

future meetings

We meet every second Wednesday of the month in the District Court Room, Civic Centre, Andrew Street, East Kilbride (beside the Ballurup Hall) from 7:30pm until 9:30pm. Mums & Dads, Grannies & Grandpas, Aunties & Uncles, Carers and Professionals are all welcome.

We work to have guest speakers at our meetings, but the meetings without speakers are very lively too!

Here are the dates up to March 2007. Speakers will be confirmed in future editions of *trialogue* and on the email mailing list. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for future speakers.

December 13 January 10 February 14 March 14

donations

We have had a very generous donation of £230 from a 70th birthday party. Thanks to Nancy for this!

The work of South Lanarkshire NAS requires the generosity of donations and our own fundraising efforts. If you would like to make a donation or have ideas for fundraising, please contact us!

contact details

We greatly appreciate the assistance of members on the projects the group has undertaken. However, if you would be interested in assisting with the running of the South Lanarkshire branch in any way, please make contact.

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email: mail@trialogue.org.uk web: www.trialogue.org.uk
Branch Address: South Lanarkshire NAS, 9 Halfmerk North, Maxwellton, East Kilbride, G74 3EH.

please keep me up to date with your email address!!!!

It is much cheaper and easier to email *trialogue*. Therefore, if you have an email address and would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please send an email to mail@trialogue.org.uk and I'll add you to the list. Also, you will receive news updates/info as I get it. No "spam" guaranteed! Many thanks.

obligatory legal notice!

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trialogue

The Newsletter of South Lanarkshire NAS Issue No 5 : November 2006



The National
Autistic Society
Scotland

make school
make sense

Autism is complex. Our demands are simple.

make school make sense

The right school for every child

The right training for every teacher

The right approach in every school



"Education is one of the most important issues facing children with autism and their parents. The NAS Advocacy for Education Service takes around 1,800 calls a year from families about their problems with regard to their child's schooling. These are parents who are fighting a desperate battle to get the right education for their child. Please join the NAS make school make sense campaign today and help every child experience the education which is their right."

Jane Asher, President
The National Autistic Society

Send the enclosed postcard to your MSP: ask them for action!

make school
make sense

join the campaign

the right school for every child

Over half of the parents who responded to the survey feel that they had no choice over the type of setting in which their child is educated, and that their choice was limited by a lack of appropriate placements in their local area. Our findings show that 46% of children are not in the kind of school their parents think would best support them.

Furthermore, 36% of parents feel that they did not receive adequate support or information to choose a school for their child. Parents indicate preferences for their child to be taught in an autism-specific resource base attached to a mainstream school or in a mainstream school. However, a significant proportion (19%) feel that a special school is the ideal option for their child. Our research indicates that the procurement of an appropriate education for a child often largely depends on the resources and efforts of their parents.

the right training for every teacher

Due to the presumption of mainstreaming, more children with autism are being educated in mainstream schools than before. Nevertheless, our findings underline that teachers and other school staff are not being sufficiently trained in autism to enable them to meet their legal duties under the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 to make 'reasonable adjustments' so children with autism can learn.

Only 35% of parents of children in mainstream schools are satisfied with the level of understanding of autism across the whole school. Families are particularly unsatisfied with secondary school subject teachers' understanding of autism.

the right approach in every school

Children with autism are not receiving the appropriate support either inside or outside the classroom to enable them to access the curriculum and become active members of the school community. Only 49% of parents feel that their child can take part in extra-curricular activities. From the point when concerns were raised about their child, 43% of parents say that it took over a year before any support was in place. In addition, our survey found that 38% of children with autism have experienced bullying.

Furthermore, 27% of children in mainstream schools do not receive all the support outlined in their Record of Needs. One particular omission was the provision of SLT. Over 20% of children with autism in mainstream schools who need SLT do not receive it. All schools should expect to educate children with autism and must therefore be 'autism-friendly' and able to cater for the needs of children with autism. Statutory duties to prepare accessibility strategies and disability equality schemes present invaluable opportunities for local authorities to ensure the needs of children with autism are taken into account.

a is for anxious
b is for bullied
c is for confused

take action now!
make school make sense

tina is our autism hero!



Tina Millar, depute Head Teacher at Greenhills Primary School was nominated for a make school make sense Autism Hero award by former pupil Sean McKelvie and his mum Elaine.

Elaine said, "After Sean's diagnosis of Asperger syndrome, Tina helped me to understand that he just needed time during the day to be autistic. The atmosphere in Greenhills is great and I knew it was right for Sean when he came home and said he'd had a brilliant day at school. This was the first time I had ever heard him say that, as he was reluctant to even go to his previous school."

Tina replied, "I am accepting this award as part of a team, as it is down to everyone's involvement that we can make a difference. To help children we have to make the curriculum fit them and not the other way round. It's amazing what you can do when you put the children at the forefront."

To nominate your own "autism hero" call the campaign hotline on 0141 285 7108 or through the website: www.autism.org.uk/campaign

send a postcard to your local MSP

Please use the enclosed postcard to alert your MSP to the campaign and ask for action!
Constituency MSPs are as follows:

Airdrie & Shotts: Karen Whitefield; **East Kilbride:** Andy Kerr;
Hamilton North & Bellshill: Michael McMahon; **Hamilton South:** Tom McCabe;
Clydesdale: Karen Gillon; **Glasgow Rutherglen:** Janis Hughes

If you have already sent a postcard to your local MSP, please send one to your
Regional MSPs as follows:

Central Scotland (EK & Hamilton): Linda Fabiani, Donald Gorrie OBE, Carolyn Leckie, Michael Matheson, Margaret Mitchell, Alex Neil & John Swinburne.

South Scotland (Clydesdale): Derek Brownlee, Phil Gallie, Chris Ballance, Christine Grahame, Mr Adam Ingram, Alasdair Morgan, Rosemary Byrne

Glasgow (Rutherglen & Cambuslang): Bill Aitken, Robert Brown, Patrick Harvie, Rosie Kane, Tommy Sheridan, Nicola Sturgeon, Sandra White