

future meetings & events

Coffee Morning!

On Saturday the 5th of May at 10 am we will be having a coffee morning in Claremont Parish Church, St Leonards, East Kilbride. All are welcome, tell your family & friends! Volunteers required, please contact us — details below!

Meetings - We meet every second Wednesday of the month in the District Court Room, Civic Centre, Andrew Street, East Kilbride (beside the Ballerup 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 always very lively too! Speakers will be confirmed on the email mailing list and website. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for future speakers.

Here are the dates for 2007. **Note that there WILL be a meeting in July this year.**

Feb 14	Mar 14	Apr 11	May 9	June 13	July 11
Aug 8	Sept 12	Oct 10	Nov 14	Dec 12	

donations

We have had two generous donations since the last newsletter. Audit Scotland donated £113 from their Christmas staff night out. With thanks to Angela! Another £100 was donated through the event of Nancy & George's 50th Wedding Anniversary. Thanks to Elizabeth and Mum & Dad!

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. If you would be interested in assisting with the running of the South Lanarkshire branch in any way, please make contact.

Ross Macfadyen (Branch Officer) Tel: 07941 252 485
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](http://trialogue.org). 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.

the usual legal notice!

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South Lanarkshire Council responds to msms campaign

The Chief Executive of South Lanarkshire Council has replied to *make school make sense* campaign materials we sent them. Our letter highlighted several questions, which have been replied to as follows:

1. Do you provide a range of educational provision which reflects the diversity of needs of children with autism, including autism-specific resource bases and specialist outreach support?



The reply outlined the specialist provision including Chatelherault, Crosshouse, Robert Owen, High Blantyre and Victoria Park Primary Schools as well as Hamilton Grammar and Duncanrig Secondary Schools.

Also mentioned were a range of professionals from differing agencies from whom advice or input was sought. These included Specialist Support Teachers, SLT, Educational Psychologists, School Support Assistants, Autism Outreach Teachers, Occupational Therapy, Paediatricians, Social Work Child & Family Services.

2. Do all Principal Teachers of Learning Support receive training in autism? What are your plans for training teachers and support staff in autism?

Education Resources has a comprehensive strategic development programme in place for all staff, which includes opportunities in ASD. Staff are sponsored to take part in accredited post graduate courses.

3. Do you consult people with ASD and their families during the planning, implementation and evaluation stages of developing services?

Education Resources is a member of the Pan Lanarkshire Autism Forum which provides opportunity for consultation and planning in relation to services. This forum is attended by colleagues from Health, Social Work Resources, parent representation and representatives from the local National Autistic Society.

More inside.....

SLC response to make school make sense...con't

4. What are your plans to ensure that all accessibility strategies & disability equality schemes refer to the specific needs of children with autism and are implemented effectively?

The Disability Equality Statement of Commitment for South Lanarkshire Council Education Resources is the written statement of disability equality policy required under the DDA 2005, in line with draft guidelines by the Disability Rights Commission.

The Disability Equality Scheme (DES) 2005-2008 for SLC set out the vision and values of the Council together with its Equal Opportunities Policy. Legislation requires that the Council's accessibility strategy must cover the following:

- Increasing the extent to which pupils can participate in the curriculum
- Improving the physical environment of the schools to make them more accessible
- Improving communication with pupils of school information and in alternate forms

All children and young people with additional support needs are targeted through Education Resources 'Inclusion & Equality' Policy.

5. Will you sign up publicly to support the *make school make sense* campaign?

The Council supports the *make school make sense* campaign.

We'd like to thank the Council for their reply to the *make school make sense* campaign. The full letter is available on our website at www.trialogue.org.uk/msms. If you have any comments, please get in touch with us. Contact details are on the back page.

here to help...support & advice numbers

NAS Helpline: 0845 070 4004 (M-F 10-4) Advocacy For Education: 0845 070 4002
Parent To Parent Line: 0800 9520 520 NAS South Lanarkshire: 07941 252 485

pete wins limerick competition

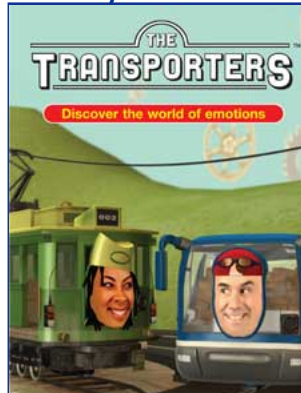


Pete, a budding writer from East Kilbride, recently won a competition run by the NAS Publications Department. The competition was to compose a limerick to be used in advertising the addition of an umbrella to the products used to promote the National Autistic Society. Pete's limerick was:

*The NAS have a new promotion
And it's quite the thing if you have a notion
They're selling umbrellas
To gals and fellas
So buy one and beat the weather.*

Needless to say, the umbrella is available on the NAS website, click on Gifts at www.autism.org.uk/pubs

transporters DVD



Do you care for a child with autism between the ages of two and eight? *The Transporters* is a fun new animation series designed to help children with autism discover the world of emotions. Jane Asher, President of the National Autistic Society, said: "This is such a wonderful initiative. It's going to make a huge difference to some very vulnerable children."

The Transporters is a world of imaginary toy vehicle characters who have emotional experiences and adventures. It aims to help children enhance their understanding of the causes of emotions and of emotional expressions.

The characters come to life when their owner, Jamie, goes off to school in the morning. A narrator, popular actor Stephen Fry, helps children to focus on the facial expressions, rather than watching the characters talking. In the series, human figures are shown as static plastic toys in a deliberate attempt to keep human action simple and to avoid the type of movement (animated motion) that children with autism turn away from.

The series was created especially for children with ASD who find it hard to recognise causes of emotion and facial expressions of emotion. The producers hope *The Transporters* will act as a bridge between the mechanical world children with autism enjoy and the human world that they usually turn away from.

We will have a FREE supply of this DVD when it is released in March. If you'd like a copy, please let us know. Contact details are on the back page. More info at www.transporters.tv

scottish parliamentary network

Several Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) have expressed an interest in working with The National Autistic Society (NAS) Scotland to develop an informal Parliamentary network which would support MSPs to keep autism firmly on the agenda in the Scottish Parliament. Following preliminary discussions with interested MSPs, the NAS has established the Autism Parliamentary Network to facilitate this.

To focus the activity of the network more proactively, and to maximise its influence, the network will hold short enquiries which will enable MSPs to explore the issues around specific topics more fully. This activity will then provide a foundation for MSPs to take forward concerns in their Parliamentary activity.

If you would like to be involved with the Autism Parliamentary Network, please send an email to apn@nas.org.uk. Remember to tell them we sent you!