

SOS!SEN

SOS! Special Educational Needs Registered Charity 1112475
The Free Independent Helpline for Special Educational Needs
35 Staines Road, Twickenham TW2 5BG Telephone 020 8538 3731

Issue 4

March 2009

Website launch

HELP and advice from SOS!SEN is now at your fingertips, thanks to the new website, which has been skillfully adapted by David Mantell. This clear, easy to use site also lists events, courses and helpful links. Just paste <http://www.sossen.org.uk> on to your browser .

Top Tips

THE new Tribunal regulations make it vital that parents pre- book their expert witnesses if they feel they are even likely to have to appeal. For example a poor Proposed Statement is unlikely to turn into a good one without an appeal to SEND.

Therefore get the bookings made with the experts to come as soon as the eight-week period between Proposed and Final is over. In that way an appeal will supported from the start with hard evidence and local authorities find themselves floundering when trying to justify their own thin assessments and views.

Watch out for a rash of letters from Local Authorities, which do not state that parents have the right to appeal to SEND.

If no letter is sent out then a parent does have the right to remind the authority and they must send the full letter with the current date on it. BUT we are finding that with letters sent out with missing pages the amended letters still retain the original date and SEN officers refuse to change the date.

It is possible to get lawyers on to this and request extra time to process. (We're on to one like that at present - and not too far from the office!)

Diary Dates

Saturday 25th April: Full day workshop on '16+ Transfer and Transfer to Further Education' run by Melinda Nettleton and John Friel at Twickenham. *Further details and booking form below.*

Saturday 18th July: SOS!SEN Summer Ball. Full details and booking forms to follow....



Workshop

Post 16 provision

A must for all parents of children with a Statement, this workshop focuses on what to do when preparing your Case for Post-16 Provision.

This is a difficult area but it is one that has the most at stake, because once a child leaves the school setting, their Statement may lapse.

Responsibility for Further Education for children with Statements is shifting from the Learning and Skills Council to Local Authorities. This change might result in more Authorities seeking to cease to maintain a Statement.

The Workshop, which will be held on Saturday 25th April from 9.30am to 5pm in Twickenham, is particularly relevant for parents, teachers and advocates who are involved with a child approaching their further education setting.

It will tell you when a Statement can be retained, how it can be kept beyond 16 and what provision you can expect for the child. There is also a session that will explain the consequences following the transfer of responsibility for Post-16 provision.

The cost is £60 per delegate (including sandwich lunch) or £50 if booked before Monday 30th March,

All proceeds will go to SOS!SEN.

Speakers will include:

***Melinda Nettleton**, a well known SEN Solicitor*

***John Friel**, an eminent SEN Barrister*

***Robin Jacobs**, a Barrister, specialising in Education Law*

An **Attendance Certificate** can be provided if required. Please indicate on the form if you would like one.

See the Programme, Booking Form and contact details attached

Spring cleaning?

DON'T forget the SOS!SEN shop at 35 Staines Road, Twickenham when Spring cleaning. Toys, clothes and children's small furniture such as pushchairs, high chairs etc are particularly needed.

Fancy dress costumes would also be welcomed – or even the materials to make them. If you are able to make them yourself, all the better. Fairy dresses are very popular but Batman, princess, pirates are also snapped up.

Volunteers are also needed for the shop, which is moving towards opening every day of the week from 11am to 4pm, except for Sundays. Help to man the shop, for even two hours per month, is urgently needed. It's easy, fun and extremely worthwhile.

SOS!SEN Workshop:

Special Educational Needs: Post-16 Provision

Saturday 25 April 2009

09:30 – 17:00

United Reformed Church, First Cross Road, The Green, Twickenham, TW2 5QA
(go to www.twickenhamurc.org.uk/worship.htm for location and directions)

Programme (subject to minor amendment)

09:30 Coffee and Registration

10:00 Overview of the system

Melinda Nettleton

- When can a Statement be retained?
John Friel
- How can a Statement be kept Post-16?
- Who funds Post-16 provision?
- What provision can be expected?

11:15 Coffee

11:30 Transfer of responsibility for Further Education: the consequences
Robin Jacobs

12:30 Questions and Discussion

13:00 Lunch (Sandwich Lunch provided)

14:00 Practical Workshop:

Melinda Nettleton

How and When to Prepare a Post-16 Appeal to SEND

John Friel

15:45 Questions and Discussion

16:30 Tea

17:00 Close

SOS!SEN

For further information and queries, contact
 Martin Dean 275 Staines Road Twickenham TW2 5AY
 Tel: 07932 066638
 email: martindean@blueyonder.co.uk
 or just complete the Booking Form below.

Use a separate form for each delegate

Workshop Fee: £60 per delegate
 (£50 if you book before 30 March)
 Sandwich lunch included
 All proceeds will go to SOS!SEN

SEN: Post-16 Provision
 Workshop
 Saturday 25 April 2009

Booking Form
 Please reserve a place for

Name			
Address			
Postcode			
Telephone			
Mobile			
Email (essential)			
I enclose cheque for	£		Tick here if you require a Certificate

(please make cheques payable to SOS! Special Educational Needs)

Send this Booking Form to: Martin Dean 275 Staines Road Twickenham Middlesex TW2 5AY