



Winter 2008

Issue number 09



It is Christmas again... a time for festive fun for families and friends alike.

The streets are busy, the shopping malls are full, and everyone's making plans. The most common question you hear this season is: "Are you ready for Christmas?"

That's the question I've been asked for several weeks and I have only just started! Every year I say I will not get caught up in the fuss by keeping it simple, but am I truly ready for Christmas with so much to do in so little time...

Whatever your plans are for Christmas, Deaf Parenting UK would like to wish you all a joyful and peaceful festive season and best wishes for a happy & prosperous New Year!

Don't forget, we would love to hear from you, if you have a story to tell us or tips to share...get in touch!

Merry Christmas!

Nicole & DPUK Team

CONTENTS

<i>WELCOME</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>PROJECT MANAGER'S UPDATE</i>	<i>2-20</i>
<i>NEWSROUND</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>ANNOUNCEMENTS</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>DPUK MAILSHOT</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>CONTACTS</i>	<i>24</i>



Newsflash...

Deaf Parenting UK is delighted to announce that our Media/Project Manager, Asif Iqbal has been re-appointed for a second term as Board Member of Disability Employment Advisory Committee, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Project Manager's Update: **Asif Iqbal, DPUK Project Manager**



Hi, I am so over the moon. The last few months were the busiest months of recognition of Deaf Parenting UK. It is a combination of the World Federation for Deaf, the World of Business Leaders, the Local Community and

the recognition of Sabina, our Chair as one of the most inspirational women in the UK. Not only it stopped there, Deaf Parenting UK also featured in the Guardian's Public Services Award as well as Channel 5 News! Curious? Read on!

Together with the numerous of awards (7 in total), Deaf Parenting UK also made a breakthrough as first ever signed on Channel 5 – Your news, your story, highlighting the needs of Deaf Parents as well as promoting positive images of Deaf parents. Speaking of positive images, a Deaf family also featured in the Guardian, where a journalist experienced the life of living with a Deaf family (an extract have been added to this newsletter in case you missed it!) which made a very interesting reading.

Phew! What a record for a Deaf organisation like Deaf Parenting UK to have such a great success and a series of awards, gaining recognition on local, national and international level. This is certainly a cause for celebration; bring to a positive end of 2008 and looking forward to exciting projects at the start of 2009 especially with our upcoming Deaf Parenting Conference, London: Education, Education, and Education on Friday 12th June 2009!

At meantime, we wish you all a festive seasons ranging from Happy Xmas, Eid, Hanuakah, Diwali and many more.

Asif Iqbal

Deaf Parenting UK Conference 2008

Department of Health, Department of Children, School and Families, Equality and Human Right Commission have made their pledges to address the needs of Deaf Parents.

The pledges were made at the Deaf Parenting Conference 2008 in Birmingham on Saturday 4th October 2008 where many Deaf Parents, professionals/ services providers working with Deaf parents challenged the Government on the needs of Deaf parents in accessing to services without barriers. The event was filmed by BBC See Hear.

Sabina Iqbal, Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK explained: *"The conference was a great success as it provided an excellent opportunity for Deaf parents and service providers to have a voice and influences the Government on the needs of Deaf parents to enable them to enjoy their family life without barriers."*



(L-R: Maria Miller MP, Prof. Ulrike Zeshan, Sabina, Lord Mayor & Mayoress of Birmingham and local Councillor Margaret Sutton)

Chauhdry Abdul Rashid JP, The Lord Mayor of Birmingham opened the conference and although, sign language is a beautiful language and coming from an Asian background whose first language is not English, he stressed that “it is vital for many Deaf parents to access to the most basic services around maternity care, parenting skills classes, midwives or health visitors, as well as childcare, nursery or participate in primary and secondary school life.” He also gave examples of “Deaf pregnant woman who receive maternity care but didn’t get adequate support from midwife/ nurse were not Deaf aware or able to use British Sign Language (BSL). So how can midwife/nurse explain to the Deaf woman about the pregnancy stages and choices around labour and birth, enabling Deaf parents to be to make informed decision? How can Deaf fathers/ partners get into the labour/maternity ward that has intercom but unable to get in?

Speaking of DDA and equality, enabling Deaf parents to enjoy family lives without barriers, is there any information out there for parents in general that are accessible for Deaf parents? Are those information available in Plain English with BSL on DVD or with vast technology, BSL onto website as more and more information are available on-line via website?”

He concluded in his speech: “Deaf parents should be treated equally without discrimination as any other parents given that we are living in multi-cultural, multi-faith and multi-racial society, it is important for service providers to understand and find effective ways of how they can communicate and support Deaf parents? British Sign Language (BSL) is a beautiful language and like any other languages, service providers have the responsibility to ensure arrangements is in place to book BSL interpreter to meet the needs of Deaf parents (usually via PALS – Patient Advice Liaison Services). I would like to wish Deaf Parenting UK for their continued success in championing the needs of Deaf parents.



Louise Fitzgerald, Natalie Salman (NMC), Sabina and Yasmin Kovic



Deaf Parents with children, enjoying the conference



Children's activities within the conference



Deaf Parenting UK's team of BSL interpreters (in black top) and Volunteers (in grey top)



Workshop speakers (L-R): Jackie Driver, Sabina, Lyn Frith and Deborah Jamieson.

Maria Miller MP, Shadow Minister for the Family: *"Deaf Parenting UK understands the challenges that parents who are Deaf or hard of hearing face on a daily basis. The Conference highlighted the importance of always considering the needs of children in the context of their family, not in isolation. Charitable organisations such as Deaf Parenting UK have a critical role to play helping support Deaf and hard of hearing parents and helping to deliver the specific support they need."*

Lyn Frith – Director CSPIRe Ltd: *"The Deaf Parenting UK National Conference was, in my view, a highly inspirational event which effectively raised awareness of the challenges faced by Deaf parents. The input from keynote speakers was highly informative and provided examples of good practice that we can all aspire to. Congratulations to DPUK for a great conference."*

Deborah Jamieson, Head of Children, Families & Social Inclusion Programme Department of Health: *"I really enjoyed participating in the conference, and it highlighted the need to ensure that Deaf Parenting UK are included in parent focus groups and are kept informed of new developments. My impression is that the conference was successful and provided a good opportunity to engage with an important parent group."*

Jackie Driver, Head of Policy, Equality and Human Right Commission: *"This year's Deaf Parenting UK conference was a great success. It brought together D/Deaf parents and service providers and hosted opportunities to share understanding and explore solutions to the barriers many D/Deaf parents face in accessing services. The Equality and Human Rights Commission, itself charged with delivering greater equality, human rights and good relations for all citizens were delighted to be asked to address the conference and take away key learning points that will help us deliver our objectives more inclusively. We wish Deaf Parenting UK every success in meeting their own objectives and look forward to working together in future joint initiatives to help improve the life experiences of Deaf parents."*

Natalie Salmon, Head of Equality and Diversity, The Nursing and Midwifery Council:

"It was a pleasure and privilege to speak at the Deaf Parenting UK conference on Saturday. It was one of the most inclusive, interesting and informative conferences I have attended. It was incredibly valuable to learn more about the innovative and much needed work of Deaf Parenting UK. I hope the NMC is able to continue working with Deaf Parenting in the future."

Carolyn Denmark, Deaf Parent: *"it is good to know that Deaf parents felt the day was beneficial and to share their experiences although I feel there should be more opportunity for Deaf parent to share their concerns and views of current services in their area, and what training they would like to receive in the near future."*

I thought it was a big breakthrough for Deaf Parenting UK as so many things have been achieved in the last 12 months and seeing more people are involved and its publicity, I can see the flag flying up high, thanks to

the staff and trustees for making this happening. “

Stuart Harrison, Deaf Parent: *“The DPUK Conference was an excellent opportunity for Deaf parents to interface directly with professional service providers to make them aware of the needs of Deaf parents.”*



At one of the workshop during the conference

NEW Ambassador Maria Miller MP, Shadow Minister for the Family:



We are absolutely delighted to welcome our new ambassador, Maria Miller MP, Shadow Minister for the family,

Sabina Iqbal, Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting

UK: *“I am delighted to welcome our new Ambassador Maria Miller, Shadow Minister for Family. She is an inspiration to many of us, as being a mum, she understood and empathised with many Deaf parents in accessing to services. Also in her role, she explained about her responsibility and vision to make British the most family friendly country and ensuring the needs of Deaf parents are included.”*

Maria added that in her new role as Ambassador: *“I am delighted to support Deaf Parenting UK and hope that I can help highlight the issues facing Deaf parents”*

The Baby Show, Earl Court, London



Deaf Parenting UK had their exhibition stand at the Baby Show, Earl Court, 17-19 October 2008 and provided BSL interpreters to enable Deaf parents to enjoy the experiences of The Baby Show in the same way as many other parents. Exhibitors were able to take advantage of the unique service to communicate with Deaf parents as new customers.

Sabina Iqbal, Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK: *“This is the major breakthrough for Deaf Parenting UK to have a great presence at the Baby Show. Being there enabled Deaf parents to be empowered in liaising directly with the exhibitors with provision of our BSL interpreters. It was also easy to identify our BSL interpreters by their black polo-shirts with Deaf Parenting UK logo on the front and ‘BSL Interpreter’ on the back. Instantly in the space of three days show, exhibitors became more Deaf aware on the importance of meeting the Deaf parents’ needs in accessing to services and buying goods. Likewise, feedback from Deaf parents found accessing to those exhibitors with BSL interpreter enabled them to have equal access without barriers which is what Deaf Parenting UK is all about!”*

25,878 visitors attended The Baby Show Earls Court 2008. More importantly, exhibitors reported superb trading on the floor; which resulted in a record onsite re-book of 65% of 2008 exhibitors.

Feedback from fellow exhibitors/ partners and celebrities on our presence at the Baby Show.



"I believe all parents should be able to socialise with their peers. Deaf Parenting UK does a great job making this is possible!" (Huggies)

community in terms of enhancing people's understanding. Prima Baby magazine applauds everyone behind the organisation and the great work it does!" Elaine Griffiths, Editor, Prima Baby



"Deaf Parenting UK are doing great work in supporting Deaf families it's great to know that there help and support

out there for parents who need it" Fisher Price



"I would like to support Deaf Parenting UK as I believe every parents should have the opportunity to give their child the best possible start in life. It is good to see that at my talks at the

Baby Show there is a British Sign Language interpreter. British Sign Language interpreters help to communicate between the exhibitions

and Deaf people and I would like to see more help given to Deaf parents." Annabel Karmel MBE



"I am delighted to see Deaf Parenting UK supporting parents to have a positive experience of pregnancy and parenthood."

National Childbirth Trust (NCT)



Deaf Parenting UK does an amazing job brining families together and giving wonderful support. The organisation

benefits the Deaf community and the hearing



"I am very pleased to see Deaf Parenting UK at the Baby Show this year. It's fantastic to make sure that all new parents receive the advice and resources that they need." Persil Non Bio



Philips AVENT is delighted to lend its support to Deaf Parenting UK in its work to provide vital help and advice to Deaf parents. The charity campaigns tirelessly to raise awareness of the particular needs of Deaf parents and makes a real difference to many families.
Philips AVENT

Philips AVENT is delighted to lend its support to Deaf Parenting UK in its work to provide vital help and advice to Deaf parents. The charity campaigns tirelessly to raise awareness of the particular needs of Deaf parents and makes a real difference to many families.

"I think what you are doing is great. Promoting access to Positive Parenting information in the Deaf community is a great thing"
YeGads (specialist website for dads)



"Baby Bond Ultra Sound is exception pleased to be able to offer our Deaf clients support with our link to Deaf Parenting UK."

(Elizabeth Mason, Marketing Manager and Midwife, Baby Bond Ultra Sound)



"Parenting is a difficult challenge for everyone and I'm delighted that Deaf Parenting UK has made an appearance at the Baby Show this year. I hope my talk about parenting problems can be enjoyed by all families especially Deaf families."

Gitte Daniels, Childcare Consultant and feature writer for Wonder Nanny in Prima Baby Magazine

"Parenting is a difficult challenge for everyone and I'm delighted that Deaf Parenting UK has made an appearance at the Baby Show this year. I hope my talk about parenting problems can be enjoyed by all families especially Deaf families."

"ITV Signpost support Deaf Parenting UK, recognising the important work they are doing to give support to Deaf parents, happy supported parents means happy and fulfilled children and families."

Eileen Young, Manager, ITV Signpost.



"I believe parenting your baby with awareness of how babies perceive the world through their senses is very beneficial. For instance baby wearing (using a sling) can calm irritable babies through their sense of movement. I am support Deaf Parenting UK."
Meg Faure, Author of Baby Sense and Sleep Sense

"I believe parenting your baby with awareness of how babies perceive the world through their senses is very beneficial. For instance baby wearing (using a sling) can calm irritable babies through their sense of movement. I am support Deaf Parenting UK."



"I am delighted to be able to support Deaf Parenting UK with links between our businesses. I hadn't previously thought about the challenges that Deaf parents face"

when it comes to receiving information and I hope that we can do more to make our Directories more useful."

Lare Flawn Thomas, Editor, The Baby Directory

"Deaf Parenting UK provides a vital link for both Deaf parents and children to access the care and support we are all entitled too." **June Pembroke , Midwife**

More photos from The Baby Show 2008



Deaf Dad trying out the pregnancy outfit from Tommy's, not realising how pregnant women feels! Midwife of Tommy's explained how outfit works via BSL interpreter.



Deaf pregnant woman question an exhibitor who designed and sells baby sling via male BSL interpreter.

Prima Baby Fashion Show



Models - Mum with baby



Models show with BSL interpreter at the back of stage.



Nicole of DPUK meet Deaf parents, discussing their concerns.

Award 2008

Social Impact Award on 2nd October 2008



Professor Roger James presented Asif of Deaf Parenting UK with the Social Impact Award 2008

Deaf Parenting UK, www.Deafparent.org.uk the first ever charity to be run by Deaf parents for Deaf parents, has won TFPL's first Social Impact Award - an award for the most innovative use of knowledge and information management in the voluntary sector.

The award, which was introduced by TFPL at their EBIC conference in Berlin October 1-3rd, was open to organisations in the charity and voluntary sectors who could demonstrate innovative use of knowledge and information management (KIM) which includes information, knowledge, records or technology management.

Deaf Parenting UK, who won a €5,000 prize donated by Nokia, offers information, events, a website, email group, DVD, research and book to Deaf parents and professionals who work with them. They also encourage debate, showcase good practice and enable Deaf parents to have voices to Government.

Deaf Parents UK in particular impressed the judges with their winning mix of ideas and emphasis on inclusion; the judges were also intrigued by the opportunities provided by the use of visual and communications technologies.

In a close vote Deaf Parenting UK were declared the winner, in the way their ideas brought their community together. Deaf Parents support groups and Family fun days, although patchy and dispersed across UK, form an important social element amongst Deaf community of Deaf Parents. With the Deaf Parenting UK website, email groups and newsletter, DPUK extends this vital service to more Deaf parents and professionals working with Deaf parents, who are otherwise isolated across UK.

Dacorum Excellence Award 2008 on 21st October 2008



Sabina was delighted to have been chosen as a Runner Up for The Dacorum Excellence Award 2008, for her success, and achievements of Deaf Parenting UK by the local community.

Sabina with the Award certificate.

Talk Talk Innovation Award 5th November 2008



Nicole and Asif with the Talk Talk Award certificate

Deaf Parenting UK, a based charity which is a unique charity run by Deaf parents for Deaf parents aiming to give confidence and the necessary support, has received a TalkTalk Innovation in the Community Award at a ceremony at the House of Lords on Wednesday 5th November.

The TalkTalk Awards, run in partnership with UK digital inclusion charity Citizens Online, opened for entries in June and called for submissions from non-profit making organisations and charities in the UK. The Awards specifically focus on helping organisations to get the best out of technology. Deaf Parenting UK was one of 30 of the UK's most exciting charity projects chosen to win one of the awards.



Martha Fox is fan of Deaf Parenting UK

Women in the Future Award 6th November 2008

Britain's most inspirational Sabina Iqbal has been honoured in the **BT Women in the Future Voluntary Award**, presented by Princess Zahra Aga Khan. Judges of this category included Clive Alderton, deputy private secretary to TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall at a lavish ceremony in London on 6th November 2008 at the London Marriott Grosvenor Square.

The judges said: *"Sabina is someone who spotted a gap in service provision and had the*

motivation to plug it - overcoming numerous barriers to do so. She has transformed the provision of services to this group in the UK and we have every confidence that she will go on to do the same overseas. She has created a truly sustainable, world-class organisation in the voluntary field."



Katie Derham, ITV Newscaster as host



L-R: Melody (joint winner), Princess Zahra Aga Khan, BT rep and Sabina Iqbal (joint winner)



Some of the **Women of the Future** winners

Runner UP for the Guardian Public Service Award 25th November 2008



Shortlisted

Deaf Parenting UK was stunned when Deaf Parenting UK was announced as shortlisted of the Equality & Diversity Award.

"As a runner up of The Guardian Public

Services Award is a real achievement, given how far we have come from vision of Deaf Parenting UK into reality, enabling, empowering and supporting Deaf Parents."

"We are delighted that with the Runner up of the Guardian Award, and like many other awards, it has given us more recognition that we deserve on the local, national, international level."

Highly Commended for the Beacon Fellowship Award 2008 – Sabina Iqbal



Sabina have been awarded with a certificate of Highly Commended for her work at Deaf Parenting UK.

She was extremely well regarded by the scrutineers (judges) and was one of a small number who were Highly Commended in the category of **Community Builder**.

Responses to our achievements from the public:

"Congratulations on winning the BT Women in the Future Voluntary Award, and for DPUK's other recent awards and nominations. It sounds as if things are going very well for DPUK. You must be very proud." **Shanta Everington, Deputy Editor, Disability, Pregnancy & Parenthood international**

Please pass on my congratulations to the rest of the team at DPUK - I am mighty proud of you all! All the best **Jeff McWhinney, Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador**

Congratulations 4 won awards. I am so proud of you both plus you both are Deaf Asian to show good role model well done **Love Tasnim**

Super chuffed, award for biz woman and other awards for DPUK. **Fatima, Andrew and Tamarax**

What wonderful news!!! Please congratulate Sabina on our behalf. We were thrilled to receive your email and see that Sabina's initiative, voluntary hard work and incredible strength has been shown to the world. Her efforts have been monumental. It is heartening to see Sabina recognised at such a worthy event. We appreciate the special initiatives of BT, its eminent judges, those giving the awards and those creating the event. They have wisely chosen exceptional Women of the Future in Sabina Iqbal. Sabina is an inspiration! All the best from us at **Jollypeople.com!**

Congratulations on four awards all our love **Parveen & the kidsx**

Many congratulations! **Lilian Lawson OBE, Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador**

I want to extend my warm congratulations to you on being honoured for the BT Women in the Future Voluntary Award! It was such a fantastic achievement! Your vision, motivations and inspirations have certainly put Deaf Parenting UK on the map! Once again, congratulations, Sabina! Very best wishes

Craig Crowley MBE, Deaf Parenting UK

HUGE congratulations! X **Debs Neve**
Congratulations! You're really inspiring! **Saher Mian**

Congratulations Sabina! Hope all is well with you and your family. Best wishes, **Michael, Alice & Aaron Johnson**

Congratulations! I was really inspired when I read the story about your award. I think it's fantastic what you are doing & to have achieved it whilst being a mum to little children & a wife to your husband is even more admirable. Well done! **Lisa Mills**

A warmest congratulation for achieving a big award and you deserved to receive the award for hard working in Deaf Parenting, etc well done love from us. **Dave Dunlin**

CONGRATULATIONS I'm so happy for you Sabina you deserved it! I m so proud of having a lovely aunty like you love you lots xx xx **Zara J Iqbal**

I am very impressed with the recognition of Deaf Parenting UK. **Deborah Jamieson, Department of Health**

Many Congratulations! **Jackie Driver, Equality and Human Right Commission**

My best wishes and congratulations on your recent award, that's a great achievement! I hope you will carry on with the same amount of stamina! **Prof. Ulrike Zeshan, Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador**

Many congratulations on the award you received recently! I was delighted to learn that you were honoured in the BT Women in the Future Voluntary Award at a recent ceremony in London. Many congratulations on what I hope are the first of many awards for the excellent work you do. **Maria Miller MP, Shadow Minister for the Family**

Congratulations! **Lesley Jones, Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador**

Your story on Channel 5 is inspiring! **Elaine Webster**

BIG congratulations - you should be very proud! **Vanessa Addison**

Well done Deaf Parents UK
Ramas Rentelis, Deaf basketball, UK

Talking with hands are very impressed by your e-mail. Deaf Parenting UK is real going to make a positive different in the Deaf world. **Rose-Ann, Talking with hands**

Hearty congratulations to everyone involved - a brilliant achievement! **Hilary Grime, Service Manager, Sensory Impairment & Physical Disabilities**

Congratulation to everyone in the team! Well done!! **Troi "Chinaman" Lee, DeafRave**

You've certainly worked very hard. Well done. **Penny Beschizza, DPUK Trustee**

Congratulations **Angela Abell, TFPL**

"For all the success of Deaf Parenting UK and the awards that have bee presented to you and the organisation this year, I would like to offer my congratulations for all the hard work I know you have put into the community. P.S You are a star!" **Mike Penning, MP and Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador**

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S!!!! *On winning the Social Impact Award for charity organisation. It is an achievement well deserved. You both put in lot of hard work and effort into your organisation (Deaf Parenting UK!!). It is pleasing to hear that you have been recognised worldwide. I am sure this last year has been a rollercoaster of a ride for both of you but as you can see you are reaping the rewards of your hard work. May Allah SWT bless you both and give you and your children happiness, success and wealth for the future 🤗.*
Rukhsana, Ijaz and Family

RADAR People of the Year Human Right Award 2008, 1st December 2008

Sabina Iqbal, has been shortlisted for the Lifetime Achievement Award in the RADAR People of the Year Human Rights Awards 2008 at a black tie dinner and presentation ceremony at Evolution, Battersea Park on 1 December 2008. Presenters and speakers include the Mayor of London Boris Johnson, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions the Rt Hon James Purnell MP, actor Joseph Mawle, Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission Trevor Phillips and actor Matthew Goode. .

These Awards was the largest event of their kind in Europe, and was designed to recognise individuals, businesses and organisations who by their efforts have furthered the inclusion, empowerment and human rights of disabled people in the United Kingdom.

The winners and short-listed people/organisations for the RADAR Awards showed the way for others to follow. Together these achievements radically change our world in ways that benefit disabled people, our friends and families and society as a whole.

Chief Executive of RADAR Liz Sayce, comments: *"The RADAR People of the Year Awards celebrate pioneers of difference who together are making Britain a fairer place for everyone living with ill-health, injury or disability. This is a simple matter of social justice. It also makes economic sense – those companies that draw their workers from across all communities as well as seeking as wide a market as possible for their goods and services are best able to withstand economic hard times and come out strong. Those public services that serve the whole community quite simply provide better services for everyone."*

RADAR works with partners from all sectors of society to make equality and human rights for all disabled people a reality. We celebrate the achievements of every one of the shortlisted individuals and organisations who this year, have helped to bring that vision closer. "

Sabina exclaimed: *"I was stunned when I was shortlisted, even though I was the youngest in that category. Although I didn't win, being nominated out of thousands of applicants for the award is a great achievement in itself. It was a great evening, networking with people (see photos below). I wish to thank to all the supporters for nominating me and their tremendous support to our work at Deaf Parenting UK"*



Sabina with Sophie and Debbie above aswell as Lilli and Jessica below, of British Missing Top Models





Sabina and Asif with Justin Fletcher of 'Mr Tumble from Something Special' and Tikkabilla, well known BBC children programme's presenter. Justin congratulated Deaf Parenting UK: "Wow, what an inspiring organisation with so many awards. Congratulation!"



Sabina with Joyce Ohajah, ITV Broadcaster. Joyce exclaimed: "Sabina & Deaf Parenting UK are amazing!"



Sabina and Asif with Secretary of State for Work & Pensions RTHon James Purnell, raising issues of Deaf Parenting especially in accessing to services.

Chair meets Deaf Parenting UK Ambassadors

Sabina was invited to the House of Parliament to meet both Malcom Bruce MP and Rosie Cooper MP.

Sabina used this opportunity to highlight the needs of Deaf Parents within the parliamentary level and how both Malcolm and Rosie can support our work in their role as MP as well as Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador.



Sabina with RT Hon Malcolm Bruce, MP above and Rosie Cooper, MP below.

It was a productive meeting with each MP.



Malcom is a father of Deaf grown-up daughter and Rosie is a CODA (Child of Deaf Adult) and has personal experience of having

Deaf parents.

**EXTRACT FROM THE G2 'DEAF ISSUES',
GUARDIAN NEWSPAPER, FRIDAY
OCTOBER 10 2008**

**CAN A HEARING PERSON EVER REALLY
KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE DEAF? SAM
WOLLASTON SPENDS 24 HOURS WITH A
DEAF FAMILY - MEAL TIMES, SCHOOL
RUN, PLAY AND DISCIPLINE - AND
DISCOVERS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE
THE ONE WHO CAN'T UNDERSTAND**

A Sam Wollaston, the TV reviewer of The Guardian took the challenge to live with Ramon Woolfe and his family overnight. Plunging into the deep end of living in a family where every member is Deaf, Sam writes...

"I should have been prepared for it, I suppose - the silence. But it strikes me immediately. And, to begin with, I find it difficult. Here is a family behaving exactly as every other family in the country behaves every morning - having breakfast, getting ready for school, putting the wrong shoes on the wrong feet, and not wanting to put coats on. But someone has hit the mute button, and it is all happening in silence.

Well, not quite. After a while other, non-conversation sounds - the hum of the fridge, birdsong outside, the crunch of cereal being munched - begin to emerge out of what I originally mistook for silence. All that is missing is the conversation, the talking, whining, yelling etc that normally goes with such a family situation. It is like a song with the lyrics removed.

Of course, there is exactly the same kind of conversation going on as any other family would have every morning. It's just that the words are being signed instead of spoken verbally. I don't know sign language, though. That is why I am here: I don't really know any Deaf people, have never been exposed to Deaf culture. I am in at the deep end, the deep end

being a smart house on a new development on the edge of Swindon.

This is where Ramon Woolfe lives with his fiancée Louise Fitzgerald and their three children - Jasper (four), Layla (three) and Spencer (15 months). There is another on the way. All of them are Deaf. They have invited me to stay, to get a glimpse into their lives.



Later on, Ramon tells me about the first time he spent time alone with only hearing people. He was in his early 20s, and he went to Thailand to act in The Beach, the film of Alex Garland's book, a part that didn't make the final edit. Anyway, as someone whose family is all Deaf (they have been for eight generations), and who had always been surrounded by Deaf people, this was his first experience of having no other non-hearers around him. He found it hard to begin with: he was lonely, excluded, bored. It was the first time he properly realised that he was Deaf, he says. But then he saw that he just had to get on with it. And, to be honest, looking at his photos of his Thailand trip - surrounded by glamorous movie stars at glamorous parties, in a matey embrace with Leonardo DiCaprio - he seems to have coped quite well.

My situation here is hardly the same. Ramon was a long way away for three months; I am an hour or so up the M4, for 24 hours. But it is the first time I have spent

only with Deaf people, the first time I have really thought about not being Deaf.

But for now, the correct shoes are on the correct feet, coats are on, and it's school time. Red Oaks primary school is just a five-minute walk away, with two small roads to cross. As Jasper and Layla scuttle about the place, Ramon and Louise, unable to get the audio clues to their whereabouts, probably have to do more meerkating than hearing parents would. Jasper, the dreamer of the family, is reminded to look both ways before crossing the first of the roads. At the second, there is a lollipop lady who signs "Good morning".

Red Oaks is about as good as it gets for Deaf children - a new school, with an open-minded head teacher, who was especially welcoming to ideas about how to make school more inclusive for Deaf kids. A lot of the impetus came from Ramon and Louise. Now the school has a sign bilingual inclusion manager, a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter, and specialist teaching assistants. All the hearing children are given the opportunity to and are encouraged to learn BSL, as well as to learn about Deaf culture.

It's not just the school and the lollipop ladies who are Deaf-friendly round here. On the way home, we meet a neighbour who says she is starting BSL classes next month. I get the impression that having Ramon, Louise and their kids around here has done a lot to make this small corner of Wiltshire a little less scared of Deafness.

Back at the house, we have coffee, and Louise makes a victoria sponge cake. I am getting used to the silence - in fact, enjoying it. Once you realise that no one says anything round here, it is actually really nice. When little Spencer bumps his head, he cries - aloud, but not loudly. If a hearing 15-month-old cries at volume 11, Spencer is on about six. Perhaps that is the natural default level of crying and hearing kids just bawl louder to get more

attention. There is no point in Spencer bawling any louder, and he knows it. All in all, and even with Spencer's bumps, there is a lovely peace about the house.

But communication is a disaster. Well, not quite a disaster, but it is a slow and tiring process. I am a mumblar, so difficult to lip-read. And when Ramon and Louise speak, I find it hard to understand. Together, that is not an ideal recipe for a good chin-wag. They are both excellent and patient teachers, but I am slow to pick up any sign language at all, and I forget it easily. It goes in one eye and out the other. The most frustrating thing about it is that our level of conversation remains pretty basic. We are saying things that are easy to say rather than anything we want to say. That is the same with any language barrier.

Ramon takes me to his office upstairs. His Hollywood career over (for now), he jointly runs a media company called Remark that does pretty much everything, from TV production to internet design and BSL training. He is also on all sorts of boards and panels - a very active member of the Deaf community. Louise works two days a week as a senior early year's practitioner at a Deaf school in London, but she has just gone on maternity leave.

Here, upstairs, the level of our conversation picks up because Ramon has a computer in front of him: he types so that I can read on the screen. This is a bit of a cop-out, I know, but it is hard work the other way and it would be nice to say more than just "London" and "coffee". He tells me about how strong Deaf culture is, how language is essential to it - more than essential, language is Deaf culture - and why it is vitally important to provide his kids with sign language from a young age so that they can communicate with the world naturally. And we discuss whether Bulgarian striker Dimitar Berbatov will fit into Alex

Ferguson's team. Ramon has two prime-location season tickets and on his Facebook page, where it asks for his religion, he has put Manchester United. It's a shame: I really liked him until this point.

It's interesting how you get to know about things happening round at Ramon and Louise's. If they are near each other, they will wave or touch a shoulder to attract attention. But if someone is some distance away, or has their back to you, you do not want to have to walk all the way over in order to communicate. So a thump on the table or a stamp on the floor works. It can be quite startling if you are not used to it. Sometimes they flick the light switches. The sound - and, more importantly, the reverberations - of extra banging in the house indicate more people.

Aha, visitors. It is Ramon's parents, who live close by. I find Ramon's mum easiest of all to understand: when she signs for me, she does it slowly and exaggeratedly with special extra facial expressions. It is like a cross between BSL and charades. She is one of the BSL teachers at Red Oaks, so she knows a thing or two about what novices will and will not understand. Grandad sits on the floor and plays with Spencer, then cut the grass.

It is interesting seeing all of them together over lunch. With four, the dynamic obviously becomes more complicated than with just two, and involves turning to different people, checking and bringing each other in. There is a musicality about it, like a string quartet working closely together. It is quite beautiful to watch.

I realise that these are the observations of an ignorant observer and could be seen as a bit crass, but an ignorant observer is what I am, so crass is what you get. Here is something they may not thank me for pointing out: Deaf people eat quite loudly, especially four of them together. Actually, they probably won't mind. Why should they care?

In the afternoon, with Jasper and Layla now home from school, it is time to go to the pool. Layla has been on about it ever since I arrived this morning. Swimming is one of my first BSL words (it is not a difficult one), and from the start she makes it clear - with her index finger - that I am expected to participate. It seems that I am going to be in at the deep end literally this time.

At the local health club, the swimming instructor takes charge of Layla while Ramon encourages Jasper, swimming backwards up and down the pool with his son splashing after him. There is a lovely intimacy about Ramon teaching his kids stuff - because of the eye contact that is needed, the focused attention, the closeness. The results are so obvious and rewarding, and not just in the pool. He tells Layla that we are going to go to a place called The Owl to eat, and she copies the owl sign (two big round eyes, basically). Then, when we get there and she sees the carved wooden bird, she makes the owl sign and looks to Ramon for approval. Lesson learned.



Ramon Woolfe teaches his daughter Layla, 3, how to sign the word 'owl'. Photographer: Sam Frost

It is just as impressive when he needs to tell them off. All the shouting is done in the look - he looks them in the eye and does a three-two-one countdown, to indicate how many seconds they have got to get into line. It is all about eye-contact: you could

not be afraid to look someone in the eye if you were Deaf.

The learning, the chat and the eye contact do not stop in the car, either. When he is driving, Ramon can see the kids in the back in the rearview mirror, and he is constantly checking up on them, communicating, teaching. Hey, you may want to look at the road in front from time to time, Ramon (although he does explain that he has heightened peripheral vision). I ask him if he ever uses the horn. No, he says, why bother?

Later, on the way to The Owl - actually The Tawny Owl - I am in the back with the kids. In the front, Ramon and Louise are talking away to each other. For the whole day, they have included me - not just included me, it has really been about me, and everything they have done has been directed towards me. This is probably the first time all day that they have had the chance for a little chat between themselves. And guess what? I feel left out, excluded - especially like this, with their backs to me. They are laughing, too. Maybe they are laughing at me. And saying how much they hate me, and what a nightmare it has been having me there. Oi! Hello? Hearing people like to know what's going on too.

It is a pathetic comparison to make, really, but perhaps, in those few minutes, I get just the tiniest hint of what it is like for the Deaf among the hearing, all of the time.

In the pub, we are all seated round the table, and I am the centre of attention once again. As I should be. Sam the photographer is with us now, and I feel strangely resentful that there is another hearing person around. Louise, Ramon and their kids have been so nice and welcoming and inclusive to me - maybe that is why I feel cross that there is someone else around to share it. Encroaching on my territory.

The kids are getting a bit tired now. Time to go home and bed for them. How do they know if

Spencer or either of the others is crying, I want to know? Louise shows me an electronic device she has pinned to her. It will vibrate if someone rings the doorbell, if the house is on fire, or if one of the children is crying. During the day they do not really bother with it, because the kids are always around and they just know if one of them needs something. But at night they put it on.

We have a cup of tea and Louise watches EastEnders, with the subtitles switched on, while Ramon watches a film on his laptop, one that he is going to do BSL interpretation for. They can do this at the same time, in the same room, which is nice. At one point the sound on the telly comes on - I don't know why, perhaps someone hit a button or something. It is probably at the same volume as I would normally have EastEnders on in my house, but it feels incredibly loud and intrusive, and it ruins the atmosphere in the house. It is not bothering them, of course, but I ask Ramon to turn the sound off. Even after one day, I am really appreciating the silence that had worried me only this morning.

Right, that is me done for the day. It is hard work, being at the deep end, both metaphorically and literally. At least I will sleep well in this lovely, silent house.

In the morning, Louise asks me if I was woken up by Spencer crying. No, I didn't hear a thing."

PIPPA BETTS, IN SAFE HANDS



Winner of Concept Awards 2007, awarded by Baby Products Association.

*"This contemporary design is so appealing; don't be surprised if you pause before questioning what it actually does. In **Safe Hands** is a concept with deaf parenting in mind. However, a wider market place will undoubtedly find this product of interest.*

The baby monitor was developed as part of a university project by Pippa Betts. Having sought the advice and assistance of Sabina Iqbal of Deaf Parenting UK and independent specialists, the stylish penguin design was carved to cater for deaf parents and carers. Using wireless technology, it communicates room temperature and child distress via vibrations and flashing colours on the belly of the adult penguin. With night time features such as the parents vibration pad used under the pillow and a nightlight that activates when the child stirs and fails to settle, Pippa has considered the fundamental needs.



Pippa Betts with Safe Hands product

In addition, she has accommodated both parents and siblings by making it possible to have more than one parent or child unit in use.

Parenting is hard enough and often fraught with worry. Any mother or father with hearing difficulties will welcome this well thought and honed design."

Families with Deaf Children Project



The Families with Deaf Children project is an exciting new study run by City University and the Deafness, Cognition and Language Research Centre. This research will

link children's early exposure to language with their social development. We are currently looking for families who would be interested in taking part. Participating families will be visited in their own homes for a maximum of one hour, three times over one year. **If you are a parent of Deaf toddler, CODA, or work with young deaf children; we would love to hear from you.**

Please contact Zoë Haws at
Minicom (020 7679 8693)
Fax (020 7679 8691)
zoe.haws.1@city.ac.uk

Check out our website:

http://www.dcal.ucl.ac.uk/Research/Theory_of_mind_project.html Or join our Facebook group, "Families with Deaf Children Project"

WANTED: Information/research on Deaf Parenting Issues

Deaf Parenting UK is on a mission to collect all research papers, references, policies and information and add them onto Deaf Parenting UK website as a central resource with a view of sharing information and good practices with Deaf Parents/Families and professionals/service providers working with Deaf parents (including academic and governments) on local, national and international levels as this would enable us to centralise all information onto one place to avoid duplication of work as well as to encourage new ideas of research development to enable, empower and support Deaf parents.

Have you been involved or know someone who has been involved in research on the subjects of:

- Deaf parents with hearing children
- Deaf parents with Deaf children
- Deaf parents with disabled children
- CODA (children of Deaf adults)

If yes, we want to hear from you with details what the research entails? It can be broader topics covering maternity, health, education, social services, anything that is relevant to Deaf parents and professionals/service providers working with Deaf parents.

There is no timescale of how far back the research goes back, but ideally we want to know what is happening in the last 10-20 years. Anything includes any university research carried out by students/ academic researchers are also welcome.

Also in addition to research, we want to know of any policy, model of good practices, information leaflets, sharing experiences etc that are useful for Deaf parents so that we can add links or even upload research papers as attachments onto our website.

If you are interested in undertaking a research or are doing a research project on Deaf parenting issues, please do let us know.

Your help is much appreciated; please circulate this email to all your colleagues, family and friends who may be able to help us. Please forward all information to info@deafparent.org.uk.

Deaf Parenting UK in Scotland

Members of Scotland Council on Deafness (SCoD) have enjoyed Sabina Iqbal's excellent presentation about Deaf Parenting UK and look forward to working closely with us – watch this space.

Asian Women Deaf Association Centre, 12th November 2008

Sabina was given her presentation to Asian Deaf Women Association which is very successful event. *"She was great last night; her presentation got my attention and made me want to root for her!"* **Deepa Shastri**

Leicester Deaf Centre, 24 January 2008

Sabina will be giving her presentation at Leicester Deaf Centre on 24th January 2009. If you would more information please contact to Catherine White by email: catherinewhite@actiondeafness.org.uk

EVENTS: Important dates for your diary

Deaf Parenting UK Conference 2009

We are delighted to plan our second conference will be held at City Hall on **Friday 12th June 2009**. Contact info@deafparent.org.uk for more info.

The Baby Show 2009

We are delighted to announce we will continue to working partnership with the Baby Show event 2009:

- **27 Feb - 1 Mar 2009 - ExCeL London**
- **15-17 May 2009 - Birmingham NEC**
- **Manchester Central - dates TBC**

DPUK NEWSROUND *Deaf Parenting News in UK/Worldwide...*

Family Wanted



First Name: Charlie

Age: 4

Interests: Charlie is an appealing, lively and energetic 4 year old boy who loves physical play, especially bouncing on the trampoline. Charlie loves trains, especially making and re-making his train track, and pretend cooking on his toy kitchen.

Information; Charlie has 50% hearing loss and wears a hearing aid in each ear; he communicates effectively with his carers through signing.

Family Needed: As well as a warm and loving environment, Charlie needs a family who are able to communicate effectively with him and encourage his developing communication skills.

If you feel that you could offer Charlie a loving and stable home or are looking to adopt a child like Charlie, contact our Adoption Team at Lincolnshire County Council.

0800 093 3099 or email
FosteringandAdoptionEnquiries@lincolnshire.gov.uk
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/adoption

Science Museum Family Programmes of Events with British Sign Language



On the first Saturday of every month, Two British Sign Language interpreters available at some fantastic & free family events!

The Science Museum advocate the importance of families learning together and feel that this is the best way for young children to get the most out of their visit to the Science Museum. It also means that children and adults can also have fun together!

These events are free, and will not require booking. For more information about these events, check out the website on:

http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/visitmuseum/events/bsl_signed_events.aspx

DPUK Announcement *Sharing your news...*



All aboard ITV Signed Stories!

www.signedstories.com, ITV's much anticipated website has now gone live!

And we want to say a huge thanks to you for all the help and support you've given us as we've developed the initiative, which we hope will make a real difference to the lives of deaf children and their families.

We hope you enjoy exploring the website, watching the stories and getting involved in the discussions on the forum.

And please let us know what you think either on the forum or by emailing us at info@signedstories.com. – We would love to hear from you!



Children's Laureate Michael Rosen said:
"I am delighted to give my support to Signed Stories, an important and timely project which has the potential to change lives."

Don't miss out - visit www.signedstories.com today and share in the enjoyment of storytelling, this exciting new web initiative from ITV.

Sabina Iqbal, Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK said: "I have looked at those online with interest and found them to be a fantastic resource, not only for Deaf children but for Deaf parents who have deaf, hearing and disabled children.

This means that Deaf children of whom ITV Signed Stories aimed to address the gaps in Deaf Children's level of attainments in GCSE's, there are still lots of Deaf parents out with limited education and as a result, they found it hard to read books with their own children, and

not only it stopped there, many Deaf parents were unable to access to their children's education due to lack of Deaf awareness and attitudinal barriers.

Supporting our children with their education are our number one priority and I am delighted that ITV Signed Stories is here now, enabling Deaf parents to sit with their children to watch those stories in BSL together with English subtitles and audio for hearing children and to discuss the stories in depth – that is a fantastic opportunity where all family members can access to those signed stories without barriers."



DEAF PARENTING UK LAUNCHES WORKING PARTNERSHIP FOR THE 2ND TIME WITH THE BABY SHOW ON 27 FEBRUARY – 1 MARCH 2009 AT LONDON EXCEL

Deaf Parenting UK is proud to work in partnership with **The Baby Show** to ensure that Deaf Parents are fully inclusive. **Deaf Parenting UK** will provide BSL interpreters each day of the Show from Deaf Parenting UK stand, enabling **Deaf parents** to meet experts at various stands. The Baby Show really is a great value day out for the whole family!

To Book Tickets: visit www.thebabyshow.co.uk or call **0871 231 0844**. **Opening Times:** 9.30 – 5.30 daily
Ticket Prices:

Adult (on the door)	£13.50
Adult (in advance)	£11.95
Kids (0-10 years)	FREE

DPUK MAILSHOT *Your experiences, your views, your topics....*

Does Every Child Matter, Post Blair? The interconnections of disabled childhoods

Researchers at Manchester Metropolitan University and Newcastle University want to learn more about the experiences of disabled children (aged 4-16) and their parents and carers. We are being funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and we are looking for participants in the North West region of England. The goal of the study is to find out about you and your child's experiences of education, health, social care and leisure. We want to identify good practice and supportive environments for disabled children between the ages of 4-16. We want to find out what you think are the key issues for you and your family, including what is working well and what you would like to see working better. We will use the information you give us to tell other parents/carers, disabled children and young people, professionals, voluntary organisations, and policy makers what you think.

How to get involved

There are several ways you and your family can get involved in this project.

1. We are looking for a number of parents of older children (14+) who would be happy to be interviewed and to look back at the experiences of bringing up their child.
2. We would like to hear from directly from disabled children and young people themselves (aged 4-16) about their experiences of schools, hospitals, leisure and care, three times over eighteen months. We know that children communicate in different ways and we will try to work with each individual in ways that they enjoy, including pictures, signs, maps, photos and words.
3. We would like to interview parents of children aged 4-16 four times over a period of eighteen months about your

ongoing experiences of education, health, social care, and leisure.

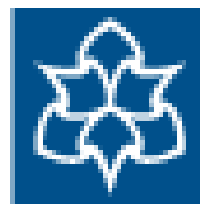
4. We are looking for parents/carers who would be happy for a researcher to spend time with their families. We would be asking to visit you 10 times over a period of 18 months, you would decide when and where these visits take place.

If you feel you might be interested in taking part in this study and would like to find out more, please contact:

Dr. Katherine Runswick-Cole
Manchester Metropolitan University
Gaskell Campus
Manchester
M13 0JA
Tel: 0161 247 2526 (work)
07952 933806 (mobile)

E-mail: K.Runswick-Cole@mmu.ac.uk

Project link available at:
<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/>
<http://www.rihsc.mmu.ac.uk/>



Manchester
Metropolitan
University

DPUK CONTACTS



Deaf Parenting UK

Deaf Parenting UK

C/O Dering Employment Service
96 Park Lane
Croydon CR9 2NL

SMS: 07789 027186 (text message only)

Fax: 0871 2643323

Email: info@deafparent.org.uk

Web: www.deafparent.org.uk

Want to become a trustee member...?

If you are a deaf parent and have an interest in becoming a trustee board member, please email your CV and covering letter explaining why you want to become a member to: info@deafparent.org.uk

DPUK Board Trustee

The DPUK Board Trustee is a group made up of a Working Party consisting of deaf parents, professionals and service providers working together to identify gaps in information and services and find ways to improve access for deaf parents.

Board of Trustees

Chair – Sabina Iqbal, Deaf Mum & Sensory Team Manager

Vice Chair – Trudi Collier, Deaf Mum & Deaf Counsellor

Treasurer – Jessica Wilde, Deaf Mum & Deaf Employment Advisor

Secretary – Vacant

Board Members

Ramon Woolfe - Deaf Father & Entrepreneur

Yasmin Kovic - Deaf Mum & Specialist in Child Protection

Penny Beschizza - Deaf Mum & Lecturer for Deaf Students

Kevin Buckle - Deaf Father & Mental health support worker with experience of ethnic issues

Mary-Jayne Russell de Clifford – Deaf Mum & Teaching Assistant and Play worker for Deaf children.

TJ Jobson – Deaf Foster Carer & P/T Outreach worker

Joanne Harrison – Deaf Mother & Freelance Deaf Advocate/ Relay interpreter.

Employees

Asif Iqbal – Deaf Father, Project Manager for DPUK.

Nicole Campbell – Deaf Mum, DPUK Coordinator

.....