

Our training, workshops and conferences

Over the past few years our training work has taken a back seat in relation to the development of some of our other services. However, supporting parents and carers and schools in how they work with each other to support the gifted child must be an essential part of the service we provide.

In this way we will raise awareness of the issues they all face and give them the self-confidence to support the gifted child in their care.

Over the past year, we have carried out this work in a number of ways:

- By running activities ourselves for the benefit of parents and carers and teachers. The best example of this is our BIG Family Weekend which in 2008 attracted more than 400 parents/carers and 400 children and young people. Another example is the training workshops we run in schools for teachers
- By running activities in partnership with other organisations
- By delivering workshops at conferences and events organised by other organisations

How this service delivers public benefit

This service delivers public benefits in a number of ways, including:

- It provides parents/carers and teachers with the skills and confidence they need to support gifted children. This can help to solve or reduce any social or emotional problems they might otherwise have experienced
- It can educate others in the needs of the gifted child and how they should be supported. This is extremely important to increase understanding of and empathy towards this group of children

In 2008-2009 the achievements of this service included:

- Ensuring quality of service provision - 88% of attendees rated our BIG Family Weekend as good or brilliant; it had more than 800 people attending 85 activities for children and 16 workshops for parents/carers
- Delivering a range of workshops for parents and teachers to help ensure that each understood the needs of the other and how to work with them effectively for the benefit of the gifted child
- Developing a distance learning training package in gifted and talented education for use with parents/carers and to support teachers
- Developing of an activity pack for teachers, parents and others for future use with all children during NAGC's 'Its Alright to be Bright!' week in September 2009
- Securing a contract from CfBT to carry out 32 workshops for parents/carers in the Black Country and to produce a DVD to raise the confidence of parents about sending their child to university. All of this will be useful for our post 16 work with parents and carers

What we would like to have done better

- We had hoped to obtain funding for a staff member to coordinate and deliver our training programme. This was not possible so we had to divide the initiative between existing members of staff who volunteered to undertake this work in addition to their normal duties



“ We would have liked to have had more of a presence on the conference circuit and be used as keynote speakers and workshop leaders more often. ”

- We had hoped to relaunch the successful conference programme which NAGC used to run but we did not have the resources to do this in 2008/9
- We would have liked to have had more of a presence on the conference circuit and be used as keynote speakers and workshop leaders more often. We believe that we have a clear message to put forward about the importance of parents/carers in the education of a gifted child. However, we did not have the capacity to do this in 2008/9
- Pilot our distance learning training package with teachers from Select Education
- Form a partnership with a university or college to develop our distance learning package
- Run a conference for teachers and parents/carers about the importance of working together for the benefit of the gifted child
- Develop our work with a major national conference provider so that we have a presence on the conference circuit



In 2009-2010 we want to:

- Deliver training to at least 1000 parents/carers and 500 teachers as part of the work we do
- Launch the DVD for parents about their child going to university
- Pilot and develop our post 16 parent/carer workshops
- Run another successful BIG Family Weekend for at least 1000 people
- Pilot online ticketing through our website to make our events easier to book for families
- Develop and disseminate a formal programme of workshops and training



Working in partnership with schools

Each year NAGC works in partnership with member schools to provide a range of creative and critical thinking skills workshops.