

SEND News Bulletin

Issue: July 2023

Welcome

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the final edition of the Worcestershire SEND News Bulletin for this academic year.

Firstly we would like to begin by expressing our thanks and appreciation for all the work you do to support children and young people across the county. There is a lot of positive work happening in Worcestershire and at a time of increased demand.

In this bulletin you will find important information about the future design of the Worcestershire SENCo Network. With the exception of the Summer Term Conference, all SENCo Network events will be FREE for schools to attend – our aim is to enable ALL Worcestershire SENCOs to join this supportive community and participate in collaborative networking opportunities. Also, please don't forget to complete the annual [WCF SENCo Survey](#) to help create services and support that SENCOs would find most useful. The survey only takes 10 minutes to complete and closes at the end of term.

We would encourage you to read and share with relevant colleagues within your school. We hope that you find the information useful and would welcome any feedback you may have.

Thank you again for your continued support and we wish you all an enjoyable and restful summer break.

Melanie Barnett

Director for All Age Disability (0-25)

Helen Pretty

School Improvement Advisor, SEND/Inclusion



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NATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Mandatory qualification for SENCOs

On 5 July the Department for Education published information about the mandatory qualifications special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCOs) must gain within 3 years of taking up their post.

A national professional qualification for SENCOs is replacing the existing qualification, as announced in the [SEND and alternative provision improvement plan](#). Teaching of the national professional qualification will begin in autumn 2024. The 'transition to national professional qualification' document has more information about this new qualification and the requirements that SENCOs must meet.

[Read government announcement on mandatory qualification for SENCOs](#)

Kooth Update

For professionals supporting young people and/or adults, Kooth are running free webinars that explain how [Kooth](#) and [Qwell](#) can offer support:

Kooth & Qwell: Maternal Mental Health - [18th July, 10-11am](#)

How Kooth & Qwell Can Support with Eating Disorders and Self Injury/ Harm - [Wed 17th Aug, 12-1pm](#) or [Tue 22nd Aug, 4-5pm](#)

How Kooth & Qwell Can Support Male Mental Health - [Wed 16th Aug, 12-1pm](#) or [Mon 21st Aug, 4-5pm](#)

To view a bank of past webinars focused on topics like '**How Kooth and Qwell can support neurodiverse and SEND users**', click on [this link to our Vimeo account](#).

Kooth Podcasts

Join us as we explore compelling stories and share practical techniques to empower young people and adults on their mental health journey.

Our latest podcasts give young people and adults practical techniques to manage anxiety (**Try the STOP Technique for Anxiety**) and shine a light of recognition and understanding for individuals who've experienced being in care (**Pass the Parcel**).

Find us on Spotify and Apple Music by searching for 'Kooth Podcasts' and/or 'Qwell Podcasts'.

Twitter → <http://go.kooth.com/ZgaN>

Instagram stories → <http://go.kooth.com/lkjK>

Your website or learning portal → <http://go.kooth.com/Mloa>

Email to parents and carers → <http://go.kooth.com/YxQb>

Free sight tests for special schools

On 19 June the government and NHS England confirmed [free NHS sight tests will be made available within all special school settings.](#)

Additional testing in special education day schools will be rolled out next year, adding to the commitment in the NHS Long Term Plan to offer sight tests within residential special schools.

Pupils at special schools can face additional challenges in accessing sight testing services via opticians and a successful pilot scheme has proven the benefits of receiving tests and personalised advice in their familiar learning environments.

Backed by £10 million government funding, the testing extension will begin from 2024/25.

LOCAL NEWS & UPDATES

Worcestershire SENCo Network

Worcestershire Children First and Chadsgrove Training School continue their successful collaboration in bringing you a refreshed SENCo Network offer for Worcestershire schools in 2023-2024.

If you attended the SENCo Network Conference in June, you will be aware that a Network Working Group has been established which includes a range of partners and representation from school SENCos across all phases to ensure Network events meet the requirements of SENCos. The SENCo Network is also a valuable forum through which to drive required improvements as outlined in Worcestershire's SEND Accelerated Progress Plan.

Feedback received from SENCos at the Conference and through SENCO representatives, has shaped the format of the Network going forward and we are pleased to share the following information with you.

Future Network events will consist of a blended approach of virtual and face-to-face events. Locality Network Meetings will take place in the Autumn and Spring Terms and promote networking amongst locality schools. SENCos will be encouraged to consider pertinent issues, challenges and share effective practice within their locality schools to inform meeting agendas and ensure key professionals are available to facilitate and provide guidance, support, training as required.

Membership to the Worcestershire SENCo Network will be **FREE** to all Worcestershire schools (with the exception of the Summer Term Conference) and consist of the following proposed events:

Autumn 1 National and Local SEND Updates

Tuesday 3rd October 2023, 3:30-5:00pm (Virtual Meeting)

Autumn 2 Locality Network Meetings (Worcester & Malvern, Bromsgrove & Redditch, Wychavon and Wyre Forest)

w/c 27th November 2023, 1-4pm (Dates/venues TBC)

- Spring 1** **National and Local SEND Updates**
Tuesday 23rd January 2024, 3:30-5:00pm (Virtual Meeting)
- Spring 2** **Locality Network Meetings (Worcester & Malvern, Bromsgrove & Redditch, Wychavon and Wyre Forest)**
w/c 11th March 2024, 1-4pm (Dates/venues TBC)
- Summer 1** **National and Local SEND Updates**
Tuesday 7th May 2024, 3:30-5:00pm (Virtual Meeting)
- Summer 2** **SENCo Network Conference (fee payable to cover costs)**
Tuesday 18th June (Venue TBC)

Once dates and venues have been finalised, schools will need to book a place for individual events via the CPD Portal. This will enable us to track membership and ensure venues are able to accommodate delegates.

Finalised dates, venues and further booking instructions will be provided as soon as possible. We look forward to you joining us for this series of collaborative events!

All Age Disability Directorate

I wanted to update you on some staffing changes that have occurred in the All-Age Disability Service (0-25).

As previously communicated additional funding was provided to increase the capacity within the service, an update can be seen below.

- 6 x Case Work Officers - all posts recruited to
- 1 x Senior Educational Psychologist – post recruited to
- 5 x Educational Psychologist – 2 posts still to recruit to.
- 3 x Assistant Educational Psychologists – all posts recruited to.
- 1 x Specialist teaching Assistant – Complex Communication Needs team- recruitment commenced
- 6 x Family Support Workers - (Children and Young Adults Social Care Teams) all posts recruited to.

In terms of **Group Managers** for the service, there have not been any changes.

- Lucy Hall – Group Manager SEND - South
- Charlotte Krivosic - Group Manager SEND - North
- Louisa Jones - Principal Educational Psychologist and Head of Inclusion Support Services
- Daniela Carson – Group Manager for Children with Disabilities Social Care Team
- Jill Hughes – Group Manager Young Adults Social Care Team

In respect of the SEND Team Managers there have been the following changes due to staff that will be leaving us shortly or have moved due to internal promotion. Please see updates below:

- Vicky Jarrad – Team Manager
- Karen Chester – Team Manager will be starting with us on 16th June 2023 and will be managing the team during the period that we recruit. This is due to the current Team Manager, Glendora Wooding leaving the service on 11th June 2023.
- Lisa Long – Team Manager
- Tatra Simpson – Team Manager
- Jane Nicoll and Hayley Davis-Leech are the Assessment Team Managers.
- Sara Cam will be leaving the service on 5th July 2023.

Recently the SEND service has also been experiencing some sickness absence, which has resulted in difficulties in speaking with Case Work Officers. The detail below provides the details of the Case Work Officer and the Senior Case Work Officer and Team Manager. If you are aware that the allocated Case Work Officer is not in work, please contact the relevant Senior Case Worker or Team Manager who will be able to assist.

	North 1	North 2	South 1	South 2
Team Manager	Tatra Simpson	Lisa Long	Karen Chester	Vicky Jarrad
Senior Case Work Officer	Karen Sterry Ellena Hobbs (Maternity Cover for Hannah Gregory)	Josie Brown	Carys Ingham	Rachael Walker
Case Work Officers	Vicky Williamson Eliza Frani Raessa Chokwala Catherine Batton Emma Bridges Sarah Shakles	El Lupton Sarah Such Helen Gough Carrie Eaton Natalie Brooker Imogen Farr	Samantha Down Sarah Henley Laura Thornley Kelly Hill Wendy Vincent Emma Coley	Claire Bird Sarah Munn Sue O Hagan Harriet Fitzgerald Tom Donnelly Jennifer Mountford Sophie Roberts

As new staff join us there will be changes in allocated workers and we appreciate that this may result in some further uncertainty. We will also be posting this information on the Local Offer and sharing with parents and other partners.

Community Paediatrics Team - Contact Information

Due to the increased demand for the service, a new online contact request form has been implemented predominately for parents and carers to use moving forward. The online form can be accessed via the [community paediatrics page on the website](#).

GPs and other healthcare professionals can also utilise the online form to request contact. The team's phone lines will continue to remain open Monday to Friday from 9am - 11am and 2pm - 4pm.

Medical Admin Team - For queries relating to changes in a child's condition, or if you seek test results.

- Phone: 01905 520666

Appointments Team - For queries about new referrals and appointments

- Phone: 01905 681071
- [Email: whcnhs.access.commpaeds@nhs.net](mailto:whcnhs.access.commpaeds@nhs.net)

Worcestershire Virtual School

Worcestershire Virtual School is focusing on two long-term projects to support schools and settings. These are RADY (the academic strand) and TIAAS (the SEMH & wellbeing strand). Both are complimentary approaches which will significantly improve pupil behaviour and outcomes and are fully funded by Worcestershire Virtual School. Details are outlined below.

1. TIAAS: Trauma Informed and Attachment Aware Settings

The DfE recently stated that all schools and education settings should understand and develop attachment and trauma aware practice.

Worcestershire Virtual School is working to ensure that every single education setting in Worcestershire is a TIAAS (Trauma Informed and Attachment Aware School/Setting).

In collaboration with our partners within West Midlands Virtual Schools and ARC (Attachment Research Community), Worcestershire Virtual School have launched Worcestershire's contribution to a West Midlands-wide programme to help settings develop their TIAA practice and to gain recognition for their TIAA work.

This has two strands:

1. The ARC Pathway – a regional certification model ('bronze', 'silver', 'gold' and 'platinum'/'learning hub') ensuring consistency and recognition.
2. The ARC Matrix – a learning development framework to initiate or further develop your TIAA practice.

The Pathway and supporting Matrix are closely linked to the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (EIF) to help schools and settings to demonstrate how their practice fulfils key Ofsted criteria and can be integrated into your Self Evaluation Forms (SEF).

To access free ARC membership and recognise your Trauma informed and Attachment aware practice please contact Worcester Virtual School: virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

2. RADY: Raising Attainment of Disadvantaged Youngsters

RADY is a well-established, proven approach to improving academic outcomes.

‘RADY’s power lies in its ability to shift teacher perspectives on disadvantage and to refocus school staff and leaders on what is important in teaching and learning which involves disadvantaged pupils. This refocusing process did not require seismic change...; rather it was a case of very small measures - how a teacher marks their pupils’ books, how they plan for trips, how they select their sports team - creating a bigger impact.’ (CBC - RADY Project Evaluation, Connolly et al, 2021).

Worcestershire’s delivery model:

- Phase 1 (in place now) - Thinking Differently for Disadvantaged Learners (TDFDL)
 - Fully funded access to TDFDL for all schools in Worcestershire - a high quality online training resource targeted specifically at improving the academic attainment of the most vulnerable learners.

- Phase 2 (starting soon) – Bespoke RADY Support
 - Funding for a group of selected schools to fully embed RADY principles as a ‘golden thread’.
 - RADY begins in schools with the RADY catalyst – quite simply, at the start of a Key Stage, flagging up a pupil as having untapped potential and ensuring everything is done to close that gap as early as possible. This means the pupil is set the same expectations as their non-disadvantaged peer. If a school sets end of year, phase or Key Stage expectations then it is also ensuring these are set based on expectations for their non-disadvantaged peers rather than on their prior attainment.
 - RADY is a long-term hearts and minds approach, helping schools to become equitable in all aspects of the education they provide and making sure that those learners who need it most get the extra that helps them to get there. Because the catalyst is applied at the start of a phase of education, schools have a number of years to ensure the extra makes life-changing differences.
 - After applying the catalyst, schools on their RADY journey integrate the RADY principles as a golden thread through their school development plan, ensure that disadvantaged youngsters are proportionally represented in all aspects of school life and work tirelessly to help every member of staff understand why an equitable approach is the right one.

For free access to TDFDL and/or to express an interest in Phase 2, please contact Worcester Virtual School: virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Children Missing Education

Following the reorganisation of our services, we are looking to improve our response to children and young people identified as not ordinarily able to attend education (for example because of illness, anxiety or exclusion) or are already in receipt of or will likely require suitable alternative education (as per our S19 duties). Over the summer school break, we intend to use this time to review details of cases and plan the method of response and coordination for this cohort of pupils in a clearer way and to the appropriate .

We are aware the level of notification and need has escalated significantly, and staff are working hard to respond and manage. To support with this, I am requesting that with **immediate effect direct contact by phone or email with members of the Vulnerable Learners team including Matt Pooler, Karen Taylor, Sarah Flanagan and Michelle Fowler in relation to children who are unable to attend school is replaced with sending your notification of new cases or requests or questions about existing cases via the Children's Portal (as should be normal practice) or if you are not set up to use this use cme@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk this is the CME inbox that is the normal point of contact for colleagues who do not have access to the Portal.**

We are trying hard to reduce significant duplication that is occurring and delay of response by this ask that you use a central point of contact. These contact points and methods have been in operation continuously and we need have a more consistent approach to using them.

This does not affect any other duties the whole service responds to, such as children not on a school roll, EHE, Exclusions, Prosecutions, Post 16 therefore you can contact staff/team emails to discuss these cases as required and as you have been.

Please be reminded also that if you have an education issue relating to a child open to a social worker and there is not another education lead professional involved please contact Kerry Lawrence – Adviser for Children with a Social worker KLawrence5@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or where the child has an EHCP it is important that the relevant SEN inbox is alerted if the child is not able to attend education sennorth@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or sensouth@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Many thanks for your understanding and support as we review our process for receiving information and responding to requests in a more timely manner.

New Special Free School for pupils with Autism in Malvern

The Department for Education (DfE) have approved the Worcestershire Children First application to open a new special free school in September 2026, providing 120 places for pupils aged 5 to 19 who have autism spectrum disorder.

The school will support children who are unable to attend mainstream provision, but who can access a mainstream curriculum with dedicated support in smaller class sizes.

Indicative Timeline

Now to Summer 2026	Design and construction of the new school site
9th May	DfE publish 'How To Apply Guidance' and school specification, for Academy Trusts interested in applying to run the new school
31st August	DfE Application window closes
September/October	Assessment of Trust applications by DfE and WCF
November/December	Interviews of Trusts by DfE and WCF
January 2024	Successful Trust announced
September 2026	New school opens

Collaborative working with stakeholders will continue throughout the life of the project to ensure that where necessary, options for the relocation or colocation of existing users of the site in Malvern are considered, and that the requirements of the diverse range of teams involved in the project are incorporated into the plans.

For more information about the new school, contact spp@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

SENCo Survey

Each year Worcestershire Children First gather the views of SENCos to evaluate the impact of services and inform future development. The latest survey is now available and will be open until the end of term. It only takes 10 minutes to complete and can help create service and support that SENCos would find most useful.

[Complete short SENCo survey](#)

Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Celebration

We are delighted that 26 schools within Worcestershire are engaged with the Inclusion Quality Mark.

There are 2 schools who have recently achieved the Inclusive School Award:

- Parkside Middle School.
- Somers Park Primary School.

and join Pitmaston Primary School and The Beacon PRU who already hold the award. Furthermore we have 5 more schools now hold the IQM Centre of Excellence award:

1. Arrow Vale Academy
2. Meadows First School
3. Tudor Grange Academy, Redditch
4. Westacre Middle School
5. St Bede's Catholic Middle School

These join our 3 existing schools Flagship Schools:

1. Bengeworth CE Academy.
2. Christopher Whitehead Language College.
3. Perryfields Primary PRU.

We also have 8 schools who have booked their initial assessment and 5 schools have registered with IQM. It is so encouraging to see the commitment of schools to capturing and celebrating their inclusive practice.

EEF - Making a difference to pupils with SEND

It has been a busy year for the 42 schools, across all phases, that have engaged with Billesley Research School on the EEF Making a Difference to Pupils with SEND programme. 9 modules of training were delivered over the Autumn and early Spring term (in- person and on-line) exploring the evidence base around supporting pupils with SEND within mainstream classrooms.

I think all of those who attended would comment favourably on the enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment of the Billesley team to sharing their experience whilst listening carefully to the particular challenges of the Worcestershire context. As we all know, the training was the 'easy' bit! Implementation is trickier. Evidence Leads in Education, deployed by Billesley, have since provided support to schools and helped refine their action planning. The use of group coaching has been a particularly powerful tool to support schools – and several Head Teachers have commented upon how this could be used more in other areas. The implementation plans are at varying stages of maturity – a strong theme emerging from them is a focus on the use of Teaching Assistants and exploration of Metacognition.

This is by no means the end of the programme – we are looking at a continuation of support into the Autumn term to ensure the implementation becomes embedded and sustained and the impact captured. It has been a great pleasure to work with the schools and witness the hard work, commitment and professional drive of the SENCOs and teachers involved.

At the moment a cohort 2 is not planned . However this is not a problem because EEF are changing their way of working – to deeper but fewer partnerships. We are extremely optimistic (although not yet confirmed) that Worcestershire schools will have further (and dare I say better!) opportunities arising...

Lisa Bradbury – Lead Education Improvement Professional

Exam Access Arrangements

Don't forget that the new regulations regarding Exam Access Arrangements will be published over the Summer ready to be put into practice in September. Most years, there are small changes to the assessments that can be used or to the reporting process, and it is vital that SENCos are aware of these changes. JCQ publish the guidance and then many organisations provide short training courses or webinars to highlight the main differences to be aware of.

Wendy Robins WRobins@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk Mary Jenkins MJenkins@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk and Karen Lindley KLindley@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk of the Learning Support Team are qualified assessors for Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments and will be happy to answer any questions you may have. If you require LST to complete your EAA applications, we ask you to get in touch as soon as possible as we do get booked up before the deadline dates.

Update from The Hereford and Worcester Dyslexia Association

The Dyslexia Show is the brainchild of Arran Smith, himself from the West Midlands and dyslexic. The Show provides a great chance to try out resources, talk with experts, attend inspiring seminars for information, CPD and training. Fascinating feature zones and the latest products, services and technologies dedicated to the dyslexic and neurodivergent community under one roof.

The Dyslexia Show is for everyone with dyslexia or neurodiversity as well as the people, businesses and organisations working with them. Booking details can be found [here](#).

The theme of this year's Dyslexia Awareness Week (3rd-9th October 2023) will be 'Uniquely You.'
<https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/dyslexia-awareness-week-2023/>

The HWDA will be producing a video with WCF to celebrate dyslexia strengths (as well as children sharing what helps them) for DAW 2023.

If any children with dyslexia would like to be part of this, please contact Katrina Kear-Wood president@hwda.org.uk

The HWDA Dyslexia Lessons are different! Download HWDA leaflet from [Google Drive](#) for more information.

To keep up to date on the latest from HWDA please follow their [Facebook page](#) or visit their new website at: <https://hwda.org.uk/>.

Art Competition for SEND Students

For the attention of all Special Schools and settings with a Mainstream Autism Base.

Our All Age Disability Service are looking at new logos for both the SEND Local Offer and Short Breaks. The logos will be used within the Local Offer which is being relaunched in the Autumn.

We would really like it if these could be designed by the children and young people that use the services, and so we are running this as a competition, and we would love your students to enter.

- Local Offer Logo - design to be based on “What is the best thing about Worcestershire?” To be drawn using the map of Worcestershire template available on [Google Drive](#).
- Short Breaks Logo - design to be based on “What do you like to do in Worcestershire?” to be drawn in the boxes using the template available on [Google Drive](#).

Please note that the entries will need to be reduced to 11.9cm x 6.6cm so cannot be too detailed or intricate, as the detail will be lost.

The end date for the competition is Friday 21 July and the artwork will be judged by a panel.

There will four prizes of art sets to be awarded to:

- Best Local Offer design submitted from a primary school student
- Best Local Offer design submitted from a secondary school student
- Best Short Breaks logo design from a primary school student
- Best Short Breaks logo design from a secondary school student

We may also select other designs to be displayed within the Local Offer pages.

The winner will be announced on 15th September, when the winning logos will be revealed.

Any queries about this please contact Jill Hughes on jhughes2@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Full competition terms and conditions can be downloaded from [Google Drive](#).

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Bookings are now open for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme! Places are free for children in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals (FSM) with over 70 different activity clubs to choose from.

Please share with parents, who are in receipt of FSM, to sign up at www.haf-it.co.uk once their FSM status is verified parents can book up to 16 free sessions with various providers.

There is limited funding and therefore limited places available for non-FSM eligible children and young people who would otherwise be considered vulnerable. For example, children on CP/CiN/EHA, young carers, refugees, Looked after children (Kinship and SGO only.) These places are by request and accepted at the discretion of the providers. Please see www.worcestershire.gov.uk/rsw for more information.

Please support the families with registering for places, they only have to do this once, and remember we have specialist SEND places as well as the ability to support SEND children who attend mainstream provision.

All Ukrainian families have automatic access to the HAF Programme so please encourage any Ukrainian families you work with to sign up.

Herefordshire & Worcestershire SENDIASS

Free Training for Parents/Carers & Professionals

[Herefordshire and Worcestershire SENDIASS](#) offer FREE training to local education, health and social care professionals, children, young people, and parents/ carers to increase knowledge of Special Educational Needs Disabilities (SEND). SENDIASS would appreciate your help in informing the families that you support about the following opportunities. We have attached a flyer for you to distribute to families or share in your newsletters.

SENDIASS run FREE daytime and evening, face to face workshops and online information sessions for parents/carers and professionals in Worcestershire.

Workshops currently available for **Parent Carers:**

- [What you need to know if your child has an additional need/ disability- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [What does a good Education Health & Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? – HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Who are SENDIASS and how can they support me? Online Information Session- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Autism and Me \(developed by autistic young people\)- HW SENDIASS](#)

Workshops currently available for **Professionals:**

- [Autism & Me \(Developed by Autistic Young People\) Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Herefordshire and Worcestershire SENDIASS Online Information Session for Professionals](#)
- [Special Educational Needs \(SEN\) Support and The Graduated Response in Schools Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [What Does a Good Education Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Parent Carer Engagement in Schools Workshop for Professionals \(Worcestershire\)- HW SENDIASS](#)

All sessions are interactive, enabling participants to ask questions.

Autumn term dates will be released in the next few weeks.

Find dates and book online using the links above or follow [HW SENDIASS Training-Eventbrite](#)

If you have any questions about the workshops, please contact SENDIASSTraining@worcestershire.gov.uk for more information or alternatively please download their latest training flyer from [Google Drive](#).

Contact SENDIASS

For free, impartial information, advice and support on matters relating to children and young people with SEND contact SENDIASS on 01905 768153 Monday-Friday 8.30am-4pm or email sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk

For regular Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) updates, sign up to the SENDIASS mailing list by clicking the sign-up link on their [SENDIASS Contact page](#) or follow them on social media:

- [Facebook-HWSENDIASS](#)
- [Twitter-HWSENDIASS](#)
- [Instagram-HWSENDIASS](#)

Changes to Community Paediatrics ADHD Referral Pathway

A transformation piece of work has been taking place in order to improve and simplify the Community Paediatric ADHD referral pathway.

Parents who are concerned their child or young person might have ADHD, are encouraged to speak to professionals at school to discuss if the concerns are pervasive to the school setting. If school professionals do not share the same concerns as the parents, a period of monitoring within school may be required prior to making a referral.

Before a parent/ carer can complete a referral, they will be asked to have attended at least one of the free courses provided by the [Starting Well Partnership](#).

Following completion of the chosen course(s) the strategies should be implemented over a period of at least 10 weeks to determine whether the child's behaviour has responded to the strategies offered. The child's progress should be monitored and recorded throughout this time, making note of any change. If after this time, the parent/ carer has not seen a change in the child's behaviour, then it may be appropriate to refer for an ADHD assessment.

The referral process is split into two sections:

- **Section 1** – For completion by the child's parent/ guardian, allowing a parent/ guardian to self-refer their child for suspected ADHD.
- **Section 2** – For completion by the child's school or education setting

Parents/carers will need to inform the school or education setting that they are intending to submit a referral to the ADHD Pathway and have completed section 1 of the referral process. Parent/carers will then need to request that section 2, is completed by the school or education setting. Both sections of the referral need to be completed, otherwise the referral will not be reviewed.

The referral form are available to be completed digitally via the [Community Paediatrics ADHD webpages](#)

For parents/carers unable to access the referral form online, paper copies can be obtained from Schools and GPs and once completed posted to: Community Paediatrics Service, Covercroft Centre, Colman Road, Droitwich, WR9 8QU

A [leaflet and flyer](#) have been created to help explain the new pathway to parents/carers.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SENCo Leadership Development Programme

Our leadership programme has been designed and developed around the SEN Code of Practice, Ofsted Education Inspection Framework and SEND best practice to ensure schools are meeting their statutory duties and provide highly effective support for children and young people with SEND.

The programme will equip participants with skills to develop a more strategic approach to leading SEND/Inclusion. Participants will be enabled to reflect on current practices and identify how approaches can be adapted to greater influence the quality of provision and develop a wholly inclusive culture. This programme has been designed to provide practical support SENCos/Inclusion Leaders in their role, to gain:

- a better understanding of their leadership role and influence in developing whole school policy, practice and culture
- leadership knowledge, skills and confidence to engage more purposefully with school leaders and wider partners
- access to a range of practical tools, approaches and resources to implement the Graduated Response and monitor and evaluate the impact of provision on pupil outcomes
- an understanding of how the SENCo can drive improvement to address the local and national agenda to ensure high quality education for all

Cost: £350 + VAT per delegate

The training is delivered in Worcester across six sessions from 9am to 12pm on 26 September, 10 & 24 October, 14 & 27 November and 12 December 2023.

Book via [WCF:CPD](#) using your school CPD Leader login details and course code SCH 10287 / 83464. Confirmations are issued directly to the delegate email provided at the point of booking.

Autism/CCN Training

WCF Autism/CCN team continue to provide targeted training to schools across Worcestershire in a range of autism and CCN related areas. Remember that FREE training (a 90 minute INSET) is available to any mainstream Worcestershire maintained or Academy schools on Creating an Autism Friendly Classroom. The training has received excellent feedback for its content and delivery and for the way it directly impacts on improvement in autism-related practice. We are a team that pride ourselves that our input can be translated into concrete change and benefits for the child. Examples of post-training feedback include:

“Staff have been more aware of classroom approaches and I have seen as a result more high profile children coping better within the classroom.”

“Staff have been more willing to experiment with suggested approaches and have enhanced their practice as a result.”

“As a large school, it can be challenging to execute consistent approaches across the school; however, the impact of the training is clearly evident. I have recently been involved in learning walks and it was amazing to see a wider variety of strategies being used to support pupils, as well as their needs being more so taking into consideration in the classroom environment. Numerous staff commented to me after the training that it opened their eyes as to how they could further support pupils and that there was lots of strategies they hadn't thought of trying. A lovely example of this was a Y4 teacher ... She implemented an approach and it has had such a huge impact for the child and their ability to communicate what has happened (which would previously take a significant amount of time).”

If your school hasn't had the training yet, contact the team at autism@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk to book a date.

We are aware that schools can have a high turnover of staff – whilst we cannot train every school every year, we would like to reach these new staff members with this training. Online training dates will be provided in the academic year for staff to attend, but we would also be interested in working with schools to host “new staff” training; essentially, even if you have received the training as a school already, we would deliver the training in your school to your new staff with the proviso that we would also open it up to other schools to send new staff to (with a capped number). If you're interested in doing this and working collaboratively with us and other local schools to receive this FREE training update, let us know via the email address above.

Given the successful impact of our FREE Creating and Autism Friendly Classroom, we are looking to put in place FREE training around two specific areas of autistic presentation that are particularly impactful: Masking and also, Sensory. This training is currently being developed to be delivered in 23/24 and will be FREE to mainstream Worcestershire maintained or Academy schools. Exact details of delivery and dates will be released in due course.

Online training from the Educational Psychology Team - Autumn Term 2023

ADHD

An introduction to ADHD and strategies that might be beneficial to children and young people with ADHD.

[Monday 25 September 2023, 3.30-5pm](#)

'On Wednesdays we wear pink'

The psychology of friendship. Mean girls, BFF, frenemies, bromances and everything in between

Aims of this course are:

- To use psychological theory to support our understanding of friendship in young adolescents (aiming at Year Groups 5 to 8).
- To provide some strategies and suggestions for form tutors/pastoral staff/year heads/teaching assistants around supporting students experiencing challenges with friendship

[Tuesday 3 October 2023, 1.30-2.30pm and repeated 3.30-4.30pm.](#)

Participants only need to attend one session.

Book your place via the links above for visit [CPD portal](#).

Early Help Partnership Training

Early Help Partnership have Reducing Parental Conflict Training for staff members on the following dates:

- Thursday 10th August 2023 10am – 11:30am
- Thursday 2nd November 2023 11:30am – 1pm

Harmony at Home is Worcestershire's approach to the Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) initiative in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and organisations from our multi-agency Reference group.

This training will cover parental conflict, which can range from a lack of warmth and emotional distance, right through to swearing and shouting, and is known to be a risk factor for poor child outcomes, particularly when conflict is frequent, intense and poorly resolved. There is growing understanding and awareness of the need to address and reduce parental conflict that sits below a domestic abuse or violence threshold.

If you or anyone in your team would like to attend please book on through the link and follow the booking details below: [CourseDetail \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](#)

Course booking instructions:

1. do you have an account – choose 'no thanks'
2. course price - click in public circle
3. select organisation from dropdown box – public
4. put in your address
5. then click book course

If you have **already** attended this course, please **do not re-book** but instead please fill out this short feedback form to help us improve our future training sessions:

<https://forms.office.com/e/RQXjJ4y3qA>

To find further Early Help Partnership training courses we have to offer please visit our [Early Help website](#).

RESOURCES

SEND Podcast

The SENDcast is a weekly podcast focusing on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

It is an effective way to keep up to date with policy changes, best practice and to improve your knowledge around SEN. The weekly podcast features a different guest or guests talking about a specific topic related to Special Educational Needs.

[Listen to SENDcast](#)

CONTACTS

SENCo Contact Details

Please ensure that we have the current email address (school/work based) for your school's SENCo/Inclusion Leader to enable them to receive ongoing communications including updates, information, Bulletins, and training opportunities.

If your SENCo/Inclusion Leader has a change of email address, please email sread@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk to ensure your school's details are updated. Thank you.

****Shine a Light**** – sharing effective practice

It is always affirming to see Worcestershire schools recognised on the national stage for their work in driving cultural change and creating supportive learning environments to promote positive behaviour in schools. **Perryfields Primary PRU** continue to be recognised for their impactful school-to-school-support as part of the DfE Behaviour Hub Programme.

Read the article published in a recent issue of NASEN Connect [here](#) (p42-43)

Oracy Project – Voice 21

St Barnabas CE Primary are one of 21 schools that have been working in partnership with Voice 21 this year in a project partly funded by WCF. Following the implementation of a whole school approach to embed oracy and language skills across the curriculum, leaders are enthusiastic to share how their approaches have positively impacted on pupil's communication skills, particularly for those identified as vulnerable and/or with SEND.

We thank colleagues at St Barnabas for sharing their Voice 21 Journey.

You can access copies of the presentation and videos from our [Google Drive](#).

Should you wish to find out more, St Barnabas are holding an **ORACY OPEN MORNING**

St Barnabas CE Primary, Green Lane, Worcester WR3 8NZ on Friday 22nd September 9.30-10.30am

- Find out what oracy looks like in a primary setting
- Oracy groupings being used in class
- Round table discussion with children
- Q&A with oracy leads and teachers about oracy

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP via email to:

Cathy Spence - cs1@st-barnabas-primary.worcs.sch.uk

Nikki Sheen - ncs9@st-barnabas-primary.worcs.sch.uk

If your school is interested in knowing more about Voice 21, they can check out the [website](#) or contact Mel Dipple for more information mel@voice21.org

We would like to use the SEND Bulletin as a platform to share effective inclusive practice and 'shine a light' on what is working well within Worcestershire schools and settings to improve the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Please get in touch with Helen Pretty via email at hpretty@worcestershire.gov.uk should you wish to share a positive experience, a case study, an effective strategy or resource that has proven successful. We know that SENCOs find this peer support extremely valuable!