Spring 2023

ENFIELD ADVISORY SERVICE FOR AUTISM

EASA TERMLY NEWSLETTER

for Families, Educational Settings, Professionals and Partners

WELCOME

In September, the EASA Team launched lots of new initiatives to support autistic children and young people, their families and staff in educational settings. We are very pleased that this support has taken off, with many families and schools contacting us via our web forms. We've had brilliant feedback about how our support has helped change lives and practice. Read on for more about our work and how we can help.

Dr Rachel Walker, Head of Service

In Autumn 2022

174 Individual children supported from Early Years - Post 16

221 Parent referrals received. **38%** increase from the previous term!

22 Settings requested bespoke training delivery for their staff

75 Individual Case Study Consultations took place

41 Settings attended EASA led workshops and AET training modules

*"Our mission is to empower the education workforce, parents and autistic young people to **work together**, **share understanding** and **create opportunities** to **enhance the education, wellbeing and success** of all autistic children and young people in Enfield."*

GAP PRINCIPLES GALORE!

Do you know about the 8 Good Autism Practice (GAP) Principles?

These were devised by the Autism Education Trust following extensive research with settings, families and young autistic people. They are for all phases: Early Years, Schools and Post 16. They can be used to:

- Evaluate practice in settings and guide development.
- Assist the Assess-Plan-Do-Review cycle when applying for an ECHP.
- Provide a framework for home-school collaboration and sharing of practice between parents and teachers and others who work with the child.

There are lots of ways we can support you with the GAP Principles:

- We can help you evaluate you setting and staff knowledge and skills using the **AET Standards and Competencies**.
- You can request an **EASA Case Study Consultation**, to explore strengths, needs and areas for development in relation to an individual child or young person
- You can come to our **8 GAP Principles Workshops** for support and advice. *Our Summer programme begins **Tuesday 7th May for 8 weeks online. Please visit our website for more information and to register for our services.***

We look forward to working with you!

AET Training

All our Autism Education Trust (AET) Training is now open access for all Educational Setting Staff, Professionals and Parents, promoting consistent teaching about autism to everyone.

We are also running evening sessions (7:30pm – 9pm). *Please visit our website for more information.*

The EASA team delivering Making Sense of Autism training for North Star Academy Trust

Delivering Good Autism Practice training in Durants Satellite at Winchmore Secondary School

Special Guest

In October, we were joined by Niraj Shah from the AET's Young Autistic Experts Panel. He helped deliver our Good Autism Practice Training and gave valuable insight by talking about his own experiences of growing up and school life. The course participants found his contribution extremely helpful.

Cuppa and Chat

Our new **Cuppa and Chat** sessions for our parents and carers are now in full swing. Separate sessions run for Early Years/Primary and Secondary/Post 16 (each runs monthly). They are staffed by the multidisciplinary team and feature a short presentation on a given topic as well as time for parents to socialise and chat with the EASA team. These have been extremely well attended. The venue is Russet House School. Registering beforehand is recommended to avoid disappointment.

EASA Cuppa and Chat with guest speaker
Helen Cooke
Speech and Language Therapist
Clinical Lead for Autism

ATLAS: Time to Play sessions

In the autumn term we ran a successful pilot project for families of young children (under 3) to come and learn play and interaction skills together. Parents and their children came to 3 sessions with the focus on the 3 areas of difference: Social Understanding and Communication; Flexibility, Information Processing and Understanding; Sensory Processing and Understanding and practised strategies that support the unique learning strengths of autistic children, whilst having fun. The programme runs termly and eligible families are invited to attend, following successful completion of the ATLAS online course.

PEERS

In Autumn we started our first PEERS sessions with young people and their parents, where the focus is giving young people the skills to feel positive in relationships with friends and peers.
Elena and Alice, our Education Psychologists, ran the young people's first sessions, talking about what friendships are, and how we trade information with our peers and friends to make good conversation.
Claire (Lead EP) has been running the parents' sessions alongside, discussing how they can facilitate teaching their children the best ways to use the skills in conversations. We had some great contributions from the young people and parents, and we are looking forward to the next six sessions, where we will look at topics such as how to start and end conversations, handling arguments, and having two-way conversations.

"The trainers were really kind and supportive and they felt like they were safe to ask anything."

"They really enjoyed the acting out of the scenarios and said it was really helpful to see real life examples."

Parents feedback

School Coffee Mornings

Members of the EASA team have been invited to attend coffee mornings at 9 different schools since September 2022.
These are a great opportunity for community building. All parents can be invited, giving autism families a chance to get together as well as helping other families learning about autism.

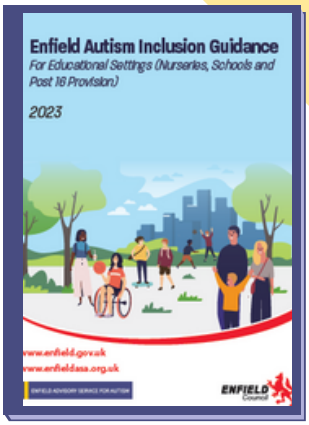
"It has been a lovely opportunity to discuss the EASA service with parents and advise them of the support they can access from our service. It's been great to meet parents and members of the school SEN teams."
Parent Support Advisor

If you would like us to attend a Coffee Morning at your school please email admin@enfieldasa.org.uk

World Autism Acceptance Week

27th March - 2nd April 2023

For World Autism Acceptance Week this year, we will be launching our new Enfield Autism Inclusion Guidance document. This was written collaboratively by the EASA Team and community partners. It offers advice to all educational settings, in line with the AET's GAP principles.



EASA Resources

EASA-designed resource packs are now available to purchase for nurseries and school settings. These support immediate implementation of strategies with children. Packs contain visuals, transition supports, turn-taking resources and activity ideas.
Cost per pack £25
If you are interested in purchasing resource packs please email us.

Resources for parents we have lots of resources available on our website. These have been designed by the EASA team and by colleagues in partner services. Bespoke resources can also be made for families for a small charge to cover costs of resources and postage.

Opportunities to get involved

We are currently looking for:

- Volunteers to translate our training resources and materials into local community languages, particularly the following:

Polish, Somali, Turkish, Spanish, Mandarin, Greek, Romanian, Lingala, Albanian.

- Focus groups to discuss development initiatives (email to express interest)
- We welcome volunteers to speak at meetings/events. Some paid opportunities may be available (email us to express interest)

If any of these are something you or someone you know are interested in, we would love to hear from you.

Lots of these services, interventions and initiatives are new for 2023.

**Please take the time to read more about them on our website.
You can register for relevant sessions and/or request advice and support via our website. There are separate tabs for Educational Settings, Parents & Carers and Children and Young People.**

If you can't find the help you want, please get in touch.

With our best wishes from the EASA Team

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Enfield Advisory Service for Autism

Russet House School

ENFIELD Council