

Pupil Support Assistant Professional Learning Calendar

2025-2026

Pupil Support Assistant Professional Learning

The following professional learning programme has been compiled through collaboration with a range of education practitioners and partners across North Ayrshire. It aims to provide a robust evidence-based selection of courses to support the PSAs in their key role of supporting children and young people. All professional learning will be delivered on the in-service days. All programmes are stand-alone unless indicated.

- August 19th (afternoon)
- September 22nd
- November 25th
- February 10th
- May 25th

Programme Sign Up - Gateway

All programmes must be signed up for on Gateway CPD Manager and will require approval from the in-school Gateway Coordinator. Gateway course identity codes are in the description column. Enter the numerical code starting with 8 into 'Course Id' on Gateway. Access to Gateway can be found by either clicking or scanning the following:

[North Ayrshire CPD: Login \(cpdservice.net\)](https://cpdservice.net)



Tuesday 19 th August			
Programme	Time	Location	Description
Digital Accessibility Course ID: 90141	1-3	PLA	This is a practical session where participants will learn about the accessibility features integrated into Microsoft products. We will examine how pupils can be supported in their learning by these accessibility tools such as Immersive Reader, Read Aloud and Dictate. Participants will be able to have hands on experience of using these tools and be given resources to support them afterwards.
Approaches to Numeracy Course ID: 90146	1-3	PLA	A practical session showing the progression across all levels of numeracy, reflecting current documentation and research.
Supporting Learners with Literacy Difficulties Course ID: 90149	1-3	PLA	Practical ideas to support learners with literacy difficulties such as dyslexia, including resources and strategies which will enable you to support with tasks both in an out of the classroom.
TRT: That Reading Thing Course ID: 90151	1-3	PLA	The aim of the That Reading Thing (TRT) course is to enhance secondary school pupils' literacy skills through targeted interventions focusing on decoding, fluency, and comprehension. Through following this programme, pupils will engage in personalised and interactive sessions designed to improve their reading abilities, confidence, and academic performance across subjects. This course is designed for secondary PSAs and Support for Learning Base teachers.

Monday 22 nd September			
Programme	Time	Location	Description
Digital Accessibility Course ID: 90142	9:30-11:30	IRA	<p>This is a practical session where participants will learn about the accessibility features integrated into Microsoft products. We will examine how pupils can be supported in their learning by these accessibility tools such as Immersive Reader, Read Aloud and Dictate.</p> <p>Participants will be able to have hands on experience of using these tools and be given resources to support them afterwards.</p>
Mental Health Improvement – A Practical Approach Course ID: 90155	1-3	Kilwinning Academy	<p>The session is designed to provide information and practical tools to improve wellbeing and build resilience in children, young people, and adults.</p> <p>The objectives of the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness and understanding of mental health improvement. • Provide information and self-help tools that are effective in promoting good mental health.
Supporting Numeracy through STEM Course ID: 90158	10-12	Glencairn	<p>This PL programme will highlight the use of STEM investigations as a context for developing numeracy skills. Particular focus will be given to Information Handling including presenting and interpreting data. The session will use resources for Early, First and Second levels including Citizen Science programmes and the North Ayrshire Outdoor Science resource and Second Level Skills Framework.</p>
Moving and Handling Course ID: 90159	9-3	Castlevue Hub, Ardrossan	<p>This training consists of manual handling theory, bed manoeuvres, using hoists and slings, incorporating basic personal care skills.</p>

Monday 22 nd September			
Programme	Time	Location	Description
<p>Little Interventions for Little People</p> <p>Course ID: 90495</p>	9-12	Dreghorn Primary	<p>This session will provide short interventions to support and engage young learners with language and communication needs.</p> <p>We will look at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What’s in the Bag?” • Attention Autism – “What’s in the Bucket?” • Curiosity Box, Intensive Interaction • Sensory Circuits • Motor development strategies • Regulation Stations • Listening and talking strategies
<p>First Aid</p> <p>There is a cost to this course of £38.95 per person.</p> <p>Course ID: 90163</p>	9-3	Garnock Campus	<p>Amalgamates 1 day Emergency First Aid at Work qualification will equip PSAs with skills in basic first aid treatment, providing care for low level incidents right through to life-preserving techniques in the event of an emergency.</p> <p>Content includes learning how to deal with wounds, burns, stroke, shock, choking, CPR and using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).</p> <p>This qualification allows the successful trainee to act as your appointed person within the workplace, and take charge of any first aid arrangements, including equipment and facilities. If the work environment is small and fairly low risk, or if the workplace is larger but the employee would be providing support to the Named First Aider, then this would provide sufficient information to be able to deal with any likely first aid needs that may arise.</p> <p>Delivered by Amalgamate Training.</p>

Monday 22 nd September			
Programme	Time	Location	Description
<p>Communicating with New Scots (Secondary)</p> <p>Course ID: 90167</p>	9:30-12	PLA	<p>This programme is tailored to Pupils Support Assistants, offering essential knowledge and skills to effectively support pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL) need. Recognising the pivotal role of support staff in fostering inclusive learning environments, this workshop aims to provide practical strategies and insights to enhance classroom support for EAL pupils.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain insights into the challenges and barriers to learning faced by EAL pupils. • Understand the nuances of learning in English whilst also learning the English language. • Learn effective communication techniques and strategies to facilitate language development. • Explore practical approaches to support EAL pupils' academic and social integration.
<p>Supporting Children with Hearing Impairments</p> <p>Course ID: 90154</p>	1-3	Elderbank	<p>This input will equip PSAs with a knowledge and understanding of and skills to support children and young people with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaf Awareness • Hearing Auditory Technology • Deaf Friendly Teaching Strategies <p>Delivered by Stacey McCann, Ayrshire Deaf Education Service.</p>
<p>Emotion coaching: Part 1</p> <p>*This is a 2-part programme so both sessions must be attended.</p> <p>Course ID: 90254</p>	9.30- 11.30	Woodlands	<p>Emotion Coaching is an approach that focuses on the development of emotional regulation through supportive relationships. Emotion Coaching offers practical steps for responding to behaviour, and is linked to key attachment concepts, such as the importance of connection. Participants are required to commit to both sessions in September and November so that practical skills learned in session 1 can be consolidated and developed in Session 2.</p>

Tuesday 25 th November			
Programme	Time	Location	Description
STEM Gardens Course ID: 90169	12:30-3	Corsehill	This session will explore a range of resources and activities that use school gardens as a context for learning. This will be beneficial for schools who would like to PSAs to lead learning in the school garden or facilitate pupil gardening clubs.
SCERTS: Transactional Supports Course ID: 90170	9-12	Dreghorn	SCERTS is a model for working with children who require support with their Social Communication and Emotional Regulation. It provides guidelines for helping a child become competent and confident communicators as well as equipping them with skills to manage emotions. The input will specifically focus on the practical aspects of SCERTS - the transactional supports. This will help adults to implement supports, respond to the child's needs and interests, modify, and adapt the environment and provide tools for enhance learning (Picture communication, timetables, sensory supports etc). Delivered by Leanne Geatano and the SCERTS team.
Approaches to Numeracy Course ID: 90147	9:30-11:30	PLA	A practical session showing the progression across all levels of numeracy, reflecting current documentation and research.
Digital Accessibility Course ID: 90143	9:30-11:30	Garnock	This is a practical session where participants will learn about the accessibility features integrated into Microsoft products. We will examine how pupils can be supported in their learning by these accessibility tools such as Immersive Reader, Read Aloud and Dictate. Participants will be able to have hands on experience of using these tools and be given resources to support them afterwards.

Tuesday 25 th November			
Programme	Time	Location	Description
Boosting Reading: Part 1 *This is a 2-part programme so both sessions must be attended. Course ID: 90171	9-3	Kilwinning Academy	A proven strategy to support struggling readers in both primary and secondary settings. The intervention is a time-limited, one-to-one intervention, designed to be delivered over a 10-week period by a PSA. It is designed to improve the way children read, enabling them to be independent problem solvers who read with understanding and enjoyment. Part 2 takes place February in-service.
CALM Theory Course ID: 90172	9-3	St Matthews	This course will help participants understand dysregulated behaviour. Participants will reflect on how exposure to dysregulated behaviour makes you feel and engage in discussions to consider best practice in supporting children. Staff will consider the importance of taking a team approach to support both the child and each other.
Supporting Learners with Literacy Difficulties Course ID: 90150	1-3	PLA	Practical ideas to support learners with literacy difficulties such as dyslexia, including resources and strategies which will enable you to support with tasks both in an out of the classroom.
Moving and Handling Course ID: 90160	9-3	Castleview Hub	This training consists of manual handling theory, bed manoeuvres, using hoists and slings, incorporating basic personal care skills.

Tuesday 25 th November			
Programme	Time	Location	Description
<p>First Aid</p> <p>There is a cost to this course of £38.95 per person.</p> <p>Course ID: 90164</p>	9-3	Caledonia Primary	<p>Amalgamate's 1 day Emergency First Aid at Work qualification will equip PSAs with skills in basic first aid treatment, providing care for low level incidents right through to life-preserving techniques in the event of an emergency.</p> <p>Content includes learning how to deal with wounds, burns, stroke, shock, choking, CPR and using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).</p> <p>This qualification allows the successful trainee to act as your appointed person within the workplace, and take charge of any first aid arrangements, including equipment and facilities. If the work environment is small and fairly low risk, or if the workplace is larger but the employee would be providing support to the Named First Aider, then this would provide sufficient information to be able to deal with any likely first aid needs that may arise.</p> <p>Delivered by Amalgamate's Training</p>
<p>Standing Up to Child Poverty</p> <p>Course ID: 90498</p>	1-3	St Matthews	<p>Poverty and stigma can have a considerable emotional as well as physical impact on children and young people which can in turn affect their ability to participate fully in education. This session considers some of the main the causes and multifaceted impacts of poverty on the children and young people who experience it, whilst also highlighting how they can be best supported through their education.</p>
<p>Communicating with Neurodivergent Children</p> <p>Course ID: 90500</p>	12:30-3	Woodlands Primary	<p>Would you like to learn more about the communication differences you might notice in children who are neurodivergent? This workshop will provide you with the skills to support children and young people showing differences in the development of their language, communication, social interaction and play skills. Delivered by the NEST team.</p>

Tuesday 25 th November			
Programme	Time	Location	Description
Emotion coaching: Part 2 *This is a 2-part programme so both sessions must be attended. Course ID: 90254	9.30 – 11.30	Woodlands	This second session builds and consolidates on practical skills learned in September. Participants will have an opportunity to further practice the approach: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognising, empathising, soothing to calm 2. Validating the feelings and naming them 3. (if needed) Setting limits on behaviour 4. Problem- solving with the child/young person

Tuesday 10 th February			
Programme	Time	Location	Description
<p>Little Interventions for Little People</p> <p>Course ID: 90496</p>	9-12	Dreghorn	<p>This session will provide short interventions to support and engage young learners with language and communication needs.</p> <p>We will look at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What’s in the Bag?” • Attention Autism – “What’s in the Bucket?” • Curiosity Box, Intensive Interaction • Sensory Circuits • Motor development strategies • Regulation Stations • Listening and talking strategies
<p>Digital Accessibility</p> <p>Course ID: 90144</p>	9:30-11:30	St Matthews	<p>This is a practical session where participants will learn about the accessibility features integrated into Microsoft products. We will examine how pupils can be supported in their learning by these accessibility tools such as Immersive Reader, Read Aloud and Dictate.</p> <p>Participants will be able to have hands on experience of using these tools and be given resources to support them afterwards.</p>
<p>CALM Theory</p> <p>Course ID: 90173</p>	9-3	Garnock	<p>This course will help participants understand dysregulated behaviour. Participants will reflect on how exposure to dysregulated behaviour makes you feel and engage in discussions to consider best practice in supporting children. Staff will consider the importance of taking a team approach to support both the child and each other. Calm Core Theory focuses on the reduction of physical restraint. Anyone wishing to proceed to CALM Physical Intervention training must complete the core theory first.</p> <p>Delivered by Morven McLean</p>

Tuesday 10 th February			
Programme	Time	Location	Description
TRT: That Reading Thing Course ID: 90152	1-3	PLA	A proven strategy to support struggling readers in secondary settings. The intervention is a time-limited, one-to-one intervention, to be delivered 2 x 20 minute sessions per week over a term by a PSA. It is designed to improve the way children read, enabling them to be independent problem solvers who read with understanding and enjoyment.
Communicating with New Scots (Primary) Course ID: 90168	1-3	PLA	This CLPL session will be delivered by the English as an Additional Language Team. It will focus on supporting English language Learners and New Arrivals in the primary school setting. We will provide an overview of the EAL service and explain what support is currently provided to EAL learners in schools across North Ayrshire. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn and try out practical strategies and activities to support EAL learners, as well as some useful resources that can be used in schools. By the end of the session, we hope that all attendees leave with the knowledge and confidence to support EAL learners within their school.
Approaches to Numeracy Course ID: 90148	9:30-11:30	PLA	A practical session showing the progression across all levels of numeracy, reflecting current documentation and research.
Moving and Handling Course ID: 90161	9-3	Castlevue Hub	This training consists of manual handling theory, bed manoeuvres, using hoists and slings, incorporating basic personal care skills.

Tuesday 10 th February			
Programme	Time	Location	Description
First Aid There is a cost to this course of £38.95 per person. Course ID: 90165	9-3	Glebe	<p>Amalgamate's 1 day Emergency First Aid at Work qualification will equip PSAs with skills in basic first aid treatment, providing care for low level incidents right through to life-preserving techniques in the event of an emergency.</p> <p>Content includes learning how to deal with wounds, burns, stroke, shock, choking, CPR and using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).</p> <p>This qualification allows the successful trainee to act as your appointed person within the workplace, and take charge of any first aid arrangements, including equipment and facilities. If the work environment is small and fairly low risk, or if the workplace is larger but the employee would be providing support to the Named First Aider, then this would provide sufficient information to be able to deal with any likely first aid needs that may arise.</p>
Kit Bags Course ID: 90333	1-3	St Matthews	<p>In this practical session participants will learn how to deliver sessions to individual children or small groups of pupils using the Kit-Bag resource, and Nurture UK boxes: 60 Mindful Minutes, the Bereavement Box, 60 Sensory Minutes, and the Transition Toolkit. Kit bags are a multi-sensory tool that supports children to develop their social skills, confidence, and resilience. Nurture UK boxes are practical resources that support children to manage change, develop confidence and resilience. Participants will engage in activities from the Nurture UK boxes and consider how these resources can be used to support individual children and small group of pupils. Participants will consider how to select appropriate activities, become familiar with running sessions, and consider how to measure impact.</p>

Tuesday 10 th February			
Programme	Time	Location	Description
Boosting Reading: Part 2 Course ID: 90171	9-3	Kilwinning Academy	A proven strategy to support struggling readers in both primary and secondary settings. The intervention is a time-limited, one-to-one intervention, designed to be delivered over a 10-week period by a PSA. It is designed to improve the way children read, enabling them to be independent problem solvers who read with understanding and enjoyment.
Mental Health Improvement: A Practical Approach Course ID: 90156	1-3	Kilwinning Academy	The session is designed to provide information and practical tools to improve wellbeing and build resilience in children, young people, and adults. The objectives of the session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness and understanding of mental health improvement. • Provide information and self-help tools that are effective in promoting good mental health.
Communicating with Neurodivergent Children Course ID: 90501	12:30-3	Woodlands Primary	Would you like to learn more about the communication differences you might notice in children who are neurodivergent? This workshop will provide you with the skills to support children and young people showing differences in the development of their language, communication, social interaction and play skills. Delivered by the NEST team.

Monday 25 th May			
Programme	Time	Location	Description
Digital Accessibility Course ID: 90145	9:30-11:30	PLA	This is a practical session where participants will learn about the accessibility features integrated into Microsoft products. We will examine how pupils can be supported in their learning by these accessibility tools such as Immersive Reader, Read Aloud and Dictate. Participants will be able to have hands on experience of using these tools and be given resources to support them afterwards.
First Aid There is a cost to this course of £38.95 per person. Course ID: 90166	9-3	Abbey Primary	Amalgamate's 1 day Emergency First Aid at Work qualification will equip PSAs with skills in basic first aid treatment, providing care for low level incidents right through to life-preserving techniques in the event of an emergency. Content includes learning how to deal with wounds, burns, stroke, shock, choking, CPR and using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). This qualification allows the successful trainee to act as your appointed person within the workplace, and take charge of any first aid arrangements, including equipment and facilities. If the work environment is small and fairly low risk, or if the workplace is larger but the employee would be providing support to the Named First Aider, then this would provide sufficient information to be able to deal with any likely first aid needs that may arise. Delivered by Amalgamate Training
Moving and Handling Course ID: 90162	9-3	Castleview Hub, Ardrossan	This training consists of manual handling theory, bed manoeuvres, using hoists and slings, incorporating basic personal care skills.

Monday 25 th May			
Programme	Time	Location	Description
CALM Theory Course ID: 90174	9-3	PLA	This course will help participants understand dysregulated behaviour. Participants will reflect on how exposure to dysregulated behaviour makes you feel and engage in discussions to consider best practice in supporting children. Staff will consider the importance of taking a team approach to support both the child and each other. Calm Core Theory focuses on the reduction of physical restraint. Anyone wishing to proceed to CALM Physical Intervention training must complete the core theory first.
Mental Health Improvement: A Practical Approach Course ID: 90157	1-3	Irvine Royal Academy	The session is designed to provide information and practical tools to improve wellbeing and build resilience in children, young people, and adults. The objectives of the session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness and understanding of mental health improvement. • Provide information and self-help tools that are effective in promoting good mental health.
Pupil Awards Through STEM Course ID: 90499	1:30-3	Montgomerie Park	This Professional Learning will showcase a range of personal achievement awards including their application processes, evidence collection and connections with programme facilitators. Awards will include RSPB Wild Challenge, John Muir Award, Heritage Heroes, RHS School Gardening and others.
Standing Up to Child Poverty Course ID: 90498	1-3	St Matthews	Poverty and stigma can have a considerable emotional as well as physical impact on children and young people which can in turn affect their ability to participate fully in education. This session considers some of the main the causes and multifaceted impacts of poverty on the children and young people who experience it, whilst also highlighting how they can be best supported through their education.

Monday 25 th May			
Programme	Time	Location	Description
<p>Communicating with Neurodivergent Children</p> <p>Course ID: 90502</p>	12:30-3	Woodlands Primary	<p>Would you like to learn more about the communication differences you might notice in children who are neurodivergent? This workshop will provide you with the skills to support children and young people showing differences in the development of their language, communication, social interaction and play skills. Delivered by the NEST team.</p>