

# Inclusion Somerset's Enhanced Autism and Communication Provision



**SOMERSET**  
County Council



## What is the Enhanced Provision Team?

Some children and young people with autism social communication needs will need more intense and direct support than is available through Inclusion Somerset Advisory Teachers or Educational Psychologists. This is when the Enhanced Provision Team can become involved to help build capacity and develop skills in North Somerset mainstream as well as specialist schools. We are also a licensed training hub for the Autism Education Trust's Schools Programme (see more details below). Our small and busy team consists of two Specialist Higher Level Teaching Assistants, Kate Campbell and Kim Kettle, line-managed by Nikki Morgan-Nash, Advisory Teacher for the Autism Communication Team.

## How does my child's school access enhanced support from this service?

School will need to complete our referral form to show that the young person meets the key criteria for support, i.e., the placement is at risk of breakdown or the child or young person is experiencing a significant transition, e.g., change in support/teaching staff, change of year group/ school setting or changes at home. The additional criteria are that school should also:

- have already involved Inclusion Somerset (or another outside agency such as an independent Educational Psychologist).
- have accessed autism/social communication training for staff working directly with the pupil within the last 3 years, which could include being booked on an upcoming training event.
- be able to identify how Enhanced Provision involvement can support their overall autism development as well as the individual pupil.

## What does the direct support look like?

Either Kim or Kate will be allocated to work with a pupil alongside key staff for a block of time according to need, with dates set to review outcomes and involvement. Some of our support happens remotely during the current Covid-19 situation. We usually meet with staff and parents/carers to draft a Record of Consultation (following an initial observation of the young person) detailing the relevant issues and desired outcomes. We then visit school settings on a regular basis to share and model strategies and resources, as well as contributing to Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) meetings and reviews, or the Social Communication and Autism Multi-professional Pathway (SCAMP) diagnostic process, as necessary.



## Does my child need a diagnosis of autism to access this service?

No, but their primary need should be their social communication differences and schools should follow the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice 'graduated response', i.e., show evidence of meeting our 'additional criteria', mentioned in Q2.



# SUPPORT RT

## **Does the service provide any autism training for school staff?**

Yes, we are currently rolling out the Autism Education Trust's (AET) modular training programme for practitioners in all North Somerset schools. For this academic year, the Tier 1 basic awareness-raising training, 'Making Sense of Autism' is free of charge to whole school staff in all North Somerset settings. See <https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/training-programme/schools/making-sense-of-autism/> for more information. We also offer the additional AET training modules for staff who wish to advance their skills, or for those leading and developing autism provision in schools; further details and costings are available on request.

## **Do you offer support for families and young people following a diagnosis of autism?**

At present Kate or Kim would provide support around understanding and self-awareness, as well as signposting families to local supportive networks and appropriate resources. However, in the future, we hope to be able to deliver Barnardo's parenting 'Cygnet Programme' to support parents and carers of children and young people aged 5-18 with an autism spectrum condition.

## **How does the service support significant school transitions for young people with autism and how do their schools' access this?**

We proactively support Year 6-7 & Post-16 transfers and remain involved at the start of the new academic year to help bridge the transition between settings, ensuring these are well supported. Schools can refer pupils (with a primary social communication need) anytime during Y6 or Y11 using our standard referral form and we would usually get involved in Term 5 or sooner if extended transition support is beneficial.

### **Contact Details**

For any further information or for a referral form, please feel free to contact us by email as follows:

Kate: [kcampbell@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:kcampbell@somerset.gov.uk)

Kim: [kkettle@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:kkettle@somerset.gov.uk)