

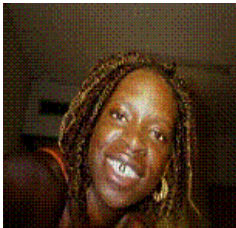


Deaf Parenting UK

# DPUK Newsletter

Spring 2012

Issue number: 23



As I sat to prepare the spring issue newsletter, I am struck that I am looking at mid March on the calendar. March.... Wow!

Hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a good start to the New year.

To me the start of spring is often an awakening of sorts. The grey skies of winter are changing to a beautiful blue, the bright and colourful flowers catch my eyes and the feel of temperatures begins to warm.

Spring is such a beautiful time of year, many of us will see our clocks spring one hour forward this season, which makes the day time longer for all.

With the Easter Holidays looming near, I hope you and your family will have the opportunity to spend some time together, whether planting a garden, taking a walk, playing some golf or enjoying the local parks.

Happy Spring & Happy Easter!

**Nicole Campbell**  
DPUK Coordinator

Spring into Spring Time...



## Asif Iqbal MBE, Project Manager's Update:



Amazing how times has flies so fast, I have been working here as Project Manager of Deaf Parenting UK for the last 5years and have decided to step down from my current role.

I would like to say a big Thank you to Deaf Parenting UK for giving me a great opportunity to be involved in developing projects; boosting up the profile of DPUK via media and partnership working with organisations and am delighted to see some huge achievements and breakthrough, making DPUK a flagship across UK and Worldwide

DPUK asked me become their DPUK Ambassador, much to my delight: *"I feel honoured to become a Ambassador of this charity, I am passionate and supportive of DPUK as I am a strong believer of empowerment, enabling and supporting Deaf parents who wish to achieve the best for their children.*

*I also hope to see more Deaf parents as inspiring and be excellent role models to other parents and to share their experiences. In my role, I will continue to promote awareness and champion the needs of deaf parents at all levels."*

Whilst I joined the Board of Ambassador, DPUK is also delighted to announce that we have appointed two new Ambassadors - Dr Joanna Downes and Clive Boswell, see their profile on page 3!

### **New Staff Announcement!**

Deaf Parenting UK is currently going through changes and is pleased to welcome two new part time staff, Alexis Keir and Sheeza Ali, who joined our DPUK Team in February 2012.

Alexis has joined us as a Fundraiser and will be working on project developments, bringing

with him a number of years experience in high quality grant /funding bids and tenders.

Sheeza has joined our advocate project as the new Parent Advocate. She will manage and coordinate all parent support group across 4 locations in London. Sheeza will bring her years of expertise as a Deaf Service professional working within the Deaf Community.

Please join us in a heartfelt welcome to both Alexis & Sheeza to DPUK!

### **The Baby Show**

We are proud to have worked with The Baby Show for the last 4 years and this was powerful way of raising awareness on needs of Deaf parents and enabling them to access to many exhibitors, buying baby products. As part of partnership agreement with them, DPUK had an exhibition stand each year and provided BSL interpreters to enable clear communication between Deaf parents and exhibitors aswell as the main platform shows!

Due to the current economic climate and financial cuts, The Baby Show decided to cease our partnership and for The Baby Show 2012, no arrangement is in place for Deaf visitors including BSL interpreters.

Do let us know if you are planning to go and need BSL interpreter so we can pass on your requests or go onto their website: <http://www.thebabyshow.co.uk/>

### **Columnist of British Deaf News Magazine**

Our Chair, Sabina have featured regular Deaf parenting article every month for British Deaf News Magazine on thematic issues. Here, she shares with the readers of her personal experiences and Deaf parenting issues.

Look out for BDN issues from February 2012 edition onwards.

## MOJO MAKE HISTORY AS THE FIRST DEAF NEW ZEALAND MP



Mojo Mathers has become the first New Zealand Deaf MP after winning a special vote.

Green MP Mojo Mathers' election will raise the profile of deaf people and

issues, Deaf Aotearoa says.

Ms Mathers was yesterday confirmed as the Green Party's 14th MP - all of whom are list MPs - after special votes were counted.

She is profoundly deaf after being starved of oxygen at birth.

Deaf Aotearoa chief executive Rachel Noble said Ms Mathers was a great role model to the deaf community and commended the Green Party leadership for ensuring there were no barriers for Ms Mathers in her quest to become an MP.

"Through her previous policy work for various organisations, Mojo has been a great ambassador in demonstrating that deaf people can do anything," Ms Noble said.

"In this new, challenging role, she will be able to promote the issues, like easy access to sign language interpreters, that stand in the way of so many deaf people fully achieving their potential."

Other MPs would learn about deaf issues and the realities of life for deaf people simply by working alongside Ms Mathers, Ms Noble said.

Ms Mathers said she was looking forward to the first day of Parliament, on December 20, when she would become New Zealand's first deaf MP and only the fifth in the world.

## Appointments of 2 New Ambassadors

Deaf Parenting UK are delighted to welcome two new Ambassadors to represent our work.

### Dr. Joanna Downes



Joanna's interest in parenting issues started when she commenced her doctorate research into deaf children and attachment. She met deaf parents who had been faced with negative attitudes from professionals

when they tried to access services for their children. This started her work in trying to raise and promote the awareness and needs of making mainstream services accessible to both deaf children and deaf adults.

Joanna has a strong interest in enabling deaf people to access mental health services and making sure that professionals do not use deaf parents' children as interpreters. This led to Joanna producing guidelines for the NHS to follow in both primary care on how to work with and book BSL interpreters.

In 2009, after Joanna completed her doctorate, she went on to become Manager of the Deaf parenting Programme at Action Deafness with funding from the Parenting Fund. This programme identified the many gaps in services and information for Deaf parents.

One gap was the awareness of midwives where deaf parents had repeatedly informed Joanna that they had received poor services. This led to collaboration with DeMontfort University in delivering the first

CPD course for midwives to understand in depth the psychological, social and mental health issues deaf parents and children may experience.

Joanna went on to win two awards at the first Deaf Parenting UK Awards event in October 2011 and the DeMontfort University also won an award for the course she wrote.

Joanna is now a freelance consultant and researcher, so she can spend more time with her two young children, who both communicate bilingually in English and BSL.

*She says "It is excellent that there is an organisation aims to break down barriers for deaf parents because many deaf parents put up with sub-standard services and appalling attitudes. As an ambassador, I will try to promote awareness and remind professionals and the public of their duty to make sure Deaf parents get equal treatment, because it is their right."*

### **Clive Boswell**



Clive Boswell is currently employed as Auditor for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Clive was born deaf and has recently been fitted with a cochlear implant. He is married with two children.

*"I am truly honoured to have been asked to become an Ambassador for Deaf Parenting UK. I believe that being deaf (since birth and connexion 26) I face challenges and prejudice every day of my life. I hope this has resulted in my becoming more resilient for the remainder of my life! I also hope this experience will enable us to provide support/ knowledge/ wisdom and emotionally to our children; even though they are hearing; having deaf parents will no doubt give them challenges of their own.*

*I fully support the aims and objectives of Deaf Parenting UK and hope to be able to contribute positively."*

### **Victory for children as importance of a relationship with both parents is set to be recognized (3/2/2012)**

Reports this morning in the press suggest that the Government will announce plans on Monday to introduce legislation ensuring children have the right to maintain an ongoing relationship with both parents following divorce and separation. This move would represent a tremendous step forward for family law, and benefit the thousands of children who lose contact with a loving parent unnecessarily each year.

Ken Sanderson, CEO of Families Need Fathers, commented, "A move to introduce legislation enshrining a child's rights to an ongoing meaningful



*relationship with both parents would be a victory for children. For too long, we have seen children of many separating couples across the country lose out on the emotional and social benefits of a loving relationship with both parents following separation and divorce, and we are delighted that the government intends to address this situation. This is not a question of fathers' or mothers' rights; it is about protecting the rights of children to have two loving parents fully involved in their lives wherever possible, to the benefit of the children, their families, and wider society."*

Families Need Fathers will release a more detailed response on Monday, once the details of the Government proposals have been officially announced. (See next page on 'Government proposals on family law') (source: <http://www.fnf.org.uk/news-and-events/press-releases/2012-archive/120206>)

**Government proposals on family law have the potential to dramatically improve outcomes for children in the UK (6/2/2012)**

STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE OF BOTH PARENTS IN LAW WILL COMPLEMENT THE WELFARE NEEDS OF CHILDREN; IMPROVEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT WILL INCREASE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN SYSTEM

Families Need Fathers welcomes the Government's response to the Family Justice Review. Although there is much work to be done to ensure that the family justice system provides better outcomes for children and families in practice, the Government's proposals mark a clear step forward for private family law in the UK.



**FAMILIES NEED FATHERS**

Families Need Fathers agrees that disputes about parenting arrangements are best settled out of court, and supports the Government's proposals to increase the frequency and strength of private family arrangements.

However, there will always be a sizeable minority of intractable cases where court becomes unavoidable, and it is in these cases that today's recommendations mark a positive development for the family justice system.

Key proposals include the intention to introduce a legislative statement on the importance of children having an ongoing relationship with both parents following separation wherever possible, and a desire to strengthen enforcement sanctions where court orders are breached.

Ken Sanderson, CEO of Families Need Fathers, commented, *"The proposals announced today will help to improve public confidence in the family justice system. By reinforcing the law's commitment to ensure children benefit from the love and support of both parents following separation, the Government will help to ensure that it is not*

*children who continue to be punished when acrimony between separating parents is played out in the courts."*

*"This is not a question of equally dividing time, but of ensuring that children get to benefit from the full involvement of both parents following family breakdown. We support the Government's belief that developing legislation emphasizing the importance of both parents in a child's life is complimentary to the welfare needs of the child, and hope that this will be the beginning of a process of reform that will see the development of a family justice system fit for the needs of children and their families."*

Other important proposals include the replacement of 'contact' and 'residence' orders, which encourage a 'winner takes all' mentality in private family law disputes, with 'child arrangements orders', which are more child focused. However, the decision to continue requiring grandparents to apply for permission before they can make an application to court to see their grandchildren indicates that there is still work to be done to ensure that the rights of children to a relationship with their wider family are adequately protected.

Source: Family needs Father charity, 6th February 2012, <http://www.fnf.org.uk/news-and-events/press-releases>

**GOVERNMENT PROTECTS FUNDING FOR SEN SPECIALIST SUPPORT SERVICES (3/2/2012)**

The Department for Education has today confirmed that local authorities will not lose funding for specialist SEN support services in 2012/13 as a result of the academies programme.

This news means that councils should provide services to deaf children in academies free of charge, as for all other maintained schools.

As academies are independent of local authorities, there have been longstanding concerns that the academies programme would drain funding from vital local authority specialist support services for deaf children.

Working with the Special Educational Consortium, NDCS has lobbied the Government since 2010 on this issue, and supported a successful amendment to the Academies Act 2010 to protect deaf children's services. Recognising these concerns and the impact that delegation of funding can have on services to meet low incidence needs, such as deaf children, the Department has now committed to ensuring that deaf children are not disadvantaged by funding reforms.

Given that the Department for Education has also protected the schools budget, from which these services are funded, NDCS will be demanding that local authorities protect funding for specialist support services for deaf children and robustly challenging any proposed cuts in 2012/13.

Source: National Deaf Children Society, 3rd February 2012,

[http://www.ndcs.org.uk/about\\_us/campaign\\_with\\_us/england/campaign\\_news/academies2012.html](http://www.ndcs.org.uk/about_us/campaign_with_us/england/campaign_news/academies2012.html)

### **ENABLING COMMUNICATION IS VITAL IN FAMILIES OF DEAF CHILDREN**

Families need to learn to sign for the sake of their deaf children – yet they are often denied the chance.

In the last few weeks, a video of a deaf mother and her two year-old daughter Ava having a dinner conversation in British Sign Language (BSL) has gone viral. It has been tweeted, shared and blogged to the extent that the clip now has more than 150,000 views online. The video shows the level of understanding and communication that a child using sign language can reach when they have access to language from an early age.

Ava's parents are deaf, so they knew how to sign with her.



**Charlie Swinbourne's daughter learns to sign Photograph: Charlie Swinbourne**

However, 90% of deaf children are born to hearing parents, and at the moment, it is incredibly difficult for them to access courses so they can learn to sign. A National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) telephone survey last summer found that 56% of councils did not provide any services or support for parents of deaf children wanting to learn sign language, and the councils that do often require parents to pay for the course – which can cost up to £600.

Gary Morgan, professor of psychology at City University, London, told me that a delay in access to language and communication "can have severe and long lasting effects for a child's cognitive, social-emotional and academic skills. Many deaf children arrive at school with the task of learning a first language rather than learning about the world through already developed language."

Anna Lewis, from Dorset, is learning BSL in order to be able to communicate with her three year-old daughter, Belle, who is profoundly deaf. She told me: "communication with Belle is difficult. Due to her late diagnosis she had two and a half years of a silent, un signing world. We use a mixture of BSL, speech and pictures with her. Every day is a struggle to communicate."

When Belle was diagnosed as being deaf, their council provided only an introductory course in signing communication. No further support was offered so now, at their own cost, Anna is taking a BSL level one course, travelling 30 miles every week for a two-hour class. The cost of the course is £200 and the family could not afford to pay for her husband to join her.

She said: "We just can't afford for us to both do it and pay for the childcare. My husband feels like he is being denied his fundamental right of being able to communicate with his child. It is disappointing and just plain wrong that we are penalised for Belle being deaf."

There is a huge irony here, in that signing classes for non-deaf children have become hugely popular. Just before Christmas, my three-year old daughter's pre-school was visited by Singing Hands, who perform children's songs using signs. I was amazed at how many children knew how to sign along with them, and it struck me that just as hearing parents across the country struggle to learn to sign with their deaf child, thousands of non-deaf children are benefiting from being exposed to sign language from a young age.

To try and give parents of deaf children everywhere access to a course that gives them the signing skills they need, NDCS has developed a family sign language course, which is specifically aimed at families of deaf children who want to use BSL. It teaches the signs and phrases needed for nursery rhymes, stories, games, as well as tools for practical communication (on topics such as food, sleeping and nappy changing, for example).

After piloting the course in two regions in July 2011, 83% of the 123 families who took part reported that they felt confident communicating with their deaf child, compared to 37% prior to the course. At the end of this month, the charity will submit a proposal that the DfE rolls out the course to all nine regions in the UK. The charity have launched a petition for fair access to the courses which now has over 2000 signatures.

At a time of deep cuts to services everywhere, it is hard to gain extra funding – but nothing could be more important than a deaf child being able to start to build their communication and understanding skills as early as possible. As the video of Ava shows, deaf children are capable of everything a hearing child is capable of, if they are just given the chance.

Source: Charlie Swinbourne, The Guardian Newspaper, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2012  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/jan/15/deaf-children-families-signing-access>

### Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration on Saturday 2nd June 2012



Following our recent successful London Olympic 2012 Celebration, Harrow Asian Deaf Club is delighted to host another fantastic event of Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration, I am writing to invite you to join us to celebrate the occasion, which will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2012 at 3.30pm at Harrow Asian Deaf Club, Bentley Day Centre, 94 Uxbridge Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 6DH.

*Asif Iqbal MBE "The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration is a fantastic event not to be missed. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to celebrate our great pride, affection and a fitting tribute to Her Majesty The Queen for her fantastic contribution to British Life."*



There will also be opportunity for us to dress up with Royalty theme, it can be royal costume/ fancy dress or smart outfit for the royal occasion to celebrate Queen's Diamond Jubilee so come along and dress up either with wear something with past and present royalty fancy dress, British flag e.g. hat/ top those have British flag.

The event also offer a family fun day for all, including BBQ and cold buffet, face painting, bouncy castle, Question of Royalty Quiz, Entertainment, some party games/ activities for children and adults. Everyone is welcome including deaf/ hearing people, young/ older people, family, people from all faiths



**Ticket cost: Adult over 16yrs is £5 per person and children (15 & under) is free.**

If you would like to attend the event, please book your place by contacting HADC by email on: [hadc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hadc@hotmail.co.uk)

### **HARROW ASIAN DEAF CLUB'S LONDON OLYMPIC 2012 CELEBRATION – A HUGE SUCCESS!**

Harrow Asian Deaf Club (HADC) celebrated its first ever London Olympic 2012 Celebration by hosting an event at Bentley Day Centre on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2012 to support London Olympic 2012 in Harrow.

The venue was decorated with British Flags and balloons in the British colours of red, blue and white to promote the celebration of the London Olympics and encouraging all to be proud of being British. HADC had a fantastic turnout, which saw 200 people joining the celebrations, including The Mayor and Mayoress of Harrow and some VIP's. The event kicked off with delicious and healthy refreshments and carried the sporty theme with luxury spread, everyone enjoyed themselves.

We had various speakers including the Mayor of Harrow, Cllr.Mrinal Choudhury who opened the event and explained the importance of celebrating the London Olympic 2012. Richard Sumray MBE, Chair, London 2012 Forum spoke about the London Olympic, and how it was started from the bid to the actual Olympic London 2012. Councillor David Perry Portfolio Holder for Community & Cultural Services, Harrow Council began his speech by signing in British Sign Language, saying "My name is David Perry. Welcome to the London Olympic Celebration". Everyone at HADC were delighted, given that Cllr David only learnt the BSL shortly before he came on and gave him lots of applause in support that Councillors/ politicians should learn British Sign Language to engage with Deaf



community. He spoke about opportunities for people to get involved with London Olympic 2012 in Harrow area and the development work locally.

The event was hosted by **Asif Iqbal, President of Harrow Asian Deaf Club & Local Leader 2012**: *"This was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the London Olympic 2012 and HADC was the only Deaf Club in London that offers such an opportunity to celebrate in style! It's an exciting time to witness such a momentous moment in history of recognising Harrow Asian Deaf Club supporting London Olympic 2012, as well as encouraging the growth of people keen to get involved and make a difference in our lives too."*

*It's also fantastic to see everyone working together in one community, as well as meeting new faces."*

The Question of Sport Quiz was the main highlight of the evening and was hosted by Philip Gardner, Great Britain Deaf Football Manager and his wife Pam Trace-Gardner, wearing a British flag dress. Both were fantastic hosts and we had VIP captains for each team as follow:

- Gareth Thomas MP, Captain of Red Team
- Bob Blackman MP, Captain of Blue Team
- Navin Shah, London Assembly Member, Captain of White Team
- Charlotte Henry, Local Liberal Democrats Party Candidate, Captain of Yellow Team who won the Question of Sport – her team were presented with medals and a 'London 2012 - Pride of Britain' trophy by the Mayor of Harrow, Cllr. Mrinal Choudhury and Mayoress Mrs Rama Choudhury.



**Charlotte Henry (Captain) with winning team holding their medal and trophy, presented by Mayor & Mayoress of Harrow!**

**Cllr. Mrinal Choudhury, Mayor of Harrow:** *"I had a very enjoyable evening visiting the Harrow Asian Deaf Club's Olympic Celebration. It was great to see a thriving Community socialising together, and it is a pleasure to meet so many wonderful people".*

**Cllr. David Perry Portfolio Holder for Community & Cultural Services (Harrow Council):** *"I was honoured to attend the Olympic celebrations organised by the Harrow Asian Deaf Club. The members of the club were very welcoming and friendly, and I was privileged to learn my first words in 'British Sign Language'. The Community spirit and the fun had by all, was a joy to be a part of".*

**Bob Blackman MP, Harrow East:** *"The Olympics are for everyone to enjoy so it is wonderful to be able to celebrate the first briefing event for the London Olympics for deaf people and for it to be held in Harrow. The fact that 200 people attended demonstrates the incredible interest there is locally. Now we have to improve awareness of the Deaf Olympics as well."*

**Gareth Thomas MP, Harrow West:** *“Very enjoyable event at Harrow Asian Deaf Club, a fantastic evening for and to meet Deaf people!”*

**Navin Shah, London Assembly Member:** *“The enthusiasm for the London Olympic was most remarkable amongst the members and the progress made by the Harrow Asian Deaf Club in a such a short time too is most impressive. I thoroughly enjoyed the quiz and focus on the celebration of London Olympic. For the future Olympic and Paralympic games I'd like to see International Olympic Committee make greater level of consideration for deaf participants and people so that they don't feel sidelined. I look forward to working with the Club.”*

**Charlotte Henry, local Liberal Democrats Party Candidate:** *“I had a fantastic evening at the Harrow Asian Deaf Club's the London Olympics celebration. The spirit of fun and the community that were present is exactly what the Games are all about. The evening certainly got me ever more excited for the London 2012! I congratulate to all those involved for a successful evening.”*

**One of the Deaf attendee of HADC exclaimed:** *“It was Wow! Harrow Asian Deaf Club have created a really a great, beautiful and inspiring event; it was good to see a mixture of Deaf people, hearing people, local politicians, the Mayor, Harrow Council to working together to celebrate the London Olympic 2012. I really enjoyed the whole event. Well done to Harrow Asian Deaf Club!”*



### **Deafax calls on schools and medical service providers to give deaf people Education & Advice on Relationships & Sex (E.A.R.S).**

Deafax are launching a campaign on 28th March 2012 to call on schools, teachers and medical service providers to supply adequate sex education and sexual health care for deaf people.

Research into deafness and sexual health is extremely rare and almost completely overlooked. Deafax are pioneers in this area, carrying out in depth research within the deaf community and uncovering shocking results.

Out of a sample of profoundly and prelingually deaf mothers, 87% of which were British Sign Language users, only 17% received sex education in a 'deaf-friendly' way at school with 33% gaining information from friends and family and another 33% with no information at all. The remaining 17% received non deaf-friendly sex education at school. 1/3 of young women interviewed were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of conception and many were unaware of walk-in clinics or heard of bad experiences when staff couldn't understand the deaf person.

Medical service providers mistakenly assume that written material (leaflets, booklets, websites) are suitable to relay health information to the deaf community.

On 1st October 2010, the Equality Act stated that it is a legal requirement for all service providers to make provision for the needs of deaf and hard of hearing people.

Yet research reveals that deaf mothers-to-be are generally unable to access antenatal classes and their midwives are not 'deaf aware' or trained on the best ways to communicate with a deaf person.

Information on maternity leave and benefits entitled to them are not passed on and deaf mothers say they feel isolated and have no communication with health visitors.

Out of all the health trusts Deafax spoke to, just one had a midwife who could sign, she had funded her own training.

100% of those who took part in the study believed that the level of service is not the same for both deaf and hearing expectant mothers.

In response, Deafax are launching a Sexual Health Package, tailored for deaf students and teachers to deliver invaluable information on safe sex and STIs to deaf students, using communication methods to suit individual needs.

Deafax have also developed training packages for teachers of the deaf in the field of sex education and deaf awareness workshops for mainstream organisations. They are asking all those in the deaf community to contribute to this under-researched area by completing this survey – so that service providers and schools can no longer overlook the needs of deaf people.

Deafax are also conducting new research for deaf people which is confidential and anonymous; please go online <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QCWNCM7>



**Local Family Television** will be raising funds in support of Deaf Parenting UK at their special,

Celebrity Fundraising Gala 2012.

The event, which will take place on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 at the stunning 5 star Wyndham Grand Hotel, will celebrate the UN's International Day of Families while raising money for a number of important UK charities.

The theme for this year is Hollywood and Bollywood and Local Family TV will have a number of celebrity designers showcasing their work in an exclusive fashion show as well as special guest speakers and a mysterious luxury prize draw.

Sabina Iqbal from Deaf Parenting UK will be giving a speech to remind our guests of the important cause we support and of our partnership with Local Family TV to continue delivering new services and care programmes for Deaf Parents across the UK.

Last year representatives from 15 Head of States came in support of the private event, while fashion leading lady Sienna Miller sponsored the gala with her Twenty8Twelve collection.

Sofia-Chezene Theophilou, founder of Local Family TV said: *"On 16th May 2011 history was made when it showed that countries around the world supported the important role of families by attending the event and I cannot wait to see each country having a UN Ambassador one day and incorporate this in the Family Rights Charter."*

*Each year I will be involved with working alongside government officials, businesses, individuals, charities, NGO, Ambassadors and High Commissioners to celebrate families all over the world."*

Funds raised will go towards new development plans and stronger support systems for Deaf Parenting UK.

To book your tickets and support our cause – please book online on <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/2990519725>



International Families Charitable Gala Event  
May 13th 2012  
Wyndham Grand Hotel Chelsea Harbour  
Buy Your Tickets Here



# 1st NZ Deaf Parent Conference

**5pm Friday 11th - 3pm Sunday 13th May 2012**

Carey Park, Christian Camp, 397 Henderson Valley Road, Henderson Valley, Auckland

More information – see the link - [www.careypark.org.nz](http://www.careypark.org.nz)

## *Workshops include*

International Guest speakers

How to raise CODAs & Deaf children?

Accessing CODAs Children's Education – compelling for Deaf Parents

Sharing information with other Deaf parents from all over NZ

Educating Deaf Parents of their Rights



**\$100 per family** (2 adults 3 children up to 18 years old)  
includes guest speakers, fun activities for children, 5 x catered meals  
on Sat and Sun only.

Please note: **FREE accommodation** will be provided for those who come  
from outside of Auckland.

**Deadline: ~~April~~ EXTENDED 12 - \$150 per family.**

Thank you to those that have been in contact with the committee regarding your personal financial situations. We certainly understand that it is difficult to pay for everything at the same time, being the end of January as there are other bills to be paid being the start of the year, your children's school fees, stationery, etc. The committee have had a discussion and we are more than happy to extend the payment deadline until **FRIDAY 30TH MARCH**. If you are still interested, please get your registration forms in ASAP and then your payment by the end of March. Please do hurry as there are only a few spaces left.

Cost: \$50 for solo-parent with up to 3 children; grandparent; individual interest  
\$100 for two parents with up to 3 children.

Will send out the information pack in the first week of April. If you want any further information please do not hesitate to contact the committee (Monica Leach, James Pole, Victoria Walters or Judith Serfontein.) [deafparent@deaf.org.nz](mailto:deafparent@deaf.org.nz)

Support by



and



**DPUK Children's Disco – January 2012**

Children and their Parents attended the Disco, which was very much a joyful event. With encouragement from the DJ, parents and children danced away at the thumping sounds of music belting out throughout the late afternoon.

Discotheque entertainment of games, competitions, prizes, bubble machine, laser lights etc was also provided. A Sign Language Interpreter was booked for this event and she was fantastic joining in with the dance moves so that children and parents were able to participate without barriers.

Hot buffet of Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Veggie Burgers and Chips, in addition to variety of edible fresh fruits went down a storm!

A pleasure day out for the families!



## DPUK Deaf Families Meet at Eddie Catz – February 2012

Fourteen children age ranging from 8 months to 8 years attended the 'Deaf Families Meet ' at Eddie Catz Soft Play Centre in Wimbledon. This centre offered a large soft play area for little and older ones, divided into levels to cater for kids age 6mths - 8 years.

Soft play Centres is the best place I know of for the children to let off steam indoors! The "Mezzanine" area at the centre was reserved for Deaf Families, which had a great vantage point for keeping an eye on the children. What a good way for Deaf families to meet in a safe and secured environment.



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## DPUK Arts & Craft – March 2012

Deaf families attended the event with their children. Arts and Craft making involved children adding beautiful decorations on gift bags, creating mother's day cards, colourful designs for picture framing and putting finishing touches to cup cakes, all in the aid of presenting the gifts to their mothers on 'Mother's Day'!



# *DPUK Families' Day Out*

*In conjunction with National Family Week*



At

White Stubbs Lane

EN10 7QA

**When: Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**From: 11am – 6pm**

- Explore Paradise – Indoor & Outdoor Attractions and Activities.
- Eating at the Park
- Gardens at the Paradise
- Animals Experiences
- 

[Tickets Cost £4 Per Person.](#)

CONTACT DPUK FAMILIES PROJECT COORDINATOR FOR BOOKING FORM

DEADLINE FOR BOOKING REQUESTS: MONDAY 30<sup>H</sup> APRIL 2012

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

Fax: 0871 264 3323    SMS: 07928 842529(text message only)



## **DPUK Parent Support Group Diary Dates for 2012**

Are you a Deaf Parent/ Deaf Parent to be?

in a family friendly environment?

Want to receive information, support and advice on parenting?

Why not come along and find out what it is all about?



### **Camden Locality**

**Time:** 10am - 12 noon

**When:**

- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September

**Where:** Harmood Children Centre, 1 Forge Place, Off Ferdinand Street NW1 8DQ

### **Hackney Locality**

**Time:** 12.30pm- 2.30pm

**When:**

- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov

**Where:** Comet Children Centre, 20 Halcomb Street, Hackney N1 5RF

### **Newham Locality**

**Time:** 10am - 12pm

**When:**

- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

**Where:** Abbey Lane Children Centre, 1 Abbey Lane, Stratford E15 2SD

### **Hammersmith & Fulham Locality**

**\*\*NEW\*\***

**Time:** 1 – 3pm

**When:**

- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April (1<sup>st</sup> session)
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December

**Where:** Masbro Brook Green Family Centre  
49 Brook Green, London, W6 7BJ





## 'Deaf Parents in Touch'

A monthly group for Deaf Parents  
to meet other local Mums and  
Dads!



Do you have children  
age 0 – 16 years?

**Why not come along & share your  
experience.**

***Children under 5 years welcome***

### **When?**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2012**  
**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**10am – 12 noon**

### **Where?**

**Deaf Access Community House South  
Street Bromley BR1 1RH**

**For more information, please contact  
Deaf Access:**

Tel: 0208 315 2550

Minicom: 0208 315 2552

SMS: 07732 449349

Fax: 0208 315 2554

Email: [information@deaf-access.co.uk](mailto:information@deaf-access.co.uk)

Funded by Deaf Access

## DPUK Workshops

**Young Children's Behavioural  
Management Workshop for Deaf  
Parents.**

### **Where:**

**Comet Children's Centre  
20 Halcomb Street  
Hackney, N1 5RF**

### **When:**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
12.30 – 2.30pm**

- ✓ 2 hours free workshop for 12  
Deaf Parents
- ✓ BSL Interpretation
- ✓ Tea/Coffee Refreshments  
provided

For more information, Contact DPUK  
Families Project Coordinator

## Parent Advocate Project - Workshops

This project is funded by Lloyds TSB Foundation to deliver deaf parenting support at the parenting support sessions located in the London Boroughs of Camden, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham and Newham.



This project will be working on developing various 'Better Parenting' workshops for Deaf Parents/Deaf Expectant Parents. We know many parents in general have difficulties balancing their time between their jobs, their partner and parenting their kids. Parents also struggle to make whatever resources they have to meet their kids' needs. This situation is reflected by their kids' behaviour and state of mind, often causing unhappiness, frustration and self doubt. Teenagers make parenting an even bigger challenge!

This is your opportunity to tell us what **YOU** would like to see happening in the 'Better Parenting' Workshops. What skills do you want to learn to help build and strengthen your family life?



## Volunteers Wanted!



Deaf Parenting UK is looking for deaf people or people working with deaf people to join their 'volunteering opportunities pool'.

Can you spare a few hours each week/month?

For more information or interested in volunteering, please contact the DPUK Coordinator for application form.

DPUK Families Project Coordinator  
c/o Gary Morgan  
49 Gordon Square  
London  
WC1H 0PD  
Email: [info@deafparent.org.uk](mailto:info@deafparent.org.uk)  
SMS: 07928 842529  
Fax: 0871 264 3323



## DO YOU SIGN WITH YOUR BABY OR CHILD?

### Who are we?

- ü Researchers in Deaf Studies and Sign Language
- ü We work at University College London and City University

### Who are we looking for?

- ü Deaf and hearing children of Deaf parents
- ü Deaf children of hearing parents
- ü Aged 1-5 years

### What are we trying to find out?

- ü Does signing help language development?
- ü Language learning differences between Deaf and hearing children

### What's involved?

- ü Observing natural play
- ü Picture naming task with Deaf researcher
- ü Computer game



### How will the results of this research be used?

- ü We will share our results with parents, professionals and other researchers
- ü We will know if signing is useful for language development in young children (Deaf and hearing)

### What else do I need to know?

- ü We will always keep your results confidential and respect your needs
- ü The Economic and Social Research Council give us the money to do this project

### We give you a £10 LovetoShop voucher for every hour of your time!

University College London

49 Gordon Square

London WC1H 0PD

Tel: +44 (0)20 7679 8679

Fax: +44 (0)20 7679 8691

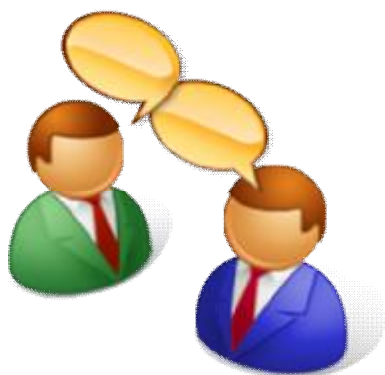
Minicome/Textphone: +44 (0)20 7679 8693

Web: [www.dcal.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.dcal.ucl.ac.uk)

Contact Rachel England (Deaf):

Email - [r.England@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:r.England@ucl.ac.uk) SMS - 07883 488045





## staying in Touch

If you would like to submit an advert or a feature relating to parenting in the DPUK Newsletter, please contact the DPUK Project Manager/ coordinator for details:



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



Visit our website: <http://www.deafparent.org.uk/>

Be our friend on Facebook: [Deaf Parenting UK](#)

You can now also follow us on Twitter: [@DeafParentingUK](#)

### DPUK Address:

Deaf Parenting UK  
C/o 49 Gordon Square  
London  
WC1H 0PD



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

SMS: 07928 842529

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