

# HOT Gossip

Autumn/Winter 2006



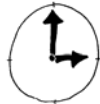
## Speakeasy Advocacy invites members to the Christmas Party



with food and drink, and karaoke




Friday 15 December 2006



7.30pm - 9.30pm



17 New Road, Basingstoke

Bring food or drink if you can -  on 01256 332795 if you  
want to come



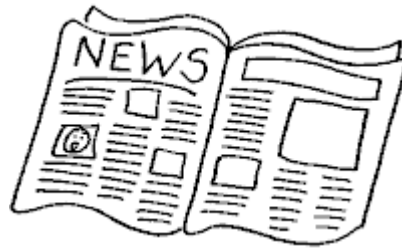
### Speakeasy Advocacy

Giving a voice and support to people with learning difficulties,  
autistic spectrum disorders and/or Asperger's syndrome



Giving a Voice

Registered charity number: 1108304



## Speakeasy Advocacy News



### **The trustees have voted to do 2 new projects**

In August, the trustees voted in favour of working with the day services to run a Friday drop in at the United Reform Church. In November, the trustees decided we should be part of a bid by Hampshire Advocacy Regional Group for a new advocacy service for people who can't make decisions for themselves. We will keep you updated on these projects.



### **Volunteer event**

We recently held an event for volunteers to say thank you for giving their time, and to share information about the law and changes to local services.



### **Trustee training**

The trustees did some training at their last meeting, looking at their responsibilities under the law. They have to ask lots of questions, using all their experience as members of groups, advocates, or any other skills they have.

# The Annual General Meeting

## Wednesday 30 August 2006



The new trustees were voted in - some people carried on from last year, and there were some new faces too



There was a report on what happened last year at Speakeasy Advocacy, including our accounts



Members were able to ask questions, and say what had gone well or what hadn't gone well over the past year



At the end of the meeting people had food and drink, and talked with their friends





## Self advocacy groups

**Self advocacy = speaking up for yourself**



**Wicked and Wacky** are going to Fleet to meet up with their friends in another self advocacy group. Some of the group had their pictures taken for a council magazine and leaflet recently.



**Happy Club** have received pictures of the 4 children they are sponsoring in Africa, and will be making a poster to show everyone. They have arranged their activities for the next few months, and are meeting at new pubs and restaurants in town.



**Virtual Friends** have a new trustee representative - Simon. They are introducing social activities to their agenda, and looking forward to using the web forum.



**Internet Explorers** had a Halloween party where everyone dressed up. They are getting ready for another swimming trip, and planning a Christmas party for their group.

**Get in touch if you want to know more about the groups**



**Some of the things our children and young person's advocate has been able to help with.....**



1:1 advocacy support for parents, including winning a tribunal against the local education authority



sharing information with parents about getting a diagnosis or accessing support for their child (including people living abroad)

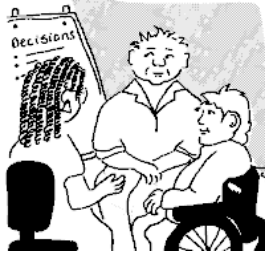


supporting local parent groups to share experiences and information



supporting Internet Explorers along with the other volunteers, so the group members can grow in confidence and develop their self advocacy skills

Get in touch with Debbie if you are interested in becoming a 1:1 advocate for children with autism or Asperger's syndrome, and their parents



## Your 1<sup>st</sup> person centred planning meeting



### Make people feel welcome

- introduce everyone - you may be the only person in the room who knows everyone else!
- make sure people are comfortable and have got a drink



### Running the meeting

- get someone you trust to chair the meeting
- tell people about the plan you have for your life
- ask people how they can help to make your plan happen
- make sure everyone knows what they have agreed to do



### What happens next?

- get everyone's contact details so you can all stay in touch
- set another meeting date
- enjoy making changes in your life!

We can help you get your plan started - get in touch if you want a plan or if you want to know more

## **Life with Asperger's Syndrome**

In this edition, we interview Virtual Friends, our self advocacy group for people with Asperger's syndrome.

### **What do you like about Virtual Friends?**

“It enables us to get out of the house and meet friends, as we find it hard to socialise. We support and encourage each other to talk, and because we understand each other we make allowances for our different ways. We are lucky to have a really great place to meet which helps to make sure our meetings are comfortable and relaxed.”

### **What difference has coming to the group made to you?**

“One of our group has just been elected as a trustee, and this has given him the confidence and motivation to move on to new things. He will also soon be taking on volunteer responsibilities in the group as well. The group feel motivated to come every week and share experiences with each other. Some travel from out of the area. The group is relaxed - we feel no pressure and there are no expectations. This means that we are free to make choices, we can do anything or nothing. Our confidence has grown and is helping us to interact with other people.”

This interview is part of a presentation we will be giving at a National Autistic Society conference early next year on “Advocacy for Autism”

## How to get in touch:



01256 332795 (you can leave a message)



17 New Road Basingstoke Hampshire RG21 7PR



[speakeasy.advocacy@btconnect.com](mailto:speakeasy.advocacy@btconnect.com)

[www.speakeasyadvocacy.org.uk](http://www.speakeasyadvocacy.org.uk)

Look out for monthly coffee  
mornings.....



.....starting in 2007