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| **Wakefield Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) & Alternative Provision (AP) Partnership Board Highlight Report** |
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| **SEND Improvement Update** |
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| **Date of Report:** | 23 February 2024 |
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| **Reporting period:** | 15 December 2023 to 23 February 2024 |
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| **SEND Lead:** | Nathan Heath – Service Director, Education & Inclusion  |
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| **Lead Organisations:** | Wakefield CouncilWakefield District Health and Care PartnershipWakefield Parent Carer Forum |

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| 1. **Programme Status Summary**
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| **General Update – Julie Killey*** Retirement Update – I am retiring from my Head of Service post. My last working day will be the 5th of April. A massive thank you to everyone for all their support since I started in Wakefield in November 2019 it has been a great place to work. Recruitment is currently on-going and further updates will be shared with the board in due course.
* Save the date our Local Offer Live Event taking place on 8th May 2024, from 1pm till 7pm at The Education Exchange in Knottingley – if you would like to have a stall at the event please contact juliearmstrong@wakefield.gov.uk
* Planning is taking place for delivery of our year three DfE short breaks innovation bid.
* We have been approached to be involved by the What Works in SEND Research Project – Local Areas Demonstrating Good Inclusion Practices in school by Warwick University, See below:

*Identification of three case study local authority areas where there is evidence of inclusive practice in schools with local area partnership structures supporting this (identified by DfE and/or others – e.g. CDC/ Whole School SEND/other RISE partners). In identifying our three local areas we would focus on those where we can glean specific examples from participants of strategies and practices which have facilitated inclusion. To this end, we will seek to identify those where there is/has been improvement over time in inclusive practices. In this way, we can focus on useful, actionable examples wherever possible. Qualitative interviews to be conducted within the three case study areas. The research is likely to include focus groups interviews as well as one-to-one to allow for a broad range of views.** Work is taking place to move to a digital platform for our EHCP processes this will provide a better experience for both parents and professionals and enable tracking throughout the process.
* Drop-in sessions have taken place in January to provide information on the updated ‘my support plan’ and further sessions have been offered to review what is ‘ordinary available’ in settings.

**SENART – Jacqui Dundas*** SENART continue to trial the new national template for EHCP as part of our Change Programme work. Initial feedback is it supports with the ‘golden thread’ running through the document. The time taken to complete new plans and amend plans is longer than on the old plan, and this needs to continue to be factored in around capacity in the team.
* Work has started on the digital portal and this work is involving stakeholders. It is hoped that the first pilot use of the portal will be in May. This will improve user experience.
* Sue Sharp and Julie Armstrong have been leading on work around the advisory tailored lists as part of the Change Programme and the initial template has been submitted. This work is currently paused by the DfE whilst they consider feedback.
* SENART have two officers – Sam Kitchingman and Sammi Zafir sharing an Act up position to cover the SENART team manager post.
* A new Tribunals officer has been in post since January to support with tribunals and mediations. This is funded via Change Programme Partnership (CPP) to enable SEN Officer to have capacity to do the work for the CPP.
* A lead SEN Officer is also currently being advertised – this will be to strengthen the service around complex cases, EOTAS and to provide additional management support.

**Complex Care Needs team – Jacqui Dundas*** SEND Family support workers pilot has limited referral to work in the Castleford and Airedale Cluster. Due to the low number of referrals the referral route is now being altered so that there is a direct referral route from schools.
* SEND family engagement practitioner – has a caseload of up to 20 young people.
* An update report will be completed March 24 for both projects and will be shared with the board.
* Claire Calladine – Service Manager Targeted Early Help – will take on the role of DSCO (Designated Social Care Officer) from March 1st.

**Quality Assurance*** An annual QA report has been completed outlining the work completed in 2023.
* Multi agency SEND Audit training has taken place.
* Monthly multi agency SEND audits are occurring.
* SENART complete monthly audits of casework / quality of EHCP to include carers and young person’s voice.
* Further timetable of dip sample’s needs to be completed for 2024.

**Adults Learning Disability and Mental Health – Christine Herbert*** Frequent Transitions meetings continue with Health, SEND and Children’s to problem solve specific transition cases and ensure a smooth process.
* Recruitment has had a positive effect on the Transition team, a permanent Team Manager is now in post full time.
* An information session is planned to be held with the Children in Care teams to encourage earlier referrals to the team to allow us to plan for more complex cases and ensure referrals are appropriate.

**Wakefield District Health & Care Partnership, Children’s Alliance – Jenny Lingrell*** The Wakefield District Health and Care Partnership Committee has agreed an investment of £800k to support the autism diagnosis pathway
* The Service Director for Children’s Health and Wellbeing attended Network Thursday to discuss the Autism Pathway with Clinical Directors from Primary Care; they are very satisfied with the pathway which means that all referrals for diagnosis are submitted by schools.
* Health colleagues attended SALT Team meeting online in January to provide overview of DCO role.
* DCO and SEND support officer attended February OT team meeting face to face to introduce themselves and discuss current challenges - this felt like a very positive meeting.
* Facilitated meeting with CAMHS Psychology Clinical Lead and EP which went well. CAMHS Psych to attend EHCP Panel to shadow; informal meetings to take place to introduce wider team to CAMHS psych team.
* In February, we introduced an OT (funded by ICB) who will support primarily with tribunal requests and reviewing of private reports. Process in place and shared, review scheduled on 3 December with OT and Jo Rooney.
* Currently working towards access to S1 with Wakefield ICB portal, meaning SEND can have a caseload. Loosely mirroring what is in place in Bradford.
* Commence planning for consultation with parents around health funded short breaks
* Visit from Children’s Commissioner’s Office to look at practice around emotional well- being, awaiting feedback. As part of the visit they met with young people and one young person has shared a video of how valued they felt by the visit.

**0 – 19 Service – Margaret Appleyard**The three Sensory Stay and Play groups continue to be delivered within the Childrens Centres in partnership with portage and 0-19. Families continue to enjoy talks and updates from a variety of services including, specialist, universal, early years and voluntary services, and Wakefield Families Together.The Childrens Services app shares a variety of information to help our families and enable them to find information regarding SEND services.**WESAIL – Emma Anderton*** There has been a 40% increase in the number of Local Offer enquiries dealt with.
* We completed an EDI survey to gather data on the breakdown of the SENDIASS steering board members including SEND, sexuality, gender and ethnicity. This showed a very good representation of those with SEND, age ranges with a mix of established and new members.

**Schools Perspective – Outwood Grange Academies, Holly Benson****Primary:*** Band 6 SALT working in the 7 Outwood Primaries in Wakefield and focused on upskilling identified SALT champions in each academy. Twilight training on Universal Approaches to SLCN started across all seven academies.
* Training delivered to ECT’s on: the golden thread of SEND, a graduated response to SEND with a focus on the ‘assess’ stage, adaptations across the curriculum, the building blocks of relationships.
* Training for Principals, Vice Principals and Assistant Principals on establishing restorative practice across our academies to further develop our relational model.
* Training delivered to HLTA’s on: Every teacher is a teacher of SEND, understanding reasonable adjustments and provisions through case studies, the golden thread of SEND.
* SENCO network session focused on the golden thread of SEND and a graduated response to SEND.
* Learning Manager network session focused on further developing Zones of Regulation including resources for parents / carers.

**Secondary:*** SENDCo Network focus on: SEND attendance (sharing good practice) & EHCP submissions.
* Development of the trust response to recording and discussing provision available/implemented to all learners.
* Development/exploration of a secondary internal ‘SEND inclusion panel’ in order to meet the high needs evident in settings.
* Consideration to ‘ordinary available provision’ in each academy to support the CPP.

**Special Schools - Rebecca Thompson, Headteacher Highfield****Main site**Our capital 2 spend is now signed off and works have begun. This included a number of updates to our main site. Some of which include new front security gate and pathway leading into school, canopy between areas of school, outside area of p16 development and works to build another sensory room and safe fence pathway access from outside to the play area. We are awaiting capital 1 sign off for a large outside area so that we can begin to commission the works. **Thornes**Works for the outside area and reception are scheduled for the Easter holidays and a meeting has taken place to look at the first floor space. In September we will be welcoming 1 scerts pathway class, 1 semi formal pathway class and 2 formal pathway class. We have done some creative work with timetables to be able to accomodate the second formal pathway class. We had a very positive Ofsted visit before Christmas and had a section 8 inspection. We maintained our Good status. The inspectors were particularly impressed with schools ‘personal development ‘and commented in final feedback that ‘their schools could learn from Highfield ‘with regards to personal development which we very proud to hear. Ofsted only set one target for improvement.  |
| 1. **SEND National SENDAP improvement plan**
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| **General Update**Wakefield section on the Local Offer covering the Change Programme has been updated. Please follow the link.[About | Change Programme Partnership | Wakefield SEND Local Offer (mylocaloffer.org)](https://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org/change-programme-partnership/change-programme-partnership/)The PCF also has a page with information included: [Wakefield Parent Carer Forum (wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk)](https://www.wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk/newsflash/change-programme-partnership) and an article has been prepared for the next News and Views.Areas of work the Yorkshire and Humber Change Programme Partnership (Wakefield, Bradford, Leeds and Calderdale) have been progressing to date include:* Setting up the Y and H CCP Steering group and produce a strategic plan - **Complete.**
* Testing out the DfE national data dashboard and feedback on this **complete** for the initial version we now have a new version for testing following feedback.
* Co-producing a Local Area Inclusion Plan (LAIP) testing out the template provided. Three out of the 4 areas should have submitted by the end of February. Feedback on the template has been provided to the DfE.
* Analysis of our SEND and AP Boards against the guidance in the Change Programme and considering the recommended amends. All four areas have updated and amended their ToR.
* Analysis of our EHCP panels against the Change Programme guidance and considering changes needed. This is still work in progress for all areas.
* Mediation Arrangements: Wakefield are reviewing and have completed a deep dive into our mediation arrangements against the ask in the Change Programme, one other area has commenced this work.
* All areas are currently testing out the national EHCP templates and feeding back to the DfE around these.
* A gap analysis has been undertaken for each area around their EHCP panels – individual areas are now reviewing these and determining next steps.
* Work on the tailored list template has also commenced – nationally there is a pause in the roll out of this element whilst feedback is considered.
* From Wakefield on the Y and H Steering Group we have the following representatives: Local Authority, Health, Special School, Mainstream Setting, and Adult social care.

Future work will include Alternative Provision 3 Tier Model, Bands and Tariffs and National Standards.**Alternative Provision – Abi Mulligan*** Integration of SEND and AP system: new Boards, including SENAP Partnership Board, TORs and structures in place. Engagement from all stakeholders – multi-agency and schools/academies.
* 3-tier AP system – foundations in place via AP Panel offer. AP mapped across the district. Unregistered providers contacted and offered support with standards.

**Adults Learning Disability and Mental Health*** Work on a Transitions strategy is underway, with the aim of improving young person’s journey by incorporating all the current pathways within the strategy. A feedback form for young people and their carers is now in place, and this part of the QA process will be included in the strategy. It will be sent out quarterly.
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| 1. **Data for this reporting period**
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| **SENART****January to December 2023*** Number of new requests received - 761
* Number with decision to assess – 543
* Total number of plans - 3395
* 74.8% of EHCPs issued with 20-week timescale
* 93 mediations
* 46 Appeals to SENDIST Tribunal (March to December)

**January 2024*** No of requests to assess considered at panel – 75
* 31.3% of EHCPs issued with 20-week timescale
* 6 mediations
* 3 Appeals received to SENDIST Tribunal

**Educational Psychology Service (September 2023 to January 2024)****Alternative Provision**

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| Total number students in registered provision via AP Panel | 22 |
| Total number of re-integrations YTD | 10 |

**WESAIL**WESAIL and Local Offer Facebook page - the number of followers has increased from 629 to 677. <http://www.facebook.com/WakefieldWESAILandLocalOffer>  In the last reporting quarter:* there were 122 new service users registered to WESAIL
* 45% of interventions completed and closed in the quarter were for new service users
* there was a noteworthy 19% increase in the volume of enquiries dealt with compared to 2022 demonstrating the year-on-year increase in demand.

**Local Offer*** Number of LO pages viewed: 10,584
* Number of LO sessions: 9,113
* Number of new users: 6,739
* Facebook reach: 685
* Facebook reach: 5.3k

**Adults Learning Disabilities & Mental Health*** Number awaiting allocation – 8
* Number of young people turned 18 yrs in this quarter – 9
* Number of young people turning 18 yrs in next quarter – 8

**Wakefield District Health & Care Partnership, Children’s Alliance*** Demand for an autism assessment continues to be high however Mid Yorkshire are reporting that there will be no waits longer than 52 weeks within the next 12 weeks (1,459 waiting for initial appointment – December 2023)
* Demand for ADHD assessments remains high and due to national shortage of medication Mid Yorkshire have developed a waiting list for medication initiation.
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| 1. **Current risks – Summary of key risks**
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| **General*** Demand for specialist places and capacity in our maintained specialist settings and resource provisions remains challenging. Delays to major capital works has caused additional pressures.
* The number of requests for EHCPs continues to be high placing capacity pressures on services.
* Schools’ attendance for pupils in special schools in Wakefield is below the national averages.
* Exclusions for children and young people with SEND in secondary settings.

**Alternative Provision*** Risk re student and parent voice for AP: unable to start this work due to delay in approval for new staff member.
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| 1. **Actions to Mitigate risks (highlighted above)**
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| **General** * SEND placement projections submitted, we are working on a number of plans to increase specialist placements in line with need. We are also continuing with a range of work to support settings to support CYP with SEND effectively in mainstream settings. A focus on secondary is required.
* A highlight report has been provided to the E&I Schools Capital Programme Board outlining all outstanding projects.
* Work is taking place to produce a document giving clarity about what should be provided in settings to meet the graduated response set out in the SEND Code of Practice (2015) and the new SEND and AP Improvement Plan launched by the DfE in March 2023.
* Attendance strategy now in place and courses to support parents and carers are being piloted.

**Alternative Provision*** New staff member approved and recruitment underway in AP team.
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| **6. You Said We Did**  |
| **You Said** |
| * We would like to be able to speak to people for support as well as read information on the Local Offer website.
* We would like up to date information about services on the Local Offer website.
* We would like information on mental health support for young people on the Local Offer website.
* We would like Health to attend Parent Carer Forum meetings.
* In response to ensuring we are listening to wider voices
* Parent/carers asked for soft play sessions for children with SEND to continue.
* Parent/carers asked to continue with monthly Lego Club.
* Parent/carers wanted drop-in sessions with different services.
* Parent/carers wanted to know what training was being delivered in schools.
* Parent/carer craft sessions to be held more regularly to support mental health & wellbeing.
* Parent/carers asked for the AET Training to be delivered again.
* Parent/carers asked for gaming sessions.
* Parent/carers asked for Girl only gaming sessions.
* Parent/carers asking for information leaflets on various SEND topics.
* Parent asked for more 0-5 activities on event days.
* Annual Let’s Talk About SEND conference.
* Families would like a SEND youth club.
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| **We Did** |
| * We share telephone and face to face drop in details for all service that provide this. We are hosting a Local Offer Live Event.
* We have updated all the Things to Do providers. We are working on updating other services.
* We will continue to regularly share information about mental health support on our Wakefield WESAIL and Local Offer Facebook page. We also continue to share information in our Local Offer newsletter. We will also work with our key partners to add relevant mental health support to the Local Offer website.
* Occupational and Speech and Language Therapy leads to attend Parent Carer Forum coffee morning to speak with parents.
* KIDS have submitted engagement report with young people from STRIPES. Findings to be shared shortly.
* Regular SEND Soft Play held.
* Regular Craft sessions held.
* Regular Lego Club held.
* Drop-In sessions now monthly with SENART plus other services in the diary including Social Care, EPs, Transport and EBSA.
* AET Training for Parent/carers.
* New gaming sessions to reduce isolation & encourage social interaction.
* New gaming session for girls only.
* Continue to add new leaflets & information sheets to info stand in our unit covering a host of SEND related topics relevant to SEND in Wakefield.
* Included soft play area for 0-5 at our Christmas Party.
* Family Fun Day No.4 - trip to the DEEP with 241 places on 3 buses, including hard to reach families.
* Annual Let’s Talk About SEND conference booked 19th March 2024.
* Wakefield Council sent up SEND youth club from parent carers feedback.
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| **7. Programme Activities Planned (February to April 2024)** |
| **General*** Continue ‘ordinary available’ in settings
* Planning for the SEND conference in May
* Submission of Wakefield Local Area Inclusion Plan
* Make further progress against the areas identified in our SEF and the LGA Peer Challenge
* Continue to meet the key milestones in the Change Programme Partnership
* Involvement in the ‘Let’s talk about SEND’ PCF event.
* Further work on creating additional specialist capacity.

**SENART, Complex Care Needs team & Quality Assurance*** QA strategy to be completed and timetable of activity for 2024. Planned quarterly reports to be completed. QA to be an agenda item on each SMT to ensure all QA captured.
* Roll out of the digital portal.
* Work on advisory tailored list.
* Update report on SEND family engagement worker and SEND family support workers.

**Alternative Provision*** Jan 2024: New AP and Attendance (AP & A) Board established to replace old Board. Review undertaken of registered and unregistered provision. All providers visited and links established.
* Jan 2024: charging structure introduced for services, which will enable the team to improve QA and oversight, holding schools to account.

**Adults Learning Disabilities & Mental Health*** Meetings are in the process of being arranged to include a range of professionals to look at cases due to come through to the Transitions Team and the support they may require from various services moving forward. This will include health, legal, education and CCNT.
* Work has started with the children in care teams about who the transitions team are, the work we do and making appropriate referrals.
* Transition team members will continue to attend various events to promote the work of the team and make connections. These will continue through the academic year at school and college open days moving into the new academic year.
* Work planned with the PFA team to look at those young people leaving Oakfield Park and the different pathways they can attend at alternative provisions to enable them to continue working on life skills.

**Wakefield District Health & Care Partnership, Children’s Alliance**The Children’s Alliance (ASD Strategy Group) will mobilise the available investment and* Set up a Task & Finish Group to lead the ASD investment development
* Will continue to ensure co-production with Parent Carers.
* ASD Strategy Group will be changing from the 1st April to the Neurodiversity Group
* Mobilising the partnerships for inclusion in neurodiversity project (PINS)

**WESAIL*** We intend to attend the WPCF "Let's talk about SEND" Event in March
* We will begin a campaign to recruit more members for the steering board once the new Chair is settled with the aim of increasing diversity relating to ethnicity and those who identify as being part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

**Wakefield Parent carer Forum*** Further parent/carer engagement events & surveys in co-production with Wakefield Council planned covering a range of topics in line with requests & feedback from parent/carers.
* Adult Craft Sessions.
* Lego Club for families.
* Gaming Club for families.
* Coffee & Chat Sessions weekly, some with special guest professionals as requested by parent/carers.
* Breakfast Club monthly.
* Parental engagement at SEND Soft Play.
* School parent carer engagement sessions.
* Raising awareness of AET Training within school settings.
* Raising awareness for parents/carers with the AET training in schools.
* Families networking and hard to reach family fun days.
* Family Fun Days booked February and March from the DfE Short Breaks Innovation Bid funding - A bus trip to the DEEP, March (provisionally) Cannon Hall Farm.
* Attend school coffee mornings to work in co-production with schools to help improve & strengthen communication with SEND parent/carers.

 **Schools Perspective – Outwood Grange Academies*** ELKLAN Level 3 accreditation offer 11-16yrs delivered at Doncaster OIE (available to external stakeholders)
* SEND Conference (March 19th) at Doncaster OIE (available to non-Outwood professionals to attend)
* EBSA training delivered to trust wide SENDCOs by Wakefield EPs
* SCERTS training (6th February) to then be disseminated to staff
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| **8. Areas for Development** |
| **Medium Term** |
| General* Areas identified in the SEF for development in the next 12 months.
* Submission and review a Local Area Inclusion Plan.
* Learn from other areas via Local Area SEND Inspection Reports.
* Deliver the Change Programme.

**Alternative Provision*** Permanent exclusions of EHCP students – to be raised at first meeting of new AP & A Board March 2024. Pupil and family voice to be gathered along with ‘you said’ elements once new staff member recruited.

**Wakefield District Health & Care Partnership, Children’s Alliance*** A structured review of the Speech, Language and Communication pathway will take place; project support has been identified and a Project Initiation Document will be created to outline the scope of work.

**Wakefield Parent carer Forum*** Continue to grow forum membership and signposting to services & offering support to parent/carers.
* Continue to increase co-production with other local services including schools.
* Families would like a SEND youth club.
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| **Long Term** |
| **General*** + Continue with delivery of the Change Programme
	+ Delivery against the Local Area Inclusion Plan
	+ Continued development of specialist provision capacity

**Wakefield Parent carer Forum*** Become a registered charity with paid workers.
* More family sessions.
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| **9 National/Regional Work and Updates** |
| * Involved by the What Works in SEND Research Project – Local Areas Demonstrating Good Inclusion Practices in school by Warwick University.
* Yorkshire and Humber ADCS planning event 2nd February.
* SEND briefing to Yorkshire and Humber Lead Members on 13th of February.
* Jacqui Dundas was involved in reviewing this preparation for adulthood legal literacy guide [Partners in Care and Health](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.local.gov.uk%2Four-support%2Fpartners-care-and-health&data=05%7C02%7Cjdundas%40wakefield.gov.uk%7C9ee31b91f2b84c138fc708dc16808333%7Cd76faab796b740c79b253d2fbd4ac1f1%7C0%7C0%7C638409988435230712%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1LVCFGqjA6KtI4jm9aQTM38sYIjOv7axwjl%2F64GfTwM%3D&reserved=0) has been working on with the LGA is now published: [https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/preparing-adulthood-young-people-learning-disability-and-autistic-young-people](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.local.gov.uk%2Fpublications%2Fpreparing-adulthood-young-people-learning-disability-and-autistic-young-people&data=05%7C02%7Cjdundas%40wakefield.gov.uk%7C9ee31b91f2b84c138fc708dc16808333%7Cd76faab796b740c79b253d2fbd4ac1f1%7C0%7C0%7C638409988435230712%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=tNsbgTOvLFMzrx%2FOLWS0qlYRvJAavHQ4LIAQ6Rq6YIk%3D&reserved=0)
* Attended the NNPCF virtual conference in Newcastle 29th February.
	+ WPCF to be involved with the Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) within Wakefield.
	+ Our Shout for Change young person’s group won a “Champions of Participation” award from KIDS for their work.
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