



# Working Together with Parents Network (WTPN)

Supporting professionals working with parents with learning difficulties

## 'Parenting with support'

### Free conference on support for parents with learning difficulties

WTPN is pleased to announce a **free** regional conference; the last in a series of four:

York - 16 December 2015

The conference will provide you with up-to-date information on policy and practice as well as reports on key national initiatives.

Speakers will include:

- Nadine Tilbury (WTPN Policy Officer) speaking on recent legal developments.
- Beth Tarleton (Co-ordinator of WTPN) speaking on Positive Practice in Supporting Parents with Learning Difficulties.
- WTPN Parents Advisory Group giving parents' views on Good Practice in working with Parents with Learning Difficulties.
- Parent Pioneers Expert Parents Group who will speak on the innovative pilot programme where mothers with learning difficulties are provided with adapted Mellow Parenting Programmes alongside volunteer mentor support.
- Annette Bauer (LSE) on the economic case for early personalised support;  
Naomi Mason (Communicourt Ltd) on Intermediaries in family courts;  
Daryl Dugdale (University of Bristol) on Fathers with learning difficulties.

**If you are a professional working with parents – for example, advocate, social worker, psychologist, lawyer or Commissioner then book your free place now:**

[www.wtpnyork.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.wtpnyork.eventbrite.co.uk)

The WTPN provides a free UK-wide resource for professionals working with parents with learning difficulties. It shares positive practice in a range of sectors including health and social care, legal, education and advocacy support. For more information about the WTPN, see [www.wtpn.co.uk](http://www.wtpn.co.uk) or email: [wtw-pn@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:wtw-pn@bristol.ac.uk)

*All social workers, and family support workers, working with children and families need to be trained to recognise and deal with parents with learning disabilities. The [Good Practice] Guidance issued by central government needs to be followed.*

Kent County Council v A Mother [2011]

*At the heart of the problems in this case has been the division of LA's work between adult social services and children's services... they did not work together or form a consistent view of the case. Re S [2013]*

*The concept of "parenting with support" must underpin the way in which the courts and professionals approach wherever possible parents with learning difficulties ... the courts must be careful to ensure that the supposed inability of parents to change might itself be an artefact of professionals' ineffectiveness in engaging with the parents in appropriate terms.*

Re G and A [2006]

*Targeted and suitable expert assessments are required.*

Re C [2014]

*The local authority's duties under Article 8 include the duty to ensure that the processes by which decisions about children are made are fair and that the parents are sufficiently involved in that process.*

A Father v SBC & Others [2014]