



Welcome to the latest edition of the face2face 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

Firma Families - Project Update

Work is underway on the new Strengthening Families project, previously called Firma Families. The project is being funded by the Department for Education and Skills and aims to make professionals and volunteers aware of the difficulties that parents face within their relationship when their child is disabled. The project aims to put the emphasis back on the parents' relationship and to promote strong, happy and rewarding family relationships.

Vicki Hill, Strengthening Families project lead, was appointed in January and has been working with parents to find out what they would like to be included in the new training package. Vicki says, "It is important that parents are listened to and have an input into the training package. I have already met the Face 2 Face befrienders in NE Lincolnshire and the befrienders in Stoke. I'm very keen to meet as many parents as possible and to listen to their views about the project's work."

Partnerships are being formed with outside agencies as well as across the Face 2 Face network. The LEAP project in Leeds has an Asian Fathers Group which is working with Strengthening Families on the training materials. Links have also been established with Sunfield School's Fathers Group.

The national steering group for the project met in Birmingham on the 28 February. The group members represent parents as well as professionals. The steering group's professional members include Professor Hilton Davies, Relate counsellors, One Plus One, Contact a Family, Sunfield School and Robina Shar, researcher in black and ethnic minority issues relating to disability. It is hoped that a number

of sub-groups of parents will feed into the steering group from across the country.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting project then please do not hesitate to contact Vicki by email at vicki.hill@scope.org.uk or by telephone on 0114 2459786.

Vicki has also been asked to be a committee member on the Rotherham Carers Week Planning Group. Carers Week takes place on 12-18 June this year and the theme is "In Sickness and In Health". For further information about events happening in your area, please visit www.carersweek.org.

Online Befriending Support Group Meeting

The first online support group meeting was held in Bromsgrove on the 25 and 26 February. It went very well, with befrienders sharing their experiences of online befriending.

The online service is really taking off and all online befrienders are befriending at least one person each. One befriender has three referrals. The referral rate has increased hugely since the introduction of our online referral system via the website – please visit <http://www.face2facenetwork.org.uk/about/onlineform.htm>

If you would like to be involved with the online service, please contact Nikki Cull, Coordinator on online@face2facenetwork.org.uk

Future ideas and plans for the online service were also discussed and details can be found on the internal Face 2 Face forums.



Scheme News

Exeter Face 2 Face

A new Face 2 Face scheme is underway in Exeter. This has been achieved by working with "A Brighter Tomorrow", (a Devon-based charity set up by Douglas and Deborah Barnes) and Exeter Primary Care Trust. Doug and Deborah, plus all of the committee, have worked very hard to get to this stage, however a job advertisement will be finalised shortly and the process for appointing a coordinator will commence - we hope to have them in post by the end of April. The scheme will be line managed by Nikki Cull.

NOTE

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

Stoke On Trent Face 2 Face

Stoke-on-Trent's first befrienders celebrated the completion of their training at an evening support meeting. The befrienders presented each other with their certificates and the evening was filled with laughter and applause.



As an extra special thank you, Denise Deakin, scheme coordinator, presented the volunteers with an A to Z of the local area! She can now be reassured there will be no phone calls to say that the befrienders are lost when out and about providing the valuable service that they are skilled and trained to do!

It was a special evening which was enjoyed by all.

South Essex Face 2 Face

On Friday 25 November a celebratory event was held at The Thurrock Carers Centre to unveil a plaque awarded to Face 2 Face for Scope's Volunteer Project of the Year 2005. Five volunteer befrienders also presented with Royal Mint coins awarded to them by NCVO for Volunteer of the Year.

The event was well attended by a multitude of professionals, local councillors and parents, and the Mayor Colin Churchman unveiled the plaque and presented awards to the volunteers. In his speech, he thanked them for their voluntary work and expressed his appreciation for the strength of voluntary services within Thurrock.

NOTE

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

There was a buffet lunch to follow and a chance to network. Displays and information were also available at the centre and many comments were made about how impressive the new training package is.



Many congratulations to the staff and volunteers at Face 2 Face South Essex for their commitment and achievements this year.



News in General

Sleep nurse

Cerebra, the foundation for the brain injured child, has launched a Sleep Nurse Service. A registered nurse is able to give advice on sleep issues and problems of children with brain-related disorders to both professionals and parents. The service is free and UK-wide. Contact Cerebra Parent Support Helpline free on 0800 32 81 159 or email: PatriciaE@cerbra.org.uk

In The Picture survey

In The Picture is carrying out research into methods of sharing information with young disabled children. Initially the research will involve completing a brief questionnaire to establish the types of resources that are out there. If you would be interested in completing a questionnaire or know of any resources please email: inthepicture@scope.org.uk

NOTE

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



Events

Scope's 13th National Early Years Conference will take place on 6 and 7 April 2006. The "Working Together" two-day residential conference will take place at Harper Adams University College, Newport, Shropshire. For more information and to book a place email: earlyyears@scope.org.uk



Websites, Books and Resources

In The Picture, Scope's project aimed at putting disabled children literally and metaphorically "in the picture", has launched its website. To read more about the project visit: <http://www.childreninthepicture.org.uk>



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 01432 370860

NOTE

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