



**Improving Outcomes for
Learners with Physical Disability**

pdnet

2018-19 Annual Report

About pdnet

pdnet is a long-established, national network that provides professionals in education with support in promoting positive outcomes for children and young people with physical disability.

pdnet aims to:

- ✓ Build a network of professionals which reflects the views of its members
- ✓ Provide the means and opportunities for members to disseminate and share best practice, expertise and knowledge
- ✓ Contribute to the formulation and development of policy and knowledge in the physical disability sector at a local and national level
- ✓ Improve outcomes for learners with physical disability, allowing each individual to meet their full potential





Welcome

Welcome to our 2018-19 Annual Report in which we reflect on our achievements and look ahead to the next steps for pdnet.

The past year has seen a significant growth in membership and we would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new members to pdnet. We look forward to meeting you over the next year, be that at a Regional Group meeting, at our National Conference or virtually through discussions on our online forum.

This year has focused around achieving the outcomes set within our DfE contract as well as continuing to strengthen our national reputation. We know that the pdnet Standards, effective practice materials and Level 1 training modules '*Raising Awareness of Physical Disability*' have been well received in both mainstream and specialist schools and settings. Moreover, they are beginning to make a difference to improving knowledge, understanding and confidence within the workforce that supports learners with a physical disability.

Although we are delighted with the progress we have made, there is still much more to do to ensure that every child or young person with a physical disability is supported to develop, learn and achieve their potential. We believe that pdnet has a key role in contributing to the development of policy and knowledge, both locally and nationally, so that every educational setting is able to deliver an inclusive education for learners with unique and diverse needs arising from their physical disability.

Thank you for your support.

Jane Carter
pdnet National Chair

Di Caesar
pdnet Project Manager



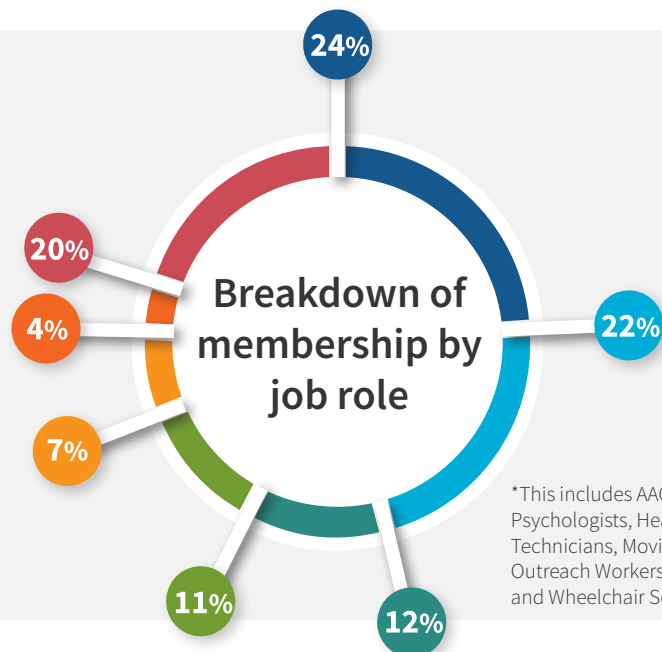


pdnet at a Glance

There are currently almost **35,000** learners who have a physical disability as their primary need within the educational system. pdnet is committed to ensuring that each and everyone of these children and young people are able to achieve their potential.

We want these children and young people to:

- ✓ Be fully included in their school/learning community
- ✓ Actively take part in high quality learning activities with their peers
- ✓ Thrive and enjoy learning
- ✓ Develop knowledge and skills so they can go on to lead fulfilled lives as adults
- ✓ Be empowered, confident and able to function as independently as possible



- Teaching Assistant
- Teacher
- Advisory/ Specialist Teacher
- SENCO
- Service Lead
- Third sector organisation
- Other*

*This includes AAC Consultants/ Advisors, Early Years Practitioners, Educational Psychologists, Headteachers, Health professionals, Inclusion Workers, IT Technicians, Moving and Handling Advisors, Occupational Therapists, Orthopists, Outreach Workers, Physiotherapists, Police, Sports Coordinators, Support Workers and Wheelchair Services.

Regional Groups

Region	Chair
North	Sarah Fox
North West	Keryn Green
Midlands	Joanne Walker
Home Counties	Polly Kempson
London & South East	Gina Mime
South West	Jenny Woolfe
East	Caroline Fallon

“Together we are stronger”

2 new Regional Groups:



- East
- Home Counties

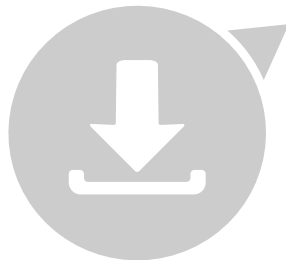
Outcomes 2018-19



408 new members joined pdnet, bringing the total to **924**



694 people completed the pdnet L1 online training



2,260 resources downloaded from the Effective Practice Hub



23 pdnet Champions were recruited and trained



21,785 unique website visitors, with **34,722** visits



90 forum posts with over **200** responses from members

pdnet Activity 2018-19

In April 2017, pdnet was awarded DfE Contract ‘Support for Children and Young People with Physical Disability’.

The overall contract aim was to improve knowledge, skills and capacity of the physical disability workforce across all phases of education.

Year one of the contract focussed on the development of three Level 1 online training modules for early years, schools and post-16 settings titled ‘Raising Awareness of Physical Disability’. It also saw the development of a set of Standards, again for all age phases, which provide a practical structure for schools and settings to self-evaluate their provision and reflect on the effectiveness of their organisation in meeting the diverse needs of learners with physical disability.

In April 2018 this contract was extended for an additional year to enable pdnet to further build on and embed the work initiated. The three priorities embedded through the contract extension were:

- 1. Raising awareness of good and evidence-based practice**
- 2. Developing a sustainable model of ongoing support for professionals who support learners with a physical disability**
- 3. Training to improve the knowledge and skills of the early years, schools and post 16 workforce**



1

Raising awareness of good and evidence-based practice

- pdnet Standards for early years, schools and post 16 settings promoted nationally and made freely available on pdnet website
- Effective practice materials developed, quality assured by the sector and linked to the pdnet Standards
- An online tool to support schools and settings in evaluating their provision against the pdnet Standards has been developed, piloted and made freely available to the sector. Users are able to complete an action plan as they go, as well as record evidence of good practice and plan next steps.
- Workshops to raise awareness of pdnet materials delivered at the NAHT '*Leading on SEND*' Conference
- Exhibition of pdnet resources at *nasen Live*, *Festable* and *Tes SEN Show*
- Launch of second benchmarking survey to understand the national landscape for children and young people with a physical disability. 45 local authorities contributed in total. Publication of findings planned for summer 2019
- National reach extended by the launch of two new pdnet Regional Groups; pdnet Home Counties and pdnet East
- Awareness of pdnet raised in new arenas including; *DfE Delivery Partners*, *NAHT*, *National SEND Council* and *Whole School SEND meetings* as well as contributing to *All Party Parliamentary Group on Assistive Technology, Physical Disability and Muscular Dystrophy* and the *DfE Technology Levels SEND stakeholders group*

2

Develop a sustainable model of ongoing support for professionals who support PD learners

- Worked with Real Group to develop a sustainable model for future pdnet activity with a focus on Level 2 training aimed primarily at support staff
- Training content which raises awareness of the needs of learners with a physical disability and how best to support them in school has been developed
- Additional work to strengthen written materials with film content undertaken to enhance user experience and illustrate the experiences of children and young people, school staff and parents



Spotlight on Level 1 Training

The pdnet Level 1 training is for anyone working within an educational setting who needs to develop their awareness and understanding of physical disability and the impact it can have on learning. Since the launch of the training in April 2018, almost 700 people have completed the course, with nearly 900 registering to take part.

Course participants were asked to rate their knowledge and understanding of physical disability both before and after they had completed the training. Using a rating scale of 1-10 the average gain reported was at least 2 points, demonstrating the positive impact on participants knowledge and understanding.

3

Training to improve the knowledge and skills of the early years, schools and post 16 workforce

- Level 1 online training has been promoted nationally and 694 participants have completed the course to date
- pdnet has continued to work with the sector to develop online resources; transition training to increase capacity, knowledge and skills in educational settings to meet the needs of Children and young people with physical disability
- Worked with Whole School SEND to develop a short film that provides an introduction to the needs of learners with physical disability and signposts to high quality information and evidenced based practice
- Supported the UCL Gap Analysis survey to identify CPD needs and issues within the PD sector. Report is anticipated summer 2019.
- Launched third pdnet pupil competition *'I did it on my own, my way'*
- Materials developed with the sector to support enhanced transition planning for children and young people with physical disability, which build and link to Whole School SEND/nasen work
- Good practice guidance and materials to support the writing of person centred outcomes for Children and young people with physical disability developed with the sector.
- Presentations developed to raise awareness of the impact that physical disability may have on a learner's social, emotional and mental health
- Development Day held at National Star College to raise awareness of pdnet within the post 16 sector
- Worked with EFT to deliver a post 16 webinar



pdnet Regional Champions

This year has seen the recruitment of 23 Regional Champions who will serve as support partners for pdnet. They will help raise awareness of pdnet with schools and settings in their local area as well as signposting to the free training and resources that are available.

Champions are based within organisations that could evidence strong communication links and the appropriate infrastructure to provide support to other schools. They have been appointed for a 2 year period and have committed to undertake a number of activities in their region. All Champions attended a central training day where they were able to learn more about pdnet, understand the Champion role and to plan and share ideas for future activity.

Champion Organisations

Yorkshire & Humber

- Bradford Low Incidence Team and Sensory Service
- Talbot Specialist School & Fusion TSA

North West

- New Bridge School
- Blackburn SEND Support Service
- Lancasterian Outreach and Inclusion Service

East Midlands

- Derbyshire CC PI Support Service
- Ash Field Academy
- St Francis Community Special School

East

- Lonsdale School
- Hertfordshire ISL SEND SASS
- Essex CC Specialist Teaching Team

West Midlands

- Dudley Disability Service, Physical Impairment Team

London

- Newbridge Outreach
- Seven Kings School

South East

- Valance School
- Barham Primary School
- Treloar School and College
- Kennet School
- Oxfordshire CC PD Team, SENSS

South West

- Gloucestershire CC Advisory Teaching Service
- South Gloucestershire Inclusion SS
- Somerset CC PI & MS Team
- Pilton Community College



“

I'm pleased with the progress we have made, and excited by the opportunities ahead.”

Di Caesar, Project Lead



Looking forward to 2019-20

pdnet will continue to focus on developing as a national organisation, working proactively with others to help build capacity within the education system to improve outcomes for learners with physical disability. We are looking forward to the year ahead and working more closely with Whole School SEND as a consortium partner.

New activities planned include:

- The development and publication of new effective practice materials to further enhance knowledge and skills in the workforce
- Launch of a free, online module '*Transition for Children and young people with physical disability*' and accompanying resources designed to increase capacity, knowledge and skills in educational settings to meet the needs of learner with physical disability at points of transition*
- Publication of a free, online module and accompanying resources to support the writing of person-centred outcomes for children and young people with physical disability*
- Further development work through the role of the pdnet champions
- Pilot of Level 2 training

*Anticipated summer 2019

Acknowledgements

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people and organisations for all of their support and encouragement with our work this year.

- Department for Education
- Whole School SEND
- pdnet National Committee
- pdnet Expert Advisory Board
- pdnet Regional Chairs
- pdnet Members
- L2 Training Group
- Outcomes & Transitions Group
- NAHT
- pdnet Regional Champions
- Flying Lady Trust
- All supporting schools and settings

www.pdnet.org.uk