**Autism in Schools - Expression of Interest Form**

**Overview**

We would like to invite 10 education settings in North East Lincolnshire (NEL) to be part of the Autism in School Project, which has been successfully piloted in Cumbria and the North East. NEL is the only area in the Humber, Coast and Vale region to be awarded funding after a successful funding application.

The project aims to:

* Work with educational settings to improve knowledge and understanding of how to support children with autism and their families
* Promote a person-centred approach to ensure staff understand the challenges faced by individual children and are able to put reasonable adjustments in place
* Enable children with autism and their families to understand their own strengths and challenges
* Improve the working relationship between families and educational settings
* Look at ways in which we can better support children and young people with autism in mainstream education settings through the provision of early intervention and preventive support
* Enable children and young people to be supported well in the school environment

Therefore, we are inviting educational settings to submit an expression of interest to be considered to be involved within the project and the deadline is by the **1st October 2021** to nelccg.fmhd@nhs.net All education settings will be notified if they have been successful once all EOIs have been reviewed. An overview session has been organised to provide further information on the project and give you an opportunity to ask any questions. Please book onto the overview session on [EventBrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/north-east-lincolnshire-autism-in-schools-overview-and-qa-session-tickets-169330029677) on Wednesday 22nd September 3:30pm – 4:30pm.

**Education Settings Commitment**

As part of the project there is a requirement for educational settings to commit to the following:

* Sign-up from senior staff for the setting to participate in the project
* Identify a named Autism champion/staff member to work alongside the project team
* Release staff member for attendance at learning modules/webinars (approx. 7 webinars)
* Review of education settings policies and commitment to implement reasonable adjustments in light of the development and learning sessions
* Work with project team and support engagement in interventions with children and families (e.g. distribute surveys etc.)
* Share the learning with other educational settings
* Implement learning from development programme through whole school/college approach
* Develop a partnership with the parent carer forum
* Support parent evenings/group meetings
* Engage with practitioners (e.g. Autism practitioner)
* Support coproduction with parents/carers to enable joint working to build resilience both in school settings and within families
* Meet the needs of pupils and have a willingness to change, whilst developing the settings awareness of the impact of autism spectrum disorders on education, social and life outcomes

To support with release and backfill of staff we are able to release **£2,000 per setting** as part of this programme.

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| **Autism in schools** |
| **Whole school audit and evaluation** |
| **Activity**  | **Time Commitment** |
| Initial group meeting to discuss overview of audit, rationale, and baseline evaluation of the setting  | 2 hours |
| Educational setting to complete audit (you can access support if requested) | 2 hours |
| Group meeting:* To discuss completed audit and data collected
* Share information
* Identify gaps for training needs
 | 2 hours |
| Develop action plan in the setting alongside the autism practitioner  | 2 hours |
| Group meetings with autism in schools’ team, project support, supervision, and networking  | 20 hours  |
| Support on the evaluation of the pilot (e.g. surveys, impact statements) | 4 hours |
| Support to parent supporting parent forums termly | 12 hours  |
| Attendance at learning modules/webinars (approx. 7 webinars) | 56 hours  |
| **Total commitment** | **100 hours**  |

**Expression of Interest Form**

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| **Educational Settings Details** |
| Full name of education setting: |  |
| Type of education setting: |  |
| Current Ofsted rating: |  |
| Number of pupils: |  |
| Senior point of contact for this pilot: | Name:Role:E-mail address: |
| Autism champion: | Name:Role:E-mail address:  |
| Name and e-mail of Headteacher/Principal: |  |
| **Expression of Interest Form** |
| To express an interest in participating in the programme please submit an answer below as to why your setting should be selected **(1,000 words maximum)**. Please consider the following points:* Why you want to be part of the programme?
* What difference are you hoping to see as a result of being involved in the programme?
* How do you currently engage parents/carers and young people in shaping activities/services in your educational setting around autism or neuro-difficulties?
* What support do you currently offer or access in-terms of supporting children with autism or neuro-difficulties?
* Please tell us anything else you want to say.
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