



Network Newsletter

Issue 18 Autumn 2 2023

suffolktan@westbourne.atrust.org.uk @SuffolkTan

www.suffolktanetwork.co.uk

Coordinator's Comments

Conference Reflections

I have spent time recently analysing your evaluation forms from the recent conference and will be sharing an impact report with you shortly.

It has given me time to reflect on the conference and the importance of teaching assistants having the opportunity to network and share best practice. It was quite emotional seeing so many of you arrive and begin to mingle – the buzz of greetings, professional discussions and supportive conversations. I hope you all found it valuable catching up with colleagues from your own setting and teaching assistants from across the county.

With networking in mind, please check out the upcoming specialist networking sessions on pages 2, 4, 5 & 7 and let us know if there are any other specialist areas you would like to see as the focus of a specialist network in the future.



Join Us

If you are not already a member of the Suffolk TA Network, please join via the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/jPbuADRUuK>

(Please note the change in link from last year)

Simply click on this link or copy it into the URL bar on your browser and complete the Microsoft Forms document.

You will then receive the half-termly newsletter and other correspondence.

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Suffolk SEU Staff Networking Group



- Do you work for a Specialist Unit (SEU) in a Suffolk school?
- Would you like the opportunity to network with staff from other SEUs?

If the answer to these questions is 'yes', we invite you to join the Suffolk SEU Staff Networking Group to share your experiences and ideas with colleagues from across the county.

We have listened to feedback and have moved the network sessions from Thursdays to Tuesdays and have created a mixture of remote and face-to-face opportunities.

Tuesday 21st November 2023 - 15.30-16.30 – via TEAMS

Tuesday 13th February 2024 – 15.45-16.45 – face-to-face at Sidegate Primary School, Sidegate Lane, Ipswich, IP4 4JD

Tuesday 19th March 2024 – 15.30-16.30 – via TEAMS

Tuesday 21st May 2024 – 15.45-16.45 – face-to-face – location TBC

Tuesday 2nd July 2024 – 15.30-16.30 – via TEAMS

All sessions are open to teachers and teaching assistants and refreshments will be provided at face-to-face sessions.

To book a place at any of these sessions, please email abigail.joachim@attrust.org.uk

Free Training Opportunity



SOS+ plus brings together Signs of Safety, Trauma Informed and Restorative values and practices
The approach provides:

- ✓ A set of key principles that we aspire to use
- ✓ An overarching comprehensive framework for conversation, assessment, thinking and analysis
- ✓ Practices to support working WITH people and others who are important to them

With the aim to:

- ✓ Realise and acknowledge that peoples lived experiences play a part in how they respond, engage and function.
- ✓ Respond in a way to support recovery and restore functioning.
- ✓ Apply a solution-oriented approach to move towards agreed safe solutions.



We would like to invite you to a series of 4 Free Workshops to gain an understanding of the tools and techniques associated with the approach.

Session 1	Introduction to SOS+	Wednesday 13 th December 2023	13:30 – 14:30
			16:30 – 17:30
Session 2	Applying a Trauma Informed Lens	Thursday 8 th February 2024	13:30 – 14:30
			16:30 – 17:30
Session 3	Restorative Practices for working with people	Monday 11 March 2024	13:30 – 14:30
			16:30 – 17:30
Session 4	Signs of Safety Framework Tool	Thursday 25 th April 2024	13:30 – 14:30
			16:30 – 17:30

Book on these workshops at: suffolkcpsd.co.uk

SOS+ for Suffolk TA Network



Coming Soon

Suffolk TA Network Annual Conference Impact Report 2023



Communication & Interaction Specialist Network

We are very excited to continue working with the [Suffolk County Council Communication & Interaction \(C&I\) service](#) to offer a specialist networking opportunity for teaching assistants who have a particular interest in communication & interaction needs, and supporting children and young people with a diagnosis or traits of autism including:

- Difficulties with social communication and making or maintaining friendships
- Understanding and regulating emotions
- Difficulties around inflexible thinking
- Difficulties communicating effectively with others

Each half-termly session will have an overall theme, but with a flexible approach to meet your needs and will be supported by a specialist from the C&I service.

The first half of each session will be dedicated to theme-specific input, including resource recommendations, updates, strategies, signposting to training etc.

The second half will then be available for professional networking, where you can share strategies and ideas with colleagues from other schools in Suffolk.

Date	Time	Phase	Proposed Theme	Venue
Thursday 12 th October 2023	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Verbal and non-verbal ways to communicate emotions	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Thursday 30 th November 2023	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Meltdowns/shutdowns	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Thursday 1 st February 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Anxiety	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Thursday 21 st March 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Transitions and managing change	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Thursday 2 nd May 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Autism and girls	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Thursday 20 th June 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Sensory needs	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		

To join this specialist network and book a place on the sessions above, please email abigail.joachim@attrust.org.uk.



Dyslexia Specialist Network

We are very excited to continue working with the [Suffolk County Council Specific Learning Difficulties \(SpLD\) service](#) to offer a specialist networking opportunity for teaching assistants who have a particular interest in dyslexia.

Each half-termly session will have an overall theme, but with a flexible approach to meet your needs and will be supported by a SpLD specialist teacher.

The first half of each session will be dedicated to theme-specific input, including resource recommendations, updates, strategies, signposting to training etc.

The second half will then be available for professional networking, where you can share strategies and ideas with colleagues from other schools in Suffolk.

Date	Time	Phase	Proposed Theme	Venue
Wednesday 11 th October 2023	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Screening and assessing needs	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Wednesday 29 th November 2023	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Dyscalculia	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Wednesday 31 st January 2024	9.30-11.00	Secondary	Study skills and exam arrangements	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-15.00	Primary		
Wednesday 20 th March 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Writing and ways of recording	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Wednesday 1 st May 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Creating an SpLD-friendly learning environment	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		
Wednesday 19 th June 2024	9.30-10.30	Secondary	Co-occurring visual difficulties	Online via TEAMS
	13.30-14.30	Primary		

To join this specialist network and book a place on the sessions above, please email abigail.joachim@attrust.org.uk.

FREE CPD OPPORTUNITY



CPD ENQUIRIES AND BOOKING

Amy.Webb@suffolk.gov.uk

- Are you a TA working in an educational setting in Suffolk?
- Do you want to develop your existing knowledge and skills around Speech, Language and Communication?
- Would you like to explore strategies for supporting children and young people with communication difficulties?
- How would you like the opportunity to join other TAs across Suffolk?
- Could you take your skills back to your setting and share them with others?

NHS Speech and Language Therapy and Education Outreach SLCN would like to offer you six VIRTUAL sessions of CPD across the academic year 2023-2024. This training is a collaboration with the Suffolk TA Network and is absolutely free of charge. Sessions will be delivered via Microsoft Teams. To book your place contact Amy.Webb@suffolk.gov.uk

Session 1. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday September 25 th 2023	What do we mean by Speech, Language and Communication? This will also provide an overview of the 5 further sessions.
Session 2. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday December 4 th 2023	Social Communication
Session 3. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday February 5 th 2024	Receptive Language
Session 4. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday March 18 th 2024	Expressive Language
Session 5. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday May 13 th 2024	Speech Production and Phonological Awareness
Session 6. 4:00-5:30pm	Monday July 1 st 2024	Vocabulary, including the language of emotions and feelings

Some feedback from previous training:

I would like to say thank you all for your time and effort in delivering a brilliant online course full of information and support.

I've learnt lots of different things. I'm going to take lots away from all of the sessions thank you all very much.

All the slides, input, activities much appreciated. Thank you all.

Free Secondary SLCN ½ Termly Group Meeting over TEAMs



Did you know ...

The most common type of need for all pupils at SEN support, is **speech, language and communication needs?**

(Special Educational Needs In England, DfE, 2023)

This is a new secondary SLCN discussion / information sharing network from SES SLCN teachers.

We'll be looking at aspects of SLCN provision and strategies in secondary schools

It's for secondary SENDCOs and secondary SLCN TAs

Tuesdays, half termly, via TEAMs 3.45pm- 4.30pm

Date	Topics covered
Tuesday 3rd October 2023	SLCN screening and assessment tools for secondary age pupils
Tuesday 28 th November 2023	4 Core SLCN strategies for classroom teachers
Tuesday 30 th January 2024	Links between language and behaviour.
Tuesday 19 th March 2024	Language for Behaviour and Emotions Intervention
Tuesday 14 th May 2024	DLD (Developmental Language Disorder)
Tuesday 25 th June 2024	Developing verbal reasoning skills

For a TEAMs invite, please [Click Here to Book!](#)

Everything Suffolk County Council does is about improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND to have fulfilling adult lives. To help us shape the future please take the time to fill out our survey.



Our 2021-2023 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy is ending.



Tell us what to focus on next.

Scan the QR code or visit

www.suffolklocaloffer.org.uk

Consultation closes 1st December 2023



Open to education setting staff, the [Inclusion Support Line](#) is open Mondays to Fridays, 9am - 5pm.

It is designed for general enquiries or 'quick questions' and not for in-depth individual pupil discussion. For example, you may have a question around systems, processes, school-based interventions, the Graduated Response, etc.

The support line can be reached on **01473 265502**.

Resource Review

During a recent specialist network session, we explored some of the free SEMH resources available at www.elsa-support.co.uk.

There are a wide range of free downloads available, such as a worry ladder, feelings scales and star breathing for teens.



If you have found a good resource lately and want to shout about it, please get in touch suffolkta@westbourne.attrust.org.uk.

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