. For more information about this initiative or the Strengthening Families project, email vicki.hill@scope.org.uk



Websites, Books and Resources

Age-appropriate alternatives to bibs

Are you the parent or carer of a young person/adult with special needs? Can't find an age-appropriate alternative to bibs? Then log onto Dribble Bandana's website www.dribble-bandanas.co.uk and view the fantastic range of adult bandanas, which offer the perfect solution. Dribble Bandanas produce handmade, funky bandanas that can be used instead of bibs. As youngsters with special needs grow up, they no longer wish to wear bibs that are traditionally associated with babies and toddlers. This alternative bib offers them the protection that they need while also acting as a fashion accessory.

Lisa, owner of Dribble Bandanas, says, "Originally I made the dribble bandanas for young children. However, recently I have been inundated with orders for young people and adults who have special needs. The dribble bandanas that I produce are more aesthetically pleasing than a bib and complement an outfit rather than distracting from it."

Dribble Bandanas, in a number of designs and sizes, are only available to be ordered online at www.dribble-bandanas.co.uk

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Recognising Fathers - The Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities has published a booklet called Recognising Fathers to help staff, service commissioners, policy makers and employers better understand the issues faced by fathers of children with a learning disability. You can download a copy here:

http://www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/html/content/recognising_fathers_booklet.pdf

Going to the doctors: a guide for children with autism and Asperger syndrome

Emma Jones, NAS Autism Helpline Team, illustrations by Jess Abbo

A useful guide for parents and carers but health professionals will also find it useful.

Published by the National Autistic Society, 2007, 20pp, A5, booklet, illustrated

(Code NAS 683) ISBN 978 1 905722 14 3 £1.00 plus p&p

To order online please visit:

<http://www.autism.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=760&a=12691>



Courses and Events

Involving Disabled Children in Planning and Reviews

This one-day training course designed to address the communication barriers faced by practitioners and managers across agencies when trying to engage with disabled children. The course will be held in Leeds on 28 June 2007 and London in November 2007. For more information visit:

http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_896sr_21632731210086u49i_20074232525t

Seminar: The Helping Relationship

This seminar is based on what Professor Hilton Davis has termed 'the helping relationship' because it is widely recognised now that this relationship is fundamental to any ongoing work with families of babies, children and young people. Professor Davis has developed the successful Family Partnership Model and will explain this in his presentation.

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Prices have been reduced to make the seminar accessible to services that have reduced training budgets. Prices now range from £90 per delegate (for groups of five or more) to £165 for single delegates.

Monday 18 June, 2007 - 9.45 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
 Armada House, Telephone Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4BQ

This seminar is for everyone who works in some way with babies and children and their families in health, education and social services, and in the voluntary and private sectors in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland (North and South).

PROGRAMME	
9.15	Reception and refreshments
9.45	Introduction to the Seminar by Peter Limbrick, Chair for the day
10.00	PROFESSOR HILTON DAVIS , Director, The Centre for Parent and Child Support, South London & Maudsley NHS Trust, and Guy's, King's & St. Thomas' School of Medicine, London, and author of <i>Working in Partnership with Parents: The Parent Adviser Model</i> 'The Helping Relationship: Understanding partnerships'
11.00	Break with refreshments
11.40	JENNI THOMAS OBE , Founder and President of The Child Bereavement Trust 'The Helping Relationship with parents of babies who have limited or uncertain life expectancy'
12.40	Lunch
1.40	PETER LIMBRICK , Independent Consultant and author of <i>Early Support for Children with Complex Needs</i> 'An organisational context for helping relationships in early support'
2.00	SHIRLEY YOUNG , parent of two disabled sons and Chair of the Family Fund. 'Looking beyond parental presentation'
3.00	SALLY SILVERMAN , Vision Support Teacher (Complex Needs), Bristol Sensory Support Service 'Working with families in the early years'
3.45	Closing comments. Seminar closes at 4.00 p.m.

Revised costs: Services and projects are invited to send a group of delegates – which can of course include parents. In support of this we are offering a sliding scale of charges.

1 place: £165 + VAT (at 17.5%)	2 places at £145 + VAT each
3 places at £125 + VAT each	4 places at £105 + VAT each
5 places at £90 + VAT each	Extra places at £90 +VAT each

For a booking form: Email: <mailto:p.limbrick@virgin.net> (also available on the website: www.icwhatsnew.com)

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As parents of children with special needs who do we turn to? Everyone involved with Face 2 Face knows how valuable the support of a befriender is. Befrienders are not the only people who provide a parent with support. Each parent will have someone they turn to; indeed they may well have a number of people. It may be a work colleague, friend, or a member of their family, or a combination of any of these.

In a fairly large number of cases the child's grandparent will not only be caught up in the turmoil following diagnosis but also have to provide support for THEIR child as they embark on a very painful journey of adjustment. Is the grandparent's pain any less bearable than the parents? Indeed they have two much-loved and cherished people to agonise over.

From personal experience, and with enough time gone by to reflect, my wife and I can now clearly recognise the anguish in our parents' voices and eyes. I am told that there were times when both my mum and dad and in-laws could not wait until we walked out of the door and around the corner so they could break down and cry. You see, my in-laws and my parents were ALWAYS positive and supportive no matter how much we cried or felt our daughter's and our own future had ended. They felt as alone and isolated as grandparents as we did as parents. Undoubtedly they endured a similar journey of adjustment as we did ourselves. There is not, to the best of my knowledge, a Face 2 Face scheme for grandparents (or wrinkly Face 2 Face as I think it should be called) and by so doing infuriating my parents. I cannot fathom out why!

In the Exeter area of Devon a small local charity, A Brighter Tomorrow, is involved with providing a Face 2 Face scheme, which has recently become operational. We recognised there is a need for support for grandparents or whoever parents turn to for help. A Brighter Tomorrow arranged for a grandparents' morning chaired by a psychologist. It was well attended and extremely moving. The psychologist was able to let the grandparents feel comfortable in the meeting and for the first time many were able to share their feelings with others who "understood" and it was not long before the event became very emotional. Although family dynamics were different; some grandparents were single or had remarried a partner who was not directly related to the grandchild, as well as couples who had been together before the birth of their child, they had all endured a difficult diagnosis for their grandchild. Therefore each grandparent

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had many memories and feelings that were shared all around the room. Sharing these experiences and memories was very empowering, although I do not feel their complaints of being the only ones able to baby sit and therefore well over used were at all justified!

All of the grandparents have expressed a wish to attend future meetings and we are planning the next one later this summer.

Consider setting up a meeting in your locality. Personally I found it very rewarding.

Rebecca's dad
(Doug Barnes, Chairman of A Brighter Tomorrow)



The Role of The Lawyer in Birth Injury Litigation

Andrew Hanham is a partner at Foot-Anstey solicitors and has written an article on their role in Birth Injury Litigation.

It is a big step for a parent to ring for that initial discussion regarding their child's claim. There are occasions when events around birth can explain their child's cerebral palsy. In most cases, cerebral palsy is caused by unidentifiable events occurring well before birth. There are certain pointers which enable us to focus our investigations:

The baby was born at full term and all seemed well until the very end of labour.

The baby was particularly unwell in the neo-natal period particularly with evidence of fitting.

Funding is a concern for most families, but probably should not be. Legal Aid is available and is assessed on the child's means, not the parents'.

The litigation process begins with collating medical records and obtaining independent expert medical opinion. The obstetric notes are examined by an obstetrician and a midwife. To bring a successful claim it is not sufficient to show simply that wrong decisions were taken. We need to show that no responsible obstetrician/midwife would have taken the decisions that were taken. If we can identify substandard care we then need to establish the link with cerebral palsy

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Once the reports are available the family will meet with the experts and our barrister. If we agree that the case is strong enough, court proceedings then start.

If liability is established there is still much to do to calculate the award. The modern approach is to use a lump sum for capital costs. Ongoing future costs are often met by annual payments.

For further information please contact Andrew Hannam, Partner, Foot Anstey solicitors, The Quad, Blackbrook Business Park, Taunton TA1 2PX



Message from the Network

The Face 2 Face website and [newsletter belongs to the network](#) and the people that use it.

[Please contribute](#) to this newsletter with your news, events, sponsors, fundraisers, websites, recommendations and anything else you feel may be of benefit to Face 2 Face.

Email	face2facenetwork@scope.org.uk
Telephone	0844 800 9189

Time to get equal

scope

About cerebral palsy.
For disabled people achieving equality.

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