



Solution Circles: What do we know about the use of Solution Circles in EP practice and do they work in the context of online collaborative problem solving

Find the full study here: bpsdeb.2023



Aims/Background context



(why did we do it)

This paper explores the use of Solution Circles (SCs) and evaluates their benefits and impact. SCs are undertaken in various contexts, including collaborative problem solving and professional supervision.

A literature review and a staff survey across education settings were conducted. The findings will inform how this approach is embedded within our Local Authority SEND Graduated Response.

[An overview of the Solution Circle process](#)

Design/Methods



(what did we do)

The literature search highlighted the use of SCs with particular attention given to the role of graphic facilitation within the process.

Practice-based evidence is presented alongside a summary of the literature, focusing on how SCs are used within education settings.

It is acknowledged that there are several versions of the SC process, each serving different purposes. These variations were reviewed and offer valuable insights for reflective practice and local adaptation within Suffolk's SEND context.

Results/Discussion/Impact



The findings indicate that SCs are effective in the context of online collaborative problem solving, offering both practical and emotional support while enhancing inclusive practice.

Staff consistently value the structured nature of the SC process, appreciating the time to think and reflect, supported by a team of professionals and skilled process and graphic facilitators.

Survey results revealed **95% of staff found SCs very or extremely useful** and **90% reported increased confidence** in supporting their situation. Staff particularly appreciated the multi-professional collaboration and the opportunity to co-create solutions and next steps. *"I feel very confident, have already started the first step! Having someone make contact within 24 hours makes a difference!"*

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