

Press release

Dyslexia Awareness Week, 6 - 11 November 2017

Positive about dyslexia

Did you know that 1 in 10 children and adults in Scotland have dyslexia, meaning that they face each day with new challenges?

Did you know that dyslexia is not just about spelling, reading and writing – it can also cause difficulties with short-term memory, organisational and processing skills?

And did you know that children and adults with dyslexia have some of the best creative abilities, out of the box thinking and problem solving skills amongst our population?

Awareness of dyslexia is rising but there is still some misunderstanding of it and the impact it can have on people's lives. If dyslexia is not properly supported it can lead to low confidence and under achievement.

The good news is that there is now lots of help and support for children and adults who may have dyslexia and Dyslexia Awareness Week aims to highlight this. The theme of Dyslexia Awareness Week this year is 'Positive about dyslexia' Dyslexia Scotland will highlight the many strengths of children and adults with dyslexia whilst acknowledging the difficulties it can present.

Dyslexia Awareness Week on 6 - 11 November will raise awareness and understanding of dyslexia through an exciting range of events taking place across Scotland. The programme, put together by Dyslexia Scotland and partners, -will signpost people to sources of information, support and advice.

A key attraction during the week will be the premiere screening of Scottish documentary 'Dyslexia: Educate Me' by filmmaker Trevor Thomson who is himself dyslexic. The film will be shown in Glasgow on 7 November, followed by a panel discussion with dyslexia experts and individuals with dyslexia. Free places are available to the public.

Other special events include the launch of our new website for children and young people with dyslexia, Dyslexia Unwrapped, on 9 November in Edinburgh. The launch event will include talks by one of our inspirational Ambassadors, Paul McNeill and Margaret Rooke, author of 'Dyslexia Is My Superpower (Most of the Time)' which features stories and drawings by children with dyslexia from all over the world.

Dyslexia Scotland's network of 19 volunteer-led [branches](#) and 3 [Adult Networks](#) will also be active in their local communities across Scotland with a range of meetings open to the public.

All of the events taking place can be seen on [Dyslexia Scotland's website](#).

People can also show their support during Dyslexia Awareness Week by wearing one of 'Ellie's Blue Dyslexia Ribbons', 40,000 of which have been distributed across Scotland this year. Ellie, Dyslexia Scotland's first Young Person's Ambassador, launched this campaign in 2013 to help other young people feel comfortable and confident with dyslexia.

People can also attach a 'Twibbon' to their Facebook or Twitter account during the week. Details of how to do this will be on the homepage of Dyslexia Scotland's website.

For all the latest information and resources about Dyslexia Awareness Week in Scotland, including free, downloadable presentations for schools, workplaces and the community, go to: www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk/dyslexia-awareness-week.

Notes to the Editor

1. Dyslexia is a combination of abilities and difficulties that affect the learning processes in reading, spelling, writing, mathematics, memory or organisation. One in ten people in Scotland are thought to be dyslexic, with up to one in four of these thought to be severely dyslexic.
2. Dyslexia Scotland is the national voluntary organisation representing the needs and interests of people with dyslexia in Scotland. It provides advice and support for dyslexic children, parents and adults with dyslexia. Dyslexia Scotland is based in Stirling, with a network of 19 volunteer-led branches across Scotland.
3. Dyslexia Scotland's Helpline: 0344 800 8484
Dyslexia Scotland's website: www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk

Dyslexia Scotland's new website for young people **(live from 9 November)**
www.unwrapped.dyslexiascotland.org.uk

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