



Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)

PINS Parent Carer Information Session

Wednesday 7th May 12-pm or 7-8pm



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Housekeeping

- **Please put in the chat which school you are from**
- **Cameras can be on or off, please stay on mute unless speaking**
- **There will be an opportunity for Q&As at the end**
- **A copy of the slides will be emailed out to all attendees**
- **We will collate any unanswered questions and add them to the slide deck**

Overview

- **Introductions**
- **Overview of PINS**
- **What's involved and when will it happen**
- **About us – SEND Voices Wokingham (parent carer forum)**
- **Q&As**

Introductions

- **Terri Walsh – Joint CEO, SEND Voices Wokingham**
- **Laura Mackenzie - Transformation and Project Lead (SEND and Education)
Children's Strategy and Commissioning Service
Wokingham Borough Council**



Overview of PINS



National Pilot Programme – Year 2 (2025/26)

We're proud to be part of a national initiative aimed at improving inclusivity for all neurodiverse children in school

In 2025/26, the programme will support **30 primary schools** across Wokingham.

👉 This is a collaborative effort involving:

- Wokingham Borough Council
- SEND Voices Wokingham
- Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
- Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (BOB ICB)

Our goal is to work together to help strengthen early support and inclusivity and make a real difference for children and families in our community.

What is Neurodiversity

Neurodiversity

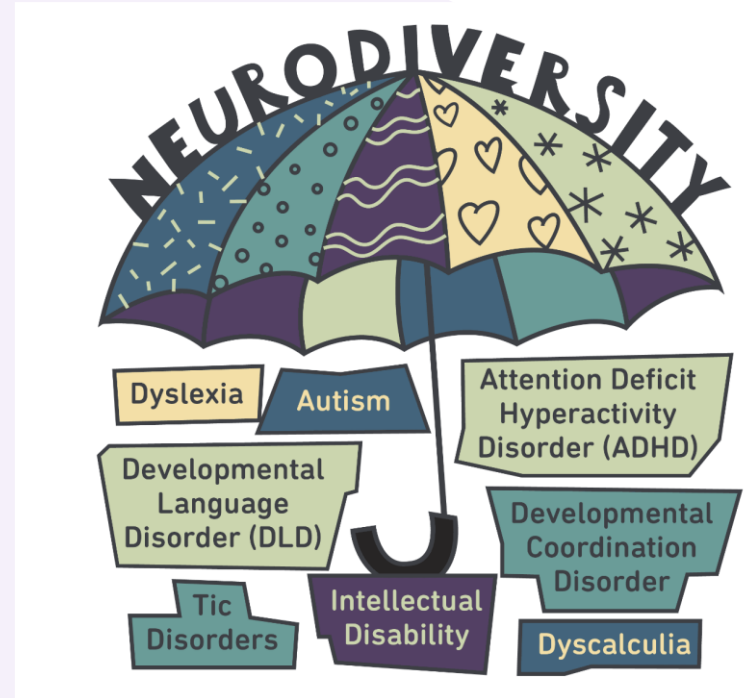
The natural variation in how people's brains process information and experience the world

Neurodivergent

A term used to describe someone whose brain processes information, learns, and/or behaves differently from what is considered "typical". Neurodivergent people may have different strengths and challenges, and can benefit from education and programs that help them develop their strengths





Neurotypical

Is used to describe people whose brain functions, ways of processing information and behaviours are seen to be standard



What the Programme Will Do

Work closely with schools through a whole school approach to make sure every child feels understood and supported. Through a tailored support package for each school, the aim is to:

-  Help strengthen partnerships between parents and schools
-  Help schools feel more confident in supporting neurodiverse children
-  Help create calmer, more inclusive classrooms that meet children's everyday needs
-  Help build a school culture where all children can thrive, and other support strategies can succeed.

Parent and Carer Involvement in the PINS Programme

💛 Parents and Carers: At the Heart of the PINS Programme

We know that working closely with parents and carers is key to making the PINS programme a success - they are key partners in this work.

🧠 How You'll Be Involved

📋 Share your views at the start and end of the project through a national survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N2T6CSB>



👥 **3 parent group meetings** (1 per term per school - open to all) – more details to follow

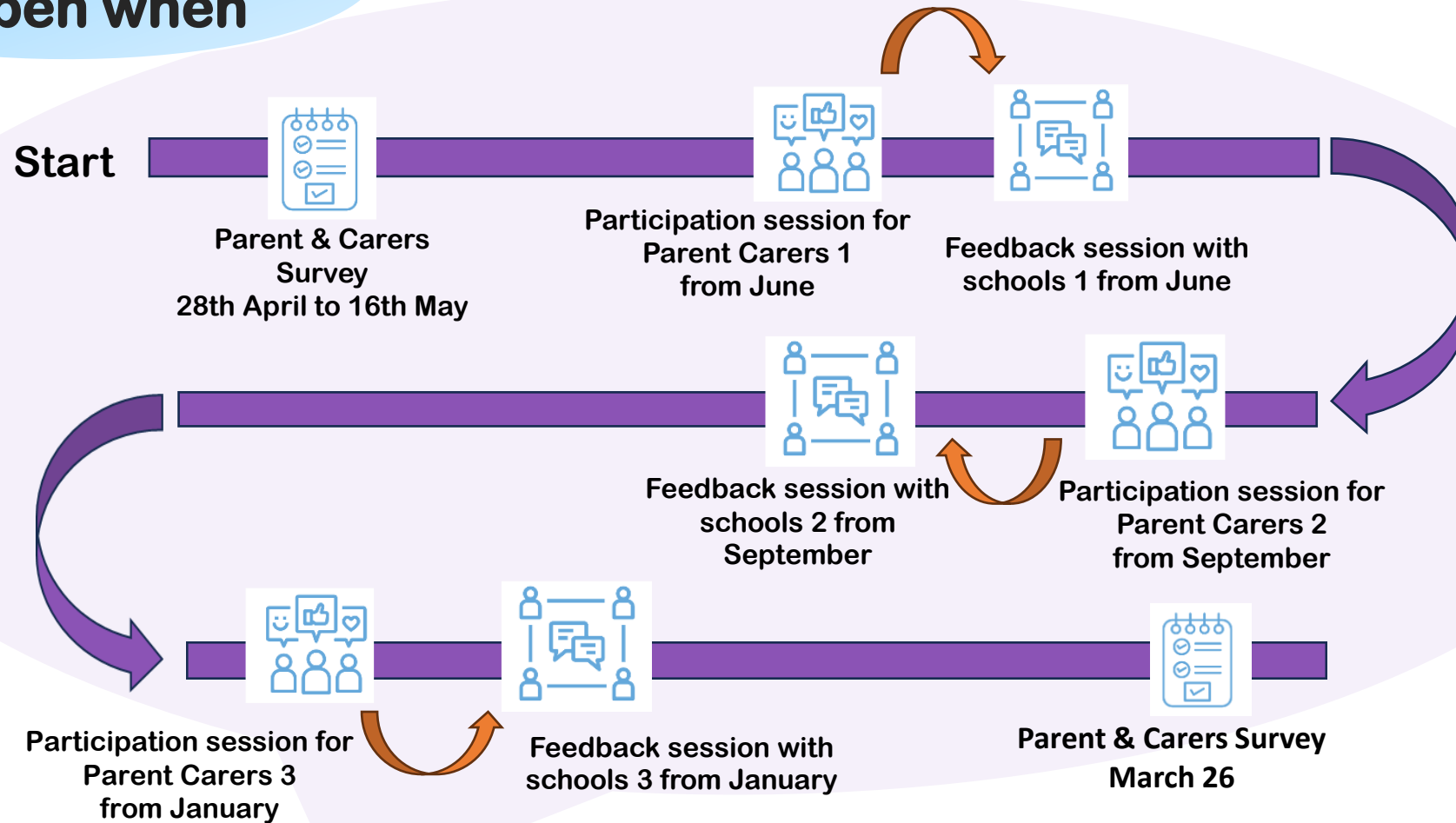
What else will we do

🎓 3 meetings with school leaders

📢 Use school comms to keep you informed and use their normal ways of communicating with you (emails, newsletters, websites) to keep families informed and updated

👉 Information will also be updated and available on our website:
www.sendvoiceswokingham.org.uk/pins

What will happen when



Who are SEND Voices Wokingham



The independent voice of SEND families, representing their experiences to improve day-to-day lives

What we do

We listen to and **speak up for families** who have a child or young person (aged 0–25) with any **Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)**

We:









- 💬 **Share your collective experiences** with decision-makers
- 🤝 **Work in partnership** with education, health and social care
- 🎯 **Make sure services are planned and delivered** in ways that meet the real needs of children and young people with SEND

We do this through

- Events
- Training Courses
- Information sharing
- Consultations & Surveys

What we offer SEND parent carers



-  **Membership** (FREE) includes half-termly updates on the work that we are doing as well as our upcoming events. We are currently also able to offer our members a free **Max Card** (which gives discounts to attractions across the UK)
-  **Updates** with WBC & Health on SEND Improvements in the Borough
-  We host **SENDIASS training courses** on the EHCP Process, Annual Review Process, SEN Support & Communication and Preparing for Adulthood
-  **Events like our Local Offer Live** Family Information & Fun Day
-  **Drop-in & Chat sessions** to meet other families and get support
-  **[Local Offer Guide](#)** and **[SEND Guide for Parents](#)** both available on-line and in hard copy
-  Opportunities to take part in **consultations and focus groups** to help improve services in the Borough
-  **Facebook page** with SEND information for parent carers **[SendVoicesWokingham](#)**

You can also find details of how to join on our website **www.sendvoiceswokingham.org.uk**
contact us through Facebook or email **info@sendvoiceswokingham.org.uk**

Any Questions?

Will this be rolled out to all schools including senior schools and early years settings?

The PINS project has agreed funding for 1 year. All the learnings from the project will be collated and shared with all schools in the Borough through various school forums and SENCo network meetings. Schools who are part of a Trust will also disseminate relevant learning to all their schools. At the end of the project, any learnings from PINS will be considered when shaping the commissioning of services for schools across the borough to support sustainable change and enhance the training and support currently available for schools in Wokingham.

Will the parent sessions have school staff there?

No. The sessions are for parents and carers only. The collective themes and feedback discussed during the parent sessions will be shared with the school separately.

What type of support will the schools get? What was commissioned in other areas?

The support provided to schools will be guided by the findings from both the school and parent surveys. These results will shape a tailored menu of support that will be commissioned. In areas that participated in Year 1 of this project, examples of commissioned support included:

- Workshops for lunchtime staff on understanding ARFID and how to support pupils with complex eating needs
- A workshop on building emotional resilience
- Training for Governors on neurodiversity and making reasonable adjustments
- Sensory environment audits followed by actionable plans

Any Questions?

What is the difference between SENDIASS and SEND Voices Wokingham?

SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service)

SENDIASS is a free, impartial service that offers information, advice, and support to young people with SEND and their parents or carers. They help families understand the SEND system, their legal rights, and available resources. Support includes guidance on:

- SEN support in schools
- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and reviews
- Mediation and tribunals

Although part of Wokingham Borough Council (WBC), SENDIASS operates independently from the WBC SEND and Children with Disabilities Teams and provides support to individuals.

More information here: www.sendiasswokingham.org.uk

SEND Voices Wokingham

SEND Voices Wokingham is the independent parent carer forum for the Borough and is a registered charity.

They represent the collective voice of parent carers of children and young people (aged 0–25) with SEND. Their role includes:

- Gathering and sharing feedback from parent carers about what is working and what needs improvement
- Working with Education, Health and Social Care to influence local services and policies
- Organising events, training, and producing helpful guides
- Signposting families to services (note: they do not support individuals directly)

More information here: www.sendvoiceswokingham.org.uk