

SWALSS NEWS

Issue 1
October 2009



It is my pleasure, as Chief Executive, to send you a copy of the first **SWALSS** Newsletter. It's our intention to circulate this newsletter to all members, prospective members, G.O.S.W., LA Officers and Senior Managers.

The **SWALSS** Executive has decided to produce two concise newsletters each academic year, in October and May, in order to promote information sharing and communication with special schools and colleges predominantly throughout the South, South West, South Wales and the Channel Islands. We have used this first newsletter to give you some background information on how **SWALSS** works and what we hope to achieve.



Paul Hlland

Chief Executive

Background to **SWALSS**

SWALSS was established in 1984 by the SEN Advisers from the Local Authorities in the South West and with the full support of the HMI and the Government Education Department.

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25 Years On!
- 2 Membership
- 3 Forthcoming Events
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“The aim is to promote collaboration between professionals throughout the region...”

SWALSS is sponsored by



The purpose of **SWALSS** is to promote collaboration between professionals throughout the region in improving the quality of education and care for children with special educational needs. This is achieved through specifically focused training programmes offering high quality professional development – delivered annually via residential / day conferences and workshops.

Key Operational Objectives

- To be a root and branch organisation that embraces the education and care of young people with learning difficulties and disabilities in schools, colleges, pre-school and PRU's
- To maintain a close association with the DCSF and GOSW
- To promote collaborative working with established specialist organisation from within the field of special educational needs
- To maintain a commitment to partnership with parents, carers and families as a planned and purposeful process in meeting the needs of vulnerable children
- To value and ensure equality, fairness and diversity in the school community and beyond
- To ensure that efficiency, effectiveness, integrity and accountability underpin the principles of the Organisation

Management

- An Executive Committee is elected at the AGM
- The Executive Committee meets five times a year with Marketing and CPD Sub-Committee meetings timetabled in advance
- The four Executive Officers become directors of the company limited by guarantee
- Valuable and collaborative links exist between other organisations working in the maintained, non-maintained and independent sectors
- **SWALSS** in a not-for-profit organisation: operational costs are kept to a minimum, with accounts audited annually for the AGM
- The part-time management team comprises a Chief Executive, Finance Manager and Secretary

Review and Development – 25 Years On! (Ode to Geoff Hogg)

In June 2008, the **SWALSS** Executive asked the part-time Chief Executive to lead on a programme of review and development in consultation with the Sub-Committees, DCSF, LA's, School Leadership Teams and other service providers.

The task was to be set within a context of a professional organisation with 25 years successful achievement and a high standing national reputation that is working in a market place with an increasing range of good CPD activities becoming available to special schools and colleges.

Action Plan priorities emerging from the review:

- Quality assurance framework
- A revised corporate image and business model
- Recruit to the Chief Executive a Senior LA Officer and NCSL representative
- Operational Team restructure
- Prudent financial management
- Meetings venues to be in schools
- To obtain a sponsor
- Income generation
- Marketing sub-committee established
- Website improvement
- Membership benefits package
- Data set information
- Insurance: personal injury and liability cover
- Re-establish links with South Wales Special Heads
- 6 monthly meetings with G.O.S.W.
- Residential conferences programme
- Residential conferences reduced to 2 days/nights due to cost and time out of school
- Custom built CPD programme
- Programme of bespoke workshops and day conference 2009-10

The 15 Most Irritating Phrases in Professional Settings

1. Thinking outside the box
2. Touch base
3. At the end of the day
4. Going forward
5. All of it
6. Blue sky thinking
7. Out of the box
8. Credit crunch
9. Heads up
10. Singing from the same hymn sheet
11. Pro-active
12. Downsizing
13. Ducks in a row
14. Brainstorming
15. Thought shower

Research: London University, sample: 2035 adults

Membership

Why is a SWALSS Membership being introduced?

- To ensure a proactive, progressive and secure future for **SWALSS** in the field of special educational needs
- To have sufficient financial income to cover operational costs and to provide a contingency for an annual programme of professional development within the South and South West
- To be in a position to respond to emerging priorities and trends, in providing a bespoke and
- competitively priced service to a continuum of professionals supporting children with special
- educational needs, within a range of educational and care settings
- To underpin quality assurance and professional expectations, in comparing favourably with other organisations with a similar statement of purpose from within the learning difficulties and disabilities sector

Why should my school or specialist college become a member?

- Declaration of support and commitment to the future of **SWALSS**
- Joining a highly regarded and established organisation with 25 years of measurable achievement
- To be part of an organisation that embraces the education and care of young people with learning difficulties and disabilities in schools, colleges, pre-school and PRUs
- To benefit from an established association with the DCSF and GOSW, allowing access on behalf of members in response to general matters of concern: DCSF consultancy documents, funding opportunities and regional initiatives
- On-going practice of collaborative working with established specialist organisations from within the field of special educational needs
- A commitment to partnership with parents, carers and families as a planned and purposeful process in meeting the needs of vulnerable children
- Valuing and ensuring equality, fairness and diversity in the school community and beyond

What is the annual membership fee?

The membership fee for each institution is £95.00

- This amount can be recouped via the additional benefits listed below and an application form is attached:
- 10% discount on delegate places on residential conferences, day conferences and study days
- A **SWALSS** membership plaque for the school reception area
- Newsletter: 2 per year – October and May
- Website access
- Opportunities for professional liaison regionally and the sharing of good practice
- Hotel and leisure concessions update

Forthcoming Events: 2009/10

Details of the following have been emailed to your school/college, Head of Service with further information available from Imogen Motley: imogen.motley@virgin.net

Residential Conferences: The Grand Hotel, Torquay

- Bursars / Administrators 5-7 October 2009
- Heads / Principals 28-29 January 2010
- Deputies / Assistant Heads 8-9 March 2010
- Bursars / Administrators 11-12 October 2010

Workshops (3): The New Ofsted Framework

- 28 November 2009 Southbrook College, Exeter, Devon
- To be confirmed Beaucroft School, Wimborne, Dorset
- 5 December 2009 Alderman Knight School, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire

Workshops 10.00am - 1.00pm

NCSL / SWALSS: 2010

Day Conference – venue and date to be confirmed: Developing Aspiring Leaders in Special Schools

Day Conferences: 2010

Dublin, Guernsey and Alton – subject to further planning – details to be distributed

Appointments:

SWALSS extends its best wishes to the following colleagues having obtained promotions:

Headteachers

Martin Dean: Bidwell Brook School, Dartington

James Franzen: Mountjoy School, Bridport

Claire May: Pathfield School, Barnstaple

Bronwen Caschere: Southbrook College, Exeter

Jane Long: Fort Royal School, Worcester

Anne Thorn: Longcause School, Plympton

Deb Ratley: Chadsgrove School, Bromsgrove

Cynthia Pitts: Rigby Hall School, Bromsgrove

Deputy / Assistant Headteachers

Claire Wills: Penrose School, Bridgewater

Paul Humphreys: Deputy Headteacher
Langside School, Poole

Norma Baker: Deputy Headteacher at Yewstock
in Sturminster Newton

Donna Parsons: Deputy Headteacher
Southbrook College, Exeter

Alan Tilley: Assistant Headteacher, Southbrook
College, Exeter

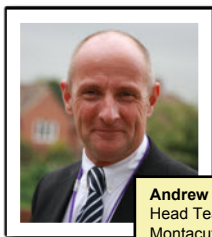
Matthew Day: Assistant Headteacher,
Southbrook College, Exeter



Delegate feedback from conferences: 2008 / 09

- New to my job, I found the content so useful and informative – just what I needed
- As the School Secretary in a small special school I have benefited enormously from the experience
- As a Head of long standing – yet another excellent conference
- A very good conference providing invaluable networking opportunities for Deputies / Assistant Heads. Bar prices a bit expensive
- A well run residential conference in a lovely hotel setting – food and room excellent
- Apart from the noisy couple in the next bedroom, I have had excellent value for money once again. A lot to think about!
- A very good conference – full days, stamina essential

SWALSS Executive Committee 2009/2010



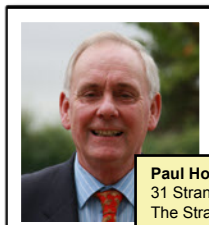
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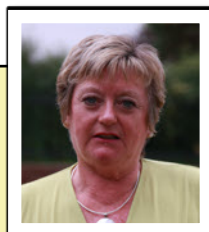


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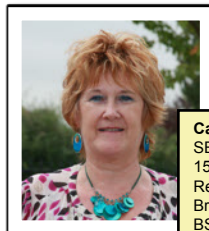
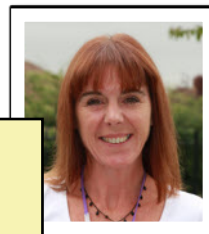


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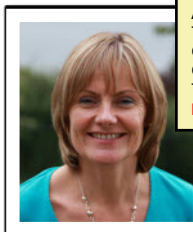
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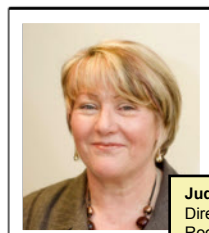
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