



*providing support for those affected by
autism and Asperger's syndrome*

Bulletin

July - August 2007

autism London
Bi-Monthly Bulletin

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(Please note we are unable to accept personal callers to the offices without an appointment)

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Desmond Meldrum, Dee King, Richard Tucker,

We would welcome any feedback related to information printed in this
publication.

The views and opinions expressed in Autism London's 'The Bulletin'
are not necessarily those of the organisation.

*Your donation and subscription as a Supporter enables Autism London
to continue to provide its support services free of charge to those
personally affected by Autism and Aspergers Syndrome*

www.autismlondon.org.uk

*All of our fact sheets have been recently updated and are now
available for free download from our website.*

*If you know of a good service, event or opportunity for children or
adults or those affected by Autism or Asperger's Syndrome why not
let us know about it.*

Email the information to us :-

info@autismlondon.org.uk



Hi All

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and you are enjoying your summer (all be it a little wet!). You will find a lot in this months newsletter but I hope you note the new logo Autism London have adopted which is a variation on the MCCH one. The launch of the MCCH logo will be at their AGM in September and of course ours at the Autism London AGM on 27th November 2007.

This years AGM will be combined with a Conference that will provide some interesting and informative speakers for you. We hope you will be able to attend and also enjoy the information displays we will also have on offer. I look forward to meeting many of you there.

Jacky Hammond
Area Director



Hi everyone

I am the new Area Administrator for MCCH and Autism London. I look forward to meeting and working with you.

Christine Howlett
Administrator



Hello everybody!

Isn't the new logo good? The designers gave us an exciting selection, and people who use our services, family members, staff and the board all had a say in choosing it. The bands form the shape of the river Thames, making our home in London clear at a glance. Some people think these ribbons can be seen as something to help us make connections. The colours are the same as the ones in the logo of our partner, MCCH. I find the brightness very uplifting.

Meanwhile, we're now thinking ahead to the event we're holding, lasting most of the day on 27 November, as part of the AGM. We're going to have speakers, displays, and of course nobody will go hungry or thirsty. Everybody's welcome, and I really hope you'll come. Put it down in your diary now.

All the best



Autism London Chair



Autism London Conference & AGM

Tuesday 27th November 2007

Venue: The Resource Centre
LVSRC 356 Holloway Road,
London N7

Time: 9.30am - 4.00pm

Cost: £25

(Lunch will be provided)

For booking and further details contact Chris on: 020 8559 7080

ACE Project for Autism London!

Autism London and MCCH Society will be playing a key role in an exciting new project that aims to help end the chronic exclusion experienced by adults. The programme is pooling £6million of Government funding from the Departments of Health, Communities & Local Government, Work & Pensions and the Home Office. In a very competitive process around 220 organisations applied for the funds and just 12 were successful.

The selection panel commented that they were very impressed by the very practical approach proposed by the AL and MCCH application, as well the partnership approach and the enthusiasm of the management teams!

The project that AL will be supporting over the next 3 years will be based in the Medway Towns and use a range of approaches including person centred planning, advocacy, coaching and mentoring in order to:

1. improve individuals' ability to engage with services
2. increase the support available to excluded adults with multiple needs
3. help people negotiate points of transition in their lives

The core outcome that the pilots should demonstrate is whether the schemes have improved the lives of adults facing chronic exclusion. A full evaluation programme will accompany the pilots to determine their effectiveness and share the learning nationally. Rhiannon Walters, Chair of Autism London said 'Autism London has lots of skills and knowledge to offer and we are delighted that the sponsoring Government Departments recognized the particular challenges experienced by many adults with autism. We are looking forward very much to helping make this project a real success so that we can share what we learn nationally.

Colin Guest, Fundraising Consultant.

Support Services Update

Welcome to the Support Services section of the bulletin. The year is speeding along and autumn will be with us soon. We hope the flooding in some parts of the country didn't affect any of you this summer and you found ways to stay nice and dry despite all the rain. Support Services continues to be very busy with our Helpline activities, Advocacy services and support groups. We have resumed our Parent/carers support group at the LIMES in Waltham Forest and we hope to do the same in Islington and Hackney in the near future. Our July Parent/Carers meeting was hosted by Sibylle Janert from Mindbuilders who presented a wonderful insight into The P.L.A.Y project (Play & Language for Autistic Youngsters), a play-based autism intervention based on Dr Stanley Greenspan's DIR (Developmental Individualised Relationship) Floortime model. If you would like further information on this project and the workshops being held in Oxford in September, please contact: Kathy@childrenintouch.org.uk or 07780805451. A big thank you to Sibylle for her contribution to our first Parent carers meeting of 2007!

p Dates for future Parent/carers meetings at

The Limes are:

September 20th

October 18th

November 15th

December - none.

The LIMES, Somers Rd, Walthamstow, E17 6RX

Give us a ring on 0845 6037954 to let us know you'll be coming. We look forward to seeing you there!

Ethney



Hello members and supporters,

I hope you had time to enjoy the good weather when it has been with us. Some of you may have been away on holidays in which case I hope you are refreshed and rested. The last ALAG meeting on Disability Living Allowance was well received by the group, and gave an opportunity for individuals to ask lots of questions relating to this benefit. Disability Allowance can be quite hard to claim and many people are not always sure what they are entitled to receive. This session proved quite informative for those who attended, and gave some the chance to have some things clarified by Frank Pitfield who works for the Disability Living Allowance Department.

We have an Autumn/winter programme for our ALAG support group which will run as follows:

Ⓟ TUESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2007

Talk on "Employment Issues" by Claire Phillips from Prospects

Some individuals with Asperger's Syndrome find employment quite challenging, Claire will be giving a talk about prospects and the work they do.

Ⓟ TUESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2007

Talk on "Anger Management" by Glenor Roberts from the British Association of Anger Management

Ⓟ TUESDAY DECEMBER 4, 2007

CHRISTMAS PARTY

A time for ALAG members to socialise and think about the year ahead, and what has been good about the year 2007.

We always welcome your ideas and comments on topics for future discussions for the ALAG group, so please continue to share with us. Until next bulletin this is Dee signing off.

THE OFFICE MANAGER AND THE CLERK WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROMEby Desmond Meldrum

An office manager has ordered a new desk and he was becoming very anxious as it was taking a rather long time for it to be delivered. He then asked one of his clerks (Bloggs), who happened to have Asperger's syndrome, to telephone the supplier and enquire as to why the delivery of the desk was taking such a long time.

The following dialogue is how a misunderstanding came about.

Boss: Bloggs, would you telephone the desk people and ask them how long it will be.

BLOGGS, THE CLERK WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME, TELEPHONES THE DESK SUPPLIER AND WHEN THEY ANSWER HE SAYS

Bloggs: could you please tell me the length of the desk we ordered?

Supplier: three feet

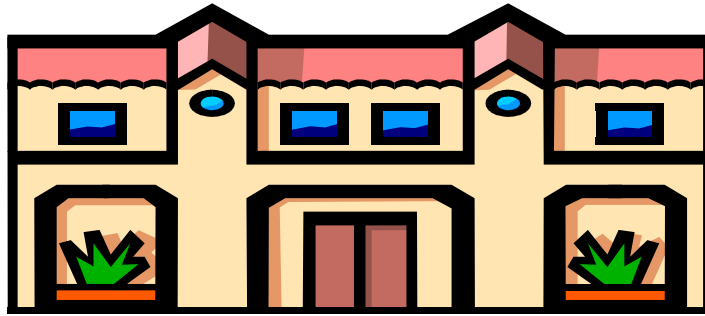
Bloggs: thank you very much

BLOGGS TURNS TO BOSS AND GIVES HIM THE MEASUREMENTS OF THE DESK. THE BOSS, SOUNDING ANNOYED, THEN ANSWERS

Boss: I did not ask for the measurements of the desk, I wanted you to find out when it was going to be delivered.

Excerpt from *Alternative Personality* a book written by Desmond Meldrum, an Aspie who volunteers for Autism London. It is based on a genuine incident.

Salisbury Road ~ Residential Services



SERVICE UPDATE

The summer has not been great but we have been making the best of what we have. We continue to support the service users with their daily activities and their daily living skills. Some are preparing for the reopening of college and staff are continuing to work on the person centred plans (PCP) of three service users, with the support of their parents, Ethney and Dee from our regional office at Woodford Bridge and Joe McDaniel from our head office in Maidstone. We are now beginning to put together information for two other service users with regards to their PCP.

Staff are also working on a weeks' holiday for all seven service users before the end of the summer.

Boakye and Ackbar have been invaluable in driving service users and staff on day trips on a regular basis.

We have interviewed and offered tentative appointments to three new staff to fill in the vacancy that exists within the staff team.

I am confident that service users and staff are working well together and the future within the service is very bright.

Richard Tucker

Manager at Salisbury Road



Supporters Forum

Centre 404 are hosting their annual Information Day this year on Wednesday 10th October 2007. "Moving Disabled Children out of Poverty"

To be held at: LVRSC, Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London N7.

9.30am - 3pm. Contact Caroline Greenwell on: 0207 445 8005 at Centre 404

Outreach Northern Health Centre 580 Holloway Road London N7 6LB

New Seminar: Relationships and Asperger's Syndrome

Aimed at: Individuals and couples involved in a relationship where either partner has AS and professionals in adult support and counselling

Date 29th October 2007 Venue RIBA London

http://www.aspergerfoundation.org.uk/seminars/asf_bookingform29102007.pdf

Turtle Key Arts is running a free Documentary Filmmaking Course for 16 to 26 year olds who are on the high functioning end of the autistic spectrum. It runs during the autumn and winter terms on a Tuesday, and is an Open College Network qualification. For further details contact: Turtle Key Arts, Ladbroke Hall, 79 Barlby Road, London W10 6AZ

Tel: 020 8964 5060

Fax: 020 8964 4080

THE POLITICS OF AUTISM - Exploring Normality and Neurodiversity

7pm on 12th September @ City Hall (just off Tower Bridge)

Speakers (provisional) include: Dinah Murray (Birmingham Uni), Larry Arnold (NAS) and David Morris (Disability advisor, Mayor of London)

The meeting will question the dominant medicalised perception of autism and ask whether the problems that people with an autism diagnosis experience are more a result of discrimination, marginalisation and exclusion practiced by society against those seen as different to the norm.

All welcome - those with an autism or Aspergers diagnosis are particularly encouraged to come along. To register, please email rocobley@hotmail.com or david.morris@london.gov.uk or phone/ text 07875838968

Free Holistic Treatment for neuro diverse individuals aged 16-35. There are 7 spaces for a 12 week period, sessions last for 1 hour and each session is tailored to meet the needs of the client. If you or someone you know would like to take advantage of this offer please contact Amriti on; 07961 104 036 or email amrit5@tiscali.co.uk

Free lecture by Autism Treatment Specialist, Raun K. Kaufman, Director of the Autism Treatment Centre of America.
Raun's unique story of his own full and complete recovery from Autism should not be missed. Parents and professionals will learn breakthrough strategies they can use immediately to reach children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, PDD and other related development challenges. Open to the public but pre-registration is required. To reserve seats, register and find more information go to www.autismhelp.com/uk or call +1 (413) 229-2100
London
SUNDAY 30 September 2007 6:30-9PM
The London IBIS Earl's Court Hotel, SW6 1UD

Resources for Autism run an Outreach programme for Adults with ASD. They also run Music & Art therapy sessions and activities for youngsters with autism & Asperger's syndrome. Contact Helen on: 020 8458 3259
858 Finchley Road, London NW11 6AB

Picture House Cinemas offer autism friendly screenings. Contact Alice Warren on: 020 7326 2611 or email alice.w@picturehouses.co.uk
www.picturehouses.co.uk

Do you have any news, events information, reviews or know of any activities taking place...?

If so, let us know - get in touch through
Autism London HelpLine - 0845 6037954 or email -
info@autismlondon.org.uk

Your support remains invaluable and very much appreciated by those who access our services...