

ASCEND hub newsletter

Autumn Term 2014

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ASCEND is 1 year old

Welcome to the second edition of the ASCEND hub newsletter. The ASCEND hub was established in November 2013 and is a collaborative locality network.

We have spent a lot of time putting governance arrangements in place and creating our strategic development plan in response to feedback from parents and staff.

We have now started to deliver training events and projects and this newsletter will tell you more about what has taken place and highlight projects and events happening in the near future.



News from the ASCEND steering group

We had to say farewell to Sarah Erskine, our parent carer representative, at the end of July. Sarah was the co-Chair of the West Sussex parent carer forum and had been with us from the very beginning. Sarah's knowledge and expertise has been hugely helpful while we have been creating our development plan and we wish her every success with her new life. We are very fortunate that Maria Hughes has kindly agreed to take Sarah's place on the strategic steering group. Maria is also a member of the West Sussex Parent Carer forum and is mum to two children who attend Handcross Primary School and St Mark's Primary School.

We are also delighted to welcome Jane Barker who will be our 0-4 representative. Jane works at Cuckfield Playgroup and we have already looked at some exciting projects to support preschool children.

Further details about members of the steering group and the minutes of our meetings can be found at www.ascendhub.co.uk.

*We are also delighted
to welcome Jane
Barker who will be our 0
- 4 representative.*

The ASCEND local offer can now be found on our website along with links to the local offers for all of our schools.

What does a SENCo do?

The SEN Co-ordinator (SENCo), in collaboration with the head teacher and governing body, plays a key role in determining the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision in the school in order to raise the achievement of children with SEN. The SENCo, who is a qualified teacher, takes day-to-day responsibility for the provision made for individual children with SEN, working closely with staff, parents and carers and other agencies.

The SENCo also provides related professional guidance to colleagues with the aim of securing high quality teaching for children with SEN.

In some schools, the SENCo may also be known as the Inclusion Manager.

The key responsibilities of the SENCo include:

- Liaising with and advising fellow teachers
- Co-ordinating provision for pupils with SEN
- Overseeing the records of all pupils with SEN
- Liaising with parents of pupils with SEN
- Contributing to the in service training of staff
- Liaising with external agencies including the Local Authority's support and educational psychology services, the youth support services, health and social care and voluntary bodies.



The first parent carer support group will be on 5th December 2014 at Lindfield Primary School.

First parent carer support group launches

We hope to see many parent carers at our first parent carer forum on **5th December 2014** at Lindfield Primary School. Sarah Kelly, Speech and Language Therapist, will be talking about strategies to help you improve your child's ability to listen both in the school setting and at home. This will be a lively, interactive session and you should go away with lots of tips to try out at home. There will be plenty of time for networking and discussion, coffee and mince pies and a chance for you to tell us what you would like future forums to look like and what topics you would like featured. To book a place, please email Karen Crockford on kcrockford@oathall.org.

Employing professionals project launches

We are delighted that Emma Bannister, family and child support worker, Jane Divall, Play Therapist, and Sarah Kelly, Speech and Language Therapist, have joined ASCEND. The team is helping us to provide better and timelier intervention for those children that need it.

There are clear guidelines and referral criteria available and these can be found on the website, www.ascendhub.co.uk

So far we have received over 20 referrals and we have been able to respond to these within 4 weeks.

Sarah Kelly said, "I've really been enjoying visiting all of the schools and meeting everyone. I'm excited about the opportunity to work closely with the children and to be able to offer direct intervention."

The intervention is being welcomed by schools. Shirley Gardner, Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion) at Warden Park Primary Academy, said, "The ability to refer to the Ascend programme has improved the opportunities for support for our children. The referral process is quick and easy and the response from the therapists has been swift and encouraging."

If you would like to know more about any of these services, please speak to your school's SENCo.



Emma Bannister, Jane Divall and Sarah Kelly

Rob Long behaviour workshops

In July we invited Rob Long to run some workshops for staff and parents to help develop skills to address low level behavioural problems, both at home and in the classroom.

Rob is a well-established and dynamic presenter and 98% of participants reported that they had found the workshop useful.

All staff that attended went away at the end of the day with an action plan to support at least one child within their school. Follow up evaluations will be carried out this term to track how those action plans have been implemented.



CPD audit responses

In October, SENCos were asked to identify which CPD needs they would like the ASCEND hub to provide them with support in.

The following list shows the areas that they requested in order of popularity. Watch out for further details about training opportunities.

Diffusing anger

Attention deficit disorder

Play ideas for lunchtime supervisors

Working memory

Attachment disorders

Sensory processing

Upcoming events

Details of future ASCEND events.

Parents:

1st parent carer support group **December 5th 2014**

Staff:

SENCo case study day **January 27th 2015**

Team Teach training **February 27th 2015**

Working memory twilight session **Date tbc**

Sensory Processing twilight session **Date tbc**

Diffusing Anger online training **Contact Karen Crockford
for more details**

Would you like to get more involved with ASCEND?

We welcome input from parent/carers and staff as we continue to develop ASCEND and support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. We would like to know what support you would like to see us deliver and would welcome views on how we are doing. As we develop new services, we would like to seek your input on how you would like to see these new opportunities delivered. If you would like to get more involved, please email Karen Crockford on kcrockford@oathall.org