# Inclusion Forum

Information about the ADHD project outlined by Ali at the start of the meeting today…

Abby Russell is a psychologist and researcher at the Medical School of the University of Exeter. She used to be a TA in a school for children with severe SEN. For the next five years, she has funding to develop a toolkit of behavioural strategies to help children with ADHD manage in primary school. The idea is that the toolkit will have a range of strategies that teachers and TAs can implement with children, supported by the SENCo.

The toolkit will target different things that people with ADHD, parents and school staff have said they think are the most important, including things like paying attention, improving self-esteem and organisational skills, and minimising conflict with teachers and peers. Obviously it is really important for Abby to talk to as many school staff and SENCos as possible to make sure she develops something that is useful for schools and children.

At the moment Abby is just getting the project started, so she is looking for two things. The first is people to talk to about their experiences working with children with ADHD, just for a chat over the phone. The second is for people to join the ‘planning group’ who will help to develop the toolkit and ideas about the research. The planning group will have 6 meetings over the five years of the project and there is some reimbursement for your time which is £50 per half-day, and she can cover travel and childcare costs if we ever get out of lockdown.

If you are interested or potentially interested in either just chatting to Abby about your experiences, or getting involved in the planning group, please contact her directly. If you are not interested, but others at your school might be, please do spread the word! Abby’s email address is a.e.russell@exeter.ac.uk and her phone number is 07779 238 606 (texting is fine).

If you want to find out more, Abby is on twitter @DrAbbyRussell, and the project website has some information on it [www.blogs.exeter.ac.uk/toolsforschools](http://www.blogs.exeter.ac.uk/toolsforschools)