

The BCP Inclusion Support Partnership (Experts at Hand)

Lisa McDonald
September 2026

Welcome to the BCP Inclusion support Partnership



The BCP Inclusion Support Partnership will be our local 'Experts at Hand' model.

A new way of supporting children and young people in BCP:

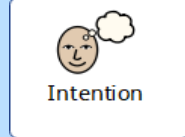
- Early help for SEND and inclusion needs
- Bringing education, therapy, and lived experience expertise together
- Helping children and young people to get the right support, at the right time



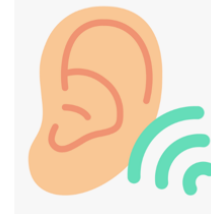
What will we achieve by the end of this session?

AIM

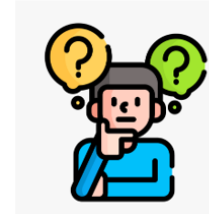
To introduce the new BCP Inclusion Support Partnership (Experts at Hand) model



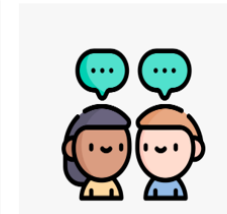
- What is Experts at Hand and why is it being introduced?
- How will the model help?
- What support will be available?
- What does this mean for me and my child?
- Who is involved?
- What happens next?



Listen



Think



Communicate

What is Experts at Hand?

Support that strengthens inclusion in local schools and settings;

- Working **alongside** nurseries, schools and colleges
- Helps identify needs **earlier**
- Builds staff **confidence and skills**
- Focuses on **inclusion and belonging** for all children and young people
- Rather than children having to wait for support elsewhere, experts will work alongside staff in the places **where children already learn**
- The offer **does not replace** any statutory support such as EHCPs; it is an **additional offer** at the universal and targeted levels of support

The DfE have created some FAQs for families:

[Experts at Hand: Everything you need to know – The Education Hub](#)



Why is Experts at Hand being introduced?

Families have spoken about long waits and inconsistent support – our model:

- Supports at the universal and targeted level
- Reduces barriers to receiving support
- Brings the support to the children and young people so that needs are met earlier
- Ensures that staff feel more confident in meeting needs
- Builds skills and capacity across the local area for long term improvement and consistency

A key part of SEND reform is a stronger mainstream approach, meaning the majority of children can be supported successfully in their local early years setting, school or college, with the right help in place.

The DfE have created some FAQs for families:

[Experts at Hand: Everything you need to know – The Education Hub](#)



How will the BCP model help?

The model helps settings and schools to help all children and young people:

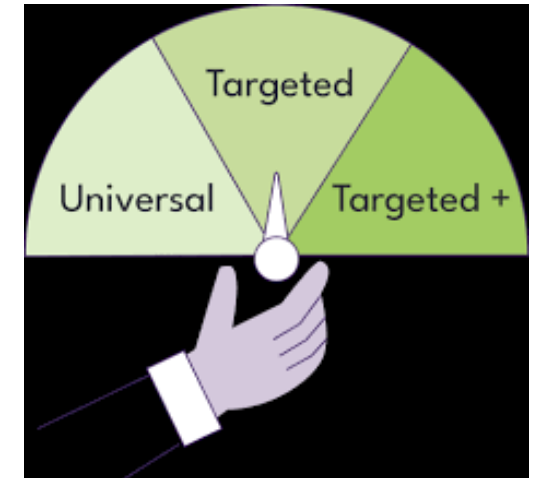
- Earlier support without unnecessary barriers
- Support based on need
- No requirement for a diagnosis
- No requirement for an EHCP to access support
- A focus on helping schools and settings meet needs as early as possible
- Building a strong inclusive approach that is consistent across the local area



What support will be available?

There will be a full menu for schools and settings offering universal and targeted support covering:

- Whole school training and coaching
- Targeted small group work
- Whole cluster level communities of practice
- All four areas of need: *Communication & Interaction, Cognition & learning, Social, Emotional & Mental Health, Sensory Physical*
- Family Partnership and co production
- Preparation for adulthood



The SEND Graduated Approach

www.bcp-gati.com

A sense of belonging:
*Whole school, classroom
& environment*

**Ambition and pathways
for all children & young
people**

**Understand and deliver
the right support**

The most successful schools & settings



**Universal inclusive approach
Targeted support**

Both supported through the graduated approach directory and experts at hand

Who is involved?

There will be five new support teams that supporting two clusters each:

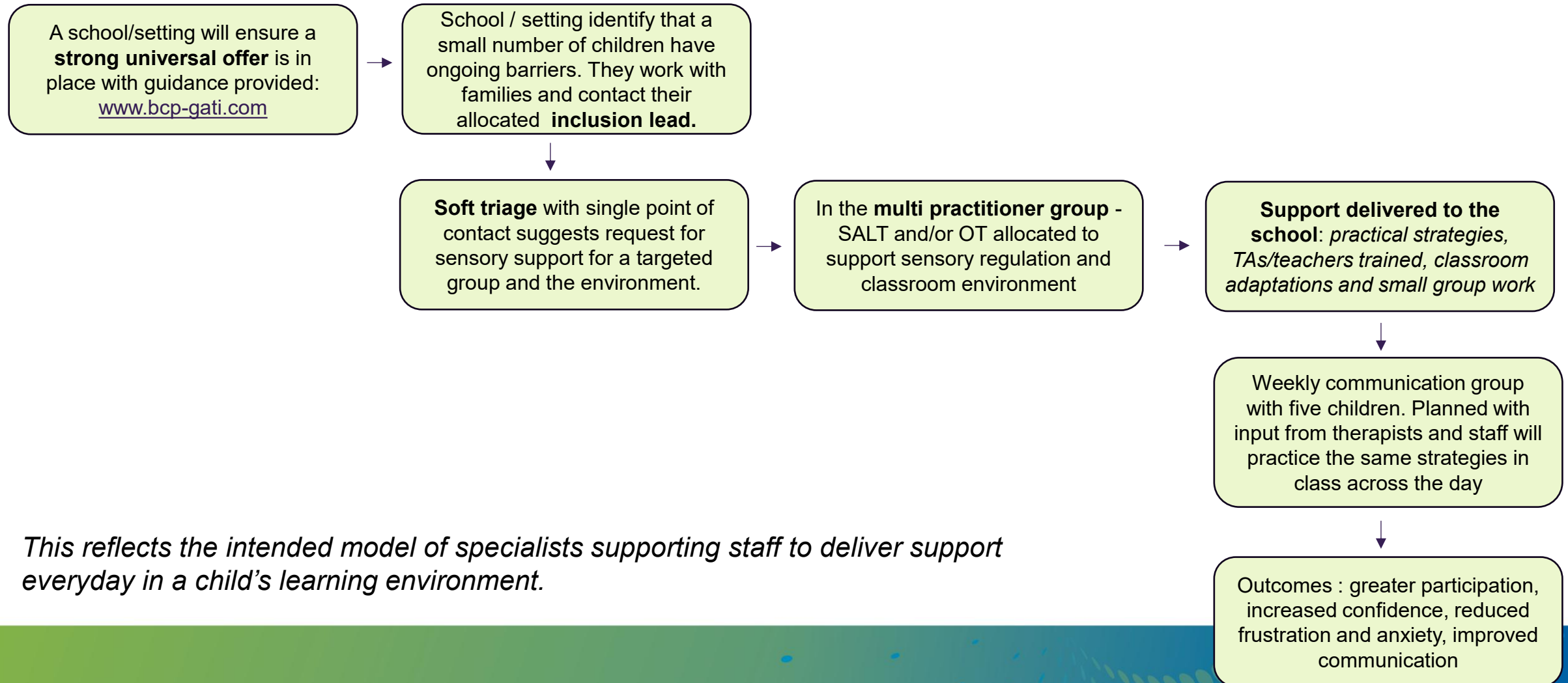
Inclusion leads as a single point of contacts	Educational Psychologists	Assistant Educational Psychologists	Occupational Therapists
Occupational Therapy Assistants	Speech and Language Therapists	Experienced inclusion leaders seconded to the Local authority	Early Years Area SENCos
Best Start Inclusion Practitioners	Lived Experience representation and support: families and young people	<i>Connections with health services: Mental health support teams , CAMHS</i>	<i>Connections to family hubs and preparation for adulthood services</i>



The support team works alongside schools and settings in their cluster, building on existing expertise rather than replacing it.

What will this look like in action?

Experts at Hands guidance expects that support will be delivered through small groups, and whole class approaches with specialists working alongside staff. Here is an example of how the offer will help:



This reflects the intended model of specialists supporting staff to deliver support everyday in a child's learning environment.

What Happens next?



What happens next?



September- October 2026

- Recruitment and induction
- Graduated approach finalised and live (www.bcp-gati.com)
- SENCo Network refreshed
- Inclusion Health Checks / Audits
- Training & CPD Programme launched for enrolment
- Consultation on Draft Menu of Support
- Baseline data collection and cluster data mapping
- Consultation drop-ins and SENCo surgeries start (test and learn)
- New Special school and AP outreach contracts live



November – December 2026

- Request for Help pathway tested
- Triage and allocation processes trialled
- Recording and reporting systems tested
- Multi agency triage pathway established
- School secondment network established
- Staff induction and onboarding
- Governance arrangements finalised
- Baseline measures completed
- Service ready for soft launch
- Training programme



January 2027



All settings receive:

- New training programme and opportunities
- Special School and AP outreach
- Graduated approach resource directory incl SENCo, Virtual School and attendance hub
- Renewed half-termly SENCo Networks



Soft Launch (2 Pilot Clusters)



Cluster settings receive all of the above plus:

- Named Inclusion Lead
- Cluster Training & CPD
- Inclusion Audits
- Consultation & Coaching
- Multi disciplinary team wrap around
- Request for Help Access
- School-to-School Peer Support



Spring – Summer 2027



Test • Learn • Refine

- Monitor impact
- Review demand
- Refine support offer
- Strengthen inclusive practice



Expansion of full model across all clusters



Inclusive
Everyone belongs



Collaborative
Stronger together



Effective
Evidence informed



Empowering
Building capacity



Accountable
Focused on impact

Key Message

The BCP Inclusion Support Partnership aims to help more children and young people thrive in their local settings through earlier support, stronger inclusion and better partnership working



Thank You

Any Questions?

