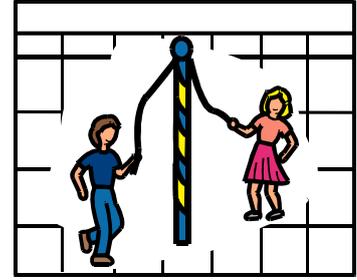




**South Manchester**  
**Down's Syndrome Support Group**  
*Fulfilling Potential*



**May 2011**

phone: 07593 542 107, email: [contact@dsmanchester.org.uk](mailto:contact@dsmanchester.org.uk) website: [dsmanchester.org.uk](http://dsmanchester.org.uk)



**May 21 Chatterbox Club** Heaton Moor Evangelical church, Green Lane, Heaton Moor SK4 3LH. Our monthly SaLT sessions combined with play, a chance to meet other families, sing and sign and craft activities. **Teachers and TAs welcome** - the activities modelled in these sessions are suitable to be used in educational settings. **Even if your child is not enrolled for SaLT sessions, your family is very welcome to come along for coffee, chat and sing and sign—just pop a donation in the box at the kitchen counter.**

**Sing and sign sessions: over 5's 10.05-10.35, under 5's 10.50-11.20**

### **Speech and Language therapy**

**Symbol UK Ltd** is an organisation based in Kent which specialises in speech and language difficulties. It began in 1999 with the aim of bringing together service users, skilled practitioners, commissioners and funding, to develop innovative services that enrich the lives of children and adults who have special needs. Symbol does not work in competition with other providers, but seeks to share ideas and influence practice. They offer individual assessment of your child's communication skills with a specialist speech and language therapist. The therapist will discuss techniques you can use to assist your child's speech and language development and will draw up a programme with targets for the next 6-12 months. There is also the option of having a full report of the assessment written up—this can be used as supporting evidence for your child's statement of special educational needs. Contact Symbol UK Ltd on 01795 844440.



**In Manchester...?** We can arrange for Deirdre Clark, a therapist from Symbol, who specialises in the speech and language difficulties associated with Down's syndrome, to travel to Manchester to do a series of assessments and/or to do SLT or education staff training. Cost: approximately £250-£300 per individual assessment (2 hours plus written report). We could organise staff training and may be able to subsidise it - but if you want to organise your own it is £700 per day in total- ie £35 per person for 20 delegates. If you are a parent/carer, a SLT or work in education and are interested in any of these options, please contact Bernadette ASAP phone: 07593 542 107, email: [contact@dsmanchester.org.uk](mailto:contact@dsmanchester.org.uk). We can organise this for September/October if there are sufficient families and/or SLTs/education staff interested. Deidre would be delighted to come for a week, meet some of our families and stay to see a Chatterbox club.

# **Down's Syndrome Association Synopsis of Education Green Paper-Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability**

## **Consultation summary**

The Down's Syndrome Association (DSA) is in broad agreement with the main proposals of the Green Paper. Early identification of need, a holistic assessment and greater control for parents can only improve the lives of people with Down's syndrome and their families. The outcome of the scheduled pilots and the consultation on educational funding will hopefully provide the necessary detail.

The Down's Syndrome Association have a number of concerns:

- There will not be the funds available to realise the Green Paper's ambitions.
- Voluntary and community groups will lack the capacity to meet the expectations of government.
- The move toward localism and de-regulation will result in different standards of provisions as authorities choose different funding priorities.
- Health, education and social care agencies have consistently failed to work collaboratively, despite numerous directives. The DSA will be very interested to see how this can be achieved without legislation.
- The DSA welcomes the proposal that the new assessment is transferable between authorities, but concerned by the qualifying statement that this will be dependent upon 'the provision available'. The DSA want there to be a duty to replicate the provision.

## **Main Proposals**

The Education, Health and Care Plan

- The Statement of Educational Needs (SEN) will be replaced by 2014. There will be a new 'Education, Health and Care Plan'. This will provide the same statutory protection as the former statement but will bring together the support on which children and their families rely across education, health and social care. As with the SEN there will be regular reviews to reflect the changing needs of the individual. The plan will include a commitment from all parties to provide their services.
- The assessment would travel with the individual if they moved authorities. There would be an expectation that the social care support would be replicated in the new area depending upon the provision available.
- Pathfinder sites will test the best way to achieve partnership working. These will begin in September 2011.
- The government is considering making the new assessment a passport to DLA. However this will have little impact upon children with Down's syndrome as the award would already have been made.
- There must be a holistic approach to support. The Government wants to see the involvement of employment and housing agencies in the new Plan from Year 7 in recognition of the vital role of long term planning for people with learning disabilities. Work is taking place across government departments to ensure that people with a learning disability have access to training and work opportunities. One suggestion is that supported internships are introduced for those people an apprenticeship may not be a realistic aim. Retirees would be given the opportunity to train as job coaches.

### Early identification of need

- There is recognition of the importance of health visitors and other related professionals in the early identification of need. The Government plans to recruit and train an additional 4,200 health visitors by 2015. Therefore priority can be given to families being offered the Health and Development Review (for children between two and two and a half). This will provide a trigger for additional support.
- It is hoped that a greater emphasis upon early identification of need and partnership working will provide better support for children with special needs, but, the paper states that 'local authorities must not, however, have a blanket policy not to statement children under five'.
- There is recognition of the importance for early language development. The Government say they will look at how further support can be provided in embedding the practices of Every Child a Talker.
- A new single early year's setting - and school - based category of SEN is proposed. **It is not yet clear what this means.**

### More control for parents

- Local authorities must communicate clearly to families what services are available in the local area through a 'Local Offer'.
- Parents will have the option of personalised funding by 2014 to give them greater control over the support their child receives. Budgets could cover social care services, such as short breaks, and some health and education support services, as well as transport.
- There is to be a consultation on the future of education funding this will look at different ways of funding additional support in schools. A national banded framework is being considered for funding services for young people with SEN.
- Through the Academies Act 2010 mainstream Academies and Free Schools have the same obligations as maintained mainstream schools to accept children with a statement of SEN which names the school. The Government intends to introduce legislation to ensure that parents with a statement or 'Education, Health or Care Plan' have the right to express a preference for any state or funded school.
- The Government says it has no plans to remove a parent's right to appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (SEN Disability) if they disagree with the decision of the local authority.
- Mediation through an independent party will be the first stage of any dispute.
- The Government intend to provide targeted funding to voluntary and community sector organisations that have a strong track record of delivering high quality services. They will publish a national SEN and disabilities voluntary and community sector prospectus that will set out key areas in which future funding will be made available to these organisations.
- The development of key workers to support families in developing their Education and Health Care Plan. These are expected to be provided by the voluntary and community sector.

## Timetable for reform

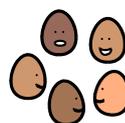
- Responses to the Green Paper invited by June 30th.
- Pilots for the new assessment will begin in September.
- Individual budget pilots will also begin in September 2011.
- Work to begin with local authorities and other partners to test a system of banded funding.
- Legislative changes necessary to deliver the ' Education, Health and Care Plan ' begin in 2012.

The Down's Syndrome Association will be working over the next few months on this consultation report. If you would like to read the full consultation, please see:

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8027/8027.pdf>

The consultation process is due for completion 30/06/2011

## Events/Activities/Groups



**Saturday club at the donkeys\* May 14-**for children with additional needs and their families. Rides are booked in as you arrive between 10am and 1pm. Relax over a cup of tea/coffee, bring a picnic or have a snack and meet other parents, carers and supporters. Closes at 3.00 pm. At EST Donkey sanctuary Manchester, Green Fold Abbey Hey Manchester M18 8RJ, Tel 0161 301 4051 for details  
[www.elisabethsvendsentrust.org.uk/view/manchester](http://www.elisabethsvendsentrust.org.uk/view/manchester).

**Bamboo\* parent support group.** Every Friday, 12.30—2.30, Burnage Children's centre, Broadhill Rd. For parents of children with additional needs. For details, please call Nicki Mansfield (07815 675581), Sam Stout (07791 114179) or Sam Emblow (07948 961049).

**Manchester Pre-school special needs groups\*** Stay and play sessions for young children with disabilities are held throughout the city by the Pre-School Special Needs Service (PSSN). For more information about any of these groups contact the Pre-school Special Needs Service on 0161 274 6377.

### **At Seashell Trust Stanley Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire SK8 6RQ\***

**CADS swimming** development team runs lessons for all ages and abilities. Both group sessions and one to one sessions are available and also parent and baby sessions in the hydro -therapy pool. Please contact Wendy McNeil 0161 610 0159  
[wendy.mcneil@seashelltrust.org.uk](mailto:wendy.mcneil@seashelltrust.org.uk)

**CADS dance and drama** session run by the Y dn't U dance group at the Seashell Trust. The cost of the sessions are £3.00 per child and they **run every Saturday in term time**. 10-11.30am Aged 4-11yrs and 11.45 -1.00pm ages 11+yrs. All abilities welcome. For more information please call 07960 279074 or 07966 559164

**CADS Fitness Club** Every Thursday during term time, £1.50 per session, £10 per term. 13-17 years 6-6.45pm, 18-25 years, 7-7.45pm. Contact Heather Potter on: 0161 610 0121 or email: [heather.potter@seashelltrust.org.uk](mailto:heather.potter@seashelltrust.org.uk)

## **Seashell Swim Intensive Swimming Course May30-June 3\***

for details contact Wendy McNeil 0161 610 0159 [wendy.mcneil@seashelltrust.org.uk](mailto:wendy.mcneil@seashelltrust.org.uk)

## **NEW PARENT PARTNERSHIP SEN SUPPORT GROUP\***

The Manchester Parent Support Service/Parent Partnership are setting up a support group for parents and carers of children with special educational needs at Westwood Street, Manchester. The group will be supported by Parent Partnership workers and will provide an informal drop in facility, information advice and support both on an individual and group basis. As a specialist support group (Education) the group, once established, will have input to the Manchester parent carers network through representation on the steering committee. Wednesdays during term time, 10.00am—12 noon at Westwood Street, Moss Side. If you have any questions about this please contact Maureen Howell 0161 245 7300 [m.howell@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:m.howell@manchester.gov.uk)

## **Other support groups around Greater Manchester\***

### **New ... East Lancs Down's Syndrome Support Group**

contact Rachel at [eastlancsdssg@aol.com](mailto:eastlancsdssg@aol.com) or 07717483044

### **Tameside and Glossop Down's syndrome support group**

Contact: Vicky on 07792827899 or email [victoriamassey@hotmail.com](mailto:victoriamassey@hotmail.com).

### **Bury Down's Syndrome Support Group**

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month (Term time only) from 1-3 pm at Redvales Children's centre, Bury. Contact Sheila, email [she.swarb@tesco.net](mailto:she.swarb@tesco.net) mobile: 07729179201 or Jackie on 07796 765361. Website: [dsbury.org.uk](http://dsbury.org.uk)

**Bolton Smiley Faces** Contact Judith Smethhurst 01204 382954

**Cheshire Down's syndrome support group** [www.cheshiredownssyndrome.com](http://www.cheshiredownssyndrome.com)

### **Down's Syndrome Family & Carer's Group, Lancaster**

Liz Fawcett [lancasterdsgroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lancasterdsgroup@hotmail.co.uk) or 01524 64132. Meetings every 1st Saturday in the Month at Appletree Children's Centre, Milking Stile Lane, Lancaster LA1 5QB

### **West Pennine Down's syndrome support group- new details**

Family Support and All- Age Play Group NOW meeting every Second SATURDAY of the month 1.00pm to 4.00pm Stanley Road Children's Centre Chadderton Oldham OL9 7HX Cake, Coffee and Chat, New Resource Lending Library (Open 1.00pm -2.00pm), Sticky Fingers Creative Play, Sing & Sign, Wii Fun, Table Tennis & Table Football, Sand Play and Toy Play Ball Games and Lots of other Family Fun-filled Activities.

Further details: DSWESTPENNINE Down's Syndrome Family Support Group [www.dswestpennine.co.uk](http://www.dswestpennine.co.uk) [dswestpennine@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dswestpennine@hotmail.co.uk) General Enquiries: Tel: 07842555725 New Parent Helpline: Tel: 07842534819.

**\*Please note: not run by the South Manchester Down Syndrome Support Group. For information only—we are not responsible for changes to date, time or venue. Please use the contact information supplied to confirm details and to ask any questions.**

## The Equality Act 2010

You may have seen that the coalition government are looking at ways of reducing red tape, one such area that they are considering is the Equality Act. As a parent of a person with Down's syndrome you can go to the following website and make your views known:  
[www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/equalities/](http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/equalities/)

This website has been created to allow people the opportunity to comment on unnecessary regulations. Other contributors to the consultation have pointed out that the Equality Act is primary legislation and not a regulation.

## Wednesday May 11th 2011 - Hardest Hit March

On Wednesday May 11th thousands of disabled people, their families and supporters from all over the country will come together to protest with one voice outside the Houses of Parliament and make their feelings known about the impact of spending cuts on disabled people. The day of protest, organised by UKDPC and major disability organisations, will send a strong and powerful message to the Government. The march is supported by the Learning Disability Coalition of which DSA is a member.

L'Arche Manchester invites you to our

## Monthly Prayer Evenings



A chance for people with learning disabilities, their friends, carers, family and friends to pray and reflect together

Stay for a cup of tea and biscuits afterwards!

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 7.30pm

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm

At Chorlton Central Church, Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton, M21 8BF  
(Corner of Zetland Road and Barlow Moor Road)

Fully accessible venue.

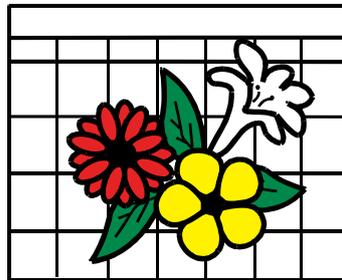
If you would like more information contact Kevin on 07714 397333

or at [kevin.coogan@larche.org.uk](mailto:kevin.coogan@larche.org.uk)

## Dates for your diary



<b>CADS Saturday club</b>	Saturdays
<b>Saturday Club at the donkeys</b>	May 14
<b>Seashell Swimming</b>	Saturdays
<b>Bamboo</b>	Fridays
<b>Chatterbox Club</b>	May 21



The views and items in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the South Manchester Down's Syndrome Support Group. Mention does not necessarily mean recommendation or support.



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