

# Welcome

DPN provides information, advice and peer support to disabled parents, their families and supporters. We campaign on a local and national level to improve services for disabled parents. We also provide training and workshop facilitation to social and health professionals.

If you feel we can help please [Contact Us](/site/contact).

[NEWS]

## **Disabled Parents Network Advocacy service officially began on the 1st of April.**

Our service aims to empower disabled parents to access the services they are entitled to around a wide range of parenting issues. The service is free and is open to all disabled parents in England.

To find out more information on when an advocate can be referred to, different meanings of advocacy and how to contact our advocate [click here](/site/advocacy).

[NEWS]

## **Membership fee scrapped**

The Full Membership fee has been £10 a year for some time now, or £2.50 a year to those on means-tested benefits, but at our AGM on 28 March 2009 it was agreed to remove the membership fee in an attempt to make membership accessible to more people. There is still a cost incurred to us for each member, however, so we will continue to ask members to make a voluntary donation wherever possible. The website will be updated this week with new membership forms and information.

[NEWS]

## **DPN Welcomes new Staff**

Having received funding from The Big Lottery Fund, we have now appointed two more staff members.

Dr Alison Binns has joined us as our part-time fundraiser, and had a huge wish-list waiting for her when she started!

Lucy Welsh has been appointed as our first Family Advocate - more details about the new Advocacy service will be made available during April.

[NEWS]

## **DPN introduces new phone number to save callers money**

DPN now has a new phone number for enquirers to contact us on, costing less than the previous number. Calls to our new number - **0300 3300 639** - should be charged at the same rate as standard landline calls (ie, numbers beginning 01 and 02), and as such should also be included in any 'inclusive calls' package or bundled minutes.

Our old number - 0870 241 0450 - continues to operate alongside the new one, and we will be

updating all our publicity and publications over the next year to reflect the changes.

We have also introduced a menu enabling selected calls to be routed directly to the most appropriate person, but if no key is pressed calls will still be placed directly into the main helpline queue as before.

We hope that the change will encourage disabled parents who are concerned about call costs to contact us still, and improve the speed and efficiency with which we handle calls.

[NEWS]

### **Your Talk**

"I saw my GP on Friday who was amazed I'd even got a community care assessment in the first place as he said they normally have to be referred by the Dr's etc. I explained that I was beginning to understand just how much I was on my own and that if I wanted anything I'd have to fight for it myself.

Actually, having just written that I am on my own, I've now realised that this isn't the case - thank goodness for DPN and it's members!

Anyway, off to fight a battle at the dentist now - his clinic is at the top of 2 flights of stairs...! "

Find out more by visiting our [Forum & Discussion Group Section](/site/forum).