

Inclusive Communication Essex

Annual Sharing Day

22 March 2022



Change someone's life...help them to communicate

Timetable for the Day

9.30 – Introduction

Jason Boyce from the ICE team welcomes you all and gives a brief introduction to the day.

9.35 – Opening Speech

Making a return visit, we are delighted to welcome back Lee Ridley aka Lost Voice Guy...he's bound to have you in stitches!

10.00 – Isolation

Lindsay Darby from Essex County Council talks to us about isolation caused by the pandemic and how this introduced new ways to communicate for people with learning disabilities or autism who live independently or with limited support.

10.35 – Tea Break

11.00 – Baseline for Wellbeing

Jenny Peckham, Echo Chandler and Natalie Huxster from Essex County Council's Quality Innovation Team introduce us to the Baseline Wellbeing tool for those who have difficulty communicating.

11.30 – Workshops (to be pre-booked)

12.30 – Lunch and Market place

13.30 – Isolation

Andrew Whitehouse talks about how the pandemic and isolation has impacted those with ADHD/ASD. What's in store for recovery?

14.15 – Tea Break

14.30 - BAA - hearing loss during pandemic

Claire Benton and Jack Stancel-Lewis, Healthcare Science Fellow & Audiologist talk about the impact of lack of hearing checks/audiology during pandemic on people with LD/ASD. Solutions, such as home hearing checks and schools hearing check program.

15.30 – Closing Speech

15.35 – Close

Pre-bookable workshops - choose 1

- **Wellbeing** with Jenny Peckham, Echo Chandler and Natalie Huxster from Essex County Council's Quality Innovation Team – a practical workshop to follow up on using wellbeing baseline tools for people who have difficult communicating (45 minutes)
- **Behaviour tools/analysis** with Lynette Wendt and Victoria Rendel from Essex County Council's Behaviour Advisory Team - using behaviour analysis to assist wellbeing, a follow-up from Lindsay Darby's talk. (45 minutes)
- **Picture Exchange Communication System® (PECS®)** with Andy Yates from Pyramid Educational Consultants UK – an overview of PECS®, its uses and benefits. (60 minutes via Zoom)
- **Autism/Mindfulness** with Nikki Sammons - Mindfulness session for people with/work with people with ASD. (60 minutes)
- **Auditory processing disorders** with Andrew Whitehouse - How auditory processing disorders impact those with ADHD/ASD. (45 minutes)
- **AAC Online** with CASEE - Communication Aid Service from Addenbrooks show basics of starting with AAC. (60 minutes via Zoom)
- **EasyRead Basics** with Joanne Jones from Inclusive Communication Essex – getting started to produce EasyRead documents (60 minutes)
- **My Autism Journey** by David Leah from Inclusive Communication Essex. (45 minutes)

The Autism Reality Experience and Virtual Dementia Tour will be running 30 minute sessions throughout the day. Please arrive promptly at your pre-booked time.

We are always keen hear your views on our Sharing Days so that we can learn and improve future events. At the end of the day, please give us your feedback on this short [Evaluation Form](#).

About our Speakers

Lee Ridley



aka Lost Voice Guy, he may not be able to talk, but he definitely has something to say, and his comedy will leave you speechless.

He has gained a reputation for being both very funny and completely unique.

‘Finding humour in strange places is one of Lost Voice Guy’s strengths’ The Guardian.

Lost Voice Guy won the BBC New Comedy Award in 2014, and last summer became the prestigious winner of ITV’s highest rated show, Britain’s Got Talent. He was the first comic ever to win the show, and when he took to the stage, he delivered one of the most hilarious stand-up routines the show has ever seen.

The Newcastle funnyman, whose cerebral palsy affects his ability to speak, is the first stand up comedian to use a communication aid, however he never fails to impress and entertain with his comedy sets, spoken entirely through an iPad app. He programs his material, based on the event’s theme and purpose, before selecting certain lines based on the audience’s reaction. Lee has become a familiar face on UK television, appearing on The One Show frequently, Live at the Apollo, The Royal Variety Performance, Last Leg, America’s Got Talent: ‘The Champions’ on NBC in the US, Breakfast on BBC1, This Morning, Lorraine, Voice Of The People on BBC3, BBC At The Edinburgh Festivals, and most recently on Britain’s Got Talent: ‘The Champions’.

Since he came to the public’s attention after winning BGT, Lee completed a huge Nationwide Tour in the Spring, which sold out immediately, has sold out two Edinburgh Festival Fringe runs, recorded the second series of his radio sitcom ‘Ability’, published a book, and is currently back on Tour in the UK. He also manages to perform at as many private events and commitments as time will allow, including those in his role as Scope Ambassador.

While disability and living with cerebral palsy are central themes to his act, Ridley’s stand-up covers a breadth of topics from roasting the political establishment to the country’s welfare system. He has performed in a corporate setting for a range of charities and organisations including Barclays, The Royal College of Nursing, Exeter University, Leeds Jewish Welfare Board, Sainsburys, The Royal College of Occupational Therapists, the BBC (internal), Scope, Motability, Communication Matters, The Royal College of Nurses and several branches of the NHS. He is also a patron of Smile For Life, Find A Voice, Communication Matters and The Sequal Trust.

Lindsay Darby, Enhanced Social Care Support Team for with LD and Autism, Essex County Council



The Enhanced Social Care Teams at ECC work closely with colleagues employed by the NHS, other organisations such as housing, and have links with local communities. All of these people will have different areas of expertise, and will work together to ensure that you get the support which is best suited to your needs.

This may include a specialist behavioural assessment and a positive behaviour support plan.

This helps support staff understand you and how they can help you to manage your behaviour.

We may also write a report to support your social worker to find the right place for you to live.

Lynnette Wendt, Behaviour Advisory Team, Essex County Council



The Behaviour Advisory Team offers support and guidance on behaviour management to mainstream schools and academies. The team provides a holistic approach to responding to challenging behaviour.

We aim to help and support those working with young people to understand the presenting difficulties by planning and responding appropriately.

By providing early and targeted support through a child-centred approach, the Behaviour Support Team aims to: remove barriers to learning; help children achieve the most from their education and reduce exclusions and support inclusion.

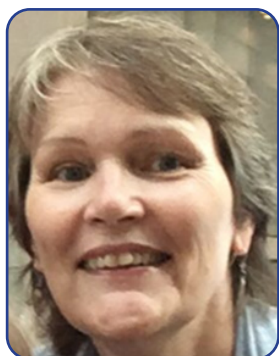
Andrew Yates, Pyramid Educational Consultants



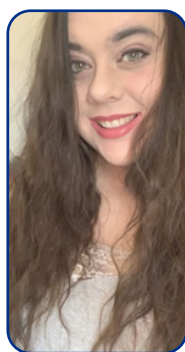
Pyramid Educational Consultants UK Ltd are the only official training, support and resource provider of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS®) and the Pyramid Approach to Education in the UK and Ireland. PECS® is an evidence based, well established, AAC. Developed by an Educational Psychologist and Speech Therapist in 1985 it is used all over the world to improve functional communication skills, decreasing challenging behaviours, and increase independence.

There are six Phases of PECS® starting with a simple exchange of one picture for a highly desired item to complete sentences commenting on the word around the learner. PECS is a strict protocol, it isn't pictures used for choosing, for visual schedules or for just receptive communication. Andy Yates graduated with a Psychology degree, completed a PGCE and taught in Special Schools for many years before becoming a Pyramid Consultant. Andy travels the world (in non Covid times) training professionals and parents in how to implement PECS® and The Pyramid Approach to Education.

Provider Quality Innovation Team Essex County Council



Jenny Peckham
Provider Quality
Innovation Manager



Natalie Huxster
Provider Quality
Innovation Officer



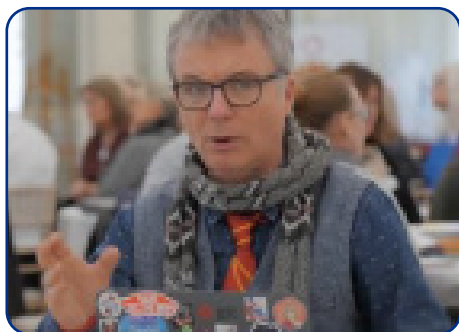
Echo Chandler
Provider Quality
Innovation Manager

The Provider Quality Innovation team looks at themes and trends across the care sector to identify common areas where care services may be experiencing difficulties or find it challenging to meet quality standards and whole system issues.

We look to find innovative ways to provide support, using best practice examples, linking with national initiatives and working in partnership with care providers, Clinical Commissioning Groups, CQC, Community Health providers and local colleges.

The team will be presenting a short session on wellbeing. The session will look at what wellbeing is, the accessible tools that can be used to support individuals to set their “what a good day looks like for me” and the monitoring tools that can be used to ensure individual wellbeing is maintained.

Andrew Whitehouse, Special Educational Needs Consultant, People First Education



SEN consultant Andrew Whitehouse is an experienced educator having held leadership, teaching and outreach roles in a range of settings. He has extensive training and experience in the inclusion of learners with ADHD, Autism, Asperger Syndrome, Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA), Dyspraxia and Dyslexia.

Click the link to watch his talk "[From Disability to Superpower](#)" which was recorded at the TEDx event in 2017.

In addition to his work as a trainer, Andrew actively provides outreach services to educational settings nationwide.

His recently published book, *Andrew and the Magic Giveash**ometer: Growing up with ADHD takes a tour of what it is like to grow up with ADHD from his own personal experiences*. It is a book is for adults newly diagnosed with ADHD, parents of children with ADHD, professionals working with ADHD, and anybody interested in a personal perspective on ADHD.

David Leah, Resource Assistant, Inclusive Communication Essex



David was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome at the age of seven.

Drawing from his personal experiences he now supports people with communication needs, often mentoring young people with autism. He has been the Resource Assistant with ICE since 2013.

He has a BA Honours degree in English, and writes plays and short stories in his spare time.

Claire Benton, Head of Audiology at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust



Consultant Clinical Scientist (Audiology)

Claire has worked within Audiology for over 20 years, the majority of this time has been within the Audiology department at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust. She has always worked clinically within paediatrics, previously being the Clinical Lead for Paediatrics for 11 years and more recently Head of Service for the department for the past 4 years.

Having been part of the British Society of Audiology's working group the developed the joint BSA/BTA Guidelines for assessing and managing tinnitus in Children, Claire has specialised in working with children with tinnitus and hyperacusis for the past 10 years.

Jack Stancel-Lewis, Healthcare Science Fellow & Audiologist



Jack is a Clinical Fellow and Audiologist at NHS England & NHS Improvement. He is managing the clinical and social aspects of this programme aimed at co-producing a sustainable and acceptable hearing checks service delivery model for children and young people in residential special schools and colleges. As part of this work, he has led a pilot project that co-delivered ear checks with parent carers, which has supported thinking around how highly familiar and trusted individuals can assist with the delivery of ear checks in familiar environments.

Previously he led projects aimed at improving access to sensory health across London. More specifically, a successful project in care homes, that utilised patient participatory methods to embed awareness around the importance of sensory health. He is interested in exploring ways in which service redesign and technology can be used to improve patient centred care. Jack enjoys playing tennis, and spending time with his grandma and his dogs in his spare time.

Lisa Morsley, Speech and Language Therapist Communication Aid Service East of England (CASEE)



Lisa is a Speech and Language Therapist with a specialism in Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC). She has worked with people with learning disabilities as a support worker, manager and Speech and Language Therapist for 29 years. Her role involves assessing the communication skills of the people who are referred to the service and their communication partners and matching them to functional communication systems.

Nikki Sammons, Wellbeing and Relaxation Therapist



1. Our amazing brain. A little bit of neuroscience and how we need to rest the body and the over thinking brain.

2. Using the breath to calm and ground ourselves. Visual clues to support relaxation. Using the breath to settle us and activate the parasympathetic nervous system. The calming and settling part brain.

3. The senses and how they can overwhelm us and how we can use them can settle us.

4. Managing difficulty and how stress management and mindfulness can help us to reduce it.

5. A relaxation practise for all.

Joanne Jones, Communication and Engagement Officer - Inclusive Communication Essex



Joanne's career started as a translator and modern language teacher. She has used her language skills to become an inclusive communication specialist, joining the ICE team in 2016.

Her role involves producing EasyRead information covering a wide range of topics including safeguarding, hate crime and mental health.

Apart from producing information in EasyRead, Joanne has also written an EasyRead training programme which she delivers across the county to health and social care colleagues.

Joanne also brings her own experiences of struggling to understand and be understood into her Inclusive Communication training sessions.

Training 2 Care

Autism Reality Experience



The Autism Reality Experience is an innovative, hands-on training session which has been developed to give people an experience of the sensory processing difficulties faced by people on the autism spectrum.

Simulation training has been proven to be a highly effective way to engage people in learning and not only do they come away from the training having learned new skills and techniques, the experience and what they learn from it stays with them.

The experience is fully immersive, interactive and a must for anyone who is involved in supporting people on the autism spectrum.

www.training2care.com/autism-reality-experience

Virtual Dementia Tour



The Virtual Dementia Tour is medically and scientifically proven to be the closest that we can give a person with a healthy brain an experience of what dementia might be like. By understanding dementia from the person's point of view we can change practice, reduce issues and improve their lives.

Scary, Intimidating, Confusing and a feeling of vulnerability the Virtual Dementia Tour is 'must have' training for every care professional or family member that wants to understand dementia by walking in the shoes of a person with the disease.

www.training2care.com/virtual-dementia-tour

Product Demonstrators

Ian Foulger, Jabbla



Jabbla is passionate about helping their customers find the right equipment for them so as to enhance the customer's quality of life. The Team at Jabbla have been supplying 'Talking Technology' or AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) for their customers for almost a decade.

Jabbla is known for coming alongside their customers and their support networks and listening to what is important to them and what communication needs they are trying to fulfil.



www.jabbla.co.uk

Adam Waits, Smartbox



We have been designing and manufacturing assistive technology solutions for over 15 years. Our latest generation of software, Grid 3, has been designed to improve the lives of the thousands of people with disabilities.

Working so closely with the people who use our technology means we are always responding to their needs and innovating to make assistive technology quicker and easier than ever before.



www.thinksmartbox.com

Mick Davies, Liberator



Here at Liberator we believe that everyone deserves a voice, we have a range of language solutions on high tech aids but also offer a comprehensive range of low tech communication aids, adapted toys, inclusion aids, switches and accessories. We offer 2 week free loans of our devices and an unrivalled warranty and support package.



www.liberator.co.uk

John Liddle, Tobii Dynavox



Tobii Dynavox provides innovative speech generating devices, special education and literacy solutions, and alternative computer access methods including eye tracking. Our vision is a world where everyone, regardless of physical or cognitive ability, has a voice of their own, access to education and literacy, and control of everyday technology.

Come to our stand where you will be able to see some of the latest innovations from Tobii Dynavox in AAC and eye tracking. This includes the fabulous new TD Pilot – the first ever ‘Made for iPad’ certified eyetracker and the incredible Google Assistant integration into our TD Snap AAC software. You can try our world beating eye tracking solutions and get hands on with great communications devices like the I-Series, the SC Tablet and the brand new TD I-110



www.tobiidynavox.com

Mary Sievwright, Abilia



Abilia has had a presence in the UK for nearly 50 years, we are now bringing to the UK market our range of cognition solutions, both low-tech and digital, designed to support people who struggle with time perceptions, starting or planning tasks, memory and problem solving.

We support people with autism, ADHD, learning disabilities, dementia, acquired brain injury and stroke rehabilitation.



www.abilia.com

Christine Chester, TEC Mates



TEC Mates is a programme to support the use and uptake of Digital Technology and Technology Enabled Care (TEC) products and services. It aims to inform vulnerable people, their friends, family and carers on TEC and its capabilities and to consider its adoption to prevent them falling into situations where they may require greater support from the social care and health services.

It will focus on specific skills required to help residents and their family and friends to become more digitally aware and to gain a greater understanding about the new Technology Enabled Care solutions being rolled out as part of the ECC County Wide programme. It will support commissioners, providers and citizens in the health and care community to understand what is available, how to use it and how friends and family could become involved.



www.westsexcan.org

Judith Wickenden, Essex Libraries



Essex Libraries offers support and inclusive and interactive experiences for all ages. This includes sensory walls and spaces; baby and toddler and sensory rhymetimes; books for the visually impaired including large print, audio and braille and parent information booklists on 28 different topics including autism, children with additional needs and feelings and emotions. The Bookstart programme gifts free book packs to children under 1 and to children aged 3. There are special packs for blind and partially sighted, deaf and those with conditions affecting their fine motor skills.

We offer membership types for those with memory issues, or those who find it difficult accessing print and a Home Library Service for those having trouble getting into a library. In our libraries we have block builders' clubs, audio book groups, knitting groups, art clubs, coding clubs, community coffee mornings, IT support and work clubs. Libraries deliver The Summer Reading Challenge each year and children aged 0 - 18 of all abilities are welcome to join in. We also have a whole range of online services with e-magazines, e-comics, e-books, learning courses, reference materials and homework help.



Essex County Council

libraries.essex.gov.uk

Rebecca Wright, Therapy Box



Therapy Box is the award winning developer of augmentative communication apps Predictable and Scene & Heard. Designed for people with communication disabilities, these apps are used by a range of people including those with MND, cerebral palsy, autism, learning disabilities and language difficulties resulting from other neurological and developmental conditions.



www.therapy-box.co.uk