Leicestershire County Council

Working Together to Meet the Sensory Needs of Children with Autism: Developing practice and making provision

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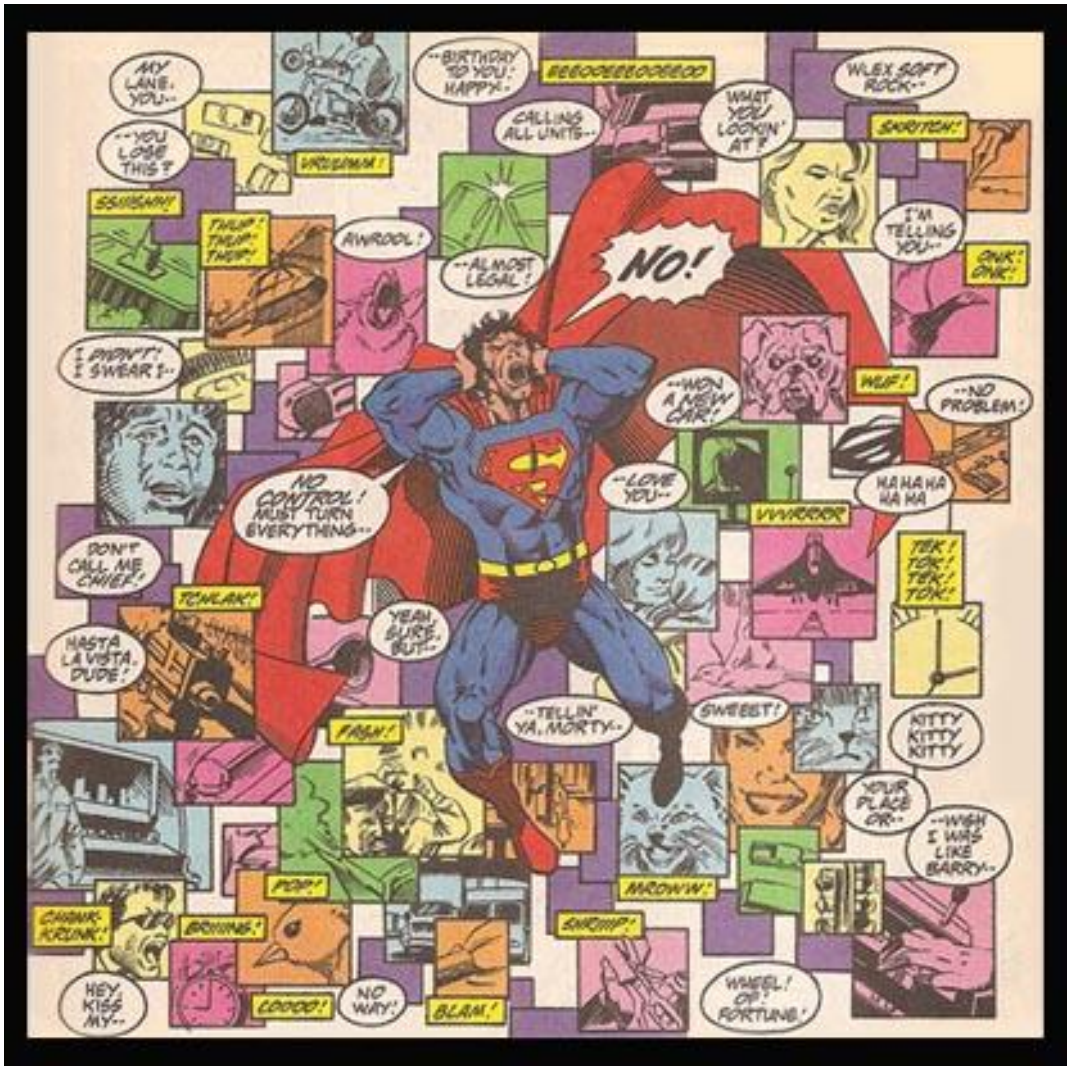
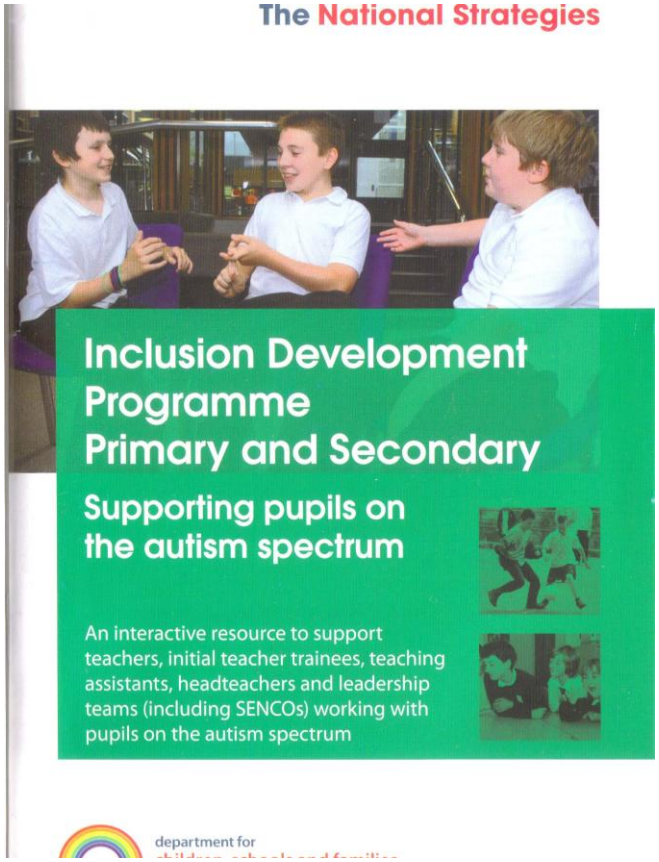
Service Manager

Leicestershire Autism Outreach Service



A slowly emerging understanding of sensory issues arises from listening to people with autism

Sensory perceptual issues impact on all aspects of experience, including social understanding. The triad is no longer enough.



Autism Inclusion Development Programme was a multi-agency response to school development commissioned by National Strategies available to all mainstream schools.

Sensory needs:

Training sequence

Sensory audit for schools and classrooms

Individual Sensory Profile

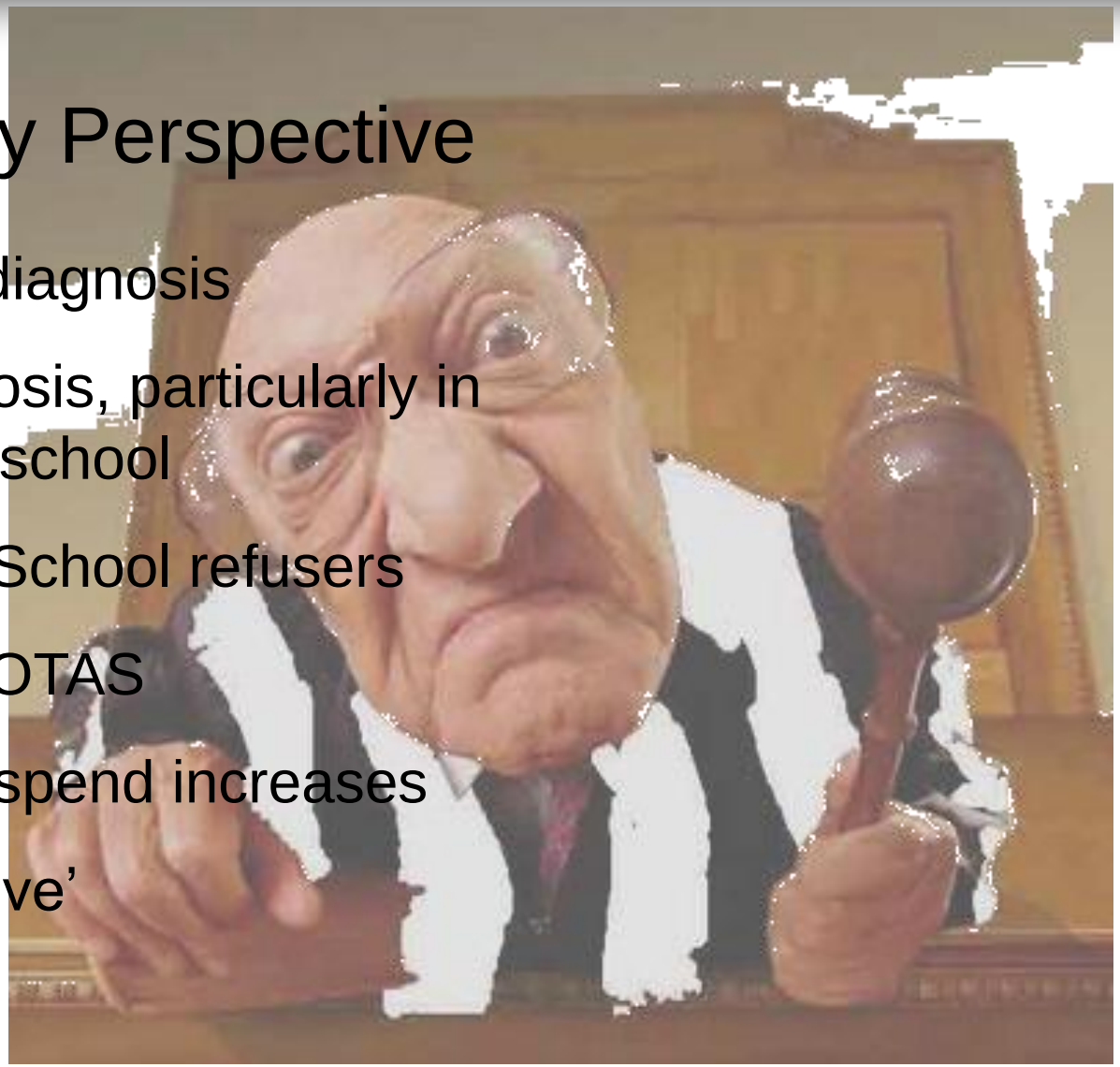
autism education trust
Supporting effective education practice

This work is continued by the Autism Education Trust.

IDP materials to be available again on its website from March

www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk

Local Authority Perspective



- Increase in diagnosis
- Wider diagnosis, particularly in mainstream school
- Exclusions/ School refusers
- Tribunals/ EOTAS
- Out-County spend increases
- ‘Spend to save’

Leicestershire Autism Forum

- Set up to identify good practice, gaps in provision and to respond to national/regional developments
- Broad membership:
  - AOS
  - EPS
  - CAMHS
  - SALT
  - Social Care
  - Parents
  - Local autistic society and other voluntary sector groups
  - Mainstream and special schools
- Strategic and primary officers

Sensory agenda for LAF

- Parents have difficulty accessing occupational therapy input or assessment for children with sensory processing/perceptual difficulties
- Children requiring placement at schools outside LA
- Sensory OT service not currently commissioned by Health, except in narrow field
- LAF requests response from commissioners

Sens.Ation

- Multi-agency group
  - Focus on sensory perception issues
  - Parents, Therapy services, EP, AOS, Support Group, Health Visitors, specialist schools
  - Identify current provision, raise awareness and make recommendations
  - Stake holder conference organised
  - Workshops available for parents and teachers
  - Canvas views

Position and movement

- Local services offer training and general advice to schools and families
- Others offer limited assessment
- Develop pathway for intervention
- School understanding to individual programmes
- Create programmes to support sensory needs in special schools

What we want:

Co-ordinated, balanced and well integrated children

How we get them:

- Working together to raise awareness
- Advocate for services
- Learn from casework
- Training for schools and primary services
- Individual and environmental assessments and action!