

Newsletter

Issue No. 5 – Dec 2011

Inside this Issue:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Director's message | 1 |
| 2. Focus on ... | 2 |
| 3. Partnership work | 3 |
| 4. Project highlight | 3 |
| 5. Latest news | 4 |
| 6. Events | 5 |
| 7. Your say | 5 |

1. Director's message

The autumn term is drawing to a close having seen an extremely serious and busy time for the Trust. We have been consulting with the Department for Education on key issues that will impact on our children and young people with dyslexia-SpLD in the classroom.

These include the Pathfinders, who will be trialling the new single Education, Health and Care Plan - Achievement for All. They will be playing a vital and significant role in improving outcomes for all children with special educational needs, and the new phonics screening check, which has been piloted over this summer and is due for implementation in all schools next summer. The result of this is that we have been able to raise our concerns about how our children will be included in the new

plan; we will be following this up with the Department in the New Year. We have learnt more about how the Achievement for All programme will include our children and how we can support them; we will be firming up this offer in the New Year. We will be including advice and expertise in the guidance for teachers on how to make the phonics screening check as inclusive, effective and as useful as possible for our children in order that they receive the correct signposting, identification and intervention for their specific learning difficulties.

In summary we recognise, as colleagues in the SEN sector do, that the SEN Green Paper is indeed aspirational and needs significant involvement from our organisations to ensure our children with dyslexia-SpLD are not forgotten nor excluded. We are working on it!



**Merry Christmas from all at
The Dyslexia-SpLD Trust**

2. Focus on ... Best Practice

How Cornwall Dyslexia Service supports children and young people with dyslexia

By Jane Beaumont & Sandra Page

Cornwall is a rural peninsular county with urban pockets and has over 240 primary and 31 secondary schools serving 68,000 children and young people. They are supported by two local authority dyslexia advisers who comprise the Cornwall Dyslexia Service.

The overarching aim of the service is to empower schools to meet the needs of children and young people on the dyslexic spectrum.



Year 3 & 4 pupils, Tregadillet Primary School

Cornwall became one of the first Local Authorities to achieve the Dyslexia Friendly Authority Award in 2005. Since then they have developed the Cornwall Inclusive Dyslexia Friendly Schools (IDFS) Quality Mark in partnership with the Cornwall Dyslexia Association. Over 50 schools have been accredited and more than half the schools in Cornwall are working towards the award after attending IDFS training. To achieve the award, a

school has to demonstrate a passionate, Senior Leadership Team led, whole school approach which creates an inclusive learning environment ensuring that all children can flourish and achieve their potential. It requires all staff including teachers and teaching assistants to understand and meet the needs of children on the dyslexic spectrum.

The majority of Cornish schools have accessed and continue to access a range of centralised and bespoke training opportunities that are tailor made to their ongoing needs.

The Dyslexia Service ensures that the needs of children and young people are met by:

- Solution focused working.
- Supporting schools and settings in devising effective individual programmes, group interventions and embedded inclusive teaching and learning.
- Assessing and working with individual children and young people and working alongside their parents and staff.
- Supporting schools in reviewing and monitoring progress and impact measuring.
- Working with schools around positive parent partnerships and listening and responding to children and young people.

Cornwall Dyslexia Service firmly believes that inclusive and dyslexia friendly classroom based provision underpins all other interventions and

that it benefits all children not just those on the dyslexic spectrum.

Parent Champions. We are looking for volunteers who are passionate

3. Partnership Work

We have worked in unison with our colleagues at The Autism Education Trust and The Communication Trust to drive home the messages around the importance of children with SEN being included in the new single Education, Health and Care Plan. We joined forces at The Times Educational Supplement SEN London Education Show held at the Business Design Centre in Islington sharing space. As usual, our resources, information and expertise were in high demand meaning that our literature and information was distributed widely. We are being approached as a collective more readily now by providers, policy leads and commissioners in recognition of our shared expertise through our partners, members and consortia.

As members of the CDC Council and Strategic Partnership Board we have been more heavily involved in collaborating more widely with the SEND sector, which adds value to our individual work areas. In particular, our Empowering Parents and Carers project has benefited greatly from our contact with various parenting networks which is a direct result of being part of these wider networks.

4. Project Highlight

The Dyslexia-SpLD Trust is launching an exciting initiative to recruit 1,000

about helping parents and carers with children with dyslexia and specific learning difficulties – and can give an hour a month to help families in their local community.



Tim Mungeam (CEO Springboard for Children and partner The Dyslexia-SpLD Trust) says “Our Parent Champions will play a vital role because they understand the challenges Mums and Dads are facing. We’re not looking for experts. We’re looking for people who care - who know what families are going through and can offer support at a time when many parents feel isolated. We want our Parent Champions to be our voice in the local community - to spread the word about the latest information, expertise and resources available through The Trust. We want them to be our ears in the local community – to tell us about the issues that Mums and Dads are concerned about so that we make sure we’re supporting families in the very best way possible. Most importantly, we want them to be our heart in the local community and to be someone that other parents can talk to so that they know they are not alone.



This will help to give Mums and Dads the confidence to make the right choices for their children.”

The Trust has already signed its first Parent Champion. “As a mum whose own child has difficulties, becoming a Parent Champion is not only a great way for me to keep up to date with things that could be relevant to him, but also to keep others in my community in the loop and get my views heard by the decision makers operating in this area” (Abida, Parent Champion No 1!)

For more information call Lorraine Thomas on 020 8693 1231 or email lthomas@springboard.org.uk

5. Latest News

New project will benefit students with barriers to reading

Load2Learn is a ground breaking project led by Dyslexia Action and the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB). They are working together so that all learners with barriers to reading have equal access to learning materials, including students with dyslexia and those who are blind or partially sighted.

Load2Learn is an online resource that will provide access to key curriculum materials that can be downloaded in different formats to suit the personal reading needs of learners. Initially funded by the Department for Education, it is planned that Load2Learn will be self-sustaining by March 2013.

Load2Learn will allow learners who can't read standard print to use the same books, at the same time as their

classmates, giving them the same educational opportunities. The digital books and images can be used by learners with their own technology, or used to create customised on screen, print, braille and audio versions. Currently in test phase, the site is planned to go live in September 2012 and includes materials for the core GSCE subjects.

For more information, or if you are interested in participating in the test phase, please contact: Madeleine Penney, Marketing & PR Controller, Load2Learn, Tel: 01784 222336 mpenney@dyslexiaaction.org.uk

We are pleased to welcome two new members of staff to the Trust - Melissa Wood in the new position of Development Officer and Claire Sugg who has taken over from Sarah Bamford as Trust Administrator.

Liz Woodley, Moodle and Training Administrator at the BDA, has been working on getting a government petition going to make dyslexia awareness training mandatory in Initial Teacher Training. 100,000 signatures are required within the next year in order to get this issue debated in the House of Commons.

Sir Jim Rose recommended that Initial Teacher Training (ITT) should include Dyslexia/SpLD. However, there is currently no mandatory minimum level



of Dyslexia/SpLD training that the ITT course providers must deliver. One in ten people have dyslexia and many of these go undiagnosed and unrecognised.

We have uploaded this petition onto our website (please see link below) so please sign it!

<http://www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk/7/news/89/initial-teacher-training-petition/>

Our Interventions for Literacy micro-site has been updated. There are many useful downloads available which we can also provide in hard copy in 7 different languages. Please contact Claire Sugg at The Trust.

<http://www.interventionsforliteracy.org.uk/>

The Professional Development Framework now has a new URL –

<http://www.framework.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk>

Please do go online and test The Framework. We need as many people as possible to trial this service.

6. Events

BETT 2012 Show

11th - 14th January 2012
Central London

Education Show

15th – 17th March 2012
NEC Birmingham

The Dyslexia-SpLD Trust Stakeholder Day

March 2012 (date tbc)

TES Special Educational Needs Show

12th – 13th October 2012

Business Design Centre, Islington

Empowering Parents and Carers Free Information Sessions

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| Chelmsford | 20 th & 21 st January |
| Darlington | 21 st & 23 rd January |
| Lincoln | 26 th & 28 th January |
| Bath | 26 th & 28 th January |
| Manchester | 26 th January & 11 th February |
| Leicester | 07 th & 10 th March |

Leeds, Widdersley and London dates tbc.

For further information please go to our website.

7. Your say

We recently received feedback from the attendees who joined us at our first Stakeholder Day in October.

Our attendees found the most useful parts of the event were getting to know who was who and hearing national updates, networking with other participants, awareness and information about The Trust and participating in the Parent/Carer forums.



Comments included;

“Thank you for a most interesting day. I am going back now with a greater awareness of other support networks”.

“I made links with other projects who I can work with to improve parent’s experience of SEN”.

“I have gained a greater understanding of all aspects of the Trusts and support networks”.

“Good to talk to others about the same mission”.

We really hope you will join us at our next Stakeholder Day in March 2012.

If you have an item you would like included in the newsletter, please email the Editor, Melissa Wood at melissa@thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk