



OUR 1ST ELSA CONFERENCE!

DATE TBC... (JULY 2021)

Having already postponed our conference twice due to Covid, we have decided to seek a date in July 2021 with the hope that we can meet in person.

The ELSA Conference will offer an exciting day of sharing effective practice, with CPD provided by the T&W EP Service and opportunities for ELSAs to discover new resources.

The morning will feature case studies from ELSAs and training from T&W EPS on techniques from Motivational Interviewing led by Dr Jane Park.

The afternoon will comprise a resource fair and opportunities for networking.

BOOKING INFO

Cost: £60 per TAW ELSA, £72 per non-TAW ELSA.

10% discount for 2+ ELSAs.

Places are limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis!

To book your ELSA a place, email: CPDSchoolImprovement.telford.gov.uk

You can find out more about ELSAs at www.elsanetwork.org

ELSA GOOD NEWS!

DR JANE PARK (TAW EP AND ELSA CO-ORDINATOR)

REVISITING THE ELSA ROLE

Many of our ELSAs have been redeployed in different roles through the pandemic and have kept in touch through regular supervision, which is a compulsory element of practice in the ELSA role. The EPS is supporting our trained ELSAs to plan how they are going to pick up the ELSA role again, now that schools are returning to 'normality'. This will need careful planning and thought, in order that our ELSAs have a manageable workload in which they can make a positive difference to the emotional health and wellbeing of pupils experiencing difficulties, within the parameters of what is reasonable to ask for.

WHAT DO ELSAS NEED?

What do ELSAs need in order for interventions to be successful?

- Being released for supervision with EPs
- Manageable 'caseload' – please support rather than overwhelm!
- Being supported by line managers to have time for planning and delivery of targeted ELSA interventions
- Sharing resources and ideas with TAW's network of ELSAs

Having an ELSA will make most difference in your school when:

- Other staff know about and support the ELSA work
- Staff give the ELSA relevant background information on the child and family
- The ELSA liaises regularly with teachers to discuss progress and check on whether new skills are being transferred to class
- The ELSA has regular time for planning and delivering programmes

TOP TIPS FOR LINE MANAGERS TO SUPPORT YOUR ELSA

Remember – most ELSA programmes will last for 6 to 12 weeks, helping the pupil to learn some specific new skills or coping strategies.

Clear programme aims (SMART targets) need to be set early on and each session has an objective - something the ELSA wants to help the pupil understand or achieve.

The ELSA isn't there to 'fix' the child. For pupils with complex or long-term needs, it's unrealistic to expect ELSA support to resolve all their difficulties. Change is a long-term process that needs everyone's help.

ELSA work **should be fun** – that's what makes the difference. It isn't a reward for bad behaviour. By building a positive relationship with challenging children the ELSA can help them think about and better manage their emotions, which often looks like troublesome behaviour. It will take time, but will be worth it in the end!

TRAINING IN SEPT/OCT 2021

We will be training a new cohort of ELSAs in September/October 2021. Working with ELSAs through training and ongoing supervision is one of the highlights of our job as EPs. We are thrilled to see the initiative grow in strength.

Dr Jane Park will be running an information sharing coffee morning on **Thursday May 6th** from 10am via MS Teams for SLT members of schools interested in taking up an ELSA training place– email jane.park@telford.gov.uk to book your place. Requests for training places will not be accepted from schools who have not attended – it is vital that you understand the commitment needed from schools, ELSAs and from the EPS.