



Bristol Area Down's Syndrome Support

Hi,

I hope you all had a good holiday and are enjoying the last bit of decent weather.

Before the first newsletter, there are a few events and reminders you may be interested in:

1. Counselling.

Helen England has managed to secure Jenny - a counsellor - to provide a special service for anyone who feels that they would like to talk to someone outside their immediate family and friends about their feelings and about coming to terms with having a child with Downs Syndrome. As many of us know, it is not only new parents who might benefit from this sort of service - indeed it is often as the children get a bit older and life is less crazy that people find it really useful to talk to others.

If you feel that you would like more information, please email Helen **in strict confidence** at gehe62@virginmedia.com. She will explain Jenny's background and make the introduction. This service is subsidised by BADSS. There is no commitment and you may see her once or for a series of sessions - whichever suits you best.

2. Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting is on Monday 20th September at Jane Powell's house in Emersons Green. Everyone is welcome. We will be discussing the Center Parcs break, forthcoming events, the Xmas party, and how to use the balance of our aiming high grant (ringfenced for respite, activities and short breaks). everyone attending has an equal voice and we welcome your input and ideas. For more information and to receive the agenda please email paul.simson@btconnect.com

3. Carer's Centre Coffee Mornings

2nd Monday of each month at the carer's (Vassals) centre, gill avenue, fishponds. 10.30-12 all welcome. for more information contact Nettie on 0117 958 9908

4. Wills and Trusts

Mencap are running a free seminar on wills and trusts for people with a learning disability and their carers. It is at the Barton Hill settlement on Friday 1st October 12.30-2.30. Call 0207 696 6925 to book a place

5. Statement of Special Educational Need

We have heard from some parents with children about to start school that they are either not being told about statements or actively being discouraged from getting one.

It is our view that EVERY child with Downs Syndrome will need additional support at school above the school action plus level and that delaying the (incredibly slow) process of getting a statement will only deprive your child of the help and resources they will need.

Anyone who has a child who has started school this year should have a statement already. If you are starting next year, you should have already started the statement process.

If this is not the case, I strongly advise you to contact Annabel Tall who as well as being our resident expert in these matters also sits on the IPSEA panel (a tribunal service that makes sure that local authorities do not neglect their duties in this area)

Contact Annabel in confidence at annabel@tall.org.uk

6. South Gloucestershire Parents whose child with DS is coming to the end of Secondary Education

South Glos are currently reviewing their transition arrangements (which many feel are unsatisfactory). If you wish to put your views forward, there will be a meeting shortly arranged by the Our Voice Matters group for parent participation. Email paul.simson@btconnect.com if you would like more details.

The next newsletter will come out at the end of the month with details of events through the Autumn and Winter.

Paul Simson
BADSS

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