



**Autism and Social Communication (ASC) Team**

**Service Offer 2022**

The ‘ASC’ team follow a graduated approach to allow for the right support at the right time. Our team philosophy is that Quality First Teaching (QFT) strategies for pupils with Social Communication differences, MUST be embedded as standard (under SEN Code of Practice ‘Reasonable Adjustments’ section) across school, prior to any targeted support offered.

This is explained in further detail below.

**Universal Support**

Our universal approach (available to all) is as follows and viewed as the first step in collaboratively raising standards within schools;

1. Phone Line - to speak with an Advisory Teacher, who will offer verbal support and guidance.
2. Service Email Address – you will always get a response from an Advisory Teacher, who will advise/direct you, to the support required.
3. An Advisory Teacher will be known to your setting and can share general advice on pupil environment, importance of communication, impact of pupil stress and QFT strategies for all pupils with Social Communication differences.
4. We are an AET (Autism Education Trust) Licence holder and an Advisory Teacher within our service will be able to direct you to our training programme happening termly.
5. There are specific additional training programmes/events we will be holding termly and information about these will be found on our Twitter Feed, Local Offer and emailed out to schools.
6. All schools will be encouraged to have an ‘Autism Champion’ who will attend termly network meetings.
7. We will share a QFT document that we hope would be a minimum standard for reasonable adjustments within your school. QFT approaches for Social Communication differences will be a focus, prior to moving to targeted in most cases.

**Targeted Support**

A focused level of support is available for individual pupils, once it is agreed all our Universal avenues have been explored. There is a threshold pupils must meet for ‘Targeted Support’ within the service. This includes evidence that implementation of our QFT standards are used as standard across the pupils school day. The threshold is as follows;

1. Child/YP will have a diagnosis of autism
2. Child/YP will be on the Neurodevelopmental pathway and NOT currently supported by 0-5.
3. Child/YP will be displaying differences levelled at 3 or higher on Sheffield Support Grid within the Communication and Interaction section in addition to one or more of the following: risk of exclusion, LAC, safeguarding concerns, transition year, CAMHS involvement and/or a relevant professional within Sheffield City Council has judged the child to have a ‘Significant Social Communication Difference’ and will have advised our targeted support is required.
* Any new referral must be discussed and agreed with your Advisory Teacher and Parental Permission, must also be sought.
* Following a conversation that the referral is appropriate, as a SENCO you will be asked to complete a detailed Social Communication Checklist in addition to a short referral form. The Advisory Teacher will then sign their name at the top front of the service referral form (referrals will not be accepted without this)
* This approved referral form will be sent to you to complete and return to the service via AnyComms. It will then be processed, and the Advisory Teacher will contact you.
* Once a referral is accepted, a range of support and advice will be available including (but not exhaustive of) an observation, modelling of pertinent interventions, discussion of schools training needs for recommended interventions and written reports signposting to possible strategies a block of support and at our discretion Rowen Outreach service.
* All training/support will be followed up for impact within settings. We will be looking closely at what impact has the training had on pupils, staff and wider school.
* We value the idea of co-production and any written reports, we require you to share with parents/carers (and depending on circumstance the C/YP themselves) to gain their views and allow for their ‘voice’ to be added to our advice. This is done through using a QR Code at the bottom of the report.
* Every referral will be followed up in a timely manner for us to gage impact and plan next steps.
* We plan to hold monthly training sessions of varying topics and a marketing plan will be sent to you termly (please note drop-in training sessions, could carry a small cost)

**IMPACT GATHERING**

**As part of our Service Level Agreement, our Team and Schools must take joint accountability. We will do what we say, and schools must do the same. Impact will be collected in a timely manner and schools have a duty to respond to the Impact questionnaires sent. Our overall aim is to develop the expertise and knowledge of your staff around good autism practice so that the provision for our autistic pupils is effective, beneficial and appropriate’**

**Specialist Support**

We have various specialisms within the service and can offer a comprehensive ‘**Service Around your School’** which could include the Service Manager and Advisory Teacher focusing on the following.

* How inclusive approaches and enabling environments can help a school to offer outstanding SEND provision.
* To consider what is needed to lead cultural change in a setting.
* To know about AET resources and guidance that can support leaders to provide inclusive environments through structural reasonable adjustments.
* To consider different ways of making structural reasonable adjustments to ensure autism and social communication needs are fully supported.

The threshold for Specialist Support is as follows.

* School is in a category that requires support and SEND is a key identifying factor.
* The Local Authority has identified challenges as part of the overarching SEND plan and vision.
* High numbers of exclusions for SEND / Low attendance of SEND pupils.
* Attainment data of SEND pupils is low.
* A range of professional have voiced concern surrounding the provision

A discussion regarding Specialist Support would be completed through the Service Manager, Advisory Teacher, and Head of SEND.

For further help and information please ring 0114 2506800

email autism.educationteam@sheffield.gov.uk

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