



dig-it

Dyslexia information group in Tamworth

Our year

2015 to 2016

About Dig-iT

Community volunteer support group:

- We offer regular support drop-ins for dyslexic people of all ages and their families, for mutual support, information, advice and activities.
- We aim to raise awareness of dyslexia, its characteristics, co-occurrences and its wide ranging impact on society.
- We collaborate with other voluntary and statutory bodies.
- Promote practical solutions for people that are affected by dyslexia.
- Volunteers and committee members include dyslexic adults.
- We want to develop from the 'bottom up' to meet local need.

How we began

- Three parents with children at school got together.
- One-off 'drop-in' held in Philip Dix Centre in Sept 2011.
- 25 families attended - a group was needed.
- Monthly drop-ins started at Carnegie Centre in Jan 2012
- Dig-iT became a constituted group in April 2012.
- Additional drop-ins with Community Cafe at Kerria Centre from Autumn 2012.
- Dig-iT:Adults began in September 2014

Families supported / contacts

- 344 people on general mail out list since January 2012
(325 on the list last year - up by 14)
- 27 new families contacted us April 2015-March 2016 (34 last year. Down 21%)
- Carnegie Centre: 15% (4 initial enquiries. Down 57%)
- Dig-iT:Adults group: 11% (3 initial enquiries - 8 last year as a new group)
- Outreach (events/website/email): 74% (20 initial enquiries. Up by 5%)
- People referred from other agencies: 13% (13 people - 6 last year. Up by 116%)

Support groups

- Average no. of families at Carnegie drop-in = **4** (No change since last year)
- Average no at Dig-iT:Adults: = **5** (No change since last year)
- Trend shows initial contacts reducing at Carnegie drop-in due to:
 - ❑ Increase in contacts via Dig-iT:Adults
 - ❑ Direct referrals from other organisations
 - ❑ Increase in contacts via 'outreach' & phone / email methods

Reasons for contact

- Adult = 7 contacts (26%)
- Child = 20 contacts (74%)
- Education = 21 contacts (78%)
 - Primary school = 76%
 - Secondary school = 14%
 - College = 5%
 - University = 5%
- Employment = 3 contacts (11%)
- General info = 6 contacts (22%)

Dyslexia screening

- Number of child dyslexia screenings: = 12 (8 last year - 50% increase)

Outcomes:

- High risk = 1 (8.3%)
 - Moderate risk = 7 (58.3%)
 - Low risk = 4 (33.3%)
- Number of adult dyslexia screenings: = 8 (4 last year - 100% increase)

Common enquiries



- Screening assessments = 63%
- Diagnostic assessment = 7%
- Dyslexia traits = 14%
- Literacy help & tips = 15%
- Help at school = 11%
- Help at work = 0%
- Getting a statement = 7%
- Other = 19%



(Note: Data based upon multiple reasons per contact)

Finances



1. Income

Sources of Income	Amount
Screening Donations	£180.00
Grants (after refund Staffs CC £765.36)	£484.64 (£1250.00 paid)
Fundraising & other donations	£790.70
Interest	£0.56
TOTAL	£1455.90

2. Expenditure

Category	Amount
Venue / Pitch Hire	£553.00
Computer / Phone	£794.94
Insurance	£198.93
Craft / resources / refresh	£388.21
Training (Dyslexia NE Conference)	£17.98
Printing / promotion	£169.99
Miscellaneous	£308.53
TOTAL	£2431.58

4. 2015 surplus b/f

£2964.62

5. 2015 /16 surplus

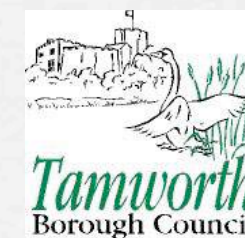
£975.68

Projected expenses 2016/17

Category	Amount
Venue / Pitch Hire	£380.00
Computer / Phone	£80.00
Insurance	£200.00
Craft / resources / refresh	£380.00
Printing / promotion	£200.00
Miscellaneous	£100.00
TOTAL	£1340.00

Networking & collaboration

- SPAN (Staffordshire Parent Action Network)
- Staffordshire Umbrella Network (SUN)
- Skillshare / South Staffs College (transition event)
- Tamworth Dyspraxia Group
- Tamworth Library
- Tamworth LitFest
- Tamworth Community Cafe
- Tamworth Learning Support Network (Schools LSAs)
- Tamworth Borough Council (ARCH / Children & Communities)
- Ultra-Vibrancy Puppets
- Uprising (NCS project)
- Wilnecote High School



Activities & participation

- **Awareness Training** - In It Together group / Tamworth Wellbeing Centre / Tamworth Library / Dosthill W.I.
- **Community participation** (Local fetes', fun days & fairs / Locality network meetings / Community Together CIC / Tam Lit Fest - Xmas event)
- **Consultation: Dig-iT:Adults group** - accessible museums & galleries (Becki Morris)
- **Dyslexia screening service** (children & adults too)
- **Positively Different 2015** (TCRfm interview with Thom Davies, Becki Morris and Julie Cappleman-Morgan / Dyslexia Info talks at Tamworth Library)
- **Positively Puppets Course for children** (creativity, confidence & socialising)
- **Supporting 'I am Dyslexic' positive film on dyslexia** (Thom Davies)
- **Volunteer development** (Safeguarding / BDA conference)
- **Adult Literacy project** (Unfortunately discontinued due to redundancy of trainer).

Policy issues



Dig-iT:

- ❑ Collated SEN support stats relating to Tamworth's primary & secondary schools, to bring to attention of Tamworth Borough Council elected members:
 - ❑ Worrying trend of unexpectedly uneven proportions of SEN at high schools (given nature of catchment areas)
 - ❑ Lower than expected levels of registered SEN in some primary schools.
 - ❑ The need to encourage schools to attain Dyslexia Friendly Status at the higher level.
- ❑ Organised meeting with parents Borough Councillor to discuss concerns on difficulties getting assessment at schools and timely help.
- ❑ Provided information on dyslexia stats and experiences of local people regarding dyslexia at request of Christopher Pincher MP to support his application for a House of Commons debate on early identification and support for dyslexia.

Challenges

- Loss of Kerria Centre
- Impending loss of Carnegie Centre
- Developing a youth group
- Reduction in community engagement events due to budget cuts
 - Community venues
 - Community development workers
 - PCOs (no longer have area social media accounts)

Future ideas

- Positively Different 2016 - collaboration with local businesses & community groups?
- New 'positive' information leaflets / website links (inspired by Twitter user request for ways to make a 'label' positive)
- More collaborative work with local schools (new links with Lakeside Primary School).
- Drop-in relocation (Possibly with Community Together CIC / St Editha's Hall?)
- Additional Drop-ins at new locations (Glascote Heath alongside Community Together CIC)
- Volunteers - to further support activities and events

Memorable Events



Dyslexia information group in Tamworth

Positively Puppets workshop April 2015



..... Dig-IT & Ultra Vibrancy presents

POSITIVELY PUPPETS

FREE

A FUN ACTIVITY FOR KIDS AGE 7-12 WITH DYSLEXIA/DYSPRAXIA!

SATURDAY 18 1:30 - 4:30

APRIL

- Learn about different types of puppet & how they work
- Have a go at working different puppets
- Make your own puppet to take home
- Enjoy 'Under the Sea' & 'Spooky' professional UV puppet show

TO BOOK: 0753 451 3338
office.tamdyslexia@gmail.com

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Dyslexia Information Group in Tamworth

One Stop Community Centre
Kerria Road
Amington
Tamworth
B77 4EW

Suggested donation:
£2 per child
payable at the door



Support Staffordshire Volunteers Fair June 2015



Volunteering Fair
Come and celebrate with us!
Friday 5th June 2015, 10am—3pm
At the Castle grounds (upper lawn)



We will be joined by:
Homestart, Samaritans,
Carefirst, Shoebox Theatre,
Dig-It and many more!

With special guests.....

TCR FM — Live! The Owl Experience



&



For more information contact
Support Staffordshire (Tamworth) on 01827 709657 or
Email: info@volunteercentretamworth.org.uk



Amington Fete June 2015



Wilnecote Fun day July 2015



Stonydelph Fair July 2015

ARK Nursery and Stonydelph ARCH
Sale tables
Presents
Candy floss

Stonydelph Community Funday event
Name & Teddy
Saturday July 11th 2015
11am till 3pm
Free event and all welcome
At St Martins Church and Community Centre
Ellerbeck, B77 4LY
Bouncy castle
Craft stalls
Community Cafe
Face painting
Games
Refreshments and more!
Interested in having a stand?
Contact Margaret Clarke 01827 330669
Free for non-profit, but £5 commercial to help raise funds for the Nursery

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'We Love Tamworth' August 2015



'Resolving the 'Dyslexia Debate' Sept 2015

Attended public meeting at Durham Uni for academic conference consensus in light of Prof Julian Elliott & Elena Grigorenko's book The Dyslexia Debate.

Academics concluded to continue working to the Rose Report (2009) definition of Dyslexia.



'Wilnecote School Teach Meet' workshop

Sept 2015



Workshop Schedules
For Saturday, 26th Sept 2015
www.pedagootamworth.weebly.com


#PEDAGOOTAMWORTH

	Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4	Workshop 5
Session 1	Coaching	BESD	Poundland Pedagogy	Chemistry Curriculum	Restorative Justice
Session 2	Growth Mindset	Dyslexia	Foldables	Using video in classrooms	Substance abuse
Session 3	SOLO Taxonomy	Autism Awareness	Magpie Teacher	Harmonious Schools	Trauma in children
Session 4	How to approach CPD	Erasmus plus projects and funding	#100 ideas	Cartoon Physics KS2-KS4	Supporting children through grief
Session 5	Lesson Study	Twitter and Blogging	Dyspraxia	Literacy across the Curriculum	TBC
Session 6	Evidence Based Practice	Rebranding Failure	Dropbox	Behaviour Management	#100 ideas



'Dyslexia Awareness Week' October 2015

Two talks at Tamworth Library. TCR fm interviews with Becki Morris, Thom Davies & Julie Cappleman-Morgan



Dyslexia

A positively different perspective
A Talk by Julie Cappleman-Morgan
From the Dyslexia Information Group in Tamworth (Dig-it)

Learn about the traits associated with Dyslexia
and the support offered locally by Dig-it

At Tamworth Library
Tuesday 6th October &
Saturday 10th October
11.00am-12.00pm

FREE but booking required
tamworth.library@staffordshire.gov.uk · 01827 475645

YOUR LIBRARY
Staffordshire County Council

Dyslexia

dig-it



'Dyslexia Awareness Week' Tamworth Enterprise College Show October 2015



Uprising National Citizen's Service 'Dragon's Den' panel Nov 2015



Tamworth Xmas Lights Switch-on Nov 2015



**'I Am Dyslexic' (Thom Davies) filming
Nov 2015**



Festive Story Fun event with Tamworth LitFest Dec 2015



Dig-iT Christmas Party Dec 2015



Positively Puppets Course February 2016



British Dyslexia Association Conference

March 2016

Conclusions

- Dyslexia is a disorder on the language continuum; not all children with dyslexia have co-occurring language disorder/LI but many experience language delay
- Phonological *and* broader language skills predict individual differences in word-level reading skills
- The risk of dyslexia is elevated in children at family risk and children with preschool LI
- Targeted interventions can be delivered in school to foster language and literacy development (without 'waiting for children to fail')
- Teaching assistants in mainstream schools and early years staff should be **trained, supported and mandated** to deliver oral language work



Thanks to all the following for their support to Dig-iT throughout 2015-2016

Lee Bates, Tamworth Community Cafe

Coffee Revolution, Coffee shop, 11 Colehill

Dosthill WI

Mayor, Cllr Tina Clements, Tamworth Borough Council

Mayor, Cllr Simon Clements, Fazeley Borough Council

Sue Evans, tutor

Richard Evans, tutor

John Faulkner, Chartered Accountant

Mayor, Councillor Maureen Gant, Tamworth Borough Council

Christine Howlett, Specialist Teacher

Cllr Richard Kingston, Tamworth Borough Council

Laura Hastilow & Hannah McKenzie, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

Stephanie Ivey, Tamworth Borough Council

Debra Lewis, and the team at Tamworth Information Centre

Lizzie Morgan, Graphic Designer

Becki Morris, Dyslexia Support

Marri Griffin, Tamworth CVS

Andy Watson, Ultra Vibrancy puppets

Tamworth Lions

Rawlett High School

Wilnecote High School

... & ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!



Dyslexia information group in Tamworth

Thank you!



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