



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.

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.



Scheme News

Our First Scheme in Wales!

Thanks to funding from The Big Lottery, we have our first Face 2 Face scheme in Wales. The scheme is based at The Rees Centre, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend and is being co-ordinated by Maizie Elfin who joined the network in November of last year.

Maizie is recruiting volunteer befrienders and anyone wishing to get involved locally is welcome to contact maizie.elfin@scope.org.uk or by telephone on 01656 741316.

Cornwall Face 2 Face

The Cornwall Face 2 Face service has had a great few months. Referral numbers have been fairly even across the service and for the first time ever there is a short waiting list in one area! They are recruiting new volunteers in Penwith and Kerrier areas to help meet those referrals.

Seven Oasis groups are being supported across Cornwall. These groups are operated at Children's Centres and provide informal monthly support sessions for parents, grandparents and carers. Because they are held at these venues, both disabled children and/or their siblings are welcome to attend. Befrienders also attend these meetings offering families support, information and signposting. As well as proving to be an excellent recruitment point for both new volunteers and referrals, Oasis groups are also a good exit for families who have been supported by Face 2 Face.

In December last year the team got together at the Sands Hotel in Newquay for a training and planning day. At the end of the day everybody enjoyed a pampering session and evening meal. It was also an opportunity to say goodbye and thank you to co-ordinator Jacqui White who leaves the service after 18 months.



NOTE

A mention of any product, treatment, therapy, web link or event does not constitute endorsement.

Sutton Face 2 Face

This scheme was set up over two and a half years ago by The Sutton Disability Partnership for Children and Young People. It has just commenced its fourth training course and by the end of March hope to have a grand total of 20 parents providing the Face 2 Face service in the area.



Lobna Al-Kalamchi, who is the co-ordinator for the scheme, would like to say big thank you to all her befrienders for their effort and the work they have put into the scheme. One parent accessing the service recently said

"I am so grateful to my befriender. She listened to me without being judgemental. I was able to tell her exactly how I felt. She helped me to realise that I wasn't the only mother facing the difficulties of coping with a child who is severely disabled. With Nyssa's support, I have been able to accept my child as she is."

If you would like to know more about the Face 2 Face scheme in Sutton please phone Lobna on 0208 410 3466 or 07888 682 949 or by email lobna.al-kalamchi@sutton.gov.uk

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Strengthening Families

Supporting parents
of disabled children



Now taking bookings!

Strengthening Families Training Course

For professionals, volunteers or agencies working with parents whose child has a disability/additional need

Strengthening Families now has over 20 fully trained professionals to deliver the training package to establishments and organisations around the country. There has been a good response with very little advertising so far and excellent feedback from organisations and establishments who have received this invaluable training package.

A **Strengthening Families Leaflet** promoting the training package is now available from the website and will be distributed to relevant organisations/establishments around the country.

All information and booking forms for the '**Strengthening Families Training Package**' can be located on the Face 2 Face Website www.face2facenetwork.org.uk or directly at <http://www.face2facenetwork.org.uk/StrengtheningFamilies.htm>

For more information or to book a course please contact Karen Hunt strengtheningfamilies@scope.org.uk or call 01432 355308.

A large number of bookings this year is estimated and we advise booking a course early to avoid disappointment!

'Stronger'

Commissioned by Scope's Strengthening Families Project, **Women & Theatre** has produced a play called '**Stronger**' to raise awareness and give a forum for open discussion around the pressures that many families with a disabled child are facing and what strengthens them. 'Stronger' was created through research with the help of family members.

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During the last week of January the play was performed at a series of roadshow events and will be officially launched on Wednesday 16 April 2008 at Scope, Market Road. This will then be followed by a 'Strengthening Families Day Conference' on 24 April 2008 in Birmingham. More information will be available on the Face 2 Face website shortly.



For Children and Young People with Hemiplegia

HemiHelp is a national charity that provides support and information to children who have hemiplegia and their families. Hemiplegia is a neurological condition that weakens one side of the body, and affects up to one child in a thousand. It is caused by damage to the brain before, during or after birth and the effects are similar to those of a stroke. Hemiplegia affects each child differently and can be much more severe in some children than others. Over half of children with hemiplegia have an associated condition. These can include epilepsy, visual impairment, problems with speech and learning difficulties. Many young people with hemiplegia also experience emotional and behaviour problems.

So how does HemiHelp help?

HemiHelp produces over 50 information leaflets on living with hemiplegia. These cover all areas from day-to-day practical tasks such as dressing to information about treatments, education and activities. Their leaflets are all available on the HemiHelp website, which also hosts a very busy message board where parents can post questions and share their experiences. There is a quarterly members' newsletter that contains news, views, events and articles all about hemiplegia and a network of local groups throughout the UK.

HemiHelp was started in 1990 by a group of parents, and supporting parents is still at the heart of what the charity does. There is a helpline staffed entirely by parent volunteers and a Home Visiting Service is being piloted. Conferences are held for parents, in which leading health and education professionals attend and talk about hemiplegia. Likewise, conferences are held for professionals, in which experts in the field present the latest developments in research and treatment and provide an inter-disciplinary approach to managing hemiplegia.

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Family fun days offer children with hemiplegia the chance to try out all kinds of sports and activities they might not otherwise get the chance to do, as well as meeting and have fun with other children who have hemiplegia. Last year HemiHelp started running music workshops to give children the chance to engage with music and try out specially adapted musical instruments. These have proved very popular, and gave the children such a confidence boost, that future workshops are planned using drama, dance and art, as well as music.



The goal at HemiHelp is to be able to reach every child and family affected by hemiplegia in the UK and Ireland. It is estimated that there are over 10,000 families who have a child with hemiplegia but the charity is currently only reaching about a third of them.

For more information on any of the above please call 08451203713 or look them up on the web at www.hemihelp.org.uk

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Events

Free Fun and Friendly! Saturday Family Sessions 10 am til 12 noon at Westfield Childrens Centre Buccleuch Road, Longton, ST3 4RF

If you have a child/children in your family with a disability or additional needs please come along to one or more of the Saturday family sessions that are being held at the above address on the following dates –

23rd February
15th March
19th April
17th May

For more information please contact Denise Deakin on 01782 874974 or by email at denise.deakin@scope.org.uk



Information, Websites, Books and Resources

Turn2us

Turn2us is a new charity that has launched an online service to help the millions of people in need in the UK and offer information on all benefits and grants available from both statutory and voluntary organisations, at no cost. In many cases, applications for support can be made directly from the website and Turn2us promises to keep people informed by email or sending a text to their mobile phone.

Millions of people in the UK are living below the poverty line and yet up to £8 billion in income-related benefit goes unclaimed every year (DWP 2006). Research shows that there is low awareness of the support available from the voluntary sector (nfpSynergy 2007) despite the existence of nearly 800 charities giving help to people in need (Directory of Social Change 2006).

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Crucially, the people who need the help the most find it hardest to navigate their way to get the help available to them.

Turn2us aims to address this wide-scale and urgent need. Through Turn2us, thousands of people from diverse backgrounds will have access to information that could make a real difference to their lives.

Access this site via www.turn2us.org.uk

Special Kids in the UK

Special Kids in the UK is a charity for families who have a child of any age with additional needs. Families of children with special needs often deal with similar challenges. They may have concerns about education, services, therapies, respite and other issues directly related to their child. Special Kids in the UK aims to bring families together for friendship and support and runs a very busy Forum.

The charity was created by four parents with children with special needs who appreciate how important this type of contact and information is. They hope to help families of children with any kind of special need to realise that they are not alone.

"Special Kids in the UK has helped me so much. I have found out so much more information that has helped my daughter that I would have never known about. Now that I have found Special Kids in the UK I couldn't imagine life without it." **Ali, Cheshire**

Log on now at www.specialkidsintheuk.org



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

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