

Strengthening the SI Sector

HoSS event/NatSIP working day: 3rd October 2018, Wesley Hotel. London.

NatSIP update

NatSIP is a unique national partnership of professionals and voluntary organisations working with children and young people with sensory impairment (SI) and their families. The purpose of NATSIP is to improve outcomes for children and young people with SI, closing gaps with their peers, through joint working in services for these children.

NatSIP is funded through voluntary contributions, affiliation subscription, grants and commissioned contracts. We are the strategic partners for DfE to support their work for CYP with SI. Currently we are finalising a contract with the Whole School SEND (WSS) consortium (led by nasen) to support the SEND schools' workforce. Details, published guidance and outcomes from NatSIP workstreams in this and past contracts can be found on the NatSIP website: www.natsip.org.uk

The contract with WSS 2018 -19

NatSIP activities and KPIs:

4b (1) Sensory Learning Hub, NATSIP On-line learning platform, online CPD resource and the What Works database and related training courses and programmes:

To identify sustainable and accessible solutions within six months, while keeping the resources in place, promoting them and achieving current levels of usage. Deliver direct training to the schools' workforce around the content of the NatSIP platform, working where possible with other consortium partners.

Contact: steve.rose@natsip.org and steve.johnson@natsip.org

4b (2) Continued development of an Online CPD Platform and training log linked to NatSIP resources and training programmes:

To identify a sustainable online CPD and training platform for SI CPD within the six-month deadline.

Contact: Jackie Salter - J.M.Salter@leeds.ac.uk

4b (3) Getting Started for SI and SENCO training on SI:

Develop and trial a costed model of Getting Started Pack for SI in 50 schools. Develop and trial a costed model of SENCO support with 50 SENCOs.

Contact: bev.mars@natsip.org.uk

4b (4) Develop the NatSIP Find an Advisor database:

To maintain and expand the SI Find an Advisor Database and assure sustainability.

Contact: steve.rose@natsip.org and steve.johnson@natsip.org

4b (5) Participate in condition-specific and SEND leadership organisation gap analysis research with UCL.

Contact: lindsey.rousseau@natsip.org.uk and brian.lamb@natsip.org.uk

3a (2) Review MQSI in consultation with the NatSIP Community of Practice:

scoping and first stage review from Oct 2018 with a report on whether the MQSI standards need revising (to be informed by 4b (5)).

Contact: lindsey.rousseau@natsip.org.uk and brian.lamb@natsip.org.uk

Whilst negotiating the details of the WSS contract with DfE/nasen has been time consuming for NatSIP we are determined that the other partnership priorities continue so that NatSIP can thrive and remain a powerful and united voice for the SI sector in the future. We are grateful to all NatSIP partners demonstrating their commitment to the ongoing work through affiliation to NatSIP and generous participation in planning and delivery of joint initiatives and events.

Please keep the channels of communication open and keep in touch through sharing your ideas and findings. There are other areas of important work with children and young people with sensory impairment and their families which are not covered by the SEND schools' workforce. Your work with children and families from diagnosis, around specialist assessment, access and equality issues, post 16 to 25 years and all that can be achieved by young people and young adults with SI is vital and is part of the complete range of services that we offer as a sector. We must work together to meet needs and improve outcomes for those with sensory impairment and to influence decision makers and commissioners of specialist low incidence provision. NatSIP is operational and strategic, through you and we rely on your involvement at all levels.

The members of the NatSIP Reference Group thank you all for your support of NatSIP!