



Deaf Parenting UK

# Deaf Parenting UK

*Empowering, Enabling & Supporting Deaf Parents*

Annual Report 2007



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## Foreword by Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador



I am delighted to be involved with the organisation as I think it fulfils a much needed role in raising awareness about the successful parenting by deaf parents which often goes unnoticed. Instead of being perceived as a matter of concern as it sometimes was in the past by some hearing professionals it is now obvious that Deaf parenting has a great deal to offer to those professionals as well as to other parents both deaf and hearing in working together to support parents in their challenging task! I say this as a very new grandmother who had quite forgotten how hard a task it is.

Dr Lesley Jones

# ***Deaf Parenting UK Chair's Report***

Welcome to our 2007 Annual Report launched at the Deaf Parenting Conference in Birmingham on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

Looking back at 2007, the work was tremendous as we continued to gain recognition at local, national and international level for our specialised work with Deaf Parents.

For many of you who are loyal supporters, you would be amazed at to how much we have achieved in the short space of time and on very little income. We have been working at local, national and international level especially at the World Federation for the Deaf conference in Spain (July 2007) where it was recognised that Deaf Parenting UK is unique in its own right. No other country has a national organisation like Deaf Parenting UK apart from small projects here and there. We are the only formal organisation of Deaf parents for Deaf parents in the world. It is therefore essential that Deaf Parenting UK presents itself as a good model for other countries across the world on enabling confidence, supporting and empowering Deaf parents



This years Annual Report provides details on all the achievements for 2007. The work continues to challenge us. Our staff and volunteers alike have worked tirelessly to raise the issues of Deaf parenting and developing services for Deaf parents and professionals who work with them. There is still a long way to go as Deaf Parenting UK is still a small national organisation with one coordinator and one project manager.

As we all know, our aims to support Deaf Parents are vital to us and we want them all to know to that they are not alone in their experiences and difficulties in accessing information about parenting services as well as accessing to their child's education which is proving a huge battle for many parents especially when dealing with schools. Attitudinal barriers and lack of Deaf awareness among schools and health services are very much widespread and most Deaf parents through our consultation days express their wishes for a easy and straightforward way to communicate with no barriers at all and that all Deaf parents should be accepted for who they are, not excluded because they are Deaf.

We are excited about the future and what it holds for us as it brings more opportunities and challenges. With the Deaf Parenting Conference 2008, we hope that the Government's Department of Health, Department of Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) and the Nursing & Midwifery Council, Equality & Human Right Commission will take steps to recognise and address the needs of Deaf parents and take action to work closely with Deaf Parenting UK in empowering, enabling and supporting Deaf parents, campaigning for equal access without barriers.

Most importantly, our achievements are a credit to the vast support of our Trustees and most of all, our Co-ordinator Nicole Campbell and Media/ Project Manager, Asif Iqbal for their dedication, hard work and commitment in delivering services and making things happen for many of us.

Our hard work will continue to focus on reaching out to more Deaf parents and service providers, creating a bigger voice to influence the Government at the local and national level to empower, enable and support Deaf Parents in accessing to services without barriers.

Sabina Iqbal  
Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK

# Deaf Parenting UK's Key Achievements 2007

**Deaf Parenting UK** had many achievements in the last year to raise our profile, the highlights are:

## 1. Website & Exhibition Stand:

A brand new website [www.deafparent.org.uk](http://www.deafparent.org.uk) and an exhibition stand of 3m high, 3m wide with lot of visual images of what Deaf Parenting UK does. The website is seen as an exciting central point of resources with BSL translation, enabling Deaf parents to have equal access to information and to learn more about parenting skills courses, 1:1 parenting support, Deaf Parents Forum, what we do and how Deaf parents can be involved in our work.



**Deaf Parenting UK Exhibition Design and the actual Exhibition Stand**

## 2. Publicity & Raising our Profile:

Travelling as far as possible to raise **Deaf Parenting UK's** profile by giving presentations & information stalls at various local, national and international conferences to raise awareness about the needs of Deaf Parents and our work. Conferences including:

- Deaf Parenting Conferences/seminars in UK
- World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) conference in Madrid, Spain

## 3. Deaf Parenting UK's Ambassadors:

Securing several high profile Ambassadors and celebrities to represent and support **Deaf Parenting UK** at local, national and international level.

## 4. Deaf Parenting Skill courses and services:

Delivering Deaf Parenting Skills courses in sign language to many Deaf parents. We succeeded in delivering pilot pre-natal courses for pregnant parents-to be. We also offer courses to parents with 0-9yrs old children and parents with teens, covering all aspect of parenting. Our 1:1 parenting support/ befriender scheme is popular in many London boroughs and commissioned by the statutory services (health/ social services) to support Deaf parents and to prevent family breakdown. The demand for our services continues to grow.

## 5. Newsletters:

**Deaf Parenting UK** Newsletters continue to thrive, growing from a few pages to 12-16 pages for Deaf parents, parents to be and service providers. Feedback showed that many found the newsletter an invaluable source of information, keeping them informed of developments in relation to Deaf parenting.



## **6. Membership:**

Increased membership of Deaf parents and professionals working with Deaf parents to enable them to have a voice of how **Deaf Parenting UK** should meet their needs and to influence decision-makers.

## **7. Deaf Parenting Forum & Event Calendar**

Useful features on the **Deaf Parenting UK** Website, for Deaf parents, parents to be and service providers with opportunity to share their views/experiences as well as keeping informed of any events to reduce social isolation by meeting other Deaf parents/ parents to be.

## **8. Social Events/ Family Days for Deaf parents and their children**

Successful family days where Deaf parents and children meet on a monthly basis to socialise and to reduce their isolation, with children's activities provided as an opportunity for children to mix with others and avoid the stigma of having deaf parents, creating a positive environment for all.

## **9. Staff:**

**Deaf Parenting UK** could not have made those incredible achievements, as above, without the support of our Co-ordinator, Nicole Campbell and Project Manager, Asif Iqbal. It's with their dedication and commitment that put forward **Deaf Parenting UK** as the forefront organisation on an extremely limited budget.

## **10. Recognition:**

**Deaf Parenting UK** has been recognised on a local, national and international level especially on recent WFD conference where we realised the uniqueness of **Deaf Parenting UK**. We checked with other countries and realised that Deaf Parenting UK is unique because apart from small projects here and there, there is no other formal organisation of Deaf parents for Deaf parents. It shows on how important it is for **Deaf Parenting UK** to present itself as a good model for other countries across the world on enabling confidence, supporting and empowering Deaf parents

# History & Aims of Deaf Parenting UK

**Deaf Parenting UK** is the first ever charity and small unique national organisation run by Deaf parents for Deaf parents, representing the needs of those Deaf parents in the UK who are sign language users and are 90% likely to have hearing children.

The aims of **Deaf Parenting UK** as an independent organisation are:

- To enable confidence, empower and support Deaf Parents and Deaf parents-to-be.
- To highlighting the gaps in services in UK and address those gaps.
- To work with various organisations including Health, Social Services, Education, Deaf & mainstream parenting organisations to improve access to information and services to Deaf Parents.

**Deaf Parenting UK** was established by Sabina Iqbal as a project in 2001 and the project became an independent organisation in 2004, following her research on gaps in services for Deaf parents within the UK. The study demonstrated the lack of awareness and consideration for the needs of Deaf parents.

Because of communication issues within the home and at school Deaf children often lack access to basic information in the area of personal, social and health, such as growing up, sex education, pregnancy and parenting. The background statistics are:

- ***90% of Deaf children are born to hearing parents. In addition to general mainstream support and information for parents in general, parents of deaf children have access to specialised information, resources and support via Social Services and Deaf children's organisations. Such information on parenting is also readily available in print, Video/DVD material and Parenting Classes etc.***
- ***Deaf children grow up into adults and become parents and yet very few resources and support is available to them in an accessible format. This is particularly noticeable as Deaf Adults have a 90% chance of having hearing children where access is a real issue.***

Difficulties in accessing information is common in Deaf parents' daily lives, as services offered to Deaf parents are sometimes non-existent, very limited or patchy as compared to those available to hearing parents:

***Deaf parents are unable to access mainstream information - parenting skills classes, midwives or health visitors. Deaf parents find it difficult to access or participate in school life adequately due to staff inability to communicate in sign language or because of lack of Deaf awareness.***

Louise Fitzgerald researched the provision of local services for Deaf Parents (2007) in relation to the Government paper - Every Parent Matters (EPM 2007 p.21) which stresses the importance of being informed of services, "...In order for parents to take advantage of services designed to help them, they need to know what's available. If they're not aware of what's there, they could be missing out." This has a high relevance for Deaf parents whose first and preferred language is British Sign Language and therefore are not always able to follow written information but gain access where the information is conveyed by word of mouth in BSL.

The topic of parental responsibility came to light with the 1944 Education Act which pointed to the responsibility of ensuring a child receives, "efficient full-time education suitable to his

*age, ability and aptitude, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise”, this has led to the development of partnership between the parents and practitioners, legislation came to force where the promotion of partnership is supported with the Education Reform Act 1988 which places the school accountable to parents.*

The importance of parental role was articulated with the National Children Bureau’s (NCB 2007) PEAL programme (Parents, Early years And Learning) as *“parents are deeply interested in their child development, and their involvement is crucial, what parents do matter more than who they are”* however it admitted that some parents are finding it hard and on the other side of the fence as members of staff find it hard to help the parents.

**Deaf Parenting UK** is working tirelessly to campaign for equality of Deaf parents, who have been voiceless members of society, and their needs are not being met by mainstream resources as demonstrated above and despite the Disability Discrimination Act and Human Rights Act, many of those parents were unable to enjoy their family lives or participate fully in their parental role in deciding their children’s future.



# Project Manager Report

(Asif used to work previously as a Project Manager for Parentline Plus for two years, representing 25 million parents.)

At Parentline Plus, I was responsible for developing and strengthening partnerships with agencies in the statutory and voluntary sectors and with stakeholders on a national level, in working with the severely excluded families.

I also managed the training & development including 'Training the Trainers' course that would enable parents to deliver the Parentline Plus's 'Parents Together' accredited & evidence-based family support services to families of excluded communities.

In my extensive role at Parentline Plus, I developed and manage four pilot projects from scratch on national level in partnership with organisations who work with excluded communities.

Together with my experiences from Parentline Plus, I am delighted to join **Deaf Parenting UK** in October 2007, in my role as Project Manager.

## DPUK Ambassadors & Celebrities

By tirelessly raising the profile of Deaf Parenting UK (DPUK) as a small national voluntary organisation by encouraging several high profile ambassadors and celebrities to represent and support Deaf Parenting UK as a unique organisation for Deaf parents. See next page for the list of Ambassadors and Celebrities who declared their support for Deaf Parenting UK's work.

## Building the network with local, national and international organisations

We made contact with many local, national and international organisations including WFD (see next page) and Deaf organisations across the world, to share good working practices of providing information and support to Deaf parents.

### Manchester Deaf Centre, December 2007



We visited the Manchester Deaf Centre and Chief Executive, Noel Traynor. This was an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of Deaf Parenting UK and the needs of Deaf parents in the Manchester area.

### Merseyside Society for Deaf People, December 2007



We met John Brennan, Chief Executive of Merseyside Society for Deaf People to explain about our work at Deaf Parenting UK and the needs for partnership work together with Manchester Deaf Centre above.

We were also impressed by the facilities offered by MSDP centre including media unit, interpreting services, youth project including dedicated play area for young children of Deaf parents whilst Deaf parents access to their services.

There are scopes of future partnership working in other areas so we look forward to working with them in the near future.

# World Federation for the Deaf Conference

## World Federation for the Deaf (WFD) Conference, Spain July 2007

The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) is an international non-governmental organisation comprising national associations of Deaf people. It watches over the interest of more than 74 million Deaf people worldwide – more than 80% of them live in developing countries, where authorities are a rarely familiar with their needs or desires.

We attended the 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the WFD in Madrid, capital of Spain. The theme the congress was 'Sign Languages and Human Rights', looking at various area that affect Deaf people's life ranging from human rights, linguistic & culture; sign languages, education; technology, mental health, women, CODA, Youth, Older people, Deafblind people, Black Minority Ethnic communities and many more.

We networked with so many people on a local, national and international level, promoting Deaf Parenting UK.

Sabina met Markku Jokinen, President of the World Federation of the Deaf during the conference, highlighting the needs of Deaf parents and pressing for Deaf parents to be recognised as a key priority for **WFD** in the same way as CODA, Women, Youth, Education and Mental health.

Sabina also recognised the uniqueness of **Deaf Parenting UK** as a national organisation. No other country has an organisation like **DPUK** apart from small projects here and there. It shows on how important for **Deaf Parenting UK** to present itself as a good model for other countries across the world on enabling confidence, supporting and empowering Deaf parents.

The next congress will take place in Durban, South Africa in 2011.



WFD Exhibitions



With Wilma, South African Deaf MP who will be hosting the next WFD 2011 in Durban, South Africa.



Sabina, Chair of **Deaf Parenting UK** and Markku Jokinen, **WFD** President

# Profiles & Support from our Deaf Parenting UK Ambassadors

We are delighted to introduce our Ambassadors and below are their profiles of who they are and their vast support to Deaf Parenting UK. (More details from [www.deafparent.org.uk](http://www.deafparent.org.uk))

## Baroness Uddin



Baroness Pola Manzila Uddin gained her peerage as Baroness Uddin, of Bethnal Green in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 1998. She achieved her Diploma in social at the University of North London.

She is married with five children.

She had many roles; a Youth and Community worker at YWCA, Liaison Officer for Tower Hamlets Social Services, Manager of Tower Hamlets Women's Health Project, currently a member of the EOP Implementation Committee, and a trustee of St Katherine's & Shadwell Trust.

Baroness Uddin has special interests in education, health, children, local government, and equal opportunities among others. She whole heartedly supports DPUK.

The Baroness has been pioneering and spearheading women's rights wholeheartedly for a decade and says:

*"I'm delighted to see the efforts of Deaf Parenting UK taking shape and is delighted to know that Deaf parents have an organisation like Deaf Parenting UK to support, enabling confidence and empowering them to live life as it is possible. Finally, I congratulates Deaf Parenting UK for their efforts and is looking forward to a healthy and successful relationship."*

## The Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce MP



Malcolm Bruce MP has been a Liberal Democrat MP for the Aberdeenshire seat of Gordon since June 1983.

He is currently Chair of the influential International Development Select Committee, and used to do a number of high profile Party & Committee roles in Westminster including Trade and Industry, Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Treasury.

As the father of a grown-up deaf daughter, he campaigned tirelessly on deafness issues in Parliament.

Malcolm the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Deafness with supportive roles in the NDCS and RNID.

*"I am delighted to be asked to be an Ambassador for Deaf Parenting UK. As a hearing parent with a Deaf child, it is often difficult to assess and obtain the support and assistance your child needs but I recognise it is equally confusing for Deaf parents who have hearing children and may not know where to start. The role that Deaf Parenting UK can play is very important in helping provide this support to Deaf parents and in providing basic parenting information. I hope the Deaf Parenting UK will continue to go from strength to strength."*



## Carole Vincent



Carole rose to fame, for her role in Big Brother 8 series in 2007. She works as Youth health worker for East London Health Clinic.

She was well-known for being a self-confessed political protestor with a big heart. From Greenham Common to anti-war rallies, she's passionate about her beliefs and is extremely positive about life. She doesn't suffer fools and is always happy to say exactly what is on her mind.

She described her experiences of deafness in her family and the impact of meeting deaf parents in her work. (See the full transcript in [www.deafparent.org.uk](http://www.deafparent.org.uk))

*"I am really pleased ...to be giving my support to the Deaf Parenting UK. My mother ... deaf after meningitis at the age of 2. ... my own daughter was born in 1980, deaf....I noticed that there were no support for deaf parents. .... I learnt sign language as a means to communicate with my daughter and other deaf people. This is where I learnt more about Deaf Parenting UK and the importance of their work. At my work place, deaf pregnant women came.. no interpreter available at very short notice..... I sign in basic BSL... aware that there were boundaries to my knowledge and ability....Having found out about Deaf Parenting UK and how useful they are to our services especially to young deaf pregnant women, I have informed other professionals and spread the words in hope they would use the services of DPUK and certainly I will continue to support Deaf Parenting UK in their vital roles of empowering, enabling and supporting Deaf parents."*

## Ian Holloway



Ian Holloway, a well-known footballer, played 561 league games during a 19-year playing career as a midfielder with Bristol Rovers, Wimbledon, Torquay United, Brentford and QPR. He was named manager of Leicester City FC in late 2007.

*"Being a hearing parent with deaf children, I fully understand how difficult it can be when the roles are reversed. All that matters in the world to me is my family and I fully support Deaf Parenting UK and the excellent work it carries out. I am highly honoured to be asked to be an Ambassador for the charity. Keep up the good work."*

## Susan Daniels OBE



Susan Daniels is the Chief Executive of The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS), which is the leading organisation in the UK working directly with all deaf children and their families.

Susan started the Deaf Child Worldwide, NDCS's international development branch. She is qualified teacher of the deaf. She was awarded the OBE for Services to Deaf Children and their families.

Susan was a Commissioner of the Disability Rights Commission until its merger with the Commission for Equality and Human Rights at the end of September 2007. She is Chair of both Groundbreakers (networking group for women CEOs in the voluntary sector) and the UK Council on Deafness.

*"My husband and I are both deaf and we have two hearing daughters. I am proud to be associated with Deaf Parenting UK, as it provides invaluable advice and support for deaf parents, 90% of whom have hearing children"*

## Lilian Lawson OBE



Lilian Lawson OBE, is the Director of Scottish Council on Deafness (SCoD) since 2000, and has been a Chair of Mental Health and Deaf People Task Group. She was active in several key Scottish bodies concerning training, disability, BSL and Deaf Professionals. She graduated with BSc (Hons) degree from University of Edinburgh and MBA from University of Strathclyde. She had several managerial roles in the RNID, Health and Sign Language Interpreting Services in Scotland, and was awarded the OBE.

*"Being a Deaf mother of two hearing daughters, I fully know what it is like having no or little access to support services including information and advice that are widely available to hearing mothers. Therefore I am delighted to be an Ambassador of Deaf Parenting UK. I hope that this charity's good work will be extended to include Scotland."*

## Jeff McWhinney



Jeff McWhinney developed Significan't, which exploits technology to enhance access and quality of life for Deaf sign language communities. The Sign Video Contact Centre, the UK's first IP video contact centre won prestigious awards for innovation. Significan't provides video access points in many public sector services providing immediate access to sign language interpreters. Jeff comes from a Deaf family and uses sign language. He is a Deaf father of four children.

*"Deaf Parenting UK has my full support both as a Deaf parent and a Deaf professional for your objectives, training programmes and services. I firmly believe that it is essential to address and highlight the challenges that Deaf parents face on a daily basis with bringing up their children in today's society and also to raise awareness within the wider society. It is my experience as a Deaf parent that we have to encounter ignorance and prejudice preventing us from having better access to information and more importantly assert our rights as parents. Future generations of deaf parents will appreciate your push toward a clear sense and direction for raising awareness leading to equality of access for them and their children."*

## Professor Ulrike Zeshan



A professor in sign language linguistics and director of the new International Centre for Sign Languages and Deaf Studies (iSLanDS Centre) at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston. Ulrike worked on sign languages in South and West Asia. She works with deaf staff and students, and does a great deal of work with overseas countries, sign language curriculum, and supports university access for deaf people from developing countries. Ulrike is multilingual in sign language, and is a mother of a boy.

*"I think it is great that DPUK functions as an organisation for deaf people by deaf people, as is evidenced by the composition of its board. This organisation has grown out of in-depth, personal and academic knowledge about the issues it works with, and this, more than anything else, is important for the success of such an NGO. I fully support DPUK's aims and hope to learn a lot from "carrying the flag" as an ambassador and being involved in DPUK's activities."*



## Professor Waqar Ahmad



Professor Waqar Ahmad is Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Enterprise at Middlesex University. Previously, he was the Chief Social Scientist at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Professor and Director, Centre for Research in Primary Care, University of Leeds and a senior researcher at York and Bradford universities. He was an author of a key research book on Ethnicity and Deafness.

*"Deaf children and adults who become deaf have received research and policy attention in recent years. However, the needs of Deaf parents remain neglected. I am delighted that Deaf Parenting UK is highlighting the needs and perspectives of Deaf parents and*

*honoured to accept their invitation to become an Ambassador for their organisation."*

## Professor Alys Young



Alys Young is Professor of Social Work Education and research within the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work at the University of Manchester, UK. She worked with D/deaf people for 20 years, initially as a social worker in mental health then did university research. She is currently working on a NDCS funded research project investigating social care provision for families with deaf children in England.

*"I am honoured to be invited to be an Ambassador for Deaf Parenting UK and will work in whatever capacity I can within my professional role to raise awareness about the needs of Deaf parents and also the contribution that Deaf parents will make to our greater understanding*

*of parenting and how support services for parents might be improved.*

*I congratulate Deaf Parenting UK on their pioneering work in this field. Too little research attention has been paid to Deaf parents. In the past a great deal of research has looked at Deaf parenting from a deficit perspective – the assumed difficulties Deaf parents will have in parenting hearing children, for example; instead of looking at the issues from a service user perspective – what are issues for Deaf parents that services may need to address differently so that the same rights and standards can be achieved?*

*As a support and campaigning organisations Deaf Parenting UK is playing a vital role in turning this situation around."*

## Dr Lesley Jones



Dr. Lesley Jones is a researcher in Deaf Studies working at Hull York Medical School has published books (with Deaf researchers) on access to health care and information, ethnicity and genetics.

*"I am delighted to be an Ambassador for DPUK and look forward to working with the organisation. I have been impressed with work that has been done so far to highlighting the importance of deaf parents' roles in bringing up children. Rather than being seen as a "problem" (as they sometimes were in the past by some professionals ) the situation is that many deaf parents are successfully raising families and are now able to share their expertise with other Mums and Dads in the same position.*

*DPUK also provides access to parenting information for those families and gives a positive image for deaf parents throughout the UK "*

## Craig A Crowley MBE



Craig is the Chief Executive of Action Deafness, based in Leicester. He is a Trustee of CACDP (Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People) and is also a Trustee Chair of UK Deaf Sport. He was in the Friends for Young Deaf (FYD) until 2001 it merged with the NDCS.

He was awarded the MBE at the Queen's 80th Birthday Honours.

*"As Deaf father of 3 in a bilingual family environment I believe Deaf Parenting UK will encourage and enable Deaf Parents to make 'informed' choices about parenting itself. I am extremely delighted to see DPUK flourishing into more dynamic and up and coming organisation."*

*As DPUK's ambassador I would like to see DPUK going from strength to strength following its recent successes, providing support and friendship to Deaf parents whilst receiving information and guidance via accessible means of communication."*

## Kathy Robinson



Kathy Robinson is a successful writer, producer and consultant, raising the profile of British Sign Language through her award-winning educational and training materials for children and adults. She created the "Signs for Success" programme which uses sign language to develop young children's language and literacy skills.

She is the parent of two deaf daughters, now adults, about whom she wrote a book "Children of Silence".

*"Deaf Parenting UK is a forward thinking organisation which has my support in all they are trying to achieve."*

## Lesley McGlip



Lesley worked for nearly 20 years in key roles in the BBC's See Hear and the Central Office of Communications (COI). Lesley is currently working in Red Bee Media Limited and she supports Deaf Film-makers in key Deaf TV/Film events.

She is a trustee and secretary for the Deaf Women Health's Organisation, and aims to improve access for Deaf women.

*"I'm honoured to be asked to become an ambassador for Deaf Parenting UK."*

*I was born deaf of deaf parents; from the third generation of a deaf family from Scotland. I'm a mother of my two children, Ryan and Eire.*

*I support the Deaf Parents of deaf and hearing children in the UK. I am aware there are barriers in the public services for the deaf parents. I believe Deaf Parenting UK is working in partnership with deaf organisations and mainstream parenting organisations to improve access to information and services for Deaf Parents. I look forward to meet you all."*

# Comments of support from Celebrities to Deaf Parenting UK and our work:

## Cherie Booth QC



*"I am delighted to give my personal support to the important work of Deaf Parenting UK. DPUK has become an increasingly essential forum of advice and support for deaf parents, it enables their ideas, experiences, problems and solutions to be shared. It leads the fight for better information and services. And it is because it is driven by the experiences and needs of deaf parents themselves, that DPUK has proved such an effective champion in such a short space of time. It is why I am sure your organisation will prove a model for other countries to follow."*

*Everyone associated with DPUK can take great pride in what you are together achieving."*

## The Duchess of Kent



*"I have read your DPUK Report and DPUK Newsletter with great interest and am impressed by all that you have achieved at Deaf Parenting UK"*

## Prince William & Prince Harry



*"The Prince William and Prince Harry were very interested to hear about your organisation and send you and all at Deaf Parenting UK their best wishes."*

## Gordon Brown, Prime Minister



*"We recognise the significant expertise and the crucial role that practitioners such as Deaf Parenting UK have to play in helping to deliver strategies and plan high quality services for parents and their families."*



# Deaf Parenting UK Co-ordinator Report

Nicole had a very busy year in 2007, organising the pilot for our Deaf Parenting Skill courses/ workshops as well as rolling it out London-wide. At the same time, she was working on many other projects including Family Fun events, the website launch, and raising profile of **Deaf Parenting UK** at various conferences/ information stalls.

## DPUK Local Network Fund – Family Fun Events

**Deaf Parenting UK** sought and received funding from the Local Network Fund (formerly SELCF - South East London Community Foundation) to run 12 Family Fun Day events for Deaf parents and children living in the South East London Community.

This is an opportunity for children / teenagers to be entertained in a Deaf friendly environment and for Deaf parents to meet/socialise with other Deaf parents.

Family Fun Events covered, days out at the park, signed performance Theatres, Day trips to UK Attractions, Disco, Tea Party, Drama Workshops, Arts & Craft sessions, Street Dance sessions, and many more.

The real aim of this project is for Deaf parents and their children to socialise and to reduce their isolation, with children's activities provided as an opportunity for children to mix with others and avoid the stigma of having deaf parents, creating a positive environment for all.

As a DPUK Coordinator and deaf mum, I have been responsible for the planning and preparation of the family fun day events, along with an army of volunteers who have helped make youngsters enjoy an action packed monthly fun day. These events also gave children of deaf families the chance to enjoy quality time together and spend a day taking part in fun activities, free of charge or in some cases at just a fraction of the cost.

I have thoroughly enjoyed coordinating and hosting these events and as a result, have met many of the parents and children who have benefited greatly from the project. I believe that making time in busy schedules for free play benefits children and young people, improving their health and well being, and even their academic performance.



**Children's Easter Tea Party**



**Grrr!**



**Clown Entertainer /face painting**



**Fun Day out at Crystal Palace Park**



**Day Trip**



**Art & Craft Activities**



**Children's Disco**



**Jumping Jack Flash**



**Day trip to Gullivers Theme Park**



### **Royal Association for Deaf People 'Cultural Mela' – October 2007**

Royal Association for Deaf People hosted a Cultural Mela at Eastbury Comprehensive School in Barking, Essex.

The daytime event consisted of various exhibition stands, workshops, taster sessions, and interactive activities that attracted people of all ages and from a variety of Black, Minority & Ethnic (BME) background. A special guest of honour was attended by Carol Vincent from Channel 4's 'Big Brother'.

Deaf Parenting UK set up their own exhibition stall and played a role in facilitating access to information and services.

The evening event provided a vibrant display of various dance, mime and music – performances that took place on the stage. The event was a success, which made a huge difference to the BME community.

### **Joint Partnership with Parentline Plus on Parenting Skills 'Parent Together' workshop for Deaf Parents of Young children from Bromley/Croydon Locality – October/November 2007**

Following the pilot 'Train the Trainers' project with Parentline Plus, Deaf Parenting UK ran a 5-week pilot Parent Together course for Deaf parents. The Parent Together programme was developed by Parentline Plus as part of the joint partnership with DPUK and part of the partnership agreement was that DPUK would deliver 2 separate 'Parent Together' workshops and submit evaluations for the benefit of project funders

The first of the 'Parent Together' workshops were held at the Community House, in Bromley and provisions of the workshops covered topics such as Getting on with your Child/Teenager, Understanding behaviour, Receptive skills and Assertive Communication.

### **UK Council on Deafness 2007 Annual Conference - November 2007**

UKCOD held their Fourth Annual Deafness Conference at UCU Conference in London. This was an opportunity for all professionals working with deaf people to meet and network with colleagues and to gain a greater understanding of developments taking place across the country.

Deaf Parenting UK gave a supporting presentation to over 90 different sectors that attended the event. An exhibition stall was also set up to provide information and access to DPUK Services. A great opportunity to network and chat with people from other sectors and a chance to get DPUK on the 'map'.

### **Lewisham Sign Language Community – November 2007**

Lewisham Sign Language Community Group is a Deaf Forum set up for the benefit of deaf people living in the Lewisham community. The group provides a number of activities including healthy living, group meetings, social events etc

Deaf Parenting UK set up a small information stall to promote DPUK and gave a presentation about the service provision for deaf parents to a group of 20/25 deaf people.

## DPUK Seminar - November 2007

The aim of this seminar was to show service professionals within the Health, Social Services, Mainstream parenting organisation and education on how well DPUK have achieved and highlighting the gaps in services for Deaf parents/deaf parents to be.

Around 30 service professionals from different sectors and 18 deaf parents attended the event, which took place at the Camden Town Hall.

A special guest of honour presented herself at the seminar and gave a positive word of support for DPUK - 'Carole Vincent from BB8!'



Sabina with Big Brother 8's Carole Vincent, signed 'Deaf Parents'



Attendees at Deaf Parenting UK Seminar

# Deaf Parenting UK Treasurer's Report

## Financial review

We hold cash at bank of £0.00, all of which is unrestricted funds. These funds are held in order to meet any unforeseen expenditure. We aim to increase our reserve for year ending 2008

Our main source of funds this year has been the grant funding for the Deaf Parenting Skills workshops.

All the income is applied to the running of the workshops mainly on the Facilitator/trainer costs.

For the year ending 2008, we are building up a reserve of money from working with a range of organisations who are looking for DPUK to provide one to one work with deaf parents and their children. We have received a large sum of money to enable us to deliver social events for deaf parents of either deaf or hearing children who live in one of the 33 London Boroughs in London which is from Children in Need.

## Deaf Parenting UK Receipts and payments accounts For the year ended 31 December 2007

Charity Registration Number 1112453

	Unrestricted funds £	2007 Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2006 Total £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Grants and donations	4,010	27,149	27,149	15,910
Miscellaneous income	150	-	150	360
Bank interest	148	-	148	37
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>4,308</b>	<b>27,149</b>	<b>31,457</b>	<b>16,307</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Management fees	-	-	-	2,200
Creche fees	-	263	263	1,641
Room and equipment hire	556	3,735	4,291	2,100
Facilitator/trainer	2,070	4,313	6,383	7,079
Sign language interpreters and communication support	141	861	1,002	360
Miscellaneous expenses	67	1,435	1,502	1,394
Website design	-	4,112	4,112	579
Independent Examiner's fees	-	290	290	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>2,834</b>	<b>15,009</b>	<b>17,843</b>	<b>15,353</b>
<b>Net of receipts</b>	<b>1,474</b>	<b>12,140</b>	<b>13,614</b>	<b>954</b>
Transfers between funds	(2,428)	2,428	0	-
	<b>(954)</b>	<b>14,568</b>	<b>13,614</b>	<b>954</b>
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,568</b>	<b>14,568</b>	<b>954</b>

**Deaf Parenting UK**  
**Statement of assets and liabilities**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2007**

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted fund £</b>	<b>Total funds £</b>
<b>1. Cash funds</b>			
Cash at bank	0	14,568	14,568
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£14,568</b>	<b>£14,568</b>

**2. Liabilities**

Independent Examiner's fees	Restricted	£375
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**Signed on behalf of all trustees**

Name	Signature
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Sabina Iqbal	Date of Approval - 11 February 2008
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**Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

On behalf of the charity's trustees

Jessica Kerry Wilde

DPUK Treasurer

Date: 11 February 2008

# Independent Auditors Financial Report

**DEAF PARENTING UK**  
Charity Registered Number 1112453

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of Deaf Parenting UK

I report on the accounts of Deaf Parenting UK for the period ended 31 December 2007.

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the period (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act), as amended by s.28 of the Charities Act 2006) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act, as amended);
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission
3. under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, as amended); and
4. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Association and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Management Committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act); and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

#### Kevin Whalley FMAAT ATT

Fiscal Perspectives

Accountants and Financial Advisers

Roxeth House, Shaftesbury Avenue, Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0PZ

Date: 6 February 2008



# Who are we?

## Deaf Parenting UK Board of Trustees:

**Chair** – Sabina Iqbal, Deaf mother and Sensory Team Manager  
**Vice Chair** – Trudi Collier, Deaf mother and Deaf Counsellor  
**Treasurer** – Jessica Wilde, Deaf mother and Deaf Employment advisor  
**Secretary** – vacant

## **Board Members:**

Ramon Woolfe, Deaf father and Entrepreneur.  
Yasmin Kovic, Deaf mother & Specialist in Child Protection.  
Penny Beschizza, Deaf mother & Lecturer for Deaf students.  
Kevin Buckle, Deaf father & Mental Health support worker with experiences of ethnic issues.  
Shabab Reza, Deaf father & specialist in Charity accounting, IT tutorial including ECDL.  
Mary-Jayne Russell de Clifford, Deaf mother & Teaching assistant and play worker with Deaf children.

## **Staff:**

Asif Iqbal – Media/Project Manager & Deaf father  
Nicole Campbell – Deaf Parenting UK Co-ordinator & Deaf mother.

## Structure, Governance and Management

75% of the Trustees must be Deaf parents (including foster/adopter) or Deaf parents to be. At the moment, 100% of our Trustees are Deaf parents themselves with children of all ages which brings a rich diversity of experiences to Deaf Parenting UK.

Trustees meet 4 times a year as well as keeping in touch via Deaf Parenting UK Trustee email group. Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting.

We have reviewed and updated the Deaf Parenting UK's constitution (originally adopted December 2004 and revised in December 2006) and Child Protection policy to reflect the current climate.

# DPUK Services:

1. **Deaf Parenting Skill Course (DPSC)** for:
  - *Pre-natal course for Deaf parent/ parent-to-be who are expecting baby (NEW)*
  - *Deaf Parents with children aged 0-9years*
  - *Deaf Parents with teens*
2. **1:1 Support on Parenting skills**
3. **Befriender Services**
4. **Presentation/Meeting** on services that DPUK offer
5. **Tailor-made Services to Deaf Parents** If there is anything you need from DPUK that is tailored-made to suit your needs, please let us know.
6. **Membership** DPUK values the vast support from all members across UK on Deaf Parenting issues. Membership is open to all Deaf Parents and professionals/ service providers working with Deaf Parents. Benefits of Memberships for DPUK members include:
  - Opportunity to influence DPUK as an organisation and their services to ensure that it meets Deaf Parents' needs.
  - Network with other Deaf Parents/ Professionals working with Deaf Parents.
  - Involves & contribute to FREE Deaf Parenting Email Group/ Forum (see below)
  - Receive Deaf Parenting Newsletter on quarterly basis.

7. **Deaf Parenting Forum** on Deaf Parenting UK website, which is FREE for members.
8. **Deaf Parenting UK Newsletter** – quarterly newsletter FREE for members

If you want to know more about **Deaf Parenting UK** and the services we offer, please feel free to contact our Coordinator:

**Nicole Campbell**

**Deaf Parenting UK Coordinator**

SMS: 07789 027186

Email: [info@deafparent.org.uk](mailto:info@deafparent.org.uk)

## Deaf Parenting UK Vision & Future:

### Membership:

**Deaf Parenting UK** hopes to see a continued steady growth of membership of Deaf parents and professionals to support our work in providing information and support to Deaf parents. Your membership give you a voice in influencing and shaping how **Deaf Parenting UK** runs as an organisation and what you want to see happen in the next few years.

### Partnership working:

**Deaf Parenting UK** will continue to work in partnership with Deaf organisations on local and national levels in providing information, support and services to Deaf parents. **Deaf Parenting UK** also encourage positive working practices with mainstream parenting organisations and service providers to enable them to consider how they can meet the needs of Deaf parents in line with the DDA.

### Deaf Parenting skill courses:

**Deaf Parenting UK** will continue to work closely with their partners in bidding for funding to deliver Deaf parenting skill courses locally and nationally and hopefully have all courses roll-out across the country with **DPUK**'s pool of Deaf Trainers. We also need to secure funding to increase the number of trainers to meet the high demand for our courses.

### Tailor-made services:

**Deaf Parenting UK** will continue to provide 1:1 tailor-made parenting support to Deaf parents including Deaf parents with additional support needs. As the demand for this service continue to increase nationally, more awareness and recognition of Deaf Parenting UK among local authorities and Social Services/ PCT, it is hope for funding to be secured as part of Deaf parent's community care package.

### Information Services:

**Deaf Parenting UK** is working closely with organisations to ensure information is accessible to Deaf Parents as well maintaining information on **Deaf Parenting UK** website [www.deafparent.org.uk](http://www.deafparent.org.uk), making it a central point of resources. The **DPUK** newsletter continues to grow with many more pages, reaching to Deaf parents and professionals/ service providers who are otherwise unaware of our work.

### Raising profile of **Deaf Parenting UK**:

**Deaf Parenting UK** will continued to work tirelessly to raise the flag on the needs of Deaf parents by speaking at various conferences and running information stalls. **Deaf Parenting UK** will continue to raise their profile and reaching out to Deaf parents and professionals/ services providers.

# Support from you

**Membership** – to become a member, please contact Deaf Parenting UK for a membership form or apply online on [www.deafparent.org.uk](http://www.deafparent.org.uk).

## Support the work we do: Donate to Deaf Parenting UK

Deaf Parenting UK works tirelessly to highlight the needs of Deaf parents in UK, to help to promote the rights of individual Deaf parents, support Deaf parents and professionals/services providers working with Deaf parents and reduce Deaf parents' sense of exclusion. We need your help to continue this work. Please give generously.

Make cheques/postal orders payable to **Deaf Parenting UK**. This form can be photocopied.

I wish to make a donation of

£

My name:

My address:

Beat the tax man and make your gift to **Deaf Parenting UK** go further. If you are a tax payer, for every pound you donate, we can claim an extra 28p from the Inland Revenue. All you need to do is to tick the box and we will do the rest!



### 11) Contact Us:

**Deaf Parenting UK**

**Nicole Campbell – DPUK Coordinator**

SMS: 07789 027186

Fax: 0871 2643323

Email: [info@deafparent.org.uk](mailto:info@deafparent.org.uk)

[www.deafparent.org.uk](http://www.deafparent.org.uk)

# Acknowledgement:

We want to thanks to our supporters, partners and funders that we worked with since 2001, for their tremendous support & contributions to our vital work:



South East London Community Foundation



UK Council on Deafness



Donnay Charitable Trust

Enfield Deaf Project

Sir Winston Churchill Educational Trust

