Autumn 2
November 2025

PINS Newsletter

WELCOME BACK

Dear PINS schools,

We hope that the start of the new academic year has been a positive one. While our initial 40 PINS schools are now accessing a series of face-to-face workshops to support the embedding of their bespoke PINS sessions, we also welcome our 30 new schools, who have completed their audit and attended a brokerage meeting to discuss and plan their support, with most already working with their designated practitioners.

A MESSAGE FROM PACC

Thank you to all of our new schools for making us feel so welcome when we visited to meet with your families in Summer term. We appreciate how busy you all are and we're grateful for your help in organising dates for the meetings in Autumn and Spring terms.

Thank you also to those who have been able to join us at our second meeting to share with your Parent Carers your journey on the PINS project so far. It's clear from the feedback we receive from families across Shropshire how important communication is to Parent Carers. Having opportunity to hear from you about the areas you are focusing on helps families understand the changes you are making to support children with SEND within your schools.

It's been great to already see schools looking to make changes following suggestions bought up by Parent Carers in meetings. Following a discussion with Parent Carers, one school are trialling having a member of SLT available at Parents' evening for general SEND enquiries. Parent Carers suggested that this be available for any parent not just those whose child is on the SEN register. Some Parent Carers requested that this be in private rather than in front of other parents and the school are taking this on board also.

Following Parent Carers saying that they feel isolated, another school are setting up a coffee morning as an opportunity for them to get to know one another. They asked Parent Carers when the best time to hold this would be to ensure that more people attend.

Through the closed PACC Facebook groups, we have been able to reach more families than ever before. They are a way for Parent Carers to contact us and through regular posts they enable us to share up-to-date information about support and services available in Shropshire and beyond.

Although we haven't visited our original schools yet this year, we haven't forgotten about you! We will be in contact over the next few weeks to arrange a Teams meeting for this term and an in-person visit for the Spring Term. The focus for us during the embedding year is co-production and we are looking forward to working with you and Parent Carers to facilitate this.

Thank you once more, Simone and Sarah

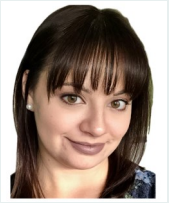
Simone Goward - PACC Parent Carer Liaison

YOUR PINS TEAM:



SIÂN DEANE

PROJECT LEAD



SOPHIA AHMAD

PROJECT SUPPORT OFFICER



SARAH THOMAS

PACC

INFLUENCE AND CHANGE STRATEGIC LEAD



SIMONE GOWARD

PACC PARENT CARER LIAISON



TEACHING AND LEARNING WITH HELEN VINCENT (NEURODIVERSITY PRACTIONER)

Thank you to all those who attended our first workshop. It was a great success, which was echoed in the feedback we received from you.

The session focussed on:

- Recapping what neurodiversity is and the strengths and differences of these learners
- The sharing of good practice from two of the schools Helen supported last academic year
- Embedding neuroinclusive practice
- Raising the profile of neurodiversity
- Upskilling the team

A big thank you to Sorcha (Millbrook Primary) and Dave (Clive Primary) for sharing their incredible work with the implementation of Sensory circuits and the LEANS curriculum.

Our biggest thanks goes to Helen Vincent. Hopefully you have received all the materials from the workshop and the wealth of resources Helen kindly shared with us.

"Really useful and very practical. Good to attend with my Headteacher too, to have a strategic plan put together"

A SPOTLIGHT ON THE EMBEDDING WORKSHOPS

As part of embedding your learning from Year 1 of PINS, we have offered a series of 6 workshops linked to each of the 6 domains.

So far, the workshops have provided a great opportunity to network and share learning amongst all schools.

We hope you enjoy the books you took away with you and find them useful for sharing what neurodiversity is with the children, celebrating the famous neurodivergent people and helping everyone to understand neurodiversity.

Please do remember to contact Sophia if you have not already booked your place on the workshops

SENSORY AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTS WITH CHILDRENS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Our second workshop focussed on developing the sensory and physical domain with two of the occupational therapists who have been working in our PINS schools, Katrina Drummond and Hellen Spriggs.

The session included topics such as:

- Sensory processing for children in school
- Sensory and physical environment audit and adaptions
- Interoceptive curriculum
- OT resources available for school staff and for families to access

This was followed by a fantastic presentation from Helen Hughes, Headteacher of West Felton CE Primary School, regarding changes made due to the support of PINS, including considerations to overcoming potential barriers.

Thank you to our presenters for another successful morning!





Readiness to Learn Embedding Workshop 2025

WRITING A RELATIONAL POLICY WITH DARREN LENNON

The focus for the session was the **Readiness to Learn** domain and was led by Darren Lennon, Headteacher of the Alternative Provision Schools across Telford and Lead for the Behaviour Support Team in Telford. He was joined by the headteacher of Donnington Wood CE Junior School, Robert Fox, who was able to share the significant changes and impact they experienced during Year 1, when they focussed on the readiness to learn domain.

The workshops are designed to celebrate success, share good practice and look at what comes next.

The workshop included a recap on:

- Attachment
- Attachment aware school-thinking about the wider child
- SEND and neurodiversity
- Restorative Policy for all
- Equalities Act/Protected Characteristics
- Connection before correction
- Rapport for reason – with pupils and parents

From the feedback we received it was clear our delegates felt inspired and thoroughly enjoyed the session.

Thanks again to Darren Lennon and Robert Fox for delivering such a successful session

SPECIAL PINS VISIT

Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin has been recognised throughout the duration of the project as a model of good practice, due to our forward thinking, sustainable model, which far exceeds the number of hours expected for delivery of support.

By way of celebration, at our third workshop, Sue North MBE, Deputy Director for Children and Young People, Learning Disability, Autism and SEND and Phil Brayshaw, Head of CYP, National Learning Disability and Autism Programme from NHSE paid us a visit, to network with our schools and see the impact of the ongoing PINS work.

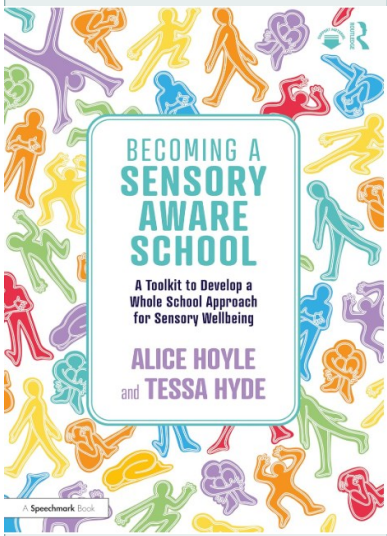
STSA WEBSITE

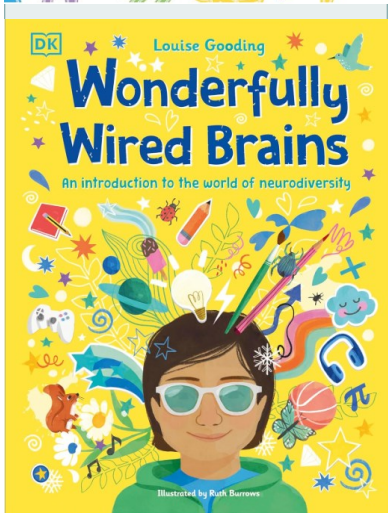
Please note that our website includes the work of PINS and gives some additional background information to the project.

You may find this useful to sign post your stakeholders to, or add the link on your own website to ensure parents know the work you are involved in.

You can find the information here:

PINS – Severn Training and Schools Alliance





THE REMAINING **EMBEDDING** WORKSHOPS

Here are the remaining workshops to look forward to, all delegates can expect to receive additional information and joining instructions prior to the session. To book a place or for any further questions, contact Sophia - sophia.ahmad1@taw.org.uk

Strengthening relationships with parent carers - PACC (Shropshire schools only)
19th November 2025 9am - 12pm at Shrewsbury Town Football Club
Making the relationship work. Co - production of the relational policy may be used to support this, or schools will bring along another policy they wish to co-produce

Strengthening relationships with parent carers - PODS (Telford schools only)
25th November 2025 9am - 12pm at The West Stand, AFC Football Club
Making the relationship work. Co - production of the relational policy may be used to support this, or schools will bring along another policy they wish to co-produce

Communication - SaLT
11th February 2026 9am - 12pm at The West Stand, AFC Telford
Supporting children and young people with developmental language disorder and speech sound disorders

Mental Health and Wellbeing—Nikki Mcgarvey
2nd March 2026 9am - 12pm at Shrewsbury Town Football Club
Reviewing the approaches to compassionate Support: Practical strategies for creating inclusive and supportive environments for neurodiverse and ALL pupils. Understanding how to embed this and how to embed good practice

THE BUDDY SYSTEM

The buddy system has been introduced within our embedding workshops and is available across all domains. It is an opportunity to link with another school who may have a particular strength within a certain domain, to enable you to see that good practice first hand, and take the learning back to your own setting.

Thank you to those who have signed up to be a buddy, or made a request for a buddy. If you have missed one of our workshops but would like to be part of this, please contact Sian or Sophia.

NEURODVIVERSITY BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

To end year one, our PINS schools were gifted with two fantastic books which had been mentioned by various practitioners to support the understanding and celebration of neurodiversity, and a toolkit to develop the whole school offer for sensory wellbeing. Both areas having been raised as an area for development in multiple schools. The books are as follows:



Louise Gooding - Wonderfully Wired Brains Amazon.co.uk : louise gooding

An informative and inclusive children's guide to neurodiversity for those not in the know and to inspire children who are neurodivergent

Alice Hoyle & Tessa Hyde—Becoming a Sensory Aware School Becoming a Sensory Aware School: A Toolkit to Develop a Whole School Approach for Sensory Wellbeing: Amazon.co.uk: Hoyle, Alice, Hyde, Tessa: 9781032529073: Books

WORKSHOPS FOR **EXPAND** (NEW 2025/2026) SCHOOLS

As one of our new schools, you can expect to attend two face-face events, in addition to your bespoke school sessions. These events are a great opportunity to network with the other PINS schools, share good practice and reflect.

Please ensure you book your places with Sophia:

Making the relationship work - PODS (For Telford and Wrekin Schools Only)
17th November 9am - 12pm at The West Stand AFC Telford

Making the relationship work - PACC (For Shropshire Schools Only)
1st December 9am - 12pm at Shrewsbury Town Football Club

Supporting children with neurodiversity in schools - Telford EP Service
12th December 2025 9am - 3pm (Please note this is a full day event)



"Very Informative. Good mix of theory and practice. It was nice to hear from a case study school's perspective."

OUR ONLINE CPD OFFER (FOR **ALL** SCHOOLS)

Supporting the Wellbeing of Neurodiverse children
Gurmat Singh
13th January 2026 4pm-5pm

Education around Sensory with Foods and PICA
Kelly Gregg - Shropshire School Nursing
20th January 2026 4pm-5.30pm

Behaviour as Communication
PODS - For Telford and Wrekin Schools
29th January 2026 4pm-5.30pm

Behaviour as Communication
PACC - For Shropshire Schools
3rd February 2026 4pm-5.30pm

Neurodivergence & ARFID: Care to Eat
Sandra Williamson - Telford School Nursing
10th February 2026 4pm-5.30pm

Exploring Barriers to Education through a Neuroaffirming Lens
Telford Educational Psychology Service
3rd March 2026 4pm-5.30pm

DLD: Assessment and Diagnosis
Gillian Hackett - Speech and Language Therapist
11th March 2026 4pm - 5.30pm

Sensory Processing in the Education Environment
Katrina Drummond—Children's Occupational Therapist
24th March 2026 4pm - 5.30pm

Writing an Inclusive Behaviour Policy
Darren Lennon - HT, BSAT Team Lead, OSTED inspector
TBA





ABOUT STSA

Severn Training & Schools Alliance (STSA – formerly Severn Teaching School Alliance) is based in Telford and is a partner of the Shropshire & Telford Education Partnership Teaching Hub (STEP). The Alliance draws on a large pool of talent and expertise to deliver support for schools, professional development for staff at all stages of their career, and engages in research and development projects. In partnership with the University of Chester, the STSA also offers high quality Early Years and Primary Initial Teacher Training via the PGCE Lead School Partner route.

OUR PRACTITIONERS

Thanks once again to the wonderful practitioners supporting PINS:

Alexa Dunn - Assistant HT at Haughton School, Inclusion/Outreach/Hubs

Hayley Williams - Senior Specialist Outreach Teacher at The Bridge School

Katrina Drummond & Hellen Spriggs - Children's Occupational Therapy

Helen Vincent, Rachel Tomkinson and Hollie Jones - Neurodiversity Practitioners (Shropshire EP Service)

Darren Lennon - HT The Linden Centre, BSAT team lead, OFSTED inspector

Sarah Perrins & Miriam Bristol - MATi Specialist Advisory Teacher (Communication)

Niki Mcgarvey - MATi and Outreach Specialist Advisor (SEMH)

Siân Deane
Sian.deane1@taw.org.uk
Sophia Ahmad
sophia.ahmad1@taw.org.uk

STSA
Brookside Central
Bembridge
Brookside
Telford
TF3 1LP

01952 387237

Severn
Training & Schools Alliance

PODS
Jayne Stevens
jayne@podstelford.org
Uma Bhattia
uma@podstelford.org

PACC
Sarah Thomas
enquiries@paccshropshire.org.uk
Simone Goward
simone@paccshropshire.org.uk