

To parents

Its been an amazing job! A roller coaster of experiences, with lots of laughter and some tears, and many good friends made along the way. The KAOS “brand” is well known and trusted thanks to a terrific team who you all know, and it has been a privilege to work with them on your behalf. It has fallen to me to fight for many a stroppy teenager on the point of being chucked out of school, and persuading their schools to keep on trying. I think there will always be a need for strong advocacy for your children. And what with the rules being tightened up on bad behaviour things are going to get more, not less, difficult.

My successor in September is Peter Miller. I wish him well, and hope you will go to him and the team for all your school based problems.

The Young Adult group has run for the last three years. Pete and I have done outings whenever we could fit them in. I was considering giving that up, but the message I am getting is, please keep on. There is no other service for young adults with ASD who are not disabled or have learning difficulties. So we figured after the trip to North Yorkshire, probably the best way to continue would be to run bigger and longer events like this three or four times a year.

Those of you who know me well will know that I am not the retiring type. I am going into new areas of work with people in conflict, especially Mediation, and the Alternatives to Violence Project. But another way I thought I could be useful is to provide some kind of sanctuary for those families who are desperate for help, but can't get respite from Social Services. I live in a very peaceful and beautiful place, with a large allotment where there is always work to be done, and I have a spare bedroom! If that sounds appealing, give me a call. 01484 845265 jl@cooptel.net

Finally, there are two new books coming out in September. A new edition of “I can't do that!” and another called “Social stories for kids in conflict”. This is based on all the “dialogues” and mediation work I have done with your children over the last ten years.

John Ling