

SEND News Bulletin

Issue: May 2023

Welcome

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Worcestershire SEND News Bulletin.

Firstly we would like to begin by expressing our thanks and appreciation for all the work you do to support children and young people in the county.

In this bulletin you will find key information about the DfE and NHS Progress Review of Worcestershire's SEND Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) in March.

You will also find details of the upcoming SENCo Network Conference on 14th June. We are looking forward to a great day of networking and hearing contributions from a range of support services and SENCos to further support you in your important role.

I 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 a restful half term break.

Melanie Barnett

Director for All Age Disability (0-25)

Helen Pretty

School Improvement Advisor, SEND/Inclusion

WORCESTERSHIRE
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NATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

How well do you prepare your learners for adulthood?

It has been nearly nine years since the ideas around Preparing for Adulthood from the Early Years (PfAEY) emerged and the expectations on schools to prepare all young people for adult life through personal development have grown in that time.

Preparing for Adulthood is what all schools do for all young people – but that offer is not always drawn together and recognised. The refreshed 'Preparing for Adulthood from the Earliest Years' Review Guide was trialled with schools in Oxfordshire who found that taking part in the process resulted in:

- A clear focus and drive for school improvement
- More widely shared expertise and good practice
- Better understanding of the rationale of PfAEY
- A clear and strategic vision for embedding PfAEY
- A named PfAEY governor.

In a [new blog](#), a WSS Deputy Regional SEND Leader shares her experiences of carrying out a PfAEY Review as part of the trial - the aspirations behind it, the process involved, and the advice she'd give to others considering the activity.

As part of the Universal SEND Services programme, WSS will be recruiting 80 nursery, primary, secondary and school sixth form settings to carry out a review in the Autumn term of 2023. Settings will receive training and support to carry out the review and will be encouraged to produce an analysis report and action plan. Participating schools may also have an opportunity to cascade PfAEY training and support to a partner school next year.

If you would like to be considered as a participant, please [register your interest](#) today so that we can contact you about next steps in the process.

More information on school improvement for SEND can be found on the [Whole School SEND website](#).

Admission of Summer Born Children

The Department for Education has updated its guidance on the admission of summer born children and children being taught outside of age range.

[The non-statutory guidance for admission authorities on summer born children](#)

[Advice for parents on school admission for summer born children](#)

Kooth Update

Exams season is almost upon us, and we recognise the toll this can take on young people, particularly those sitting GCSE and A-Level exams.

From the 24th of April, our free, safe and anonymous mental wellbeing service, [kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com) will be announcing the peer to peer discussions, helpful content and much more that we've put together to support young people who may be experiencing heightened distress from upcoming exams. We've put together some quick and easy guides to help you promote the support we offer young people AGED 11-18 and living in Worcestershire during this period and year-round:

Twitter → go.kooth.com/ZgaN

Instagram stories → go.kooth.com/lkjK

Your website or learning portal → go.kooth.com/Mloa

Email to parents and carers → go.kooth.com/YxQb

Family Carer Support Service

Learning disability charity Hft is offering free support and advice to unpaid carers who live in England **supporting someone aged 16 or above** who is autistic or has a learning disability.

Hft is the only charity to offer non-time-limited support to families across the whole of England. The service is deliberately designed to remove any barriers, with no paperwork or professional referral needed. Further information on how to access this support can be found on the [Family Carer Support Service \(Hft\) website](https://www.hft.org.uk/family-carer-support-service).

Please share the link with your families and young carers and encourage anyone accessing the service to feedback to their social worker if they find the information useful.

LOCAL NEWS & UPDATES

Update on Worcestershire's SEND Accelerated Progress Plan (APP)

The November 2021, area reinspection of SEND identified that progress had been made in addressing eight of the significant weaknesses identified at the initial inspection and four areas of weakness remained outstanding. An outcome of this revisit inspection was that the Local Area was required by the DfE and NHSE to produce an Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) to demonstrate how this would be addressed.

The four remaining areas of weakness are as follows:

- The variation in the skills and commitment of some mainstream schools to provide effective support for children who have SEND
- The lack of suitable specialist provision to meet the identified needs of children and young people
- Fragile relationships with parents and carers and a lack of meaningful engagement and co-production and collaboration
- The poor quality of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC Plans) and limited contributions from health and social care along with the process to check and review the quality of EHC plans.

A recent summary of the progress to date was presented to DfE/NHSE colleagues during the 12-month review held on 29 March 2023. This outlined the progress reached at the 12-month review stage.

The outcome of this latest review stage has resulted in a letter sent by the DfE SEND Regional Lead to the Director of Children's Services and the Chief Executive of the Integrated Care System for Worcestershire which can be downloaded from our [Google Drive](#).

The letter recognises the "vast amount of work that has taken place" and the value of the contributions particularly from parent carers and school representatives. The letter includes the detail of evidence that demonstrates accelerated and continued improvement. The outcome of this letter is that the DfE have included a range of further evidence they would like to be presented to demonstrate further development and embedding of change. A further review meeting is scheduled for September 2023.

Specialist Support Staff Cover - Sensory Impairment

Did you know the Sensory Impairment Team now offers short to medium term cover for specialist TAs? Our team of Specialist Practitioners will support pupils requiring British Sign Language (BSL), Braille or with resourcing and modifying materials.

We offer cover for existing support staff absences and for periods when recruitment is taking place, to ensure all pupils access learning and experience continuity of provision. All our practitioners hold additional Braille or BSL qualification and are highly experienced and skilled in their field, ensuring settings continue to meet their statutory duties.

For more information, visit the [WCF eStore](#) or email sensoryimpairment@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Worcestershire SENCo Conference

Worcestershire Children First and Chadsgrove Training School continue their successful collaboration in bringing the SENCo Network Conference for Worcestershire schools.

The Conference will be held on **Wednesday 14th June at Worcestershire County Cricket Club, 9:00am - 4:00pm.**

We look forward to welcoming you to a day of networking and hearing from a range of SEND support services and SENCos to further support your work in schools. Agenda items include:

- The SENCo Inspection Experience
- Voice 21 Oracy Project, one school's journey
- What is Occupational Therapy (OT) and how will it help?
- Parent Carer Engagement in Schools
- Early Help Assessments and your setting's Early Help Offer
- The SENCo Network – moving forward...

Cost:

One free place per school if you have purchased the SENCO Subscription

Any additional place £45.00pp +VAT if you have purchased the SENCO Subscription

£90.00pp + VAT for those who have NOT purchased the SENCO Subscription

Bookings should be made via the [WCF:CPD website](#)

If you have any questions please email: Conferences@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Based on feedback received by SENCos and through working with colleagues from the Education Endowment Foundation, the Worcestershire SENCo Network is in the process of change and refresh. We look forward to sharing further information with you later this term.

Parent Carer Engagement in Schools Toolkit

Members of staff from the All-Age Disability Service have worked together with a number of schools, parent carers from the SEND Parent Stakeholder group, SENDIASS and Families in Partnership to develop a parent carer engagement toolkit for schools.

Parent carers of children and young people with SEND have told us that they can feel isolated and on the edge of the wider school community. We have co-produced this free toolkit to help schools to proactively engage with their parent carer engagement (as distinct from the wider school community), and it includes a range of ideas, practical examples, best practice, and tools to help.

It is designed to help you reflect on current practice and encourages you to involve your parent carer community in developing your engagement plan moving forwards. Families in Partnership, Worcestershire's parent carer forum, have worked with us on the project, and can offer free, practical support for you with this. You can arrange a meeting with Maree, their Participation and Engagement Officer by emailing mareefip@carersworcs.org.uk or texting her on 07427 476852.

Further information can be found on the flyer available on [Google Drive](#).

The toolkit can be found on the [SEND Local Offer](#).

Requests for EHC Needs Assessment and Annual Reviews

Further to our communication in January, SEND Service has completed its internal upgrade of our case management and information systems. Therefore from **Monday 17 April**, we will be expecting all schools to submit EHCNA requests and Annual Review paperwork via the Children's Services Portal using the 'SEND Referral' tab.

When making an EHCNA Request, although it shows that you have 15 days to complete the request, each time you save the application, the 15 days restarts, thus allowing you to complete the form over a longer period.

We also understand that there appears to be an anomaly with the portal regarding having more than 1 active EHCNA request on the portal at any given time. If you try to save two forms of the same type within the same session (you haven't logged out and back in between forms) the system over writes the previous form(s) with the details of the last saved form. If you save a form but log out and back in again you can save as many forms as you like without anything being overwritten. Using this as a work around for the time being will stop the issue but we are aware that this is far from ideal. As soon as we have a resolution, we will let you know.

We appreciate that you may also want to send additional documents to us to support the application, most of these can be submitted with the application, however the size of some documents maybe too large to submit. If this is the case (and only in these circumstances), please send the additional information only to senassessmentpsf@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk, with the child/young person's name and date of birth.

- For Annual Reviews, please send any oversized documents to either North Area Team (sennorth@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) for Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest or South Area Team (sensouth@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) for Worcester, Malvern, Wychavon (based on pupils' home postcode).

For queries please contact:

- Requests for EHCNA - senassessmentpsf@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk
- Annual Reviews – either North Area Team (sennorth@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) for Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest or South Area Team (sensouth@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) for Worcester, Malvern, Wychavon (based on pupils' home postcode).
- General queries regarding the Portal - support@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

We are drafting a guide to the portal for schools, and this will be available during the Summer term.

Update from Educational Psychologist Team

Experience of Service

We have been seeking feedback from the SENCOs we work with and have had positive responses. Themes of what is working well from SENCO's perspectives are: the focus on solution finding; the communication between school, EP and families; involvement of families; clear feedback and the flexible, but organised use of time. Additionally, all those who responded felt that we listen to the views of SENCOs, act on these and that we are accessible and approachable. We have also had positive comments, such as: *"The service didn't feel like an assessment but more of a wrap around support system which was very useful for all stakeholders to feel that they have a voice and a network of support."* We thank those who have already given their views.

As well as our traded work with schools, we seek feedback from parent/carers where a statutory assessment of their child's special educational needs has been undertaken by an EP. In the majority of cases the parent/carers felt that the interaction with the EP for the purposes of the assessment reflected their views, enabled their voice and this was reflected in the report that was produced. Where parent/carers have left queries, these have been responded to, and following one such conversation, this has led to the creation of any additional prompt tool that can be used with parent/carers to help them prepare for the conversation with the EP.

Training offer

Reminder: the EP Team are offering twilight training on the themes of Emotion Coaching and Strengths Based Practice this term. Please see the [CPD portal](#) for full details.

MindSafe Mental Wellbeing Platform

All Worcestershire schools have recently been emailed regarding the offer of free access to the MindSafe mental wellbeing platform for pupils at your school.

[Watch short video introduction to MindSafe](#)

Worcestershire Children First and MindSafe are both committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Worcestershire. It is essential for schools and an Ofsted requirement to provide the necessary resources and support to help pupils manage their mental wellbeing, and we believe that the MindSafe platform is a valuable tool that can help to achieve this goal.

We understand that you may have questions about the MindSafe platform, and we want to reassure you that we are here to help. We encourage you to reach out to us to [schedule a time to speak with a member of the MindSafe team](#), who can answer your questions and provide you with more information about the platform.

We strongly encourage all schools that have not yet committed to taking part in this offer to do so. We believe that it is an important opportunity to provide your pupils with the support and resources they need to manage their mental health, and we hope that you will consider this offer.

You can register your school to participate via the following link: <https://mind-safe.com/Register>

If you require any further information, please get in touch with Charlotte at MindSafe via email at charlotte@mind-safe.com

Early Years Inclusion Funding - Autumn Term 2023 applications

If you wish to request top up (GR4 challenge, exceptional or non NEF) inclusion funding for new children who will be attending in the Autumn Term 2023, please do so by the 2nd June 2023 on the Autumn Term 2023 on-line application which can be accessed here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/Sgx5xYFgYx>

Remember if you have accessed GR4 challenge or exceptional we will send you a link to the monitoring forms which will extend the funding into the new terms.

New ADHD Referral Pathway

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

Moving forward the referral process will be 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.

Before a parent/carer can complete a referral, they will be asked to have attended at least one of the following courses:

- Understanding your child
- Understanding your child with additional needs
- Understanding your child's mental health and wellbeing
- Understanding your teenager's brain
- Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme)
- Understanding your teen with additional needs
- Understanding your child from 0-19 (a group specifically for dads/ father figures)
- Understanding your child from 0-19
- The Incredible Years
- The Incredible Years - ASC (Autism Spectrum Condition)

All sessions are free to attend and run by trained staff and volunteers from the [Starting Well Partnership](#).

All parents concerned that 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 maybe required prior to making a referral. 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.

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 request that section 2 be completed by the school or education setting.

The referral form will be available to be completed digitally via the Community Paediatrics website which will be shared prior to Go Live.

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

Consultations and amendments have been implemented by collaborating with key stakeholder groups including GPs and Parent/carer groups.

As part of the information available, a flyer, leaflet and website content has been created.

Members of our team will be attending the conference on 14th June, where they will be available for questions.

WCF Inclusion Website

WCF with support from partners across Health and Education have launched a new inclusion website for practitioners working with CYP in settings across Worcestershire. The purpose of this website is to provide practical strategies and ideas for supporting CYP in a range of areas and includes links to useful resources and service that could provide additional support.

The website also includes a professional's toolkit where you can find directories and proformas to support practitioners in their roles. The website will be reviewed frequently, and new information added and updated so make sure to check in regularly.

The website can be found here: [Inclusion in Educational Settings | Worcestershire County Council](#)

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:**

[A Guide to SEND Support including the Graduated Response- 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](#)

Workshops run monthly and all sessions are interactive, enabling participants to ask questions.

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

Alternatively, please download the SENDIASS Training Poster from [Google Drive](#).

If you have any questions about the workshops, for more information please contact SENDIASSTraining@worcestershire.gov.uk.

New SENDIASS Job Role

SENDIASS are looking to recruit a SENDIASS Advisor (Link Keyworker). This will be a brand-new role within the team. The successful applicant will be providing intensive information, advice and support on all SEND matters including health and social care, to a caseload of vulnerable young people and their families across Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

For more information including details of how to apply please visit: [WM Jobs SENDIASS Link Keyworker](#). The closing date for applications is **Sunday 11th June 2023**.

To find out more about the SENDIASS team and what they do see their website: [HW SENDIASS What we do](#)

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](#)

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Universal SEND Services Programme

The Whole School SEND and nasen [online SEND CPD units](#) continue to attract large numbers of education professionals, and we're always delighted to hear about all the learning that is being incorporated into practice and shared with colleagues.

Each online unit takes 20 minutes to complete and is accompanied by a **live online discussion session**. These informal, interactive Zoom sessions are facilitated by regional SEND leaders and bring together practitioners from across the country. It's a great opportunity to spend an hour discussing the themes of:

- **Safety and Belonging**
- **Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)** and
- **Social, Emotional and Mental Health**

Your experiences will be shared with a group of colleagues in similar roles and situations, offering new perspectives and ideas.

Due to demand for spaces, there is now increased capacity at the discussion sessions and bookings have been reopened for sessions that were previously full. Places are still limited, so **book today** to secure yours!

For more information please download the Universal SEND Leaflet from [Google Drive](#).

Leading Reading Conference

Having worked with, and responded to, many different school contexts, Worcestershire Children First (WCF) recognises the positive impact our school children experience when supported through high quality provision and teaching to access their respective school curriculums – particularly reading. In order to achieve this, we have seen many middle and secondary schools needing to become more specialised with reading instruction and be able to confidently support children who may need adaptive teaching, or interventions when it comes to decoding, fluency and comprehension. This is an area I am sure you have also noticed yourself, and we are keen to work with our SENCOs, across all phases, to ensure we can support and develop our teachers to become the experts needed for our children.

Responding to this growing need and priority, WCF are hosting a conference this Summer focusing specifically on supporting our children to read. The conference '**Leading Reading**' will be hosted **Tuesday 4th July** as an all-day event. Our key note and guest speakers Professor Teresa Cremin; author and reading expert Chris Such; and Ofsted's HMI Kirsty Godfrey, a reading specialist and researcher. In addition, the option to attend additional specialised workshops on the day will allow WCF trainers to work directly with schools in a collaborative manner.

The day is aimed to ensure our teachers are equipped with the knowledge and expertise to support reading provision, including the understanding of how to teach reading for both pleasure and progress.

[Find out further information on Leading Reading Conference and purchase tickets](#)

We believe this conference will offer your teachers the opportunity to access high quality professional development, with an understanding of how to apply strategies in their classroom – thus creating an inclusive environment that allows all children to access curriculum material. This could be something you, or your Teaching and Learning Lead within the school, also recognise the value of, and hope you are interested in joining us for the day.

If you need to discuss this further, please contact jblakeman@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

WCF Learning Support Team Training

The Learning Support Team are happy to announce a programme of training this year to enable teachers to tackle difficulties in their classroom with increased knowledge and confidence. The first of these sessions deals with children with handwriting difficulties.

Our training session on 4th July will look at some of the underlying causes of poor handwriting beyond fine motor difficulties and will give practical support to help CYP to overcome these difficulties. We are running this course as many schools are now asking for help in this area and the paediatric occupation therapy service do not involve themselves in handwriting issues. Off the shelf interventions focus on practising letter formation without exploring the precursors to this stage and are often not as effective as hoped. This session will help teachers to understand other factors that can affect handwriting legibility and speed.

Later in the year we are also running courses on Maths Difficulties, The difference between Phonics and Phonological Awareness along with our ever-popular Dyslexia Identification training. Our full range of training is available on the Worcestershire Children First CPD website [Schools and academies training directory \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](#)

We can also offer bespoke training in schools as staff meetings, twilights or as part of a school training day. Recent reviews of our training showed 100% classed the training as good or excellent with comments such as *“Clear and well structured. Really useful - learnt lots of info I didn’t know and strategies. Relaxed training session, useful content, knowledgeable delivery.”*

If you require any further information about our training offer please contact you named LST teacher or email LST@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Early Help Training

Early Help Partnership has a variety of free training on offer for teams to access. All training can be found on our [Early Help training and events website](#).

Training is offered on a rolling programme of dates so please check the site regularly to find out more and to book one of the below courses:

- What is Early Help?
- Completing an Early Help Assessment (EHA)
- Holding a Team Around the Family (TAF)
- How to creatively gather the child's voice

Early Help Partnership also offer a 'Reducing Parental Conflict' online training for teams who are supporting families that are in conflict which is causing risk to the children within the family.

Parent Workshops

Just a reminder that the WCF Inclusion Support Service teams (Educational Psychology, Learning Support Team, CCN/Autism, Sensory Impairment) work in a variety of ways with settings, including running parental workshops.

If you are interested in having an ISS team member deliver a parental workshop in your setting, please contact the relevant team. Examples of parental workshops include Emotional Regulation, Dyslexia, Fine Motor Control, Sensory Adaptations, Introduction to Autism. These can be adapted to context and need and are designed to be accessible and practical.

[Find out more information include contact details for the ISS Teams](#)

Free Autism Webinar for Parents and Carers

Please share details of this free webinar with your parents and carers via your social media accounts, parent newsletters and websites. Promotional materials are available to download on [Google Drive](#).

Worcestershire (and Herefordshire) parents can access a free webinar on autism and anxiety. The webinar can be viewed on laptops, tablets, phones and smart TVs. Once registered parents/carers can join live or watch a recording at a time to suit them.

- Monday 12th June 2023, 9:30am to 11am - Autism and Anxiety

To sign up to the webinars, please visit www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/events

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

Thank you to The Chantry School for sharing their story...

We have been working hard as a school community to support an autistic pupil to learn alongside his peers. We were worried we couldn't meet his needs when he was shrieking and banging his head repeatedly, but we kept looking for ways to help.

Our whole TA team became trained in Team Teach, we used Trauma and Mental Health informed approaches, we met with family, we educated his peers, we sought advice from the CCN team, we reflected each time there was an incident and adapted strategies. After a period of time working on body scanning (advised by CCN Team) and social stories, we've had a few milestones and we are so proud of him.

The first was him sharing unprompted that his tummy felt tense because he was angry (he reflected and explained why) and then loose later after the incident.

The second was when his TA noticed early signs of him dysregulating and he was able to share how he felt using the scale. He described feeling annoyed (5) his body feeling tight and that he had

crossed his arms. The TA suggested a walk to help him, he agreed and then returned to class feeling loose again back down to a 2.

Third, he has been on a school trip to the theatre (after a lot of pre-work), been to dance club and the school disco. The latter his family, never imagined he would do!

And finally, his peers are starting to understand him, telling adults when they think he is struggling, interacting with him positively in the corridor and outside of school, all helping him to feel the valued member of our community that he is.

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!