Summer 2023

ENFIELD ADVISORY SERVICE FOR AUTISM

EASA TERMLY NEWSLETTER

for Families, Educational Settings, Professionals and Partners

WELCOME

We have had a very busy year, implementing lots of new strategies to support autistic children and young people, their families and staff in educational settings. In this newsletter we'll tell you about some of the successes this year, including our therapeutic support for autistic youngsters, our staff training and our work with other teams across the borough. Don't forget to give us your feedback through our annual survey!

Dr Rachel Walker, Head of Service

In Spring 2023

122 Individual children supported from Early Years - Post 16

124 Parent referrals received. Record number number of Post-16 referrals this term.

6 Settings requested bespoke training delivery for their staff

36 Individual Case Study Consultations took place

29 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."*

MENTORING FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS AND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

EASA supports staff in educational settings to embed the ***Eight Principles of Good Autism Practice*** (Autism Education Trust). Our mentoring programme for TAs and LSAs is part of this work. It particularly focuses on AET Staff Competencies, C1, C7, C12 and C15, helping support staff to understand the strengths, interests and needs of each autistic child and to develop their own skills as practitioners in the autism education workforce.

Aims of the Mentoring Programme:

The EASA TA and LSA Mentoring Programme aims to:

- help TAs and LSAs understand how autism can affect the engagement and learning of pupils/students.
- model appropriate strategies that TAs and LSAs can practise and adapt with their pupils/students.
- demonstrate how to make and use resources that will support good routines, engagement and learning.
- support TAs and LSAs to meet the AET Competencies.
- give TAs and LSAs skills that they can share with other colleagues.

This is done by experienced Advisory TAs coming into your setting to work alongside chosen staff for an agreed number of sessions (usually 4 – 6 half days over one half-term).

Our Advisory TAs, *Christine Swallow and Jo Wicker*

Schools which have benefitted from TA & LSA Mentoring Support from EASA this year:

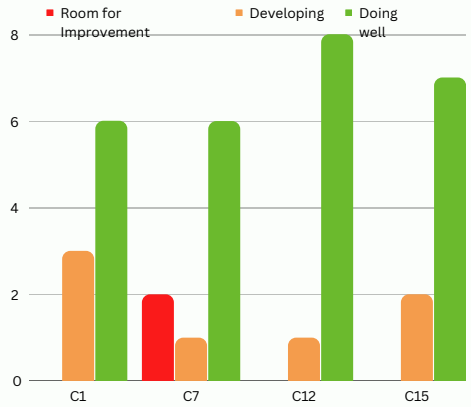
Autumn 22	Spring 23	Summer 23
Woodpecker Hall	Merryhills Primary	Alma Primary
The Raglan Schools	Keys Meadow Primary	Houndsfield Primary
St Michael's CofE Primary	Suffolks Primary	Bowes Primary
St Andrew's CofE Primary	St John and St James CofE Primary	Latymer All Saints Primary*
Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary	Enfield Heights Academy	St Edmunds RC Primary*

*(Initial visit – programme to start in September 2023)

Measuring and Celebrating Staff Development

The AET Competency Framework enables staff to RAG rate themselves in various Competencies and to show improvement as their skills and knowledge develop over time. We are thrilled that so many support staff in mainstream settings have moved from **Room for Improvement** to **Developing** or **Doing well** by working with EASA Advisory TAs to develop their practice.

If you and your colleagues are interested in using the AET Competency Framework to support your autism CPD, you can download it free from the AET website:
https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/framework-documents



Post 16 Development

This term we have been working in partnership with West lea Horizon Campus in local community settings, celebrating autism and raising awareness and understanding for our young people in Enfield as they transition from schools to colleges and into work. This event included parents, carers, young people and employers. A big thank you to Carline (Senior Job Coach at Horizons) for organising and inviting us. The feedback we received was great!

'My goodness, we had a wonderful morning, and it was good to see everyone! WOW! You were amazing and my parents were more than happy with the details they got - Thank you again. DWP we're over the moon! The beginning'

We have had a record number of post 16 referrals at EASA this year and have worked with colleagues from a range of college settings including *Capel Manor*, *Conel* and *Barnet & Southgate college*, sharing AET training on Making Sense of Autism.

We are looking forward to continue to grow our relationships with these settings and working more closely with them over the next academic year.

Coffee Mornings in Schools

This term the EASA team were invited to another 5 schools to present at their coffee mornings. 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 others learn more about autism and creating a stronger autism friendly community.

"Thank you to those parents who attended our Cuppa & Chat session this week and @EnfieldASA for attending."

Our Lady of Lourdes, Twitter, May 17th 2023

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

Upcoming EASA Cuppa and Chat Sessions for Parents and Carers

For those with Early Years and Primary-aged children:
Thursdays: 14th Sept, 12th Oct, 9th Nov, 14th Dec

For those with Secondary and Post-16 aged Children and Young People:
Thursdays: 21st Sept, 19th Oct, 16th Nov, 14th Dec

All Cuppa and Chat sessions are held at Russet House School from 9:30am - 11am. Please book in advance on our website.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING ACROSS THE EARLY YEARS TEAM

Suzanne Goddard

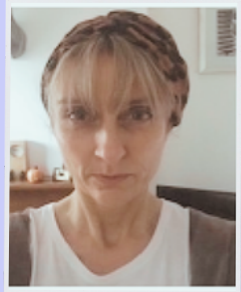
As Deputy Head of Service and Early Years Phase Leader, I am really pleased to have the opportunity to work in partnership with colleagues from other services. Here are some examples to show how their experience and insight from working in other services really helps to enhance our offer and supports both families and educational services.

"I haven't gotten over the conversation we had last week and how helpful you were, I have struggled every day for almost 4yrs and that conversation changed a few things in my head, I can't thank you enough"

Parent comment

Jo Dudley works for both the Early Years Speech and Language team and EASA as a Specialist Autism Practitioner to provide advice and guidance around communication and interaction differences. Through partnership working she has developed stronger links between the NHS and health professionals, the Local Authority and the EASA team. This has led to an increased awareness of EASA across NHS services.

Families of young autistic children feel better supported by having direct access to a health professional during EASA Cuppa and Chat Sessions, where they can talk around communication and interaction differences and the impact on their child's everyday communication, routines and behaviour. They are able to walk away with helpful strategies to try at home and when out in the community.



Jo Dudley

Liz Lafferty

Liz Lafferty and Roxanne Ephraim work for EASA as Advisory Teachers to provide autism advice and guidance for parents and education settings. They also work for The Early Intervention Support Service (EISS) to support the learning and development of young children with significant developmental and/or disabilities in the community.

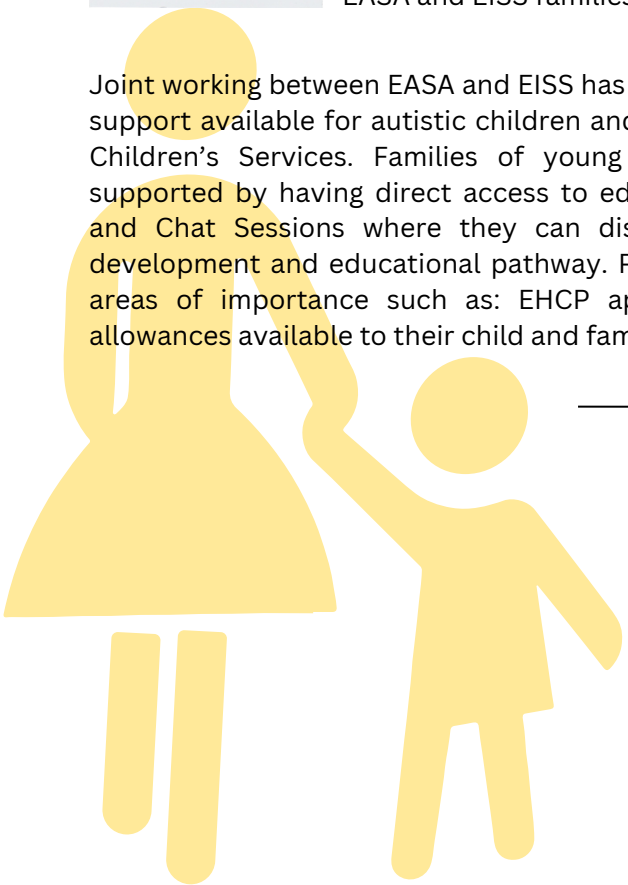
They have developed a stronger partnership between the EISS and EASA teams through training, information sharing with colleagues and parents. For example, they led the EASA Cuppa and Chat presentations on EHCPs and DLA which were both well attended by EASA and EISS families.

Roxanne Ephraim

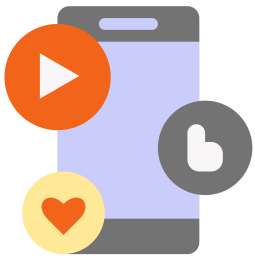
Joint working between EASA and EISS has led to increased family awareness of support available for autistic children and those with additional needs across Children's Services. Families of young autistic children now feel better supported by having direct access to education professionals during Cuppa and Chat Sessions where they can discuss concerns about their child's development and educational pathway. Parents have access to advice about areas of importance such as: EHCP applications, school admissions and allowances available to their child and family.

"Excellent information, really useful to speak to presenters and other parents"

Parent comment



Did you know we are even more social?



Have you liked our Facebook or Twitter pages?

Make sure to follow us to keep updated with latest information, the launch of new term dates and upcoming sessions. You can find our social handles at the end of this newsletter.

TREE OF LIFE NARRATIVE BASED THERAPY

PROGRAMME 22-23

What is it? The sessions offer support for autistic children and young people and their families to enhance their knowledge of their strengths and skills, reflect upon their hopes and values and how to achieve their goals. It involves small groups of children and young people creating a story of their future hopes in a therapeutic space. A parent group runs alongside. The groups aim to enhance wellbeing.

How: Led by Educational Psychologists and a Parent Support Advisor, we use the metaphor of the Tree of Life to explore how our roots (the knowledge and understanding we have taken in from important people/interests in our lives) contribute to who we are (the trunk and branches). We learn about how this has given us riches and many strengths and skills (the leaves). We discover how these gifts have enabled us to weather life's storms, with the support of others around us. We connect as a group or 'forest' and appreciate each person's unique contribution to their story, further strengthening and affirming a sense of hope.

Why do it: It works! There is a growing evidence base of the effectiveness of Narrative Therapy for autistic children and families as support for emotional well-being, developing self-esteem and self-awareness and enabling rich connections with other young people and with families. All those who have accessed the programme said they would recommend it to others and that they had found it helpful.

When & Where does it run: Russet House School termly, Thursday 4.15- 5.15 pm, suitable for children aged 11-15 . Parent & carers are encouraged to attend. To sign up please visit the website, https://enfieldasa.org.uk/Tree-of-Life-Groups/

Young people said...

'It helped my confidence and communication skills'

'It was fun'

'Meeting new people and knowing stuff about them was good...I'm going to miss it'

Parents and carers said...

'Help with exploring self-identity and confidence. Great for socialisation'

'It has helped build my child's confidence and build resilience.'

'She said she enjoyed it. She is opening up more than I thought she would and looks more at ease talking about things.'

What's coming up in the Autumn Term

Therapeutic Groups for Children aged 11-15:
PEERS (abridged) - Starts 31st October
Tree of Life - Starts 2nd November

Training for Staff in Educational Settings:
Learning to implement the All About Me Programme - 26th September & 3rd October (2 afternoons)

AET Courses
Good Autism Practice (1 day face-2-face)
Early Years - 6th & 13th October (2 half days)
Schools - 17th November (full day)
Making Sense of Autism (90 mins online)
Early Years - 22nd or 26th September
Schools - 20th October
Post-16 - 29th November

For more information and to register your place for a course, please visit our website.
If you can't find the help you need, please get in touch.

Let EASA hear your thoughts!

The end of term is fast approaching which means it's time for our Annual Survey for Educational Settings and Parents/Carers.
Have you worked with EASA in the last year?
Attended a Cuppa & Chat or professional workshop?
Had a call or meeting with a member of the team?
Then we would love to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to scan the relevant QR code below and complete a short questionnaire that will help us to continue to improve our services.

For Professionals & Educational settings staff

For Parents & Carers

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