

So soon? This second edition of the Electronic Dynamic Voices has followed No. 1 rather quicker than we anticipated – but there were encouraging signs that needed passing on, and other things to share!

Funding I – are LEA’s getting the message?

There are encouraging signs that English LEA’s are starting to get the message that they DO have a responsibility to provide communication aids for children.

During August Mrs D from Sussex heard that her challenge to the LEA had, at least partially, been successful – the part referring to getting speech aids onto the statement and provided for her twin daughters.

Although this was only a partial success, as Mrs D had also been fighting for better placement for the girls, which was not so successful, at least the tribunal recognised the need for the girls to be provided with their speech aids.

We ALL need to keep fighting for the rights of the children. We shouldn’t have to, but we do. Let’s not allow LEA’s and other authorities to get away with not providing what they should!

Funding II – public awareness

Perhaps one of the areas that we all need to concentrate on is making the public aware of what a terrible system there is that allows someone who cannot walk a wheelchair, someone who cannot hear a hearing aid, but ignores someone who cannot talk.

We are working with the BHTA PR agency to run a series of stories of people who have benefited from speech aids, and those who have been left without – and the effects on their lives. If you have such a story, or know of someone who does – please let us know.

**In addition – if you have been successful if getting funding – however you have done it, and are happy for to share your story to encourage others – please let Dave Morgan know at
(david.morgan@dynavox.co.uk)**

*******Funding III – A FREE open forum at Communication Matters*******

In an attempt to drive forward the Funding debate, DynaVox Systems has organised a FREE “Ask the Experts” forum on Monday afternoon at CM in Leicester, from 1.30 until 5 pm. There will be 2 sessions, 2.15-3.15 and 4.00-5.00 pm, with an opportunity for personal discussions between 1.30 and 2.15 and 3.15 and 4. On the panel will be David Ruebain, a solicitor from London who is regarded as one of the UK’s highest authorities in his field and is well known for his tireless work for the rights of disabled people and those with Special Education Needs, Lew Golinker, a US attorney who specialises in fighting for the funding rights of individuals in the USA and has successfully challenged funding restrictions in both the US and Canada, plus representatives from DynaVox UK and USA.

Regardless of whether your interest is with a DyanVox product or an alternative system, this is your opportunity to get legal advice with regard to funding AT NO COST, as DynaVox will be funding all representatives on the panel. Don’t miss this one-off opportunity!

Series 4 Training DVD from DynaVox

We have produced a DVD based on the "Introduction to Series 4" training course. It is the filmed version of a session done by James Rowe direct at camera (ie no delegates) and includes such things as getting started, cleaning/maintenance, loading pictures, recording sound files, infra red recording etc. The DVD is broken down into chapters so it can be used for a specific piece of training, as the need arises, then stopped. If you would like a copy of this DVD please call the helpline on 01384-446789. There is no charge.