

Educational Psychology Service Guildhall Frankwell Quay Shrewsbury Shropshire SY3 6HQ Tel: 01743 258414

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eps@shropshire.gov.uk

Supporting the Enhancement of Neuroinclusion in SEcondary Schools (SENSES)

Dear Secondary Head Teacher and Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO),

We hope that you've had a positive start to the new academic year.

We wanted to contact you about a new, exciting project, 'Supporting the Enhancement of Neuroinclusion in Secondary Schools' (SENSES), that we are launching and will be freely available to the schools who participate in the project. Following the successful Neurodiversity Practitioner (NDP) Pilot Project and the impact also realised from the Partnerships for the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) in our primary schools, we want to be able to offer continued support to our secondary schools and have secured funding for this academic year to enable us to do so. Research indicates that approximately one in seven of our learners in schools are neurodivergent as well as highlighting the challenges and opportunities that are / can be available within secondary schools. Within the NDP Pilot Project, the NDPs supported eight secondary schools in various ways depending on the aspirations and priorities of the school. This included systemic work through training, coaching, codeveloping sensory spaces and modelling, as well as individual work with children and young people on a needs-led, not diagnosis-led, basis.

In line with the effective coaching and continued professional development (CPD) approach utilised by the NDPs and within PINS, we are offering to provide each of our 20 secondary schools with six sessions with an NDP over the 2025-2026 academic year (one per half-term) for coaching and CPD. The direction of the support will be dependent upon the aspirations and priorities of the schools. The initial session will be with the school SENCO, which will include planning and agreeing the future sessions and actions for the rest of the academic year, but the coaching and CPD may well involve working with other, multiple or all members of staff, depending on the action plan. If the school wishes to access individual CYP support and/or additional CPD then they can discuss a traded package with the NDP team (capacity dependent).

Involvement in this project is available to all our secondary schools in Shropshire, with pre and post measures taken to monitor impact, but **the project can only start once schools respond initially to accept this pre-commissioned offer of support**.

[Page 2]

For more information on the Neurodiversity Practitioners, please see their brochure on Shropshire's Learning Gateway: <u>Neurodiversity Practitioners | Shropshire Learning</u> Gateway

If you have any questions or queries, and to express your interest in being involved in this project, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can get the support in your school underway. <u>kathryn.morgan@shropshire.gov.uk</u>

We hope that this is an opportunity that appeals to your school, and we look forward to continuing to work with and support our secondary schools in Shropshire.

Best wishes,

Dr Kathryn Morgan

Specialist Senior Educational Psychologist for Neurodiversity

Shropshire Educational Psychology Service