



Fenland and East Cambridgeshire Opportunity Area Newsletter

22nd February 2022

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Message from our Chair



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the February 2022 edition of the newsletter. I have lost count of the number of newsletters we have produced but I hope you have enjoyed reading them as much as we have appreciated keeping you apprised of Opportunity Area projects and activities. A new year presents a chance to review, renew and plan ahead and that is just what the Opportunity Area team and Partnership Board have been doing. This is the fifth year of the programme and despite all the challenges of Covid, it is really impressive how so many of you have been able to continue to engage with Opportunity Area projects.

Included in this edition are good news stories which we want to share with you. This edition also includes planned events for the rest of this academic year including a celebration event, we would be delighted if you could join these events.

Please do let us know of any successes you would like to share with us, however small or large. Sharing good practice and developing strong networks to assist in the process are hallmarks of the Opportunity Area Programmes across the country. The DfE is continuing to publish Insight Guides with case studies from different Opportunity Areas areas. The themes include teacher recruitment, retention and workforce development, Careers, Early Years, and Health and Education.

As ever, please contact the Opportunity Area team on Fenland.EastCambsOA@cambridgeshire.gov.uk with any queries you may have.

With best wishes

Tricia Pritchard

Celebrations



Additional funding secured for the Opportunity Area

Additional funding is going towards:

An additional round of the Healthy Mind Healthy Body, that has already supported over 62 families which equates to 279 people who have had additional food and 83 children and young people who have actually taken part in the preparation and cooking of the meals.

PINPOINT will provide additional workshops focusing on mental health and wellbeing and other topics of need identified by parents/carers. So far this term have delivered 16 workshops with attendance totalling 292 and 12 Tii Hubs with attendance totalling 162. 359 people have accessed the online Handy Guides.

SENDIASS will increase the level of support available via drop ins to parent carers across Fenland and East Cambs. They have already supported parents/carers or young people in more than 31 meetings, helped over 136 parent/carers with EHCP support, statutory assessment and progress support being the most frequently reasons. Resulting in 100% positive feedback from parent/carers.

SEND Review training and a 3rd SEND Review, including funding of up to £2,500 per school (Please see the Live OA Offers section for further detail).

OA school rated 'Good' for the first time in its 40-year history

Congratulations to Rob Litten and all the staff of New Road Primary & Nursery School in Whittlesey after they received their first ever 'Good' Ofsted Inspection. The report said pupils are "happy and polite" and that staff are "ambitious for every pupil and what they can achieve".

Inspectors also commented that pupils "behave well and have good attitudes to learning" and that they "know how to keep safe, mentally and physically".



Duncan Ramsey, chief executive officer of Aspire Learning Trust, said "I am so pleased for the community of Whittlesey that New Road Primary and Nursery School has received such a glowing report.

"It was wonderful to see the praise for staff and leaders and that pupils behave well and have good attitudes to learning. "I was especially happy to note that pupils learn to love reading and pupils said they know how to keep physically and mentally happy.

Well done everyone at New Road!

Upcoming Events



OA Events

The OA values your time, expertise, and input to continue to develop and reflect on the OA Programme. We are committed to collaborating with you and ensuring the programme represents and responds to the needs of the area.

We would like to invite you to the following events:

Event title	Date & Time	Booking link
Stakeholder Event (Virtual)	Wednesday 2 nd March (13:00 – 15:00)	Book tickets
Headteacher & EY Lead Event (Virtual)	Monday 25 th April (15:30 – 17:30)	Book tickets
Headteacher & EY Lead Event (Virtual) REPEAT	Wednesday 4 th May (13:00 – 15:00)	Book tickets
Celebration Event for all stakeholders (In Person – Venue TBC)	DATE CHANGE - Monday 11 th July (All Day)	Book tickets

Fenland Poverty Full Stop Conference

Monday 4th April 2022 at 09:30 –14:30 Braza Club, Elm Road, March, PE15 8NZ

Come and learn more about issues around social mobility, food poverty, fuel poverty and financial resilience.

The keynote speaker will be Liz Stannard from Clarion Housing Group.

Please register at Fenland Poverty [Full stop Conference](#)

For further information email: youthincommunities@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Supported by: Cambridgeshire County Council, CHS Group, Accent Housing, 20TwentyProductions

Opportunity Area Updates



Opportunity Area Advocates

Thank You to the Opportunity Area Advocates!

We want to say a big thank you to the OA Advocates for their incredibly helpful contributions to the OA programme. This group of local Headteachers and system leaders meet and share their insights and feedback to help influence the direction of the OA programme on a half termly basis.

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 (Tiffany.Middleton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

FEC OA TA Network

We are delighted to share the launch of FEC OA TA Network following on from feedback from Headteachers and leaders across the area.

To access this, all you need to do is complete this [registration form](#) and you will receive a termly newsletter, the first edition is available [here](#).

The network will include a range of fully funded CPD, this currently includes:

- The first TA Reading for Pleasure group run by the University of Cambridge Primary School
- An introduction to Elklan SALT training
- Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust has produced a series of six online recorded webinars providing guidance on activities schools can undertake to promote a speech and language-rich environment
- CCC Maths Advisers have written and pre-recorded online maths webinars for TAs
- CCC English Advisers have produced three pre-recorded sessions for TAs on writing, Phonics and spelling and reading
- Tapestry and Cherry Garden will introduce their assessment tools for SEND pupils

We have plans for a conference and are keen to engage TA champions across the OA so it's an exciting time, that will be steered by your feedback.

Please see further details here, [FEC OA TA Network \(fenlandeastcambridgeshireoa.co.uk\)](http://fenlandeastcambridgeshireoa.co.uk)

Curriculum Survey – Summary and Sharing Information

Firstly, we would like to thank you for taking the time to complete the curriculum support survey designed to enable us to identify curriculum strengths and development to enable key partners to plan and implement support for schools across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

As mentioned on the survey the information has been shared with the Fenland and East Cambridgeshire Opportunity Area, Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Teaching School Hub to enable us to put together the appropriate support. Several meetings have taken place to review the outcomes of the survey and identify next steps.

The Opportunity Area has compiled the following documents:

- [Curriculum Survey Summary](#)
This provides a brief overview of the outcomes of the survey.
- [Curriculum Survey - School Information](#)
This holds details of the phonics schemes, subject associations and curriculum packages schools across PCC and CCC are using. This has been compiled to enable you to identify opportunities where you may be able to collaborate with other schools.
- [Curriculum Survey – Next Steps](#)
This provides a brief overview of some of the steps taken so far to provide support in the areas identified.



SEND Review, Reflect and Refresh Workshops & 3rd SEND Review

The additional funding mentioned in the celebrations section also includes SEND Review, Reflect and Refresh workshops will be led by Mary Rayner (Executive Director for SEND at CMAT)

This SEND Review, Reflect and Refresh training is fully funded for all schools who have taken part in the OA Inclusion Offer. The training will build on the previous two SEND Reviews and actions plans already completed by schools. The workshop will focus on the use of a SEND Review tool to reflect and refresh to develop professional dialogue between school leaders, SENCOs and governors about the effectiveness of SEND provision in school – for self-assessment, peer review and to develop school led improvement conversations leading to better outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

After taking part in the workshop, you will have time to write up your 3rd SEND Review and Action Plan to secure some additional funding to help make the improvements to improve SEND provision in your school. There will be up to £2,500 available per school.

The deadline for the 3rd SEND Review is 5pm Thursday 9th June 2022.

For further information please click [here](#) to see SEND Review Reflect and Review Training Information 2022

Wednesday 27th April 2022 at The Boathouse Business Centre, Wisbech

Booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/send-review-reflect-and-refresh-workshop-fenland-and-east-cambs-oa-tickets-261107287927>

Thursday 5th May 2022 at The Maltings, Ely

Booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/send-review-reflect-and-refresh-workshop-fenland-and-east-cambs-oa-tickets-261141851307>

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](#).

The Sharing Learning Hub will be launched in Spring 2022, details to follow.



At this stage we are developing ‘big ideas’ and case studies. To contribute a case study for any OA projects you have been involved please use the case study template: <https://forms.office.com/r/b9vZNsVJGj>

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.

Please contact David Ladbrook with any queries, Eastern OAs Sharing Learning Lead, for support via david.ladbrook@newanglia.co.uk.

YMCA Trinity Group - New Workshops Added (Fully funded)

New workshops include:

- How to build collaborative relationships with parents - 2hrs
- How to have conversations that keep the child in mind - 2hrs
- How to have difficult conversations with parents or students -2hrs

To book any of the wide range of courses and workshops please see the [booking form](#) for further details.

Introduction to Staff Wellbeing Workshop: 2hr

The YMCA Trinity Group Staff Wellbeing workshop is flexible to meet the needs of your setting and the outcomes you wish to achieve and is suitable for all adults who work with children. This workshop considers the importance of wellbeing in adults and the impact of this on the children and young people they care for.

Added Benefits: To give more people the opportunity to develop their understanding, we have teamed up with The Skills Network to offer all schools that purchase our Whole Staff programmes the opportunity to access additional Level 2 Distance Learning courses in a variety of related topics. Not only can school staff, early years settings staff benefit from the accredited programmes, but **parents** can also access them – **free** of charge.

Read more information on our [Level 2 Distance Learning Enhancing Training page](#).

Additional Updates



Younited

For professionals to keep you updated so you know what support children and young people with mental health and emotional wellbeing difficulties can access.



[Younited](#) is the new partnership between four organisations. CPFT for Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust for Children's Wellbeing Practitioners, Centre 33 and Ormiston Families for counselling & guided self-help.

[The newsletter](#) covers: What is the [Younited](#) referral Hub? What it hopes to achieve? How does it work? Where else can professionals go for advice and guidance about a child's emotional wellbeing?

Contact: For professionals for discussion and consultation of non-crisis referrals only T: 0300 3000 830 or younited@cpft.nhs.uk

If a young person is in mental health crisis contact CPFT's First Response Service by calling NHS 111 (option 2) People in Wisbech have not got the option 2 but can access the service via dialling 111. The call handler will then transfer them direct to the FRS (First Response Service).

Early Reading Audits

Would you like to get ready for an Ofsted deep dive into early reading? Would you like to access funding to purchase resources and training for an accredited SSP programme? Or would you just like the opportunity to reflect on your reading provision alongside one of our classroom-based literacy specialists? If so, you might be eligible for a free or funded reading audit from New Wave English Hub, your regional DfE English Hub. Sign up for one today by completing this [quick form](#) and we will be in touch.

Westgarth English Hub - Free SLCN & Phonic Preparation CPD for All

Follow Kirstie's successful delivery of Early Year Foundation Stage CPD, with a very strong SLCN through DfE English Hubs. Westgarth English are now hosting some similar CPD for school and settings in their region. The sessions will be delivered virtually and are open to primary schools in England.

There will also be a session about Phonic Preparation, looking at the specific skills which need to be built to underpin Phonic Readiness. We will also discuss why this preparation should be incremental and bespoke, as opposed to a one-size-fits-all approach to Phonic Preparation.

More information can be found [here](#). To book a place, please click [booking link](#), alternatively, you can click on the orange 'e' at the bottom of the flyer. This will take you directly through to the Eventbrite page. Please contact [Kirstie Page](#) should you want to request recordings of any training.

Teach First: Supporting Schools at all Levels

Teach First is a charity that develops and supports teachers and leaders to make a difference where it's needed most. **All Fenland and East Cambridgeshire state schools are eligible** through the Opportunity Area to recruit talented trainee teachers through our Ofsted - Outstanding [Training Programme](#). Trainees are selected through our rigorous training process and fill a school vacancy, adding capacity where you need it most. Our recruitment process isn't just about formal qualifications- we find people with the enthusiasm, resilience, and resourcefulness to help your young people succeed. Our website has more information about our [Training Programme](#).



Leadership Matters

In addition to our teacher training programme, our range of school leadership programmes help great teachers become brilliant leaders in your school. We're a national provider of the new suite of Reformed [NPQs](#), which are now fully funded for state schools. Our high-quality training empowers teachers and enables pupils to succeed and thrive. Read about how our NPQs will support your school [here](#).

All young people deserve good career guidance for success beyond school. Our [Careers Leader Programme](#) provides free, targeted training and support to schools, delivered in a flexible way, giving school staff the careers expertise to make a real difference. Partnering with us supports schools to recruit, develop and retain brilliant teachers across all levels of their careers.

Please contact [Deborah Parnell](#) - School Partnerships Lead at Teach First, to discuss your school's needs.

Peterborough Environment City Trust

PECT is an environment charity, that has been working on sustainability projects locally, regionally, and nationally for over 25 years. Recognising that food is both an environmental and health concern, PECT helps communities shift to more sustainable food practices. PECT are working with the community to create and manage [community fridges](#) around Peterborough, which enables residents to access free 'surplus' food – sourced from farms, cafes, stores, and supermarkets – that would otherwise have gone to waste.

Those looking to actively change their lifestyles can also sign up for PECT's [Cool Food programme](#), where users can make one or more Cool Food commitments, such as reducing meat once a week or cutting down hot drinks. They can then track their environmental impact and progress through the free Cool Food counter.

For school children, PECT are working as part of Healthy School Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, offering Food Smart. [Food Smart](#) provides training, lesson plans and resources for teachers, that help children discover how our food affects us, how it is grown, where it comes from and a variety of different cooking methods.

Find out more about PECT's work and get involved here: www.pect.org.uk.

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”