

11<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)**

We are so excited to confirm that your child's school has been accepted to participate in the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) pilot project.

#### **What is the PINs project?**

PINS is a project from NHS England and the Department for Education being delivered across West Yorkshire. In Calderdale, 13 schools have been selected to take part.

1. The aim of the PINS Project is to improve the whole school experience for children with neurodiverse needs including those with, but not limited to (or suspected to have) Autism and/or ADHD. The key aims of the project are to:
  - Help shape whole school SEND provision
  - Provide early interventions in school
  - Up-skill school staff
  - Help to strengthen partnerships between schools and parent carers

The project will run between January 2024 to March 2025 (delivered in schools from September 2024). Evaluation of the project will take place throughout, with more information to follow.

## **What will it do?**

- Shift away from the need for diagnosis in order to get support.
- Focus on strengthening knowledge and skills to better meet the needs of neurodiverse children.
- Show how a supportive learning environment can make a positive difference.
- Develop the way schools work with parents and carers to support a culture of inclusivity.

The intention is that once this pilot has ended, partnerships and collaboration between education, parents/carers and health will be closer, supporting the creation and development of environments that help children achieve.

## **How will it happen?**

Your school is currently completing a Self-Assessment and also some work on a children's voice survey to gather the opinions of our children and young people. All of this will be collated (alongside a survey collecting Parent Carer voices of which I will come on to shortly) to determine what skills and knowledge and/or training will be delivered to school by local providers.

Family Voice Calderdale are your local Parent Carer Forum. We will be working closely with you, schools and all partners throughout the PINS project to help collaborative working to maximise the impact of the pilot. The aim is to fully utilise the skills and expertise of our Parent Carers (as the experts of our children) and to assist you in getting your voices heard throughout the project.

Your expert parent carers from Family Voice are Emma Baker and Stevie Stott, who will support you throughout the project.

In order for parents/carers to become involved, we will be meeting with your school in July to discuss how we can meet SEND parents and carers and how we work together going forwards throughout the PINS project and into March 2025.

We hope you will come along to any parent engagement events (ie. SEND coffee morning) to meet us, find out more about PINS and how you can get involved.

## **What do we need from you?**

In the meantime, we are asking for parents to fill in a Parent Voice Survey (regardless of SEND needs). To support parents with this, we are holding coffee mornings on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 8:30am** and **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 8:30am**.

The link for the survey is below, this needs to be completed before the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 at 5pm. The link is <https://forms.office.com/r/D0hdAx1ePc>

For any further information, please call Unique Ways on 01422 343090 or email [family.voice@uniqueways.org.uk](mailto:family.voice@uniqueways.org.uk) (quoting Emma B or Stevie for PINS project).

We really look forward to meeting you,

Kind Regards,

Emma Baker and Stevie Stott

On behalf of The Family Voice Calderdale Team

