



Deaf Parenting UK

PRESS RELEASE

9 February 2010

DEAF PARENTING UK LAUNCHES

**DEAF PARENTING UK ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY 7 JULY 2010
'Are We Equal?' in accessing to Health, Social Services and Children's Education.**

Deaf Parenting UK is delighted to confirm the speakers for their upcoming **Deaf Parenting UK Conference 2010: Are we Equal?** The theme of the Conference will focus on three key areas: Health, Social Services and Children's Education.

The conference offers an exciting programme of speakers and fun family activities for children of Deaf parents. In addition the conference offers an excellent opportunity to meet with other Deaf parents, families and professionals, in order to work together to ensure Deaf Parents have **equal access to Health, Social Services and to their Children's Education.** ***"Limited places, please book early to avoid disappointment"***

Sabina Iqbal, Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK: *"Previous conferences we have had empowered & supported Deaf parents. The last conference focused on "Education, Education and Education". Does this now mean that services have been improved to meet our access needs? The DDA 1995 and 2005 gave us the right to expect to access services in the same way as any other parents, however is it really the case for Deaf parents to have full access to services? The conference: 'Are We Equal?' is a powerful area to discuss where we are and where we should be!*

This is a fantastic opportunity for all Deaf parents and Professionals to get together and find ways forward towards better equality.

Professor Waqar Ahmad Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research & Enterprise, Middlesex University & Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador: *“For far too long, Deaf parents have lacked a voice and been let down by professionals and the broader society. Appropriate services can only be shaped with active involvement of Deaf parents. Conferences like this are therefore equally important for Deaf parents and young people, and services. And who better to organise such events than Deaf Parenting UK, a young organisation which has already achieved beyond all expectations.”*

Surinder Sharma, National Director, Equality & Human Rights Department of Health: *“I’m delighted to support the Deaf Parenting UK conference 2010 and the theme ‘Are we equal?’ should bring some interesting discussion! I’m keen to listen and learn from Deaf parents and professionals and take some back with me to share with colleagues and stakeholders especially around policy”*

Anne Bristow, the Joint -Chair of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services Physical Disabilities Network/ HIV/ and Sensory Network: *“Making sure Deaf parents can carry out their parenting responsibilities with the right information and support. This must be one of the strands at the heart of the personalisation agenda for adult social services. This conference will give the opportunity to explore how we make this a reality.”*

Professor Alys Young PhD, CQSW Professor of Social Work Education and Research University of Manchester University & Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador: *” I am delighted to be able to contribute to DPUK's annual conference. There remain many barriers to the achievement of equality for Deaf parents in the provision of health and social care services. Participation in this conference will be an important step forward for all who would seek to improve this situation.”*

Department of Health Spokesperson: *'The Department of Health are delighted to come and speak at this years Deaf Parenting UK Conference, it gives us an ideal opportunity to highlight the important work being done throughout the country to improve, through the Healthy Child Programme, the health, well-being and life chances of our children'.*

Dr Lesley Jones, Senior Lecturer in Social Science, Hull York Medical School, University of York & Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador: *"I think this is important work which is breaking down barriers it is a creative project working in new ways to open closed eye."*

Jeff McWhinney, Managing Director of Significan't (UK) Ltd & Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador: *"I believe that it is all our responsibility to ensure the success of future generations. Before we can achieve this, we have to question many of the assumptions underlying the current mainstream philosophy. Deaf Parenting UK has made some great strides in highlighting the disparity in service provision and empowerment of deaf parents in official circles and I am pleased to accept the invitation to present a paper that adds to the momentum and build on their good work to date by putting across the common challenges faced by deaf parents like myself."*

Professor Ulrike Zeshan, Director, International Centre for Sign Languages and Deaf Studies, University of Central Lancashire & Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador: *"Deaf Parenting UK have consistently been responding to the real needs of their stakeholders, and the expanding range of activities is impressive. Run by Deaf parents for Deaf parents, this is the kind of grassroots organisation we need, and I feel priviledged to support this venture as Ambassador."*

-Ends-

For all media enquiries/ contact please contact Asif Iqbal via email media@deafparent.org.uk

www.deafparent.org.uk

If you want to know more about Deaf Parenting UK, please email them on

info@deafparent.org.uk

Editors notes:

- Deaf Parenting UK Conference to be held at The Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA from 9.30am to 3.00pm
- **Speakers:**
 - Professor Waqar Ahmad (Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research & Enterprise, Middlesex University & Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador)
 - Sabina Iqbal (Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK)
 - Surinder Sharma (National Director, Equality & Human Rights Department of Health)
 - Anne Bristow, (the Joint -Chair of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services Physical Disabilities Network/ HIV/ and Sensory Impairment Network)
 - Professor Alys Young PhD, CQSW (Professor of Social Work Education and Research University of Manchester University & Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador)
 - Jeff McWhinney (Managing Director of Significan't (UK) Ltd & Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador)
 - Dr Lesley Jones (Senior Lecturer in Social Science, Hull York Medical School, University of York & Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador - Chair of Workshops Summary & Closing remark)
 - Penny Allsop (Healthy Child Programme Policy Lead, Department of Health - 'Healthy Child Programme - What it Means for Parents')
 - **Facilitators:** Simeon Hart, (Deaf Parenting UK Trustee), Penny Beschizza, (Deaf Parenting UK) and Sunil Sahasrabudhe, (ISLanDS, University of Central Lancashire) and Sibaji Panda (ISLanDS, University of Central Lancashire)

If you would like to attend the event, please email info@deafparent.org.uk. Tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis. **Cost:Deaf parents/ families £5, Professionals/ service providers £80, Student £10**

Please contact us for more information on: SMS: 07789 027186 (text only) E-Fax: 0871 2643323

Please enclose a cheque made payable to Deaf Parenting UK, no later than 25th June 2010. Deaf Parenting UK c/o Gary Morgan, 49 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PD

- **Deaf Parenting UK** is the first ever charity and small national organisation to be run by Deaf parents for Deaf parents. It represents the needs of Deaf parents in the UK, who have hearing children, deaf children or children with disability.
- **Deaf Parenting UK** was established following research done on gaps in services for Deaf parents within the UK. From research, a picture emerged demonstrating 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. Yet the background statistics are:

90% of Deaf children are born to hearing parents. As well as mainstream support and information, which is available to parents in general, parents of deaf children have access to information, resources and support via Social Services and organisations providing services to deaf children and their families. 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 few resources and support is available to them in an accessible format. This is particularly with services noticeable as Deaf Adults have a 90% chance of having hearing children where access is a real issue.

- The following 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.

- **Deaf Parenting UK** offers the following services for Deaf parents and Deaf parents to be:

Deaf Parenting Skills Workshops for deaf parents with young children, teenagers and expectant parents.

Befriender Services

One - to - One Parenting skills support at private home or at own discretion.

Tailor - made parenting support services to meet Deaf parents' needs.

DPUK can deliver presentations/consultation meetings giving an insight into the service that we offer.

- Deaf Parenting UK have been recognised on local, national and international level especially on recent World Federation for the Deaf's conference where we realised the uniqueness of Deaf Parenting UK as a national organisation in UK. We checked with other countries and there were none like Deaf Parenting UK apart from small projects here and there, but not a formal organisation of Deaf parents for Deaf parents. 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
- To learn more about **Deaf Parenting UK** and to qualify for free membership for Deaf parents/ families, please visit our website on www.deafparent.org.uk.

Awards:

- 2nd Oct 2008: Deaf Parenting UK as Winner of TFPL's first Social Impact Award 2008, Berlin, Germany, voted by the world business leaders for charity/third sector on innovative use of knowledge and information management.
- 24th Oct 2008: Sabina Iqbal, Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK as Runner Up of Dacorum Award of Excellence, for support and services of Deaf Parenting UK to the local community.
- 27th Oct 2008: Deaf Parenting UK as one of the 30 winners for Talk Talk Innovation Award 2008 and to be awarded at the House of Lords on 5th Nov 2008
- 31st October 2008: Deaf Parenting UK as Runner up for the Active Citizens of Europe (ACE) Award 2008 for Outstanding Corporate Social Responsibility
- 6th Nov 2008: Sabina Iqbal, Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK won the Women of the Future Voluntary Award 2008, a prestige award for women breaking the high glass ceiling.
- 25th Nov 2008: Deaf Parenting UK as Runner up the Guardian's Public Services Award 2008 for Equality & Diversity category.
- 1st Dec 2008: Sabina Iqbal, Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK as shortlisted for RADAR Lifetime Achievement Award 2008,
- 7th Dec 2008: Sabina Iqbal, Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK received the Beacon Prize 2008 (High Commended)
- 19th March 2009: Sabina Iqbal, Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK named as one of the top 13 most powerful Muslim women in Britain
- 11th June 2009: Deaf Parenting UK was Highly Commended by the Charity Award 2009 for Research, Information and Advice category.
- 9th Sept 2009: Deaf Parenting UK as Runnner up for the Charity Times Awards for Charity of the Year Award and Outstanding Individual Achievement Award.
- 15th September 2009: Sabina Iqbal won the GG2 Leadership and Diversity Award 2009: Achievement through adversity.
- 24th October 2009: Sabina Iqbal won the Deaf 'Black History Month' Award 2009 from Deaf Pride at Forest Gate Deaf Youth Centre.