

Sharing Practice Festival – Review & Next Steps

The Sharing Practice Festival was an event organised by the Principal Teachers of Inclusive Practice under the guidance of Karen Bryden, QIM. The event was held at The Bridge on Monday 21st August and was a multi-agency event, which showcased the network of inclusive and collaborative practice in Dumfries and Galloway. The event comprised of keynote speeches, pre-booked workshops and stalls from partners in Education, NHS and the Third Sector.



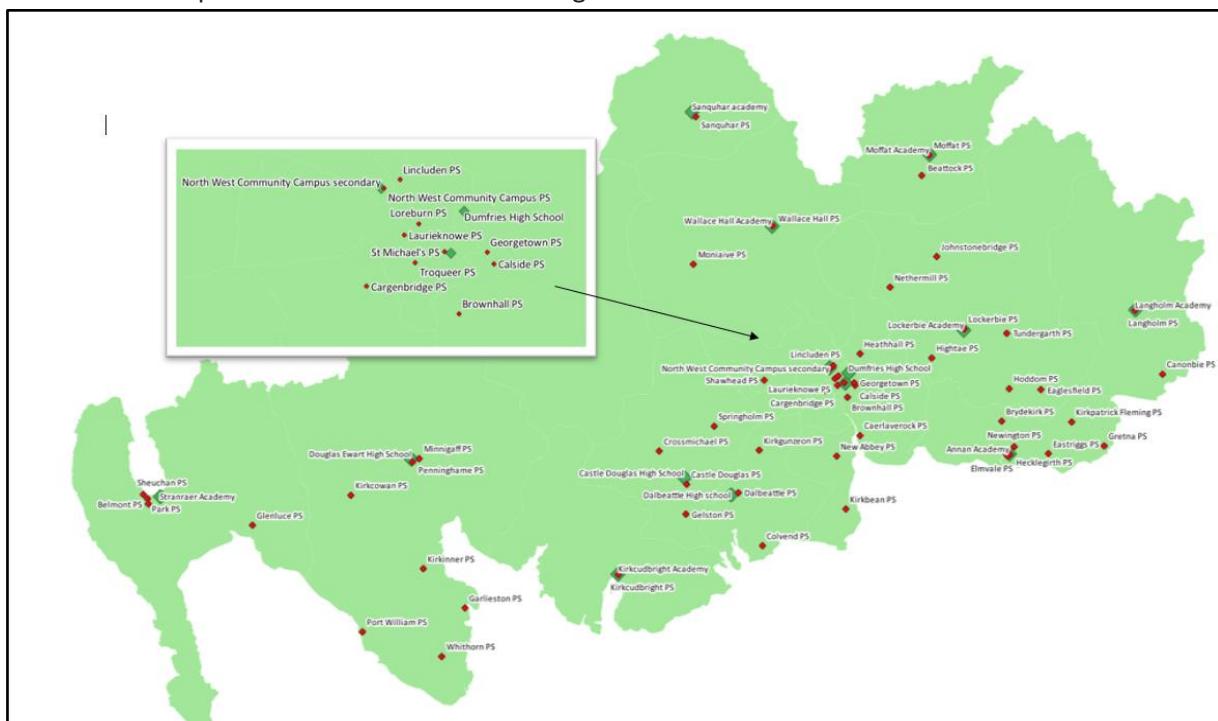
To identify the reach and initial impact of the festival, and to help plan next steps, the Principal Teachers of Inclusive Practice asked all delegates to sign in on arrival and complete an evaluative MS Form after the event.

As of the beginning of Sept 2023 there were 102 responses to the MS evaluation form, 53 from the day through the QR code and the rest later, on the link emailed out to delegates.

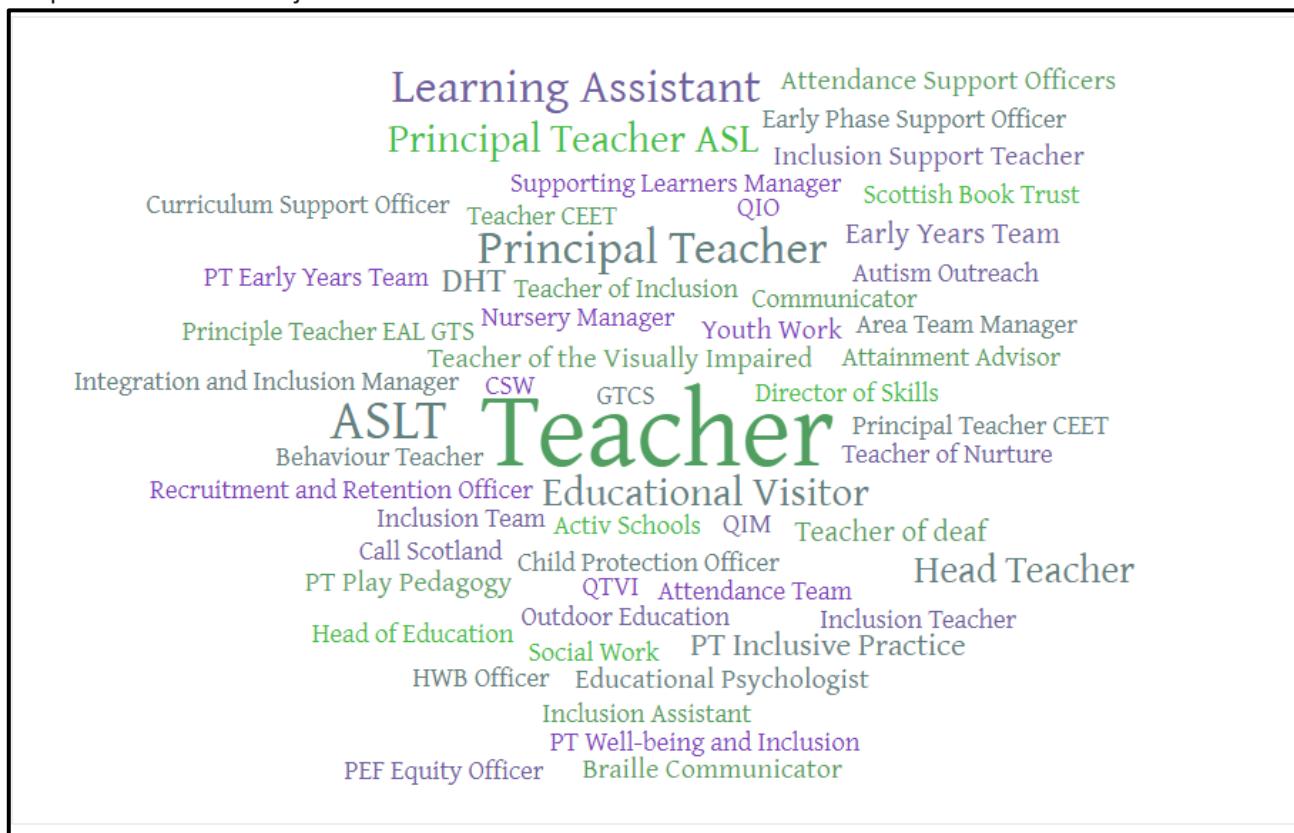
From the education sign in the following schools were represented:

Number of Primary Schools	52
Number of Secondary Schools	14

This visual shows the representation from across the region

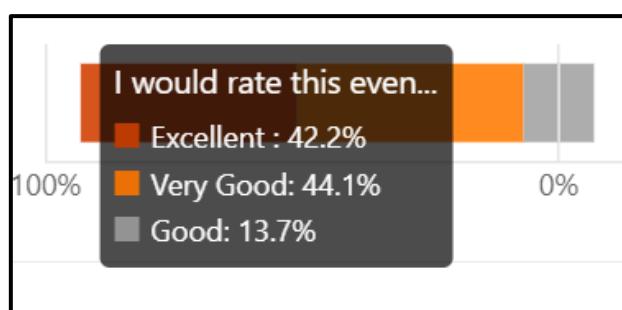


The range of differing job roles from across the region, can be seen in the following visual. The larger the word, the more representation of that job role.



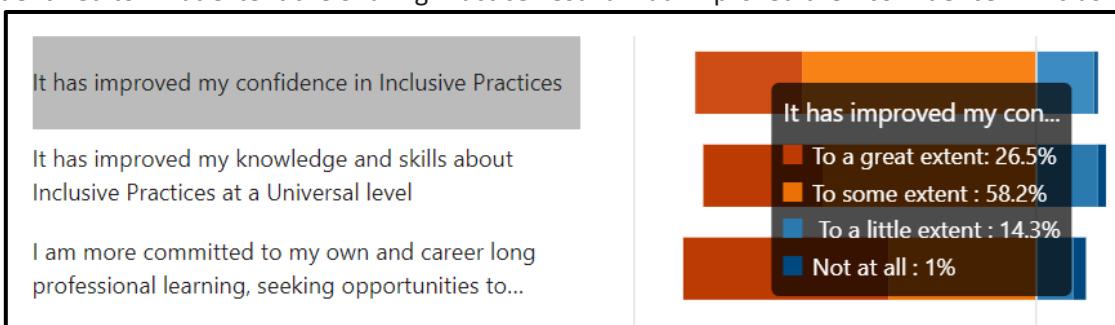
Rating of Sharing Practice Festival Overall

Individual delegates to the festival gave an overall rating



The Initial Impact of the Sharing Practice Festival

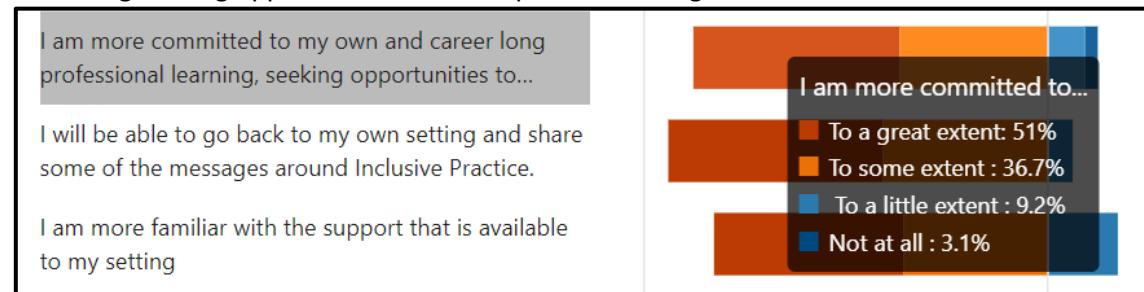
Delegates identified to what extent the Sharing Practice Festival had improved their confidence in Inclusive Practices.



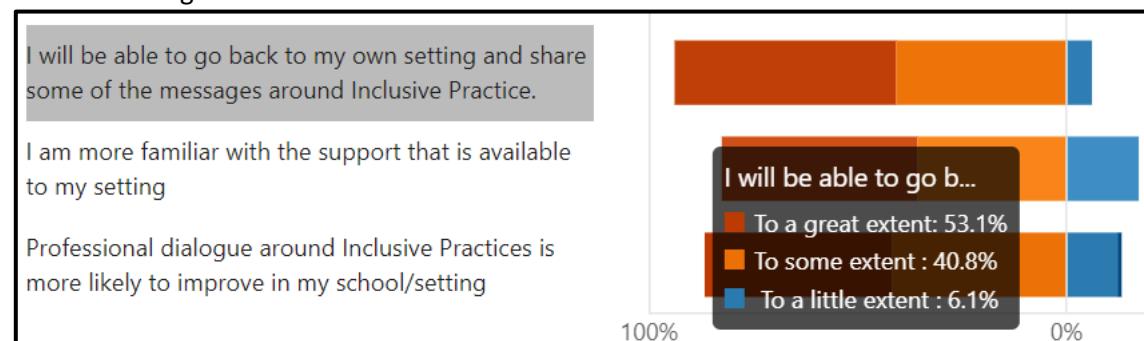
Delegates identified to what extent the Sharing Practice Festival had improved their skills and knowledge of Inclusive Practices at a universal level.



Delegates identified to what extent the Sharing Practice Festival had made them more committed to their own professional learning seeking opportunities to develop their teaching further.



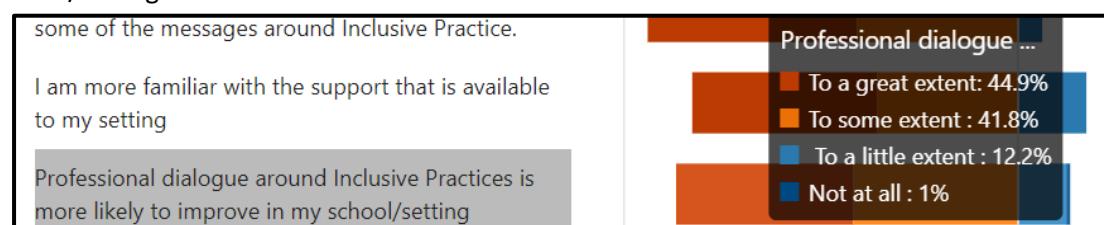
Delegates identified to what extent the Sharing Practice Festival will allow them to go back into their own setting and share some of the messages around Inclusive Practice.



Delegates identified to what extent the Sharing Practice Festival had made them more familiar with the support that is available to their setting.



Delegates identified to what extent the Sharing Practice Festival would improve dialogue around Inclusive Practices with their school/setting.



Summary of the Initial Impact of the Sharing Practice Festival

From the findings, it can be reported that all delegates to the festival, with a response to this form, rated the Sharing Practice Festival positively, with no one rating it average or below average.

Just under 85% of respondents felt the Sharing Practice Festival had improved their confidence in Inclusive Practices, and their knowledge and skills of Inclusive Practices at a Universal level, to a great or good extent, with less than 15% feeling to a little extent and only 1.5% (about 1 delegate) noting not at all.

Nearly 90% of respondents had identified that the Sharing Practice Festival had made them more committed to their professional learning and would seek other opportunities to develop their teaching further.

To varying extents, all 102 respondents to the form, said they would go back into their own settings and share some of the messages around Inclusive Practice and that they are now more familiar with the support available to their setting.

Over 85% said the Sharing Practice Festival would improve the professional dialogue around Inclusive Practices within their school/setting to a great or good extent, with around 12% feeling it would improve a little and only 1% saying not at all.

Overall Rating of Sharing Practice Festival

Key Theme from Comments	Number of mentions	Example Comments
Organisation of Day	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very well planned and organised. Lots of choice of sessions. A great day, so much interesting content and a nice quick pace. Consideration should be given to colleagues travelling from the West when a start time of 8.30am and finish time of 4pm is decided, particularly when it is a very full day.
Workshops	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thoroughly enjoyed the workshops, got some good ideas. A great day, so much interesting content and a nice quick pace. Especially enjoyed the workshops. Enjoyed workshops & stalls. Didn't get my choice of workshops which was only downside
Inspiring	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The energy was inspiring. Really well organised and enjoyable from morning to afternoon. Great breadth of topics covered and feel inspired. Thank you all for your hard work. A wonderful day. So many inspiring stories. It was great to get together with like-minded people and share in professional practice to further support our young people.
Sharing of Practice	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some good insights into how other school's work Very useful. Lots of practical ideas. Things to take back to class. Really informative day. Fantastic opportunity to see what is happening across the authority.
Partners	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fantastic range of partners to interact with. Great to bring lots of like-minded educators (and partners) together in one event. Amazing to see the range of agencies who are there to help our children achieve
Directory	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great to get time to meet with colleagues and explore things specific to own school with people at the stalls. There were some partners at festival that were offering parental referrals that I

		hadn't been aware of before the event. I appreciate it would be a difficult job to maintain as constantly changing but could there be some form of directory held centrally that everyone could put updates to their service on for all to access? Thanks to all involved for pulling together a logistically challenging event!
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Most Valuable Aspects of the Day

Key Theme from Comments	Number of mentions	Example Comments
Workshops	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops because it was helpful to hear about how others approach challenges similar to our own. • Workshops that specifically applied to situations in my setting. • The workshops. Really good to hear from other practitioners and partners. • Workshops aimed at teachers in classes with full classes. • The workshops and speakers were interesting, and the content was thought-provoking.
Stalls	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewing and engaging through visiting stalls. • Being aware of other services and what they can offer. • Visiting other agencies was hugely beneficial.
Networking	28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stalls for meeting and making connections with various agencies, but also being able to meet teaching staff and share ideas...when do we ever get to do that? • Networking with practitioners from other schools and getting time to talk to different specialists. • Networking because there is usually no time for it. • Being able to have professional dialog with colleagues and be able to network with external agencies. • Networking and workshops because they offer new contacts authority wide.
Keynotes	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loved the Youth Matters team! Reminded us of why we do this! • Hearing from keynote speakers who clearly have a lot of knowledge regarding inclusion. • I like that my team got to hear from the director - it's usually HTs that are there.
Inclusion	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shared message of the importance of inclusive practice, from the stalls area to the workshops. • Hearing from keynote speakers who clearly have a lot of knowledge regarding inclusion.
Sharing Practice	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing about and discussing different practices in school. Gives a taster of various subjects. • It was useful to hear examples of practice from other schools in the authority. • I enjoyed finding out what other schools had tried out and hearing about their challenges and successes.

Least Valuable Aspects of the Day

Key Theme from Comments	Number of mentions	Example Comments
Workshops	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not all workshops were as relevant to my practise as I had hoped. Workshops that weren't as targeted to our need as previously thought and hearing from others about workshops which may have been better suited. Some workshops were not as informative as I had hoped. I was hoping to gain information about strategies that could be introduced in my setting.
Practical Strategies	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We got a lot of theory from our keynote speakers and in workshops, but I felt that (from some) we could have benefited from more practical, on the ground advice/ideas etc. More practical suggestions would have been good
Resources	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We lack resources to meet some of the ideas. Senior Managers input. Frustrations around the ideology of the policy and the practical implications we face with regards to resources.
Stalls	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stalls - many did not relate to my setting, although some were useful. Some stalls were not relevant to me, however as the event was for people in a variety of settings there was something for everyone. I found the stalls the least useful as I found the area very busy, and it was difficult to look at and speak to some of the people running the stalls. I also found that people running the stalls didn't really interact with people wandering around the stalls.
Keynotes	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The keynote speakers - great to hear we are on the right track, but don't think we needed as long on that as we could have had time for more workshops or to look round the stalls. Ideas for practice (workshops) are more useful than theory and policy. Keynote speeches. There seemed to be messages to put across and not enough time to do it.
Organisation of Day	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I really enjoyed the stalls but there was so many that the half hour slot was not enough. Probably the start time, was ok for me as I've worked in Dumfries but people coming from Stranraer and Machars would have left home at half 6/7 Stalls were very informative and staff very approachable just did not need as long as time allocated. By the time the last group got to see the foyer displays had packed up.
Framework for Inclusion	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Keynote Speakers shared their ideology and aspirations with passion, each acknowledging the hard part is figuring out how to achieve them! I would have loved to have 'seen' The Framework for Inclusion so I can more fully understand how DG is breaking down aspirational goals into achievable steps. It always helps to understand 'the planned journey' so we can contribute, each in our own way, to the shared destination.
No comment/nothing invaluable	47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I felt all aspects were valuable. There was no part of the day that was of least value. Nothing, the whole festival was excellent. None- even during breaks and lunchtimes a great opportunity to network with colleagues

Immediate Changes to Practice as a Result of the Day

Key Theme from Comments	Number of mentions	Example Comments
None/No answer	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes but will continue to give the support I always have but be reassured that we are on the right track. • Nothing immediate but will deliver a staff meeting to cascade to staff potential information to inform our policies. • Unsure as yet more reflection required
Share messages	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will feel more confident in sharing my views of inclusion because it has been shared today. • I will deliver a staff meeting to cascade to staff potential information to inform our policies. • Tell others about day
Partner Agencies	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How aspects of inclusion and other services can support the children I work with • Perhaps just to signpost schools and families to more support networks. • Continue to build positive relationships with pupils, parents and outside agencies.
Inspiration from Workshops	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the Ladders and Pathway tool from Lockerbie PS • Implement leans in school. • Speak with my line manager on thoughts around developing Boys to Men here. • I will be developing a more play-based approach. • I felt Lorraine Harris shared lots of practical info. • Look into ways of making my lessons subject specific for literacy and helping pupils to transition from their previous lessons more seamlessly.
Inclusion	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading more on inclusive practice • This is a platform to promote Inclusion on a wider scale as it is a DGC framework. • The young adults made me think deeply about how we can listen and support inclusion in this world full of barriers. • More determined to set up my inclusion ambassadors' team in school this year than ever before.
Audit/Change Practice	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using more positive language in class setting • Audit learning and teaching practices (and learning environments) within my schools to ensure they are inclusive of all. • Look at the classroom environment and barriers to learning. • Making more time for pupil voice within my teaching.
Stages of Intervention	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will engage with the Stages of intervention learning materials. • I'll do more professional reading now that I have been signposted to documents such as the newer Stages of Intervention document. • Rethink stages children are at again. Document stages 1 and 2 better.

Further Professional Learning Opportunities Regarding Inclusive Practice

Key Theme from Comments	Number of mentions	Example Comments
Unsure/No answer	19	
Same again	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think another festival would be a success. • Possibly the opportunity for another sharing practice event to allow more staff to attend. • I would like this to be an annual event, if possible.
LAs	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More like this aimed at Support for Learning Assistants • I really would like to see all Learning Assistants offered more training opportunities and greater induction when taking up a post as the roles are so varied
Sharing Practice	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical strategies for settings to enable them to make use of very limited access to support. • I think more opportunities that were based on demonstrations or sharing practical tips for what to do in your class would be brilliant. • Actual strategies on how this is done in other schools. • Inputs tailored to Primary sector - real life examples, what to do in situations
SOI	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stages of intervention given a more substantial role out - looking in depth • Stages of Intervention shared, and training offered to those who could not attend.
Nurture/Trauma / Neurodiversity	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific ideas for neuro diverse children, or trauma affected children. • Authority approach to trauma informed practice. Work on case studies in multi-agency groups - this approach will help us better meet needs of our children and young people. • The Usual Place offer autism awareness training which would be a great way to support a local organisation who help us meet the needs of our learners, whilst also training our staff. It would mean that the training is consistent across all schools and pupil voice would also be heard as some of the young people attend to help deliver the training course.

Summary

In summary, the Sharing Practice Festival was a welcome return to professional dialogue and training in a face-to-face manner, with colleagues and partners from NHS and Third Sector. The overall feeling on the day from the informal feedback was very positive and this is reflected in the formal feedback above. The mix of workshops, keynotes and stalls made for a full and interesting day. With D&G being a geographically widespread authority, The Bridge was chosen as the most central location and unfortunately this still meant an early morning and much travelling for practitioners from outer lying parts of the region. The Sharing Practice Festival was far reaching, as many schools from right across the authority were represented and therefore it is hoped that all these schools have had the Inclusive Practice messages shared in the first few days of the new school year. The emphasis now needs to be on continuing to share the key messages throughout the development and implementation of the Framework for Inclusion, as detailed in the Next Steps section below.

Next Steps

PTs of Inclusive Practice will continue to support the development and implementation of the Framework for Inclusion in the short term by:

- A celebration of the event will be circulated along with contact details for the Education, NHS and Third Sector partners who were represented.
- Recordings of keynote speeches will be made available to all.
- Learning and Development Frameworks will be rolled out to support professional learning for Learning Assistants and ELC practitioners.
- New Stages of Intervention resources will be allocated to schools at Head Teacher Cluster meetings along with a presentation of the SOI Training Sway to be used in schools with practitioners.
- Organise and facilitate the roll out of D&G specific Nurtureuk training to Inclusive Practice Leads across the authority (90 staff), and continue to offer ongoing guidance and support.
- Develop 2hr Universal Nurture Offer (focusing on Nurture Principles, Trauma Informed Practice, ACEs, Brain Development, Attachment Theory and Staff Wellbeing), and deliver to all education staff across all settings.
- Resources to support Frameworks for Numeracy and Literacy will continue to be developed and Professional Learning offered and delivered.
- Continue to foster interagency working through creating an accessible directory of support for all.
- Continue to work with NHS to run mini versions of this event in a “Roadshow” style around other areas of the region to showcase local support available.