

Report on the Awareness Days held at Worcester on 15th November 2015, addressing the subject of Children with Special Needs

Almost 40 people attended the above day looking at the difficulties which families of children with special needs have to deal with on a daily basis. Personal testimonies were shared which were a mixture of moving, funny, informative and all inspirational. The Chairperson of Gloucestershire National Autistic Society gave an explanation of the problems the autistic face with practical examples of how these problems can be dealt with.

Two important issues came out of the day, firstly the needs of carers:

- Need to be encouraged
- Need to be asked how you are coping. Both carers especially dad. Ask siblings too
- Need to be told you are doing a good job at the time. Not just telling others
- Practical help school holidays be there to help minding
- Babysitting is very difficult to get. Just a couple of hours
- At Meeting service stay with child to let parents be together.
- Invite to a shared meal.
- Understanding if we say no.
- Show empathy rather than sympathy
- Pray for us

Secondly the need for a support network for families. Many spoke of the sense of isolation they felt and would benefit from being in touch with others in a similar situation.

Contact for the support group – Jill at timjill@btinternet.com

Contact details for this can be found on the CSN website. www.chsn.org.uk

November 2014