

## **Dyslexia Scotland Education Conference, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

Dyslexia Scotland will hold its annual Education Conference at the University of Dundee on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The theme of this year's conference is 'Dyslexia Challenges and Solutions'.

Conference delegates will learn more about how they can support pupils with dyslexia. They will hear from renowned Educational Psychologist, Dr. Rob Long, who will be providing our keynote speech, entitled 'Dyslexia: the social, emotional and behavioural challenges'. Dr. Long is back by popular demand and will provide a dynamic and motivational start to the day.

Each delegate will take part in two interactive workshops and browse the exhibitors' area, before the next keynote speaker, Zeki Basan, an engaging young man who has dyslexia. In 2014, Zeki was awarded "Young Adventurous Learner of the Year 2014" by the Cairngorm National Park and in 2015 he won the first national Youth Award for Excellence in Mountain Culture and became the first Ambassador of the Mountain Festival in Fort William. The audience will include teaching staff as well as volunteers who work in Dyslexia Scotland's network of branches and Adult Networks, many of whom are parents and adults with dyslexia.

Cathy Magee, Dyslexia Scotland's Chief Executive said,

"The 2014 'Education Scotland report, 'Making Sense: Education for Children and young people with dyslexia in Scotland' highlighted that young people with dyslexia attain significantly less well than their peers with no additional support needs. Among the report's recommendations was improved access to high quality career-long professional opportunities.

Our Education conference this year is an excellent professional development opportunity for teaching staff in primary and secondary schools to further develop their skills and knowledge in supporting pupils with dyslexia. We are delighted to welcome so many delegates."

### NOTES TO EDITOR

1. Practical Workshops include:
  - Dyslexia and Inclusive Schools
  - Dyslexia: Linking Assessment and Intervention
  - Transitions from Primary to Secondary
  - Assistive Technology in the Classroom
  - Music and Phonological Awareness
2. 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 is thought to be dyslexic, with up to one in four of these thought to be severely dyslexic.
3. 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 and adults as well as for parents and those who work with them

including teachers. **Dyslexia Scotland's helpline: 0344 800 8484** **Dyslexia Scotland's website: [www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk](http://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk)**

4. *The link to the 'Addressing Dyslexia' Toolkit is:*

<http://www.addressingdyslexia.org/>

5. For more information, please contact Cathy Magee at [cathy@dyslexiascotland.org.uk](mailto:cathy@dyslexiascotland.org.uk) or 01786 44 66 50