

REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Reaching Out Project

Working in partnership with Birmingham City Council Adults and Communities Directorate, Midland Mencap have set up the Reaching Out Project.

The Reaching Out Project provides a citywide outreach information and Support Service for parent/carers and young people with a learning disability from South Asian and Black descent. The Reaching Out Project also helps parent/carers to become better informed about workings of health, education, social care and welfare systems.

We've developed strong partnerships with Social Services, health teams and special schools. Critically, we have gained the trust of parents, carers and young people we support.

The success of the project in Birmingham led Royal Mencap, our national associate, to commission and evaluation of our work. This culminated in the publication of the Reaching Out report and DVD.

Reaching Out is now nationally recognized as a model of good practice in engaging with black and minority ethnic communities.

Aims of the service:

The role of the service will be to offer the following support across Birmingham:

- Advocate on behalf of parent/carers and young people
- Advice and guidance on learning disability issues
- Access to accessible information
- Befriending Service
- Benefit advice
- Sign Posting Service

The team will also attend meetings with/on behalf of parent carers. This can be with the following organisations:

- Benefits Team
- Birmingham City Council
- Community Nurses and Health Teams
- Education SEN
- Respite Services
- Social Care & Health
- Various Voluntary Organisations

Parent/Carer Support Groups:

The project has established two Parent/Carers Support Groups, running monthly in Handsworth and Sparkhill area of the City. The group offers time to relax, have a

coffee and meet other people in similar situations, socialize and be involved in shaping the groups to deliver the support they may want.

Bringing information, support and direct access to people who can support you in matters on Learning Disability, the Support Groups are a relaxed and fun way to socialize and learn new things.

Each month we aim to arrange different activities and trips throughout the year.

For further information contact

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