

## Alex Timpson Attachment and Trauma Awareness in Schools Programme Newsletter – May 2021



*The Alex Timpson Trust is funding the Rees Centre to develop a national evidence base on the effects of attachment and trauma awareness training in schools. This regular newsletter provides updates and support to schools and local authorities nationally, both those participating in the Programme and those who are interested in it. Please do contact us with news from your school and suggestions for content.*

This is our first newsletter since November 2020 and our second since the Covid-19 pandemic started. We were forced to pause the Programme for a second time between January and April 2021 and we are now just getting back into things. We continue to be mindful of the ongoing challenges being faced by schools, families and young people and we are really grateful to all those schools that have continued to work with us during these difficult times.

### Programme update

We're delighted to say that we have now just about reached our target of **300 schools** trained in attachment and trauma awareness. There are a final few schools to be confirmed or rescheduled training dates, but we are basically there! We have therefore closed the Programme to new local authorities at this stage, although we remain happy to offer advice or talk about our findings to date.

As noted above, we have now restarted collecting data from school staff and pupils following the end of the second school closure period. If your school is one of those we have contacted recently, we are immensely grateful for your continuing help with this.

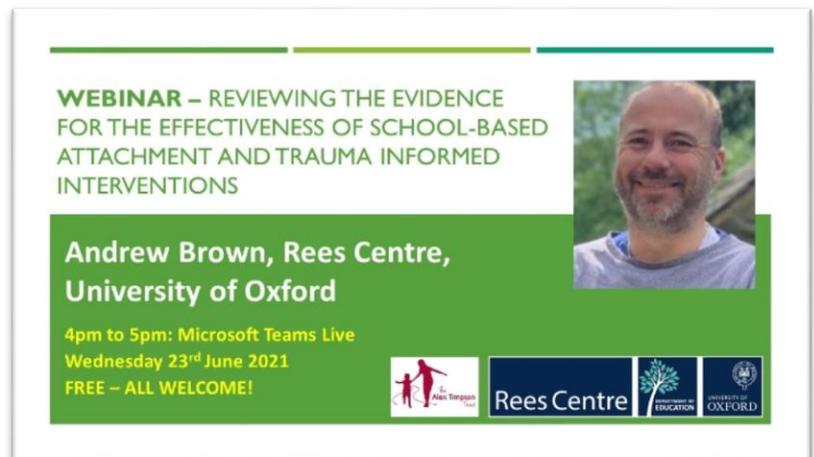
### Webinar series

Our webinar series is designed to showcase interesting developments around attachment and trauma awareness work in schools. The webinars are free and open to all with an interest in the topic – there is no need to pre-register. You do not need any specialist equipment or software to join a webinar, which are run on Microsoft Teams – there will be a chance to ask questions by online chat or you can just listen in. You can find recordings of our previous webinars at [www.youtube.com/reescentre](http://www.youtube.com/reescentre) and we have recently uploaded three new webinar recordings:

- The first is from **Lizzie Watt** from Derbyshire Virtual School talking about the attachment aware schools programme that she has been leading since 2014 and involving over 80 schools across the county.
- The second is from **Dr Neil Harrison** from our research team summarising the findings of the staff survey completed with 24 primary schools who had attachment and trauma awareness training, undertaken prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- The third is from **Paul Nicholson** of Gillingham School in Dorset and **Alison Grey** of Goodyers End Primary School in Warwickshire, focusing on how their schools have developed their behaviour policies to take a more relationship-led approach and the impact on young people and their learning.

The next webinar will be from **Andrew Brown** from our research team. Andrew will be talking about the outcomes of the systematic literature review that the team has been undertaking. We have been looking at the recent research evidence about school interventions around attachment and trauma and Andrew will be bringing together and discussing the findings from over thirty studies from across the world.



Andrew's webinar will be at **4pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021**. The webinar is free and all are welcome – more details and the link to join the webinar are available here: [www.education.ox.ac.uk/events/reviewing-the-evidence-for-the-effectiveness-of-school-based-attachment-and-trauma-informed-interventions](http://www.education.ox.ac.uk/events/reviewing-the-evidence-for-the-effectiveness-of-school-based-attachment-and-trauma-informed-interventions).

## Showcasing local authority innovation

We have just begun a new project to explore and showcase innovative practice from local authorities around attachment and trauma awareness. We are going to be working with three local authorities who have an established track record in this area, to demonstrate to policymakers and others what can be achieved – Derbyshire, Islington and Kirklees. We will be focusing on how these local authorities have supported their schools in order to become attachment and trauma aware, going beyond the provision of training into more holistic and far-reaching initiatives.

This project is separate from the main Timpson Programme and is funded by the Hadley Trust, to whom we are very grateful. We expect to produce a short interim report in the autumn and more extensive materials in spring 2022. You can read more about the project here: [www.education.ox.ac.uk/research/attachment-and-trauma-awareness-good-practice-in-local-authorities](http://www.education.ox.ac.uk/research/attachment-and-trauma-awareness-good-practice-in-local-authorities).

## Publication plans

Our plans for publication have been extensively disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic which has had an impact both on our data collection with schools and on our staff team. We do now have a number of working papers and other publications planned for the coming months, that will be uploaded to our website in due course:

- Analysis of staff interviews and pupil focus groups collected prior to Covid-19
- Systematic literature review of research on attachment and trauma awareness in schools
- Analysis of school staff conceptualisations of 'attachment'
- Interviews with university staff leading PGCE programmes about the integration of attachment and trauma awareness

## Contact us

**Website:** [Alex Timpson Attachment and Trauma Awareness in Schools Programme](http://www.education.ox.ac.uk/research/attachment-and-trauma-awareness-good-practice-in-local-authorities)

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