

Our Children, Their Nurturing Education

(Newsletter - September 2021)



Our children, their nurturing education (OCTNE) has launched with 17 schools beginning their journey to become a nurture and relationships based community in partnership with Argyll & Bute Educational Psychology Service.

The OCTNE framework has been developed by Argyll & Bute Educational Psychology Service to provide strategic support for educational establishments.

The framework is underpinned by self-evaluation, improvement science and provides an accreditation pathway to recognise the development needs schools have identified and the steps they have taken to address them.

Our first Cohort of 17 establishments are found across the authority and include both Primary and Secondary school. We are currently exploring how OCTNE could be expanded with our partners in the Early Years Team.

Leadership Training

Initially schools identified someone responsible for leading OCTNE within their own establishment. This person (or group) attended the 3 day leadership training delivered by the Educational Psychology Service.

Training was delivered online to ensure partners from across the authority could engage with the EPS and OCTNE.

While these were three intense days of training, this did not dampen the enthusiasm and engagement from attendees. We had rich large and small group discussions, and Jamboard has become everyone's new favourite tool! Feedback from the training was very positive:

"One of the best training courses I have attended!!"

"Gold star for everyone on the team. The course was paced really well and you had my full attention throughout!!"

What's Next for Cohort 1?

The Principal Teacher of Nurture, John Stuart, has completed needs analysis discussions with each school and is supporting establishments to develop their core group and action plan. In most cases, the link Educational Psychologist was part of these meetings.

We have a number of schools who have already submitted their bronze accreditation paperwork and silver action plans. These are being considered by the accreditation panel and we hope to award schools with their bronze award very soon!

Cohort 2

A number of schools have expressed an interest in beginning their own journey, and work is underway to begin a second cohort. School readiness is a vital aspect of the process, and our Nurture Teachers are beginning to have discussions with these schools in relation to this. Those who are ready, will begin their journey with the leadership training in November.

Good news – Nurture Teachers!!!

Funding was agreed for additional Nurture Teachers to support the implementation of OCTNE, and following successful recruitment we appointed Katie Dobson and Lynsey Madonia to these 12 month posts. We are delighted to have them join the team!

With the increase in staff to support OCTNE, we have increased the levels of support we can offer to schools. More information about what this will look like in practice will be provided at our Conference on Monday 29th October.

OCTNE Conference

A reminder to all OCTNE leads that we have our conference on Monday 29th November, at the Inveraray Inn (9am - 4pm). Keep an eye on your inboxes for the email inviting you to reserve your space!!

We are delighted to announce two keynote speakers for us on the day:

Louise Michelle Bombèr – Clinical Lead, Teacher & Therapist (live virtual keynote)

Louise Michelle Bombèr is qualified as both a specialist teacher, a therapist and a DDP certified practitioner. Louise has a wealth of lived experience as both an adoptive parent and as a professional. She is the Clinical Lead and the Director of TouchBase Centre CiC in Brighton. The aims of TouchBase are to support those who have experienced adverse childhood experiences to function well at home, in their schools and out in community. Louise and her team offer a range of support services for children and young adults (5 to 25) who have experienced significant relational traumas and losses to move towards learned security and recovery. They also support family, friends and professionals around these children.



As well as having written many articles, she is the author of the very popular book *'Inside I'm Hurting'*, now translated into French and Italian. She also wrote *'What About Me?'*.

Louise contributed to the book *'Teenagers & Attachment'*. She has co-authored *'Settling Troubled Pupils to Learn: Why Relationships Matter in School'* together with Dan Hughes. Louise contributed to a specialist family law book *'Capacity to Change'* outlining what needs to be considered for traumatized children and their lives in school. More recently Louise has written the *'Attachment Aware Schools Series – Bridging the gap for troubled pupils'* to support schools to create effective small teams around pupils – Team Pupil. Her most recent book is *'Know Me to Teach Me'*. A book that advocates for differentiated discipline in schools using the latest findings in child development and neuroscience.

www.touchbase.org.uk

Jennifer Gibney – Principal Teacher

Jennifer is the principal teacher at Barsail Primary School in Renfrewshire where she has led the successful implementation of whole-school nurturing approaches, including the development of a Relationships Policy. Jennifer spent a year on secondment fulfilling the role as Nurture Principal Teacher and Attainment Coach for Renfrewshire Council. During this secondment, she supported many establishments on their nurturing journeys and also worked with educational psychologist colleagues to create the RNRA (Renfrewshire's Nurturing Relationships Approach) accreditation process. Jennifer will share with us her experiences in leading Barsail through this process, the challenges and the impact.

For further information and updates can be found on our Glowblog - [Our Children, Their nurturing education \(OCTNE\)](#) | [Argyll and Bute Educational Psychology Service](#) (glowscotland.org.uk)