

Principles and practice for the provision of Autism/Asperger Outreach in Lincolnshire.

Introduction.

The provision of Autism / Asperger Outreach will follow the principles of the County Special Educational needs policy included in the Special Needs Administrative handbook.

The provision of outreach support for Children and Young People with an autistic spectrum disorder ((asd.) (children and young people with an asperger syndrome diagnosis are included in this) recognises that the diagnosis is a medical one with implications for the education of the pupil and that the pupil may not automatically require additional provision.

All schools will have some Children and Young People with special educational needs and should be able to make suitable provision for them. This also applies to the Children and Young People with an asd. At the request of the school the Specialist Teachers in the Outreach Team will provide training and advice to help the whole school develop an understanding of asd, and suggest practical strategies to help promote inclusion for children and young people with and autistic spectrum / asperger diagnosis.

The policy for the provision of outreach support for Children and Young People with an asd. is based on the principles of the Revised Code of Practice. The fundamental principles are:

- A child with special educational needs should have their needs met.
- The special educational needs of the pupil will normally be met in a mainstream school or in an early years setting.
- The views of the pupil should be ascertained and considered
- Parents /Carers have a key role in supporting their children and supporting the professionals by providing relevant information.
- Children and Young People with special educational needs should be offered full access to a broad and balanced and relevant education including an appropriate curriculum for the foundation stage and the National Curriculum.

Children and Young People with an asd. whose needs cannot be met by the provision routinely available in the school should follow the steps for school action and school action plus described in the Code and the Special Needs Administrative Handbook

Aims of the Autism Outreach Provision.

The revised Special Educational Needs Code of Practice states:
"All teachers are teachers of Children and Young People with special educational needs"

Para 6.2.

The key aims are:-

- To provide a focal point for information, support and training.
- To act as a channel for developments within County and to promote multi-agency liaison in order to avoid fragmentation of approaches.
- To enable the School to effectively support and educate a Child and Young Person with an asd.
- To actively involve the parents /carers from the initial intervention and to develop a working partnership between home and school to ensure inclusion for the children and young people with an asd diagnosis and to build confidence.

The objective of the Autism /Asperger Outreach Provision is to provide skills and knowledge about autistic spectrum disorders to all the staff and to promote a whole school approach to educating a Child or Young Person with an asd. The Outreach Team is not able to work with individual children and young people, interventions will be to provide advice, training, suggest strategies and to review interventions.

An equal part of the support and planning is the recognition of the knowledge and expertise of the parents / carers and the inclusion of parents / carers as partners in the education of their children.

The Specialist Teachers aim to promote awareness and good practice throughout the school and to ensure all adults understand the different, unique differences and range of behaviours, which make up the autistic spectrum. There is an overwhelming need for all parties involved in the education and support of an individual with an asd. to empathise with the diagnosis, recognise the individual differences of each individual with an autistic spectrum diagnosis and develop practices / make adjustments to promote independence for that young person.

Provision.

The Autism /Asperger Outreach Teachers will work as part of the multi-agency, professional team to provide support for the pupil with an asd. The Teacher's principle role is advisory and it is unlikely direct teaching will be offered. Schools are expected to follow the guidelines given and to obtain written consent from the Parent / Carer for a referral to be made to the Outreach Team.

To accommodate the high demand for the Outreach provision the Local Education Authority (LEA) have funded the release of a Teachers from both Gosberton House School and St. Christopher's School in Lincoln. A further full-time Outreach Teacher is based with the Lincoln Learning Support Team. Each of the Specialist Teachers works in an allocated area. (please see contact sheet)

The Specialist Outreach Teacher will operate a flexible and needs based system of contact with a school after an initial consultation. For a short period it may be necessary to visit on frequent basis and then withdraw. Increased support maybe given during periods of transition eg. a move between schools or key stages.

Delivery of the Specialist Autism /Asperger Outreach provision will be from the following range:

- Staff Meetings to promote knowledge and awareness - it is beneficial if all teachers and ancillary staff are included in these sessions
- Training for Learning Support Assistants.
- Provision of a helpline service via e-mail or telephone.
- Observation of the pupil and discussion of strategies with individual teachers.
- Advice regarding programmes and interventions to support the pupil with an asd.
- A prime source of input will be to produce an IEP that links the targets indicated by all agencies involved in the support of the pupil and prioritises key areas.
- Consideration will be given to the most appropriate lead agent at each review to address the individual need.
- Attendance at reviews and annual reviews and where appropriate the provision of written advice.
- Planning and support for a pupil with an asd. entering a mainstream school either in reception or at a later stage, eg when a pupil has a late diagnosis.
- Specialist Teachers will be able to offer suggestions for organisation of the environment and resources.
- Specialist Teachers will have access to range of information and teaching materials.
- Courses with recognised speakers will be provided for schools to purchase.
- In response to individual need the Special Schools may be able to offer visits and training in their setting.

Access to the Autism / Asperger Outreach Provision.

All Lincolnshire Schools are entitled to seek advice from the Outreach Teachers. Where a school feels they have a need for additional support the following action should be taken:-

- Consult the information in the Special Needs Service Handbook issued to all schools as an initial reference point for awareness of and strategies to support Children and Young People with an asd.
- It is expected that schools will follow the Revised Code of Practice and implement a graduated process of plan do and review at School Action and School Action Plus, as well as demonstrating they have used resources and funding routinely available
- It is anticipated that schools will have consulted the advice documents before contacting the Autism/Asperger Outreach Teachers.
- Initial contact with the Specialist Teacher is through the Autism Helpline either by e-mail or telephone. (please see attached map)
- Schools will be expected to have consulted Parents / Carers and obtained their written consent before the Specialist Teachers can be involved.

Links with parents.

The Specialist Teachers will maintain links with local support groups and with the National Autistic Society. In addition the Specialist Teachers will try to develop links with the Child and Family Units and other related agencies. Current examples are:-

- Input into training Days and workshops.
- Working with the Lincolnshire Autistic Society to present the Lincolnshire Conference.
- Sharing of information and resources.
- Support for / delivery of EarlyBird programmes
- Ensuring that parents are involved with the education of their child and their expertise is acknowledged and valued.
- The service will not routinely offer advice to parents on an individual basis. However parents will be provided with the names of relevant contacts such as the NAS and Parent Partnership.
- Gosberton House School also runs termly support group meetings which Outreach Parents are invited to attend.

Contact Points for the Autism / Asperger Outreach Team.

The Specialist Outreach Teachers are not always able to available to answer telephone calls contact by email is more effective. Schools should contact the team in their area.

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Lincoln area

St. Christopher's School

01522 528378

Telephone Helpline:

Wednesday 1.30 - 4.00pm.

e-mail

autismoutreach@st-christopher.lincs.sch.uk

South of the County

Gosberton House School

01775 840250

Telephone Helpline:

Monday 9.00.- 12 noon

email:

Vicky.turner@gosberton-house.lincs.sch.uk

Louise.stanton@gosberton-house.lincs.sch.uk

North of the County

Learning Support Service Autism / Aspberger

Outreach Teacher

Based in the LSS Room at Sturton-by-Stow Primary
School

Telephone Helpline:

To be arranged / 07850444847

Friday 9.15 - 11.30am

e-mail:

anne.tait@lincolnshire.gov.uk