

Outreach 22-23

This has been a difficult year for the outreach team as many schools within our community are reaching crisis point. Over the last year many new SENCO's have come into post. We have found that their training is not sufficient in preparing them for the role and many are completing the course whilst in post. We are also seeing a serious increase in SEN needs within schools due to the impact from COVID. Many schools within our local area have a minimum of 3 children with EHCP's in each classroom. Most EHCP's now note in Section F that schools must provide termly support from a specialist teacher.

To support schools we have adapted and tailored a specific consultation programme. This programme involves meeting with all teachers and support staff to discuss specific needs within their classrooms. Within our sessions we work closely with the SENCO in order to ensure that the provision paperwork is useful and concise. We have found that this enables staff to develop their knowledge and understanding of meeting SEN needs holistically as opposed to working on an individual basis.

This year we have had three schools (Heasandford, Cherry Fold & Holy Trinity) book in half termly visits for our consultation support. Next year we have had requests from St Mary's, Padiham Green and Briercliffe. Each consultation may require a full day per specialist teacher each half term. As well as our normal requests for individual recommendations, reports to support EHCP requests and staff training.

We have had an increase for whole school training to develop staff understanding of ASD and SEN. Next year we plan to deliver training on a variety of topics to help upskill staff within our local mainstream schools.

We are already receiving requests for diary dates next year as the demand for our support increases.