

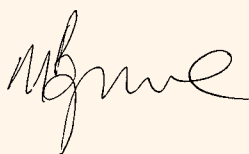
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Director's message

Whilst we are always delighted to promote the good work of colleagues supporting children and young people with literacy difficulties and SpLD such as dyslexia it's great to be reminded of the fabulous work of Trust colleagues and the difference we are making in schools and for families together. As a sector we remain proud of our efforts and it's always good to know that it's needed and welcomed.

We set out 2 years ago to spread the word about our evidence-based resources, freely available to parents and schools and to support practitioners with the SEND reforms; we have achieved what we promised. We haven't finished yet though; we know you want more and we're determined to continue supporting you!



Mel Byrne
Director



Focus on... Partnership Working



The Dyslexia-SpLD Trust is delighted to be working in partnership with Achievement for All in launching a new module to introduce the Literacy and Dyslexia-SpLD Professional Development Framework to AfA trainers and participating schools. Our work over the past several years has shown how useful the Framework is in adding value to a wide range of teacher development activities.

The Dyslexia-SpLD Teacher Development Module will give you the foundation to adopt a strategic approach to this development, engaging staff and developing an action plan with measurable outcomes identified.

Some comments from teaching schools and other Initial Teacher Training Providers using the Framework...

‘Excellent method of delivering training, but also empowering staff to take ownership of their own learning.’
Woodgreen Academy

‘This is an excellent resource. What I like about it is that it can be used effectively in a variety of ways and with all Stakeholders’.

Bexley LA

‘Insight into a wealth of resources for effective CPD on Dyslexia. Superb to have the resources brought together in a single framework. Really useful.’

‘A huge range of useful information and activities to support learners and develop teachers.’

Mountsbay Academy



Focus on... Supporting Students and Professionals in their CPD

Lynn Cook – Oxford Brookes

“What works for children and young people with literacy difficulties” is an excellent resource by Greg Brookes (2013). This has been provided free of charge by The Dyslexia-SpLD Trust to students at Oxford Brookes University on the National Award for SEN Coordination course and the postgraduate Literacy Difficulties (AMBDA) course.

Many SENCOs and Literacy Coordinators inherit intervention schemes when they take up a new role in a school and often look to purchasing new resources but which to choose is always a dilemma given the costs involved. The Greg Brookes research report addresses the following questions:

What intervention schemes have been used in the UK in an attempt to boost the reading, spelling or overall writing attainment of lower-achieving mainstream pupils in at least one of Years 1–9, and have been quantitatively evaluated here?

What are those schemes like, and how effective are they?

Armed with the research evidence SENCOs and Literacy Coordinators in both primary and secondary schools can then purchase with confidence. All students would like to say a big thank you to The Dyslexia-SpLD Trust for this excellent resource.

Focus on... Support in Scotland



Dyslexia Scotland

Dyslexia Scotland works across Scotland to provide information and raise awareness of dyslexia. Our network of 18 volunteer-led branches provides an informal and supportive setting for parents, teachers, people with dyslexia and others to share their experiences and learn more about dyslexia.

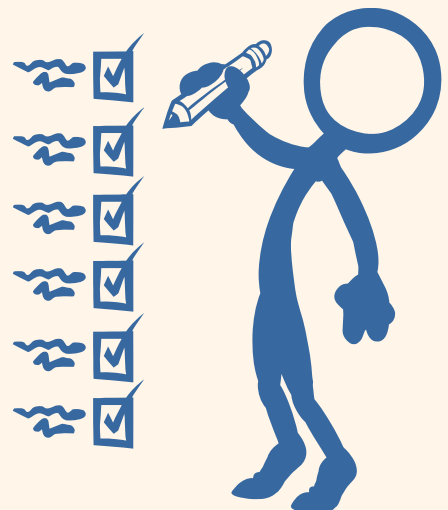
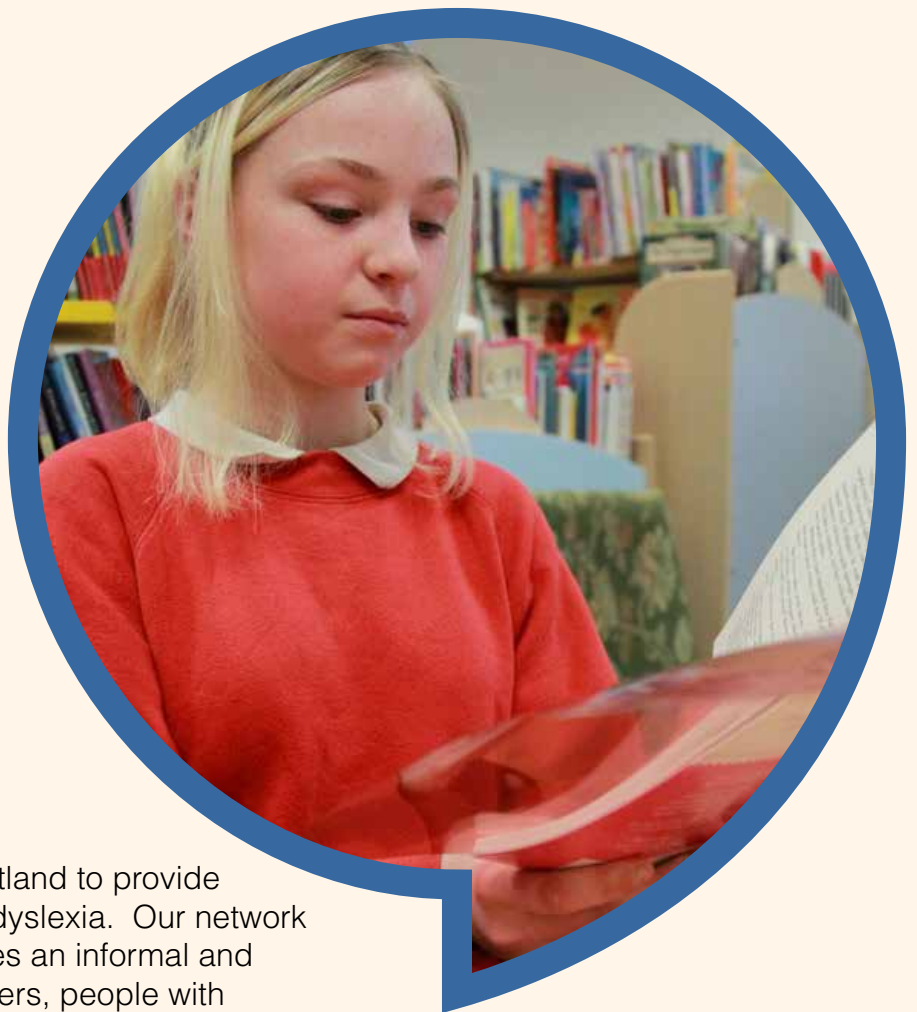
From our quarterly members' magazine to our Adult Network, annual Education Conference and Awareness Week, our aim is to help every child and adult with dyslexia reach their full potential.

**Dyslexia Scotland Helpline 0844 800 8484 or
helpline@dyslexiascotland.org.uk**

www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk



Charity No: SCO 00951 Reg No: SC 153321



Project Highlights

Parents

We have made a few improvements to the Parent Champions website in three areas:

1. Resources

Following feedback from parents, we have made some changes to the resources section on the website adding updated resources and reorganising the existing ones to improve the user experience. We very much welcome your feedback and comments on these changes.

2. Map of Support

The Parents [Map of Support](#) is now live; this map will allow parents to search for support in their area by typing a town or postcode into the search box. Please contact us if you would like to be added to the map.

3. Facebook Page

We have been created a new Facebook Page for Parent Champions which will replace the group that currently exists. There were many reasons for doing this including; we can now add events and invite people to them, it makes it easier for people to find and follow Parent Champions, the pictures are clearer and any posts that are added by the Trust are highlighted making them easier for parents to find.



Project Highlights

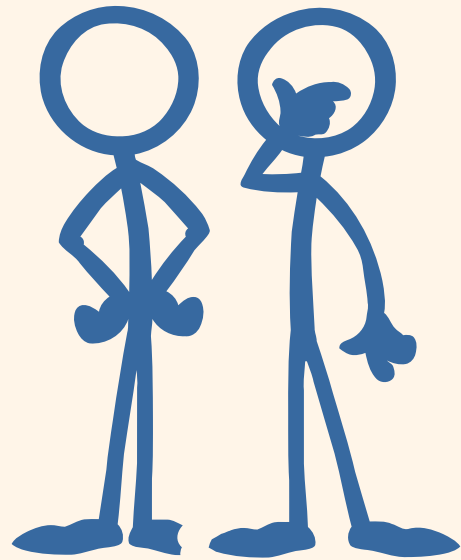
Youth Offending

The Dyslexia and Youth Offending Conference

The first Dyslexia and Youth Offending Conference took place at Goodison Park, the home of Everton Football Club, on 27th November 2014. Over 100 delegates from as far as the Isle of Man to Surrey to Newcastle were welcomed with bacon sandwiches and coffee in the Brian Labone Room and a range of exhibitors demonstrated their support tools and information for delegates working with young people with hidden disabilities.

The conference kicked off with Dr Kate Saunders, CEO of the British Dyslexia Association introducing Donna Stevenson of the BDA who gave an overview of the YOT project. Thirty one Youth Offending Teams across the country have received Dyslexia Awareness Training from trainers at the British Dyslexia Association, Dyslexia Action and The Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre. In 2009 the Liverpool YOT were awarded the BDA Quality Mark. Odette Jones, Education Officer at Liverpool YOT was delighted to have won it for a second time in 2014. All staff are trained to use screening programmes and Donna described the Liverpool YOT as the 'jewel in the crown' of YOTs when it comes to supporting people with specific learning difficulties.

Odette said "This has been the culmination of a ten year journey. We have raised awareness and pushed for what people are entitled to.



There has been a Youth Justice Board push for improved communication skills. We don't screen for screening sake and we now know where to signpost people."

As a result of Liverpool's success, Werrington and Cheshire West are applying for the Quality Mark and offering a Beacon Service for dyslexia.

Donna said "I am pleased we can come together to showcase Liverpool YOTs achievements and celebrate the Dyslexia SpLD Trust's work."

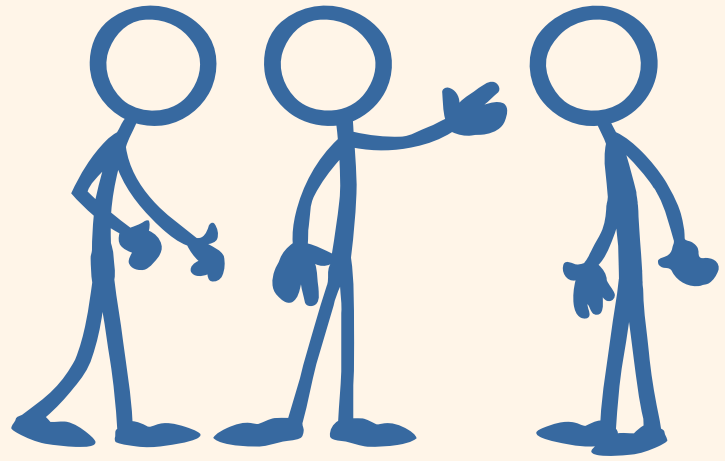
Yvonne Whitestone from Helen Arkell and Helen Donovan from Dyslexia Action were introduced and gave a brief description of their organisations involvement in the project.

Yvonne said "It has been good to promote greater dyslexia awareness in YOTs nationwide and within multi-disciplinary teams".

Helen Donovan expressed how "delighted Dyslexia Action is to be working with other dyslexia agencies to harness their combined expertise and share it with others".

David Ahearn, CEO of Shannon Trust, gave an interesting account of the work his organisation does with the Every Prisoner a Reader campaign, using Toe by Toe and peer mentoring. The impact that improved reading skills have on an individual in custody is significant. The purpose of the Shannon Trust





Project Highlights

Youth Offending continued

Programme is to empower an individual on a 'journey of change and personal development'.

Melanie Jameson, Dyslexia Consultant, described how vulnerable young people who have a specific learning difficulty cope within the criminal justice system. She explained how 'some find the easy things hard and the hard things easy' and when stress is added into the equation, in this context, people with dyspraxia, ADHD, ADD, Aspergers, Communication difficulties and dyslexia often 'seem to get into trouble'. Having an increased awareness of these co-occurring difficulties is important in order to support young people so that 'no-one is shut off from opportunities, choice and options in life that most of us take for granted.'

Bob Hext of Crossbow Education took delegates through the theories of Visual Stress and how coloured overlays and tinted paper can help improve reading performance and build confidence. Dr Kate Saunders noted "Reading is much less effortful for me now I have coloured lenses."

After lunch Hannah Maclellan of Dyslexia Action demonstrated Units of Sound and how it can help support Young People with low literacy or dyslexia. It is a computer-based resource that is easy to use and gives rapid results and improvement in spelling, reading, comprehension and memory.

Glenys Heap of Dyslexia Action followed on with a presentation about Hidden Communication Needs. "Language is central to learning and difficulties with words will

have a big impact on engagement with young people in YOTs" Glenys said. She highlighted the impact on behaviour and situations that may cause difficulties due to communication problems. Glenys challenged the delegates to 'consider what can you do when working with this group?'

Dr Kate Saunders explained the benefits of applying for the BDA Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark and the process involved and then introduced Lord Storey to speak and close the conference. The final whistle was blown and we all returned home with a great deal of useful information to consider and ways of improving our own performance when working with young people with hidden disabilities.

Jo Mahler, Northern Regional Manager of Dyslexia Action said "The success of the day is down to the collaboration and hard work of all partners involved from the organisers to the YOT teams."

Melanie Byrne of the Dyslexia SpLD Trust offered her thanks and congratulations to "BDA, DA and HA for an inspiring example of collaborative work." And Katrina Cochrane of BDA said "the lasting legacy of the project will be in the relationships built by networking, sharing ideas and finding out about resources and what has worked in YOTs, such as Liverpool."

Many thanks to all the organisers and attendees who made this an inspiring and informative conference.

News

New Year Honours

We are delighted to see that two of our colleagues within the Trust have been awarded Honours this New Year. Lynn Greenwold, OBE and Sue Flohr, MBE

Schools Week has interviewed and published an article on Lynn Greenwold following the announcement of her OBE for 'Services to Pupils with Special Educational Needs'. This is a fantastic article and a great insight into Lynn's life and career to date, this article can be found [here](#).

When asked to comment on this award Lynn said "I feel very privileged to be honoured in this way, but must say that any achievements have only been possible due to support of amazing professional colleagues and a strong team. Let's hope it helps us with our campaigns and continue to build good practice".

After a career spanning across SpLD teaching for primary, secondary, FE/HE, Needs Assessing, and 25 years as National Helpline Manager for the British Dyslexia Association as well as more recently being responsible for Policy too, Sue Flohr was awarded the MBE for services to dyslexic people. Sue was overwhelmed with the recognition and feels that it is all down to "the wonderful support that she receives from her colleagues and especially the Helpline Team".

Department for Education assists with SEND reforms implementation

The Department for Education announced in December that it will invest a further £31.7 million in 2015 to 2016 to help local authorities in England continue to meet the costs of implementing the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) reforms.

For more information, follow this [link](#).





British Dyslexia Association Events:

Dyslexia Friendly Good practice Thursday 5th February

This one-day conference is aimed at those individuals who wish to improve their environment in order to make it more dyslexia friendly. A range of speakers will explore the benefits of being dyslexia friendly in schools, youth offending teams, universities and organisations. Being dyslexia friendly benefits all children, not just those with dyslexia and the positive outcomes have been well documented.

Confirmed speakers so far include:

Neil MacKay, an experienced teacher of over 26 years and author of the "Removing Dyslexia as a Barrier to Achievement: The Dyslexia Friendly Schools Toolkit". More to be announced in the coming months.

Professor Angela Fawcett, co-author of the Dyslexia Screening tests and vice president of the British Dyslexia Association.

For tickets and further information see [here](#)

British **Dyslex!a**
Association



British Dyslexia Association Events: Dyslexia Friendly Good practice

Wednesday 11th February

This webinar will discuss what dyscalculia is and how it differs from maths learning difficulties generally. It will also look at what we can do to help children who are struggling to gain confidence in maths. Several different teaching approaches will be introduced, including the use of dot patterns, cuisenaire rods and the bar modelling method.

This webinar will be presented by Judy Hornigold and starts at 7pm.

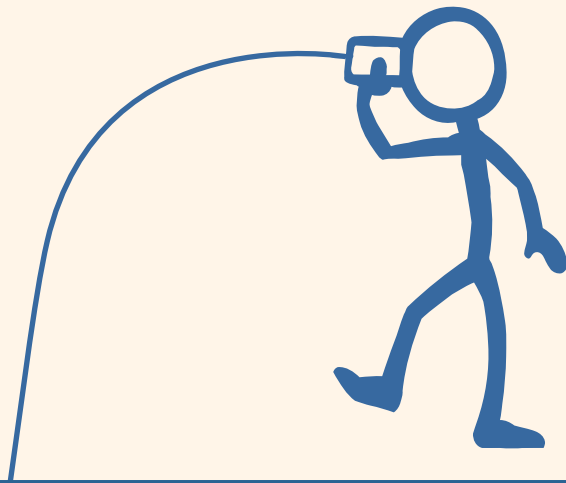
Cost £5



The Education Show

We are exhibiting with the British Dyslexia Association at the Education Show in Birmingham from the 19th to the 21st of March, this is a fantastic event with 15 seminars and workshops on early years and SEN. Come along and see us on our stand A66, [click here](#) to register for a free ticket.







Your Say

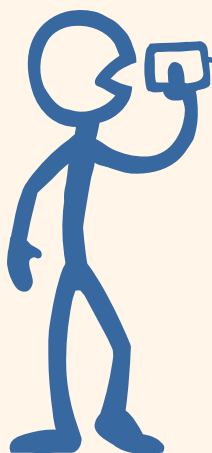
We are always interested in what our stakeholders have to say, as this helps to shape our work ahead.

If you are a parent and would like to share your experiences with other parents, perhaps you'd like to join our group on Facebook [Parent Champions?](#)

If you are a professional and would like to keep up to date on Trust activities, you can join us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)  

We are always looking for contributors for our newsletters so please get in touch if you have an item you would like to be included in the newsletter. Alternatively if there is something you think we need to cover, please let us know.

Email the Editor, Kate Lang at kate@thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk



Working together to improve services for SEN

The dyslexia sector has signed up to a [Dyslexia-SpLD Trust Manifesto](#) that sets out 3 key areas that we jointly feel are priority for leaders and policy makers going forward; education, employment and training.

