

Solihull Early Years Teams

Early Years Team Members

Early Years Practitioners - inclusion support practitioners working in in homes and settings

Meet Sam

Sam joined the team in spring 2022 having worked in a Solihull primary school and a nursery setting in the borough. Much of Sam's time in school was working with teachers and teaching assistants to meet the needs of the children with special educational needs and disability (SEND).

The Early Years Practitioners in the team give support to children and families who have been referred to us through an [Early Years Team around the Child \(EY TAC\)](#) referral. This is usually by health visitors with information from the family and also sometimes in association with a child minder. Parents cannot refer directly to EY TAC.

Sam and the inclusion support practitioner team work both in schools, settings, child minders and family homes to support everyone to implement strategies that will help a young child with significant and more complex difficulties. Much of the support suggested is [here](#) . They also help children transition into a setting and share strategies that are being used in the home. Sam mainly works in West Solihull.

Early Years Lead Practitioners

Area SENCo role – support for setting SENCos (schools and group provision) to meet the needs of children who have significant delay in three or more areas of development.

Meet Julia

Julia also joined the Early Years Team in spring 2022. She has previously worked in a primary school as an Early Years Lead and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator having attained her National Award for Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators. She mainly works in North Solihull supporting SENCos and key persons to meet the needs of children who are referred to the team by their setting, with agreement from parent/carer(s).

A typical day is out in settings observing and discussing the needs of targeted children. Julia coaches SENCos to put strategies in to place and to make appropriate referrals to meet children's needs. The Area SENCos write a note of visit to summarise the discussion with staff and these are sent to the setting who will forward them on to parents.

EY Team members- meet some members of the team May 2023

The Area SENCOs continue to support children until they transition into reception. At October half-term, children in reception continue to be supported by the school SENCO with involvement from SISS if this is appropriate.

Early Years and Childcare Adviser – quality support for childminders, group settings and schools. Support for those who are Early Years Ofsted registered and childcare or school registrations.

Meet Marion

When Marion joined the team in early 2021 she had been working in a Solihull Primary School and worked with Early Years Team members herself. So she knew that the Adviser role was one she would be able to bring her skills and experience to and to support early education provision across Solihull. She has worked in a range of areas across the West Midlands. In her recent Early Years Foundation Stage Leader role she supported improvement across the phase. She has brought a great insight as we reflect on how we best support settings to maintain and improve quality.

Marion is our safeguarding champion and is involved in the strategy developments which are a priority across Solihull Local Authority with early years in mind. She works to support the Early Years Foundation Stage and child care regulatory requirements in settings. In a typical day she may be working alongside one of our schools, settings or childminders, or supporting training and development. Marion has been working to further develop our Solgrid early years and childcare webpages. www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc and set up our **Early Years Updates Text Service** for all early years professionals.

Contact the Early Years Team in Solihull 0121 704 6150 or eyenquiries@solihull.gov.uk
Find out more about what we do- <https://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/> and
<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Children-and-family-support/localoffer/Early-Years-Team>

Solihull Inclusion Support Services

Early Years Support Teams

Autism Team

Meet Siobhan

Siobhan joined the Autism team as an advisory teacher in January 2018. Previously she was a SENCo at a Birmingham Primary School, where she completed the National SENCo Award. Siobhan works with children who have a diagnosis of Autism in Foundation Stage 1 (Nursery) and below. Her role is to provide advice and support for children and families who attend settings in Solihull including private or Local Authority nurseries and also for children not accessing their nursery entitlement. She leads the Early Years Autism Education (AET) Trust Training Programme in Solihull. The AET training is free for staff who are new to Solihull or new to role.

Siobhan also has an interest in dyslexia and she is a qualified dyslexia assessor holding an Assessment Practising Certificate (APC). She carries out full diagnostic assessments for Solihull's Specialist Support (SISS) Communication and Learning Difficulties (CLD) Team. She has an interest in how learning differences present in the Early Years.

Sensory and Physical Impairment Team

Meet Lisa and Julie

Lisa joined the SPI Team in November 2019 as a Qualified Teacher of Deaf Children and Young People. In September 2020 she became the Team Manager of the Team. Lisa has taught within the age range of birth – 25 years both in mainstream and specialist settings. She has also previously held senior management roles in schools the most recent being Head of Primary. Julie joined the SPI Team in January 2019 and is now a Qualified Teacher for Multi-Sensory Impaired children. Julie was appointed as Assistant Team Manager in April 2023. Julie has worked with children in both mainstream and specialist settings, and has also worked previously as a specialist teacher on the Autism Team.

Both Julie and Lisa work with children who have a diagnosis of Sensory (hearing and vision) and Physical Impairments from birth up to post 16. Their role is to provide advice and support for children, their families and educational staff where they are residents of Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and/or attend settings in Solihull, including home visits, private or Local Authority nurseries

For further information about the SISS Team and contact details -Call 0121 704 6690 and email sisupportservice@solihull.gov.uk <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Schools-and-learning/SISS>