

June 2021



**DYSPRAXIA  
FOUNDATION**

recognising developmental  
co-ordination disorders

Dear Trustees

On behalf of everyone at the Dyspraxia Foundation, we hope that you are keeping well and enjoying the warmer weather as summer makes a long-awaited appearance. I am delighted to bring you this update from our community of all the impactful and supportive initiatives we've been delivering since we last updated you in February.

We have been delighted to have had a busy few months raising awareness of Dyspraxia. From contributing to the successful BBC Radio documentary on Dyspraxia, which aired on Radio Sheffield and Devon in May and June. We also helped celebrate and represent dyspraxia at Neurodiversity Celebration Week between 15-21 March. With so many having struggled with either getting a diagnosis or managing their dyspraxia since the pandemic, we hope that our efforts to raise awareness and provide support are making a big impact on those who need it the most.

### Helpline

We've continued to see demand for our support increase and are now steadily receiving over 100 enquiries to our helpline *every month*, which is up 30% on this time last year. Over half of the enquiries we are seeing are coming from parents of children with dyspraxia, who have been feeling the impact of home schooling and the change of routine at school.

*"I really appreciate your help. Previous to contacting you and our local group we have felt overwhelmed with not knowing what to do. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."* Helpline user

### The APPG on Dyspraxia

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Dyspraxia led by Emma Lewell-Buck MP and Tom Hunt MP (both of whom are adults living with dyspraxia) held its first evidence session on 24<sup>th</sup> March via Zoom. This session looked at the impact that the pandemic and specifically lockdown has had on primary and secondary school children.



Our community played an integral role in responding to the call for evidence, which highlighted key issues for our community, such as the range of support being offered by schools, which was hugely diverse and often not meeting requirements for many children. It also highlighted the lack of awareness in schools around physical challenges and non-motor challenges both during home schooling and returning to a different school routine.

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Patrons: Dr Ian McKinlay Bsc, MB, Chb, DCH, FRCP, Dr W James Appleyard MA, BM, FRCP, MRCS, Lady Isabella Naylor-Leyland, Jeffery Barratt



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### **Dyspraxia Youth Group**

The Dyspraxia Youth Group have continued to provide vital peer support, information and most importantly fun and connection for our youngest members. During the most recent lockdown, our Youth Group members took part in a photography project entitled 'Life in Lockdown', which enabled them to share their experiences of dyspraxia in lockdown. At the end of June we will also be launching a virtual employment event for the group, which will cover key issues, such as applying for jobs and CV writing, plus much more.

Our Youth Officer has been running focus groups with our Youth Group members to identify new activities and support that they would like to see from us and ensure that we continue to meet their needs as we navigate the roadmap of the pandemic restrictions.

We have also recruited two volunteer Education Advisors, who will be co-chairing our Education Panel and supporting any education related enquiries to our helpline. We hope that this will strengthen support for children and young people with dyspraxia, their parents and educators.



### **Local Support Groups**

Our local support groups have continued to be there for their local communities and have continued to grow. We currently have 26 groups across the UK and 5 new volunteer coordinators looking to set up new groups in their local region. We know from feedback that these groups provide valued information and peer support on a local level to those with dyspraxia and their families.

As the government has announced the UK's roadmap in returning to 'normal life', we will continue to remain in close contact with our community, asking them what they are most apprehensive about and how we can continue to best support their needs both now and in the coming months ahead.

I look forward to the day when one day I can bring you these updates in person. Until then, on behalf of everyone here at the Dyspraxia Foundation - I'd like to once again say *thank you* for your kind support and to wish you continued good health.

Kind regards

Eleanor Howes  
CEO

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