

# SMHL Quality Assurance Policy

Connex Education Academy Limited, referred to as “Connex Academy,” has received approval as a provider of Senior Mental Health Lead training from the DfE. This course has been endorsed for DfE grant-funded Senior Mental Health Lead training.

## Scope

As part of Connex Academy’s commitment to delivering robust quality professional development to schools, this quality assurance process outlines how we will ensure the quality of our Senior Mental Health Lead course.

## How have we selected our trainers?

Our trainers have been carefully chosen for their extensive experience in delivering comprehensive school projects and are recognised experts in the field of Educational Mental Health and Wellbeing. Both experts have consistently delivered webinars, authored courses, and hosted podcasts for Connex Academy, establishing themselves as authorities in their respective fields. Their CVs are available upon request at [SMHL@connex-academy.com](mailto:SMHL@connex-academy.com).

## Trainer: Ella Savell-Boss

Ella holds accreditation as an NSPCC safeguarding trainer and possesses over 17 years of experience working with children and families in education and safeguarding. Her roles have encompassed working across the entire school community, collaborating with children, families, staff, governors, and external agencies. Ella successfully led her previous school in attaining the Optimus Education and Children’s Society Wellbeing Award and has provided guidance to other schools pursuing this accolade.

With a frontline role in safeguarding, emotional health, and wellbeing across a Multi-Academy Trust in a socioeconomically deprived area, Ella has spearheaded initiatives aimed at enhancing learning, comprehension, monitoring, and evaluation. Her profound understanding of school safeguarding management, challenges, pressures, and barriers equips her to assist future Senior Mental Health Leads in overcoming these obstacles. Ella is deeply committed to ensuring that adequate support surrounds staff in pivotal roles, laying the groundwork for holistic school transformation.

Recognising the growing necessity for a Senior Mental Health role within schools, Ella stands as an ideal expert supporter for the Connex Education Academy SMHL programme.

### **Trainer: Dr Elke Paul**

Dr. Elke Paul co-founded CreatePositive, a professional learning ecosystem dedicated to advancing mental wellbeing and human skills. She serves as an international education and mental wellbeing consultant, content developer, facilitator, and speaker. Driven by her passion for Wellbeing Transformation Programs, she has witnessed their transformative impact, turning schools into empowered, flourishing organisations. Dr. Paul advocates for wellbeing education to be at the core of every school's curriculum, alongside academic knowledge development. She emphasises the significance of dedicated leadership, staff upskilling, and community involvement as crucial elements for success.

As a board member of the Spirituality and Meaning Division at the International Positive Psychology Association, she underscores the importance of mindfulness, developing a healthy relationship with oneself, and the art of slowing down as additional catalysts for positive change in schools. Amid current global challenges, especially concerning teachers and students, Dr. Paul advocates for a more direct and professional delivery of wellbeing education in schools. Through Create Positive, she empowers educators with strategies, tools, and knowledge to instigate whole-school wellbeing changes within their respective communities.

### **How do we quality assure our trainers?**

Connex Education Academy's Senior Mental Health Training is delivered through a series of online modules available on demand, supplemented by optional live sessions tailored to facilitate directed reflection and coaching according to individual needs. These are available on request.

Given the online delivery nature of our Senior Mental Health Lead course, all delivery content has been recorded, audited, and reviewed to ensure alignment with the learning outcomes mandated by the DfE Senior Mental Health Lead.

Learners are tasked with developing and refining a comprehensive school transformation roadmap and action plan as they progress through the course modules. These roadmaps are subsequently submitted to SMHL@connex-academy.com, following which a one-to-one coaching session is scheduled with one of our two trainers and the learner.

Virtual coaching sessions take place using Teams, with the learner's consent recorded for auditing purposes. These sessions are meticulously logged and audited for quality by our Managing Director at Connex Academy, stored securely.

Furthermore, all learners are invited to provide feedback via a post-course survey, with all comments, feedback, and suggested edits are monitored by the Managing Director of Connex Academy.

Quarterly standardisation meetings are held between the two expert trainers and the Managing Director to review any feedback received and reacted on any necessary further developments or edits to the Senior Mental Health Lead course.

This document supplements our Frequently Asked Questions and Learner Handbook.

### **What training and support do our trainers get?**

Our trainers undertake relevant CPD as required and as discussed in our standardisation meetings. Both trainers serve as consultants, delivering professional development both domestically and internationally. Additionally, appropriate supervision is provided for all our trainers, if deemed necessary.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

This policy was written and implemented 31 August 2023. It will be reviewed every year (or earlier, if deemed necessary).