

# Supporting Students and Young People – Autism and the Children’s & Families Act (2014)

A FREE conference for parents & carers – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016

at Priestnall School, Priestnall Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport. SK4 3HP

09:45 Arrival, registration & coffee

10:15 Welcome to Priestnall School & outline of the day – Gareth D Morewood

10:30 Keynote Address – Professor Neil Humphrey, University of Manchester

## **‘Improving educational experiences and outcomes of autistic students: insights from parents/carers and young people’**

11:30 Workshop Choice 1 (sign up on the day)

1A	1B	1C	1D	1E
<b>Transition for autistic students – a longitudinal study</b>	<b>A Great School Life Starts At Home: Ten Strategies to Support Your Autistic Child</b>	<b>Understanding the EHCP process – a parental perspective</b>	<b>‘The Law Trumps All’ Understanding the Children’s and Families Act</b>	<b>Mindfulness &amp; wellbeing workshop - for physical and mental self-care</b>
Dr Judith Hebron	Mrs Debby Elley	Mr Jamie Patton	Gareth D Morewood	Ailsa Parsons & Carol Amoako-Adofo
In this session Judith will present initial findings from her current research looking at transition from primary to secondary school for autistic students	In this session Debby will be sharing a series of practical ideas that parents can take at home to make school life easier for autistic children. Her son Bobby attends Priestnall School and will be on hand to add extra comments!	In this session Jamie will discuss the practical experiences of transferring from a Statement to an EHCP from a parental perspective – including a college update	In this session Gareth will highlight the key element of the Children’s & Families Act for parents/carers in supporting assessment and provision	In this session parents/carers will be led through a useful selection of experiential practices and discussion with the aim of reducing stress and increasing self-care

12:15 Lunch (light buffet provided) & informal discussions

13:00 Workshop Choice 2 (sign up on the day)

2A	2B	2C	2D	2E
<b>Transition for autistic students – a longitudinal study</b>	<b>The importance of language &amp; communication</b>	<b>Understanding the EHCP process – a parental perspective</b>	<b>‘The Law Trumps All’ Understanding the Children’s and Families Act</b>	<b>Mindfulness &amp; wellbeing workshop - for physical and mental self-care</b>
Dr Judith Hebron	Miss Devon Drews & Miss Ellen Fleetwood	Mr Jamie Patton	Gareth D Morewood	Ailsa Parsons & Carol Amoako-Adofo
In this session Judith will present initial findings from her current research looking at transition from primary to secondary school for autistic students	In this session Devon and Ellen will explore key concepts of language and communication and provide strategies and ideas for use at school and in the home to promote positive communication	In this session Jamie will discuss the practical experiences of transferring from a Statement to an EHCP from a parental perspective – including a college update	In this session Gareth will highlight the key element of the Children’s & Families Act for parents/carers in supporting assessment and provision	In this session parents/carers will be led through a useful selection of experiential practices and discussion with the aim of reducing stress and increasing self-care

13:45 Plenary and summary of the day

14:15 Close

N.B. Some sessions may be subject to change as all speakers are offering sessions voluntarily – any changes will be notified as soon as possible.

## **Speaker Biographies**

### **Professor Neil Humphrey**

Neil is Research Director and Professor of Psychology of Education at the Manchester Institute of Education, University of Manchester. His research focuses upon children's mental health, social and emotional learning, and special educational needs (in particular, autism spectrum conditions).

### **Gareth D Morewood**

Gareth is Director of Curriculum Support (SENCo) & Specialist Leader of Education at Priestnall School, Stockport and Honorary Research Fellow in Education at the University of Manchester. He has authored a number of articles, books, academic papers and publications which can be found on his website [www.gdmorewood.com](http://www.gdmorewood.com). His main areas of research are autism, and whole-school approach to SEND.

### **Dr Judith Hebron**

Judith is the Simon and Leverhulme ECF Research Fellow at the University of Manchester. After teaching in secondary schools for several years Judith undertook a PhD at the University of Manchester in 2008. Her current research is a longitudinal study on the transition from primary to secondary school of young people with ASC. In addition Judith's interests are the educational experiences of young people with ASC; girls and autism; child and adolescent wellbeing; peer relationships; educational inclusion and developmental psychology.

### **Mrs Debby Elley**

Originally from Birmingham, Debby Elley is the co-editor of AuKids magazine, a positive parenting magazine for families of children on the autism spectrum. She is also mum to 12 year-old autistic twins Bobby and Alec. Bobby attends Priestnall School and Alec, who also has an acquired brain injury, attends nearby Heaton School. To subscribe to AuKids for £15 or find out more, go to [www.aukids.co.uk](http://www.aukids.co.uk) or follow AuKids on Facebook or Twitter.

### **Mr Jamie Patton**

Jamie Patton is a parent governor at Priestnall School. His eldest child, who has special needs, was a student at the school until his successful transition into college in September 2015 under the newly created ECHP. A partner and director in his own busy city centre law firm, Jamie has worked closely with Gareth Morewood over the last 6 years, advised and supported parents of children with special needs and even been persuaded by Gareth to give the occasional talk on the subject of inclusion and transition.

### **Ailsa Parsons & Carol Amoako-Adofo**

Ailsa is a lecturer and researcher in exercise and health psychology and behaviour change at the University of Salford and Dance Movement Psychotherapist in training with the University of Derby. Ailsa's main research focus is on incorporating mindful and creative movement and mind-body attunement into wellbeing services across a range of populations. Carol is a highly experienced wellbeing coach and Motivational Interviewer who has worked with complex clients within Greater Manchester Local Authorities to promote physical and mental wellbeing, and is currently tasked with promoting participation in females for Sport England (see 'This Girl Can' campaign) in Greater Manchester. Ailsa and Carol came together to form 'Shapeless', providing coaching, education and workshops for individuals and groups to improve their relationship with mind, body, food and lifestyle – regardless of physical or mental ability, shape and size.

### **Miss Devon Drews**

Devon is a Speech and Language Therapist at Priestnall School. After completing a BSc (Hons) Psychology and Speech Pathology at Manchester Metropolitan University Devon completed a school-based placement at Priestnall, which resulted in the ethnographic paper *Analysing the everyday interactions of autistic students* (Morewood & Drews, 2013). Since September 2013 Devon has been employed at Priestnall School developing language and communication provision as part of the whole-school approach.

### **Miss Ellen Fleetwood**

Ellen completed a BSc (Hons) Clinical Language Sciences: Speech and Language Therapy at Leeds Beckett University in July 2015 and joined Priestnall School as a Speech and Language Therapist in September that year. Supporting the on-going work already undertaken, Ellen is developing provision as part of her first year as a qualified therapist.

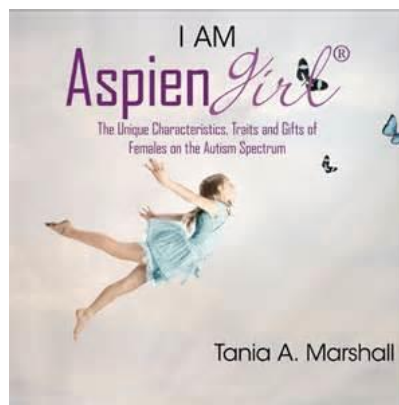
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Tania A Marshall has kindly donated 4 copies of her *AspienGirl* book as prizes for delegates.

**More offers & prizes to be announced in the next few weeks...**