

'Towards a Positive Future'

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 **SEN**
SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS
MAGAZINE

 WordsWell

One Day Conference

for parents of children with
special educational needs and the
professionals who support them

Saturday 16th June 2012

9.30am til 4.30pm

Arlington Arts Centre, Newbury

**You need to come to this conference
if you live or work with children with:**

- **Autistic Spectrum Conditions**
including Asperger Syndrome
- **Behavioural, Emotional & Social Needs**
including ADHD
- **Specific Learning Needs (Dyslexia)**
- **Speech, Language & Communication Needs**
including hearing impairment/deafness
- **Moderate or Severe Learning Needs**
Complex Needs including physical disability and head injury



We warmly welcome Jane Asher, president of the National Autistic Society who will be supporting our conference **work commitments permitting*. Her work with the NAS is vital in raising awareness through the media and fundraising to support people with autism and their families.

"Our priority is to help vulnerable children and young people and ensure their special educational needs are met, knowing the positive difference it will make to their lives."

Janet O'Keefe, parent, speech and language therapist, expert witness and conference organiser.

Conference Organised by
www.wordswell.co.uk
Speech and Language Therapy

Speakers include parents, national charities/support groups, disabled adults, health, education/social care professionals, politicians, social entrepreneurs and legal professionals

Janet O'Keefe,

Speech and Language Therapist from Wordswell who has been involved with medico-legal work since 1997. Janet O'Keefe has specialised in working with children and adults with hearing impairment, autistic spectrum condition and dyslexia. Author of several books including the 'Towards a Postivie Future' book and conference organiser, she is special guardian to a child with severe medical, social emotional and special educational needs.



Martyn Sibley

Social entrepreneur who aims to 'change the world for disabled people'. Using personal experience of being disabled, having 24/7 care, Masters degree, world travel, his own company, written an ebook 'The Disability Diamond Theory'. He is speaking at the conference to answer questions around his personal story as a disabled child: including matters such as schooling, transitions, going to university, finding work and managing independence.



Samantha Critchley

Specialises in medical negligence claims and is on the specialist Action Against Medical Accidents (AvMA) panel. Her specialist claims include fetal medicine, obstetrics, paediatrics, neurology, gynaecology, ophthalmology, general surgery and orthopaedics. She also assists at inquests where a death has arisen from suspected medical negligence & is a member of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) as Senior Litigator.



Charlie Mead,

Youngest headteacher in West Midlands to run SEBD schools for teenagers excluded from mainstream system. 25 years later Charlie is now a consultant Child & Educational Psychologist providing hands-on services to Phoenix Learning and Care, working with Looked After Children, Mainstream Academies and Health & Prison services working effectively with students with complex needs, autism & damaging behaviour difficulties.



Sandy Burbach

Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, Shapwick School for young people with dyslexia, developmental coordination disorder and associated difficulties. Sandy trained as a SLT & Audiologist, worked with children with ASD, cerebral palsy severe learning difficulties and head injuries, AAC devices & translated the Oxford Reading Tree into Rebus symbols to assess reading comprehension in non-verbal children.



Other Speakers Include:



Maxine Burns



Alex Kelly



Clive Yeadon



Lidia Leite



Tony Shaw



Lynda Niles



Kevin Geeson