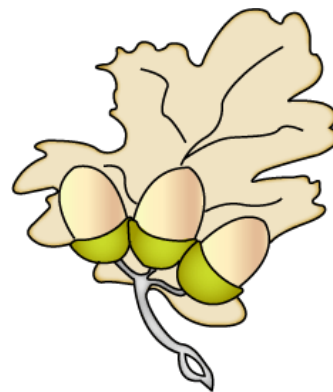


The Dyslexia Association

News Bulletin



Autumn 2010

Funding: the Future?

It has become increasingly difficult to secure funding for our activities over the last couple of years. The Government calls upon 'the big society' to fill the gaps in state provision, but glides over the fact that it inevitably costs money (even for a charity!) to organise and deliver specialist programmes to dyslexic people whose needs have not been adequately met within the state education system. Councils are under pressure to slash costs, and we expect to see disproportionately large cuts in Special Educational Needs budgets. The demand for our services will grow at a time when we are under huge financial pressure.

Please, consider whether you could help in any way, by using or recommending our paid-for services, by organising a fundraising event or by putting us in touch with possible funding organisations.

If you have any suggestions, contact Dee Caunt on 0115 9246889 / Dee.Caunt@dyslexia.uk.net

Rutland Roadshow

For the 3rd year running, Rutland Dyslexia, which is part of The Dyslexia Association Outreach Service, will host a Roadshow on Saturday 13th November at the Victoria Hall in Oakham. Previous autumn Roadshows have been very well attended, both by people living in Rutland and those from further afield. Entrance is free. Dyslexia specialists will be present to offer information and advice and various exhibitors will demonstrate software, books, educational games and toys and learning aids. Quickscan, an adult dyslexia screening test will be offered for half price on the day.

Goodbye Anna Hello Gary

We have said a sad goodbye to **Anna Read**, who has been with us for the last year, administering the Train to Gain project and supporting Dee in the development of our business operations. Anna is taking time out to travel, starting in Morocco and then...who knows where?

However, we are pleased to welcome **Gary Pringle** to take over Train to Gain. Gary works Tuesday to Friday and is already proving a friendly and efficient contact for the Train to Gain learners and their employers.

Working with children

We ran a Summer Intensive TTRS course in August and a workshop for parents of primary age children in September. Tuition and Touch-Type Read & Spell continue to be provided on Saturdays and after school for dyslexic children of all ages.

Saturday Opening

We have for some time provided regular tuition programmes for children on Saturdays. In response to the increased demand we are now also providing additional services on Saturdays: tuition for adults, as well as assessment for all ages.

Working with adults

The recent Government spending review confirmed that funding for **Train to Gain** projects will cease. However, we expect our current contract to be honoured, so, for the present, we are still able to teach a limited number of working people who do not have a level 2 qualification in literacy and/or numeracy. If you know someone who might benefit, please encourage them to call the Helpline as soon as possible to find out how to sign up.

We continue to expand our training for employed people to use assistive technology and to develop workplace 'coping strategies'. Several of our dyslexia tutors specialise in this area. **Access to Work** funding for this training continues, on a less generous basis than previously and employers can see the value they get by training their staff to make full use of their abilities.

A full diagnostic dyslexia assessment is the best way to explore the individual pattern of dyslexic weaknesses and strengths, but is not always affordable. In our work with children, we have found there is a demand for a lower cost dyslexia screening followed by an advice session. We therefore plan to offer a similar service for adults in the form of "LADS Plus" an **adult dyslexia screening test combined with an advice session**, administered by a dyslexia specialist. This service, at a cost of £75, will shortly be available by appointment.

The New Equality Act

The Equality Act 2010 came into force on 1st October 2010. It brings together legislation against discrimination on a number of grounds (including disability as well as race, gender, age, sexuality and others). The Act covers discrimination at **work**, in **education** and in the **provision of services**. The protection the Act offers to people with dyslexia should be at least as good as that of the Disability Discrimination Act. Sometimes, protection is improved, as in cases of 'indirect discrimination' where a general policy at a workplace or education establishment makes life particularly difficult for a person with dyslexia. The Equality and Human Rights website www.equalityhumanrights.com contains a set of guidance documents on the implications of the new law.

TDA on Film

Through the generosity of Mark Henley, we have been able to work with a film company and capture the experiences of some of the children, adults, employers and unions we have supported. These will be uploaded onto YouTube with links from our website. We hope they will give valuable feedback about the benefits of the services and support we provide.

If you would like to know more about our current activities, please look at our website, www.dyslexia.uk.net or call the Helpline on **0115 924 6888** (Monday to Friday 10.00am to 4.00pm).