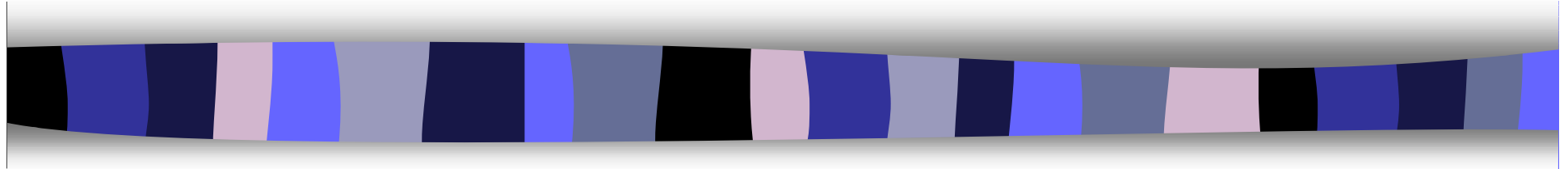


# National Assembly for Wales Education Committee

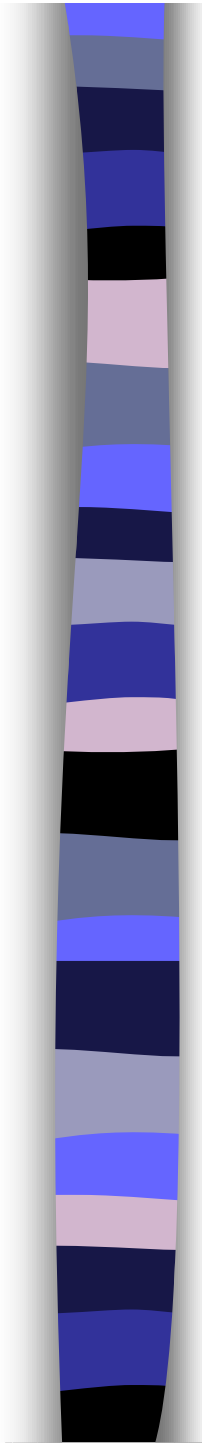


Presentation by Afasic Cymru  
25<sup>th</sup> February 2004



## Speech, Language & Communication difficulties

- Dyslexia
- Selective mutism
- Dyspraxia
- Semantic & Pragmantic Disorder
- Asperger's Syndrome
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder



# Working Together Speech & Language Services for children & young people

Audit data as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003 0 – 19 years

- Active SLT caseload identified 15,504
- Number of children on waiting lists (not yet seen) 6,176
- Total number of wte SLT's 151
- Percentage waiting time 40%
- Some NHS Trusts have a waiting time of 72 weeks for an initial appointment
- No provision for services through the medium of any language other than English or Welsh
- Very little support to Secondary School age children
- 1 specialist school



## The Need for Afasic in Wales

- Afasic is not a service provider – so as an organisation it can offer its' members balanced, impartial information.
- Raise awareness of the difficulties that children with SLI have to deal with.
- Support practitioners within the field, and encourage collaborative working practices between local agencies and other voluntary organisations.
- Research indicates that there are about 58,000 children (0-18years) with a significant form of speech and language difficulty in Wales. Speech & Language impairments (SLI) affect about 6% of school age children (James Law 1998) – 29,000 children in Wales. An average of 2 in every classroom.
- 1 in 500 children retain a severe long term difficulty. (David Hall 1996)



# Afasic Cymru Strategic Plan

- Recruit staff & establish office base in Wales. Translation of relevant existing Afasic literature into Welsh language
- Produce 3 Newsletters for Wales each year
- Identify & produce new bilingual material for Wales
- Raising the awareness of the needs of children & young adults with speech, language & communication difficulties
- Continue to offer direct support and local information to parents and carers
- Continue to represent Afasic at every level
- Organise Inaugural Afasic Cymru conference
- Organise local training opportunities for parents and professionals
- Identify and promote models of good practice
- Establish links with FE colleges and local employers
- Support transition of young people with SLI
- Ensure every primary school in Wales has received an Afasic information pack.