



Openness in Families

A changing landscape

Autumn Conference, Sheffield
Saturday 7th October, 11am - 4.30pm

The Circle, 33 Rockingham Ln, Sheffield City Centre, Sheffield S1 4FW

Time	Activity	Location
11am	Registration and tea/coffee	Conf Suite
11:30am	Welcome and introductions	Conf Suite
11.40am	Openness in a culture of secrecy Namita talks about how she and her husband approached telling family and their wider community when they decided to use a sperm donor	Conf Suite
12 noon	Family panel: Expectations and reality Two DC families with older children join Namita to discuss their experiences and perspectives over time Q&A	Conf Suite
12:50pm	LUNCH followed by tea/coffee	Conf Suite
1:50pm	Extending family connections - a guide for parents Jane Ellis, longstanding member and DCN workshops manager, discusses navigating the options and implications for DC families searching for genetic connections Jane is joined by Freya, a young DC adult, who describes her own journey of discovery which started when she registered with the Donor Conception Register at 16 Q&A	Conf Suite
2:35pm	Comfort break	Conf Suite
2:45pm	Small groups Opportunity to meet others and discuss the issues raised during the day	Breakout rooms
3:50pm	Closing words	Conf Suite
4pm	TEA AND CAKE	Conf Suite
4:30pm	Day ends	



General Information

Venue	<p>The Circle, 33 Rockingham Ln, Sheffield City Centre, Sheffield S1 4FW (0114 253 6600)</p> <p>This year we're using a lovely central venue.</p> <p>We don't have access to the kitchens but will provide tea, coffee and biscuits during the day, and the option of booking lunch for £10 or 'bring your own' (all eating together). And of course, cake at the end.</p>
Tickets and info	<p>Prospective parents, parents and professionals working in the field are all invited to book adult tickets. We offer a standard ticket as well as a low wage ticket for those that need.</p> <p>If you're a parent of teenage children please do encourage them to come, and if you're a donor conceived person you're also very much invited.</p> <p>If you would be interested in facilitating a small group, please let us know.</p> <p>We're offering a creche for children aged 6mos–8yrs. Still a few spaces left (see below)! You're welcome to bring babes-in-arms up to 6mos, but do let us know on the form.</p>
Creche	<p>We're unable to accommodate children at the conference itself aside from babes-in-arms (see above), but are providing a subsidised creche for young children aged 6mos-8yrs. Costs for the day are £60 for a child under 5, £50 for 5-8s. They will join you in the conference suite for lunch and for cake at the end!</p>
Cost	<p>Including lunch: £65 per adult; £20 per DC teen or DC adult (18+)</p> <p>'Bring your own' lunch: £55 per adult; £10 per DC teen or DC adult (18+)</p>
Booking deadlines Refunds	<p>The deadline for bookings is 29th September.</p> <p>We will refund fees for cancellations received before 29th September. Unfortunately, we're not able to refund you after this date.</p>
Getting there	<p>Directions: Please see The Circle's directions on their website here for travel by car, rail, Sheffield Supertram or bike.</p> <p>Parking: The Circle is partnered with QPark, offering visitors half-price parking at the nearby Rockingham Street car park. It has more than 500 spaces and is a 2-minute walk from the venue, so this is the best place to park if you're coming by car. To access the 50% discount, book a parking space online in advance and enter The Circle's discount code at checkout.</p> <p>We'll provide the parking discount code nearer the time, once received from the venue.</p>

Contact information

Booking queries: Tel: 020 7278 2608 or events@dcnetwork.org

Last minute queries on the day/ apologies (please use text/WhatsApp): 07503 567 212

Attending a small discussion group

We always offer small discussion groups at our conferences. These groups are an opportunity to meet others in the Network in similar circumstances to your own.



The discussion groups are a great way for people to meet and get to know each other more personally. The groups aren't teaching groups or workshops.

If you need more support

Here are some other resources and services that might be helpful to you:

- **BOOKS** – from the Library or the DCN Bookshop.
We have a range of books for children, for parents and for family and friends.
- **WORKSHOPS** – We offer two fantastic workshops. “**Destination Parenthood**” if you have not yet conceived and “**Telling and Talking**” if you have children. Have a look on the website for further details or ask a member of staff.
- **DCN CHATS** – we offer a variety of topic based online chats for members. These are similar to our discussion groups, small and facilitated, but online rather than in-person.
- **LOCAL MEETUPS** – we offer a number of local meetups, organised by volunteers. They are listed on the website members area and the ‘What’s going on at DCN’ bulletin every Monday offers links and information to upcoming events. Contact the office if you would like to set something up yourself.
- **DCN HELPLINE** -please contact us at the office for further support.
- **COUNSELLING** – we have a list of BICA counsellors and other specialists who understand about donor conception that we can connect you with.

