

Listen up!

Newsletter for the [niscu](http://www.niscu.org.uk)  Listening service



Exciting Progress!



Hello and welcome to our Summer Newsletter!

I am so pleased to tell you that the 1-2-1 Listening Service is now ...
...up and running in West Cumbria and N. Lancs;
...on the cusp of happening in N. Cumbria and
...progress is afoot for training in S. Lakes in the Autumn term.

This is after a spring term that seemed to throw up many setbacks, so I was feeling further and further behind with regard to fulfilling the strategy for the outworking of the service. But 'the darkest hour is just before the dawn' and God has prevailed in making a way where, at times, there seemed to be no way. Read on to find out more ...

What our volunteers are saying ...

Helen - "I think it's so clever, totally not invasive and yet powerfully Jesus! Ultimately, He is the best listener. It takes so little time and the only prep is prayer! Result! ... I am now your biggest advert, as everyone I meet I am telling them they need to become a listener!"

Rebecca - "It's a privilege to have access into our local primary school through NISCU. It's great to be able to listen to what the children want to talk about, and to be able to give them the one-to-one time they might not normally get in the classroom. "

Steven - It has been a joy to listen to children in our community who relish being given the space to speak about whatever they want. It may seem small to us, but it is big to them, and that makes it special.



Updates and Developing our Strategy

West Cumbria

We now have one volunteer listening in a primary school in Cockermouth and both the school and the volunteer are loving it! We also have 2 volunteers trained and willing to go into a secondary school, so are currently liaising with school staff. There are also 3 volunteers ready to do the refresher training, so things are gaining momentum!

North Cumbria

We are liaising with the Deputy head of a secondary school in North Cumbria as we have a volunteer who is ready, willing and able to get in and listen.

North Lancs

We were approached by the minister of a Morecambe church who said he had people in his congregation who had done the 1st day of the training (before the lockdown) and were keen to do the 2nd day, so they could get involved in listening in a local primary school. As a result of this, we now have 5 volunteers, along with me, going in on a Wednesday afternoon, each allocated to a different age group. At the school's suggestion, the pupils bring their reading books and we hear them read to 'break the ice.' Chatting about the characters provides a great way in, particularly with the younger ones. The pupils know us well enough now that sometimes they say, "Can we just talk today?" - and the answer is always, "Yes!"

South Lakes

Schools in South Lakes have been talking with our schools' workers and a volunteer about wanting the 1-2-1 Listening Service. The volunteer said they knew people in their church who would value doing the training. So, as with N. Lancs., we are going to be church-focused rather than area focused in the provision of our training. People from outside the congregation are also welcome but this approach gives a definite core number of people - so a new strategy has organically emerged! If you know there is a group of people in your church who would like to do the training, please get in touch using the details at the bottom of this newsletter.

What school staff are saying ...

"We think you are all wonderful... Please thank everyone for their kindness that they show to our children and devoting their time, we all really appreciate the service and, yes, we all love it! It's going well - just giving those children that need it some time to talk is a big deal."

Head of Nurture in a Morecambe Primary School



"The listening service is going really well thank you and the children enjoy it.... I would recommend this to another school and would be happy to speak to anyone about this."

Head of a school in Cockermouth

Other Events and News

South Lakes Training At the time of writing the dates for the training in South Lakes are yet to be confirmed BUT it will be at The Mission, Park Road, Windermere LA23 2BG. If you would like to take part in these sessions, please contact me at

jane.callow@niscu.org.uk or on 07718768548. It costs £15 for Session 1 and £10 for Session 2, but you will be equipped to listen for life, in any context, not just schools!

To follow all our news, and for up to date information about volunteer events and training visit www.niscu.org.uk/121listening



Prayer Points

Please thank God for:

- Breakthroughs in getting the 1-2-1 Listening Service into schools in W. Cumbria and N. Lancs
- The passion and positivity of our volunteers
- The positive feedback from schools
- New strategies (which was a prayer request in the Spring Newsletter!) both in training and using reading books as a 'way in'.

Please pray for:

- Open doors into schools, especially secondary schools in North and West Cumbria
- Good time management for me
- More volunteers to see the need in their area and train as listeners
- The Heads and staff of the schools in your area as they prepare to go back into school and face the challenges and opportunities that a new academic year brings



"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Eph 3:20-21
(www.biblegateway.com)

Get involved - The 1-2-1 Listening Needs You!

You can get involved by:

1. Becoming a prayer partner and praying for the on-going roll out of the Listening Service. (sign up for or newsletter and prayer requests by emailing jane.callow@niscu.org.uk with 'sign me up' as the subject to the email).
2. Get trained as an 'effective listener' and volunteer as a listener to meet the need in a school near you.
3. Promote the 1-2-1 Listening Service in your church and get people to sign up to receive future newsletters about the listening needs across our NISCU areas.

4. By giving financially to the work, either online via the website (Please designate any donations 'Listening Service') or by cheque (payable to NISCU) posted to Jane Callow, 1-2-1 Listening Service, NISCU, 57, Lancaster Road, Carnforth LA5 9LE.

Thank you from all the listening team.



For more information or to join in any of the above, please contact me, either by
email to jane.callow@niscu.org.uk or
give me a call or a text on 0771 8768548.