Issue 2 - Autumn 2024

PINS NEWSLETTER

Shropshire

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Welcome back

We hope you have had a positive start to the new academic year. It has been a pleasure to meet you all and facilitate the conversations with your specialists at the brokerage meetings. I am sure you will agree, this has been an essential step in the delivery of PINS, as it has given the opportunity to create a truly bespoke package of support for your schools.

In this issue we have included the menu of CPD to support your other domains, which you have all welcomed. To book onto these sessions, or for any further information, please contact Sophia.

Siân & Sophia

A message from our PCF Partners:

Thank-you for your support in sharing and promoting the Parent Survey. We had a great response with 329 returned in total, of which 191 were from Parent Carers who were supporting a child with SEND or suspected SEND.

A wide range of experiences were shared by parent carers but there are consistent themes across the 20 Shropshire schools. A significant number of responses regarded the benefit of improving communication between schools and families, frustration over difficulties accessing support, and delayed responses to concerns. Parent carers valued continuity and cohesion across the whole school. They felt that some teachers had a good level of SEND knowledge while others had less understanding of how best to support individual children. They report that this leads to inconsistences in approaches and provision which they say impacts the learning and progress of their children.

Parent carers shared their concerns over accessing specialist support as well as support from teaching staff. Funding at a school and county level was mentioned multiple times in relation to diagnosis and access to specialist advice, therapies or interventions. Many parents reported a lack of knowledge of the support that their child receives while in school and many would value more regular updates on issues relating to their child's additional needs. Parent carers would like there to be a better understanding of masking and the implications that this has on their child's education in school and life outside of school.

Parent carers greatly value where staff listen to them and take account of behaviours that happen at home in addition to those they have seen in school. Multiple parent carers report good relationships with schools when this has been the case.

Children's anxiety, and parental anxiety over a child's SEND while they are at school, were also raised as areas of concern. Where this was raised, it was also mentioned alongside communication and a lack of understanding of how their child is being supported in school.

In addition to issues that parents were worried about, there were also many comments praising individual members of staff, the schools and support that families had received. These included parents saying that they had 'chosen a school because classroom environments were particularly inclusive for neurodivergent children', they valued how 'approachable,' 'understanding' and 'supportive' staff were and that they 'felt listened too.'

We are now booking the second Parent Carer group meetings with schools, all of which will be completed by the end of November. These will take place during the hour after drop-off or the hour before pick-up and will be open to any parent carer with SEND attending the school. The meetings will be a chance to discuss the themes in the school's survey responses, to identify the top 3 issues that Parent Carers would like to discuss with the school leaders, and to talk about how everyone can keep in touch and up to date with SEND news. Each Parent Carer group has a closed Facebook group hosted by PACC. These will support ongoing discussions and enable information about the support and services available in Shropshire and wider community to be shared.

After meeting with each Parent Carer group, PACC will work with the school leaders to understand the feedback from families and to work together to respond to the key areas for improvement. While PACC will host a further Parent Carer group meeting in the New Year, ongoing communication and discussion between schools and their Parent Carer community will be encouraged. Thank-you once again for welcoming us into your schools, replying to e-mails quickly and supporting us in setting up the parent carer groups. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Simone Goward
Parent Carer Liaison Lead
PACC

Contact us:

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PINS SPRING CPD MENU

To book your place please email Sophia with delegate name(s) and contact details. Additional information will be shared prior to the sessions

November

07/11/2025 Please see previous communications if you have not yet booked

Dr Kathryn Morgan & Shropshire's Neurodiversity Practitioners *(Specialist Senior Educational Psychologist for Neurodiversity)*

Future In Mind

Understanding & supporting children who are neurodiverse within the classroom

January

07/01/2025 via teams 4pm-5.30pm

Gurmat Singh *(Clinical lead in the BEEU Neurodevelopmental Pathway)*

A discussion supporting the wellbeing of neurodiverse children

Please email any relevant questions or topics you would like to cover to Sophia, these will be collaborated and shared with Gurmat prior to the session to develop an informed discussion

08/01/2025 via teams 4pm-5.30pm

Darren Lennon *(Headteacher of the Linden Centres & BSAT team lead)*

Writing an inclusive behaviour policy

Supporting you to consider Neurodiverse needs when updating your behaviour policy

09/01/2025 via teams 4pm-5.30pm

Niki McGarvey *(SEMH Specialist for MATi outreach services)*

Compassionate support: Practical Strategies for Creating Inclusive and Supportive Environments for Neurodiverse and ALL pupils

This session is designed to equip educational practitioners with the knowledge and tools to foster an inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, with a particular focus on Neurodiversity. Participants will explore practical

16/01/2025 @ STFC (Arthur Rowley Suite) For Headteacher & SENCo

Sarah Thomas & Simone Goward *(Influence & Change Strategic Lead & Parent Carer Liaison Lead)*

PCF Workshop: Making the Relationship Work

Building strong, working relationships with Parent Carers and PACC as part of your local offer
Feedback from Parent Carer Survey

21/01/2025 via teams 4pm-5.30pm

Sarah Thomas & Simone Goward *(Influence & Change Strategic Lead & Parent Carer Liaison Lead)*

Behaviour as communication

Considering needs and supportive strategies for Neurodiverse children who display behaviour that challenges

February

TBC via teams 4pm-5.30pm

Sheri Wright *(Specialist Senior Educational Psychologist)*

Understanding EBSA

05/02/2025 via teams 4pm-5.30pm

Alison Parkinson *(SALT)*

Completing Language Audits

Training to complete a language audit in school and how to action the outcomes

March

04/03/2025 via teams 4pm-5.30pm 1 place per school

Kerry Mclafferty/Dawn Lewis/Nicola King *(Autism West Midlands)*

Autism & Anxiety

Strategies to support children in an educational setting

11/03/2025 via teams 4pm-5.30pm

Kelly Gregg *(Shropshire School Nursing)*

Sensitivity around food and ARFID

What is food sensory and strategies to support children in an educational setting

17/03/2025 via teams 4pm-5.30pm

Katrina Drummond *(Children's occupational therapy)*

Sensory Processing in Schools

Understanding Sensory Processing in schools and strategies to support neurodiverse children

Severn
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