

Experts lend parents advice to ease trying times

26 June 2007

A panel of **four medical experts** helped to raise **£1500** for children and families charity, Norwood this week, in a lively and informative evening, organised by the **Make a Difference Committee**. The event, which took place on Monday 25 June 2007 at The Pentland Centre in Finchley was attended by **65 parents and prospective parents**, who came to have their questions on **conception, birth and the challenges of parenting young children and teenagers**, answered.

Caroline Cosgrove, founder of **Baby Concierge**, introduced the impressive panel, who gave short presentations and then took questions from the floor. **Yehudi Gordon** is a Consultant Gynaecologist and Obstetrician at St John & St Elizabeth Hospital. He pioneered active birth and water birth and has helped numerous celebrities through birth. He is the author of **Birth and Beyond**, which has been endorsed by Emma Thompson and will soon publish his next book called **Babies Know**. He said "I'm pleased to be here to help raise money for Norwood's vital work in our community supporting children and families coping with disabilities and social disadvantage."

Dr Caroline Fertleman is a Consultant Paediatrician at The Whittington Hospital. She kindly sold copies of her book *Your Baby Week by Week* donating the profits to Norwood. She has a personal connection with Norwood as her son attended Binoh, Norwood's education and therapy service working with pupils with special educational needs who attend mainstream schools. Dr Fertleman said, "Norwood has been there for my family and provided great comfort."

Mr Gidon Lieberman, Consultant Gynaecologist and sub-specialist in Reproductive Medicine and Surgery at The Whittington Hospital shared his research about infertility. With 1 in 6 couples in the UK facing problems conceiving, more couples are turning to the medical profession for answers.

Dr Terry Segal, Consultant in Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at University College London Hospital told the audience, that 13% of our population are teenagers and of those 80-90% are healthy. 90% see their GP once a year. The most important message from Dr Segal, was to find ways to encourage young people to talk about their problems with parents, doctors and health care professionals.

Michelle Lassman, Norwood Community Fundraiser said, "The evening was very informative and enjoyable and the calibre of the panellists who took part was very impressive. We would like to thank the panellists for giving up their time and thank everyone who came to support the evening organised by the Make a Difference Committee who raise money for Norwood's vital services."

The Make a Difference committee, who host events for parents of young children to raise money for Norwood is made up of five young mothers, Sarah Callman, Jane Neerkin, Sharon Zelouf, Danielle Onona and Emma Homel.

For further information contact Norwood's Community Fundraiser.

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