

Stories from the Solihull Approach



Nicki Carpenter,
Educational Psychologist
for Kent County Council
with Emma Harrison,
Specialist Teacher



Canterbury Cathedral



Reculver Towers

From: Emma Harrison

After achieving the Solihull trainer module in 2018, I have been delivering the Solihull Foundation model with an Ed Psych, Nicki Carpenter. We have co-presented to Canterbury and coastal schools in our Kent district and at the county level ever since. Local funding from various sources has allowed us to buy the manuals and resources for school staff.

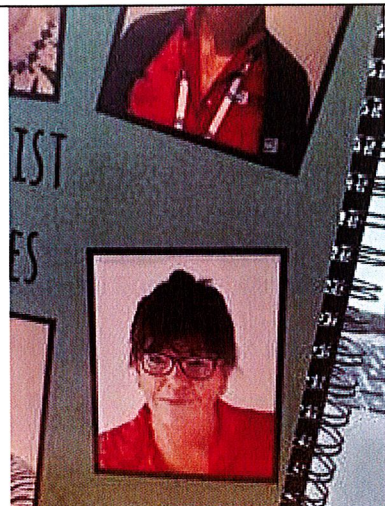
The district schools have been able to direct parents to online training using the Kent multi-user license too. Ongoing information about Solihull developments has been included in our Specialist Teaching and Learning Service newsletter.

I have been lucky to deliver The Solihull Foundation Model to 24 members of staff, including Senior Leaders, Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants across St Nicholas School in Canterbury, which is a special school for pupils with cognition and learning needs.

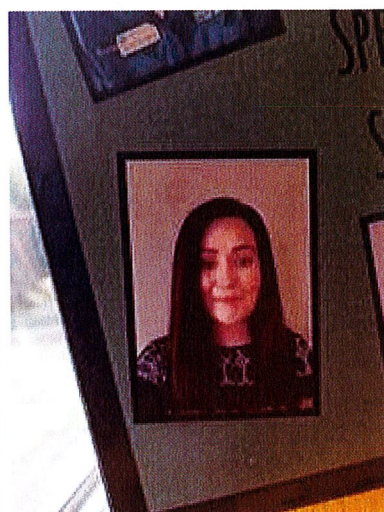
Nicki and I have had some positive feedback from Infant, Primary and Secondary schools, including:

- Schools holding Solihull parent groups
- Changes to school policy, including, not having a behaviour policy, but a positive relationship policy
- Improved confidence in Inclusion Leaders, SENCo and Wellbeing Managers
- Shared/common language and discussions in solution focussed meetings
- Sharing of online resources
- Regular supervision meetings in St Nicholas School
- The investment of ongoing reciprocal contained relationships

As the pandemic has impacted all of us, Nicki and I are very excited that we have managed to get some funding for a Solihull Reconnect day. We intend to invite all people we have previously trained since 2018 and connect with each other using the Solihull Foundation Model as a focus point. At that point, we can discuss other impacts that the model has had on schools.



Mona Hanna



Lisa Lenaghan

From: Mona Hanna

My colleague Lisa Lenaghan and I work for the Southern Trust in Northern Ireland as Specialist Health Visitors for Parenting Support.

From December 2021, we have been delivering the workshop for parents of babies and toddlers as a stand-alone session on brain development and reciprocity. Due to COVID/restrictions/Trust Guidance, we deliver this 2-hour session each Tuesday morning via zoom from 10am-12pm.

We promoted the workshop through discussions and forward the Flyer to health visiting, Early Years services and the Parenting Partnership within the SHSCT.

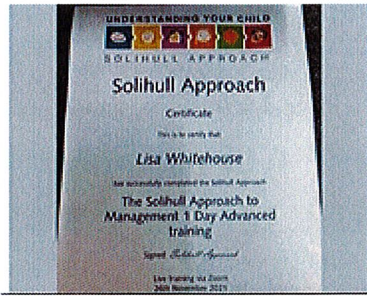
We have had between 6-10 mums each week. They are very engaging. A continued theme emerging is the relief that they are doing good enough parenting even with the isolation COVID has caused. With a focus on the parent-child relationship/parenting with the brain in mind, the session has put words/knowledge to what the parents intuitively already know, and they feel it has boosted their confidence.

We also deliver the workshop on brain development as a stand-alone 2-hour session for parents of Adolescents. This takes place each Wednesday evening via zoom from 7-9pm. We promoted it through all secondary schools and School Nursing teams in the SHSCT.

The response from the parents was massive, with bookings of 16 per week and generally 8-13 attendance. The main themes are anxiety and sleep deprivation. During the session, they stated that knowing the science of brain development during the adolescent transitional stage was very helpful. These groups are hard to end at 9pm!!

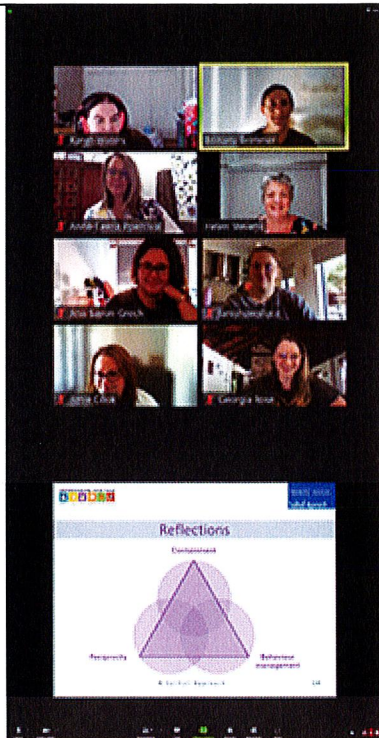
From: Lisa Whitehouse

We do love the Solihull Approach. It is an outstanding practice based on proven research that can be applied to understanding your child or supporting a staff team.



Certificate awarded to Lisa Whitehouse for completing the Solihull Approach to Management 1 Day Advanced training

After 2 years of COVID, it was just the tonic to help us look forward to the new year! Versatile and inspiring!



A small group of managers attend a Solihull Approach training in Australia

From: Helen Stevens

In 2014, the Solihull Approach was introduced to a Family Unit in Australia and continues to be a part of the Unit practice guidelines. Later, in 2017, Solihull Approach Development Manager, Rebecca Johnson, came to Australia and ran a 2 Day Foundation and Group Facilitator training available to anyone who wanted to register. From that first training and Rebecca's inspirational knowledge sharing and support, the Solihull Approach remains a living, breathing force within Australia today.

In 2022, we reflect on the range of practitioners who have undertaken the training, namely maternal child and family health nurses (similar to UK home visiting nurses), social workers, midwives, psychologists, child protection, aboriginal health, early years care, mental health workers and perinatal mental health and antenatal practitioners, to name some. Student maternal, child and family health nurses are now able to be credited for their Solihull Approach training as part of their Graduate Diploma Studies at a Victorian University.

Our third group of managers have completed their 2 Day Solihull Approach to Management training with stunning feedback, which we are writing up. We have already offered Reflective Supervision and train-the-trainer training and look forward to offering Advanced trainings this year alongside free 1.5-hour live-remote 'putting theory into practice' sessions. These sessions aim to help practitioners keep the Solihull Approach front and centre of their minds to be sure they live the benefits of the approach.

My heart filled thanks to the UK team, who have been very supportive of getting the Solihull Approach to all parts of our wide lands.