

Greenwich Parenting Practitioners Forum (GPPF)

Newsletter No 5a, March 2013

'for all workers / professionals in Greenwich who support children & families'

Welcome to the latest Newsletter!

What is the Greenwich Parenting Practitioners Forum?

A quarterly meeting to hear about *parenting support* and *parenting classes* running in the borough from both voluntary and statutory agencies. It is open to all workers / professionals in Greenwich who support families. This newsletter is intended for workers / professionals working with children & families throughout the Royal borough.



Next GPPF:
Tuesday 21 May 2013
1.30-4pm,
Memorial Hospital.

The 7th Greenwich Parenting Practitioners Forum took place on Tuesday 12 Feb 2013. For this forum there was the special theme of **AUTISM & CHILDREN**. Below are overviews of the six presentations that took place. After the presentations, some networking took place including updates to the Families Information Service Directory.

Grateful thanks to Lilia Collandra, Family therapy trainee in CAMHS for writing the summaries that appear below.



1. A basic overview on Autism and Autistic spectrum disorders (ASD).

Nicola Reynolds, Clinical Psychologist, CAMHS, presented information about Autism and the Autistic spectrum. She outlined the three main diagnostic criteria for ASD, which are problems with social interaction, imagination and communication. A second set of criteria was illustrated to represent what the clinicians generally use as a support to the diagnosis: motor skills, repetitive/stereotyped activities and responses to sensory stimuli. All the above-mentioned criteria vary in terms of severity and needs to be matched appropriately with age and gender. Nicola also highlighted the importance of avoiding generalizations because "every child is unique & has his own personality alongside his diagnosis". nicola.reynolds@oxleas.nhs.uk



2. Autism & schools and the role of the ASD outreach team.

Roz Weeks, Speech & Language Therapist and ASD Outreach Service Manager, started by providing information about the characteristics of the local context which sees an increasing number of ASD cases in secondary schools and a much higher number of males. She then outlined the services provided to schools divided into direct and indirect support. The direct support to students is organised on five levels of intervention. The indirect support is mainly based on different forms of training to school staff and provision of resources. Finally, Roz presented the service to families with direct support through home visits and parenting programmes (Early Birds, Early Birds plus, Cygnet), online training and bespoke training. rweeks@lbgmail.net

Web: visit www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk and enter 'ASD outreach'.



3. Greenlights Project (Greenwich Mencap) and Willowdene School.

Habibah Ahmed from Greenlights Project and Tania Bailey from Willowdene School presented a case example of their work in partnership with children with autism. Tania started illustrating how the school approaches parents focusing in particular on the engagement process described as a slow, holistic, patient and persevering effort seeking to build the relationship with the family. Habibah showed how Greenlights joins in with the school when some more specialist intervention is required to work with the child at home. Sharing of information and mutual support between organisations and the family is paramount for the success of the interventions.

Web: www.greenwichmencap.org.uk www.willowdene.greenwich.sch.uk



4. Willowdene School.

Jude McPartlan (Assistant Head, Assessment and Family work) and Tanya Bailey, (Family Support Worker) presented the work that Willowdene School carries on with children with ASD representing the 62% of the population of the school. The school as a whole aims to be supportive of these children from the moment they physically enter the school. Engaging parents is one of the main focuses and this is achieved through many different strategies. Parents are also helped to build communities for mutual support. Finally, particular importance is given to raise awareness of ASD within parents who are often invited to attend specific workshops.

Web: www.willowdene.greenwich.sch.uk

Continued



5. Working with parents of children with autism; lessons from the NVR parenting course.

Pete Brown briefly illustrated the principles of the NVR parenting course that runs in CAMHS twice a year. He spoke about the importance of de-escalation to overcome symmetrical escalation which can lead to episodes of violence and aggression within families. The aim for parents is to regain control of themselves and their relationship with their child through increased 'parental presence'. Pete presented some of the advice given by two parents of an autistic child who benefited greatly NVR. They learnt how to remain calm and de-escalate aggressive/violent episodes, plan strategies to deal with difficult behaviours, regain control of their home & family, and manage feelings about repetitive behaviour / gadgets. [Google 'greenwich camhs nvr' for various resources about NVR](#)



6. National Autistic Society (NAS) & the NAS local branch.

Julie Raven, ☎ 079 282 95 171, and Jo Delap presented the services offered locally by the Greenwich branch of the National Autistic Society (NAS). Services run by the local branch include providing support through coffee mornings where people can receive information, advice and support. Lesley Davis is the independent family adviser and can be contacted by email flag@live.co.uk or ☎ 07776 163 120. The branch also offer free swimming lessons to children with ASD and support adults with ASD. For the future the branch plans to develop Family Rights Sessions.



Helpline: 0808 800 4104

Email: nas@nas.org.uk

Web: www.autism.org.uk

The national office support includes a free 'Child Autism Pack' which is full of useful information about autism.

Local Branch

email: greenwich@nas.org.uk

Web: www.nasgreenwich.org.uk

Special Supplement to this Newsletter

All 13 presentation overviews from local agencies / groups shown below are now available in a special supplement (taken from the four GPPF 2012 newsletters). You should find it accompanying this newsletter. Or email pete.brown@oxleas.nhs.uk for a copy.



Expert Patients Programme

☎ 020 8312 6070



☎ 020 8854 3865



☎ 020 8853 9065



☎ 0208 317 4298



☎ 020 8305 2245



Families & School Together Parenting Programme

debbie.edwards@royalgreenwich.gov.uk



4 week course

marc.james@royalgreenwich.gov.uk



Parenting Programme

elisabeth.heismann@oxleas.nhs.uk



Greenwich Women's Aid / Housing for Women

☎ 020 8317 8273



Parent Support Group

☎ 0208 469 0205



Support for women affected by Domestic Abuse

☎ 0203 260 7715



Strengthening families, Strengthening communities Parenting Programme (SFSC)

denise.wells@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

ISCF (Integrated Support, Children & Families)

Family Support Workers from ISCF (Children's Services) support vulnerable families. For info & possible referrals contact Amanda Ratcliff or Sue Regan, Senior Practitioners, on 020 8854 8888. amanda.ratcliff@royalgreenwich.gov.uk sue.regan@royalgreenwich.gov.uk



Families Information Service Directory has eleven sections packed with details of teams and organisations that support parents and families in the Royal borough of Greenwich.

fis@royalgreenwich.gov.uk ☎ 020 8921 6921

Children's Centres in Greenwich

"Children's Centres are a 'one-stop-shop' for children under five and their families. Whether you are a mother, or father, parent-to-be, a grandparent or a carer – whoever you are, you will be welcomed".

Many of Greenwich's 23 Children's Centres have become federated (or twinned). For a list of all centres and their services, email fis@royalgreenwich.gov.uk



Ten week parenting course starts 24 April 2013 (Wednesday afternoons, 1-3pm). Places filling up fast! For further details contact sarah.clark@welcare.org



Ten ways to have a confident child.

These 'top tips' are from **Practical Parenting Magazine**, February 2013. For a copy of the article, please email Pete who contributed to some of the tips.



Greenwich Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB)

New leaflet on Discipline launched.

For copies please email

safeguardingtraining@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

'Please support the work of the GSCB to reduce incidents of physical chastisement in the Royal Borough'.

Kay Bell, Independent Chair, GSCB.

DIARY DATE: The next **Greenwich Parenting Practitioners Forum (GPPF)** will take place on **Tuesday 21 May 2013** from 1.30pm-4pm at the Memorial Hospital