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### 1. Introduction

We recently updated our website following feedback from stakeholders. We are now looking forward to receiving your feedback. As requested, we have tried to make it more accessible to our users and slightly more welcoming for all stakeholders with more pictures and less text, so please let us know what you think.

In February we launched our Stakeholder Group and in March held a successful consultation meeting. We were pleased to have the support of Sir Jim Rose and Brian Lamb on the day. We are currently reviewing the comments made on the day and will be providing more information soon.

The Trust Core Team has been heavily involved over the last few months in funding applications for our core work and potential capacity building for our networks.

I am always inspired by the excellent work that our partner organisations and wider stakeholder group engage in. I hope you too will find this edition's 'Focus On' enlightening and encouraging. All these areas of work are those that the Trust endorses and is proud to showcase. Hopefully over the course of the next few months it will give an idea of the diversity of some of the organisations that we engage with and support.

### 2. Focus on Initial Consultations at Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre.



The first step? Look at the symptoms then come and see us for a consultation

Because dyslexia manifests itself in different ways in different individuals we recommend an initial consultation in order to take gain a broad vision of the potential challenges.



We gather background information by asking the individual to complete, when possible, the appropriate questionnaire from our website.

A consultation takes 45 minutes and our subsidised fee is £55 – this may be waived in cases of hardship. The consultation is with an experienced professional and is held directly with adults or parents who think their child may be dyslexic, or have other difficulties with learning. We can then work together to come to possible solutions. This may be an assessment or it may be guidance for parents to speak to school personnel and voice their concerns.

With adults it may be advice on how to approach Human Resources at work, or technological solutions. Often this is the first time that the individual has had the opportunity to discuss worries with an informed professional and a great deal can be achieved in that first meeting.

This service is sponsored by our unrestricted funds.

*With thanks to Bernadette McLean, Principal HADC.*

### **3. Inter Trust Work**

In light of notification of recent government funding, not only has the Trust been busily scribing its own application but this has been a wonderful opportunity to cement existing collaborations and to forge new links with key movers and

shakers in the field of Special Educational Needs.

Our friends at the Autism Education Trust (AET) and The Communication Trust (TCT) continue to be our allies.

We wish Anita Kerwin-Nye from TCT all the very best with her maternity leave and know that she leaves The Communications Trust in safe hands.

As health and education policy is emerging there will be a greater focus on 'outcomes'. Schools, Children's services and Health will be held to account for the outcomes that they achieve rather than for how they achieve them. This work is part of a wider piece on trying to consider what good outcomes for children and young people with SLC/N look like in the hope that this can be better built into accountability framework.

If you would like to learn more about some emerging policies, why not check out the 'Index of Papers' section of our website under Publications.

[www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk](http://www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk)

#### 4. Project Highlights

##### Year 1 Phonics Screening



As part of our ongoing consultative work with the government the DST have been working with the Department for Education on the Year 1 Phonics Check.

We have attended meetings in December, January and February where we were able to give specific recommendations and views.

If you would like to see our response, you will find it under our publications section.

#### 5. Latest News



Complete our Professional Development Framework and Survey and you will be given the opportunity to enter into a free prize draw **to win an iPad.**

The Framework is straightforward and easy to use. To register and take part go to:  
<http://www.mkmdemos.com/dyslexia/login.aspx>

The draw will be made at the end of March and the winner will be notified in April.

#### 6. Events:

17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011 Education Show, Birmingham (with DST stand)

The British Dyslexia Association's 8th International Conference is being held on **2nd - 4th June 2011** at Harrogate International Conference Centre with the theme Beyond Boundaries. If you would like to attend please contact:  
[conference@bdadyslexia.org.uk](mailto:conference@bdadyslexia.org.uk)

#### 7. Your say

If you have an item you would like included in the newsletter, please email us at

[info@thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk)