



Fenland and East Cambridgeshire Opportunity Area Newsletter

3rd November 2021

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Message from our Chair



I hope you had a restful half term break after the challenges of the first half of the autumn term. As I write this, it is likely that many of you will still be continuing to live with the impact of Covid in your school communities during the second half of the autumn term too. Hence, the Opportunity Area (OA) team is there to support you as much as possible.

In this newsletter, you will find updates and information on a range of support offers. I particularly draw your attention to the mental health and wellbeing support on offer via the OA webinar series and the Wellbeing for Education Return initiative. We know that this is an important area of focus for your communities at this time.

Recently, I have been sharing updates on the local successes and remaining challenges with various people and organisations. Increasing social mobility starts with the early years and continues throughout schooling and into further and higher education. It calls upon family and community involvement, including from business. Throughout the programme, we have been keen to involve all partners in delivering a programme which meets local needs. So, thank you all for helping us.

Next week, we say goodbye and good luck to Bethan, our Programme Coordinator, who is taking up a new post with the Welsh Civil Service. Bethan is a true team player and we shall all miss her greatly. Bethan, we send our very best wishes and say a very big thank you to you for all you have done in so many ways for the OA.

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues or print it off for your staff rooms. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the team via Fenland.EastCamsOA@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Tricia Pritchard

Independent Chair

Fenland and East Cambridgeshire Opportunity Area Partnership Board



Thank You to Our Opportunity Area Advocates

We want to say a big thank you to our OA Advocates for their incredibly helpful contributions to the OA programme. This group of local headteachers and Early Years setting leads have met together and shared their insights and feedback to help influence the direction of the OA programme.

It's not too late to join the OA Advocates group! If you are interested in working with other local leaders to help shape the OA programme, please contact Tiffany.Middleton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.



Eastern Opportunity Areas Sharing Learning Hub

The Ipswich, Norwich and Fenland & East Cambridgeshire OA teams have been developing the Eastern Opportunity Areas Sharing Learning Hub. This online space captures the 'Big Ideas' (projects and initiatives) carried out in the OAs over the past four years. The hub will host case studies, resources and examples to showcase the learning of schools, colleges, settings and partner organisations. For more information, see the ['Big Ideas' brochure](#) or [view the hub launch video](#).

We want you to get involved! You can:

- Share the brochure and video with your teams
- Contribute case studies
 - Contact David Ladbrook, Eastern OAs Sharing Learning Lead, for support via david.ladbrook@newanglia.co.uk. David can guide you through the process and help you develop your case study
- Be prepared for our 'go-live' launch in spring 2022 (more details to come)

Our intention is that the hub will become the 'go-to' resource for education professionals in East Anglia and beyond and represent the perfect legacy for the OA programmes.

'Support Us to Speak Out' Video from Voiceability

VoiceAbility has launched its ['Support us to Speak Out' video](#). The video shows how young people with learning disabilities would like to be supported. It is aimed at teachers, parents/carers, social care workers, healthcare staff, bus drivers and anyone else who might be interested.

This video came about in collaboration with Cambridgeshire County Council's SEND Partnership Group.





Opportunity Area Evaluation Survey

Here at the OA we are keen to understand the impact that our projects and activities are having in your school, college or early years setting. We therefore invite you to complete this [OA Evaluation Survey](#) to share your thoughts and experiences. The survey will take 10–15 minutes to complete.

We have commissioned a research team at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge to evaluate the range of OA-supported activities this year. Thank you to the team for developing this survey for us.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Dr Sonia Ilie via isi22@cam.ac.uk.

Opportunity Area Webinar Series

The OA Webinar Series has recently been updated with a number of new pre-recorded resources. There are also a number of LIVE webinar sessions taking place this term:

- 19th November: [Resilience Strategies to Manage Pressure and Achieve School-life Balance with Karin Horowitz](#)
- 25th November: [Different Strokes for Different Fold – Understanding Leadership Style with Karin Horowitz](#)
- 2nd December: [Transforming Literacy Through Knowledge-rich Primary Humanities with Christine Counsell](#)



See the updated [Webinar Series launch document](#) for further details.

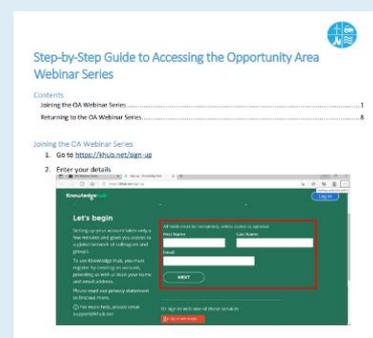
Mental Health and Wellbeing Follow-up Support from Karin Horowitz

Each school in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire is eligible to access one funded one-hour individual [webinar follow-up session with Karin Horowitz](#). During the session, Karin will discuss with the school how to embed learning following one of her Mental Health and Wellbeing Coaching sessions.

For details of the sessions available and to apply for this support, complete the [Mental Health and Wellbeing Follow-up Support application form](#) by **Friday 3rd December 2021**. Please note, you may need to select your preferred follow-up support before the live webinar session has taken place.

Knowledge Hub Step-by-step Guide

Thank you to those of you who have shared feedback on your experience with the OA Webinar Series. In response to this feedback, we have developed a [Knowledge Hub Step-by-Step Guide](#). We hope you will find that this guide helps you to navigate Knowledge Hub easily so you can get the most out of the OA Webinar Series.



Steps Guide for Parents

Cambridgeshire Steps has developed a [Steps Guide for Parents](#). This leaflet can support the embedding of Steps by providing a good overview of the approach. Please share it with the parents and carers in your school or setting.



Senior Mental Health Lead Training

Senior Mental Health Leads in schools and colleges can now apply for grant funding to access Department for Education (DfE)-assured training.

The DfE is offering a £1,200 grant for a senior member of school or college staff to access quality assured training to implement an effective whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing in your setting.



Grants of £1,200 will be available to around a third of all state schools and colleges this financial year. This is part of the government's commitment to offer this training to all eligible schools and colleges by 2025.

To find out more about accessing this grant and training visit the [Senior Mental Health Lead Guidance webpage](#).

Wellbeing for Education Return Autumn Sessions

The Wellbeing for Education Return (WfER) offer is funded by the DfE as part of its Senior Mental Health Lead training initiative. You are invited to a one-hour webinar to learn about this offer. Delivered by the YMCA, the webinar will:

- Introduce the Mental Health Competency Framework and how it works
- Provide access to an accompanying Training Needs Analysis to help you adopt a needs-led approach to procuring mental health training

The webinar is suitable for mental health leads or senior leaders in educational settings for ages 5–18. Please register for the session you would like to attend. Please note your setting can only attend **one** session:

- Thursday 11 November, 15:45–16:45 – [Registration link](#)
- Tuesday 16 November, 15:45–16:45 – [Registration link](#)
- Tuesday 23 November, 15:45–16:45 – [Registration link](#)

Early Years Communication and Language Training – Embedding Interventions

Kirstie Page is delivering a funded training session, through Orgill English Hub, on 'Embedding Interventions'. The session will take place online on 18th November, 15:30–17:30. [Register to attend via Eventbrite](#).

The training will look at the targets that are commonly given by speech and language therapists and which are usually the focus of intervention programmes. Within the session, you will consider how these targets can be embedded into child-initiated learning, daily routines and EYFS practice.

If you have any questions, please contact kirstie.page@launchpadforliteracy.co.uk. Feel free to contact Kirstie if you are unable to attend a session and she can email a recording of the training content to you.

EdTech Demonstrator Programme Courses

Oldham Sixth Form College is an EdTech Demonstrator School, part of the DfE-funded EdTech Demonstrator Programme. You are invited to join the fully funded courses on offer from Oldham Sixth Form College EdTech Demonstrator School:

- Developing a Digital Recovery Strategy
- Using Technology for Feedback and Assessment
- Effective Use of Interactive Screens

See the OA website for [more information about the courses](#).



Emotional Health and Wellbeing Team Newsletter

The [Emotional Health and Wellbeing \(EHWB\) team newsletter](#) is now available to the wide range of professionals that the EHWB team supports in both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The most recent newsletter includes details of upcoming events, such as the Cambridgeshire Local Services Briefing Webinar and training session from Kooth. It also provides details of support and resources from the EHWB team and partners.

All on Board Training

The [All on Board training](#) supports staff in developing partnerships with parent and carers. The training aims to support inclusion and reintegration and is delivered by the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families.

[More information and book your place.](#)

Please note that spaces are only available for senior staff from mainstream schools. Funding is capped at two delegates per school.

Contact

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“Our vision is for the Fenland and East Cambridgeshire Opportunity Area to become a beacon of excellence for promoting greater social mobility and transforming the life chances of every pupil”