

Shropshire Educational Psychology Service

Solution Circles

A solution circle is a short and powerful, **outcome-focused process** that takes up to an hour. The approach was developed by Forrest, Pearpoint and colleagues (1996) and it aims to bring together a group of people to generate ideas for solutions to a particular problem. Collaborative problem-solving approaches have been developed on the assumption that this process is superior to individual problem-solving. It enables staff to

pool resources, increase their skills and understanding and find ways forward. It is a **short and powerful** tool that is effective in getting a person or team **“unstuck”** from a problem. Solution Circles can be used across a variety of contexts, including: in SENCO meetings, with year group staff, with support staff or senior leadership teams, to help to address a wide variety of topics which groups may wish to find solutions to. This might include unpicking a problem to arrive at the best approach or intervention for a specific child or group of children. The Educational Psychology Service can facilitate group discussions using this approach. Solution Circles with insight can be used when it is necessary to explore a problem in greater detail and in turn generate insightful and theory driven actions.

