



**UK Society for
Behaviour Analysis**

SIG Chair Summaries – AGM 2022

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Summary for the year 2021

The aim of the SIGs committee is to ensure the UK-SBA is representing consumers of behaviour analytic services and representing the scope of behaviour analytic practice across the UK. The committee also encourages SIGs to develop and share useful resources and information with the public and membership.

We regularly advertise our SIGs on Facebook and we also have a dedicated SIG page on our website. We currently have 11 established groups and nine have a completed webpage on our website. The ACT and Sports SIG have submitted their webpage content and this is waiting to go live:

In 2021, there were 11 SIGs:

- ABA in Mainstream Education
- ABA Schools
- ABA Tutors
- Acceptance and Commitment Therapy
- Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)
- Behavioural Gerontology: Ageing and Dementia
- Crime and Justice
- Organisational Behaviour Management (OBM)
- Positive Behaviour Support (PBS)
- Independent Practitioners
- Sports SIG (established 2021)

In 2021, the following changes were approved by the Board:

- The SIGs are now the responsibility of the Membership Committee led by the SIG Chair who reports to the Membership Committee.

Aims for the year ahead:

This year the SIGs Committee will continue its existing objectives:

1. Continue to highlight and approach new groups who work using Behaviour Analytic practice, and encourage them to consider developing a SIG.
2. Continue to encourage those with an interest or research area in new applications of Behaviour Analysis to consider developing a SIG.
3. Help SIGs develop Forums established via Facebook.
4. Ask SIGs to update research lists specific to their area.
5. Ask SIGs to suggest potential stakeholders from their field, to ensure information is effectively disseminated.
6. Ask SIGs to survey the public in their field to gauge knowledge, satisfaction and suggestions for improving the input of the UK-SBA for the end user.

In addition, going forward the SIG Committee will focus on ways to promote and support some of the smaller SIGs. Some of the SIGs that represent specialised subfields find it difficult to recruit members because of the small number of practitioners working in the area.

We also have 1 SIG awaiting final approval – ABA for children with Autism SIG

Overall summary: Adele Yellow has taken over the role of SIG Chair in November 2021. 7 of the SIGs have returned annual reports – Organisational Behaviour Management SIG, ABA in Schools SIG, Positive Behaviour Support SIG and Independent Practitioners SIG, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Behavioural Gerontology and ABA in mainstream education. Unfortunately, the Crime and Justice SIG will be ceasing operation due to current Chair needing to step down and no current member of this SIG able to assume the Chair role.

Summary of the activities and goals for the SIGs that returned their annual reports follow:

ABA in Mainstream Schools SIG

Activity: The membership of the SIG has grown in the past 12 months to include two new members. The Facebook page is set up for members and has shared some resources; for example, Dr. Emily Groves shared her article on the Good Behaviour Game following her Tizard Journal club talk. There has also been an increase in queries via the SIG e-mail from students, allied professionals and UK-SBA members. Recently, the ABA in Schools SIG Chairs have reached out to discuss potential collaborations with ABA in Mainstream Schools SIG.

Membership: There are currently 7 members of the SIG

Summary: The ABA in Mainstream Education SIG has been developing a network of behaviour analysts interested in the application and dissemination of behaviour analysis in mainstream educational settings. Developing such a network will facilitate information sharing regarding best practices and effective approaches to disseminate behaviour analytic interventions to the wider community (e.g., teachers and parents).

We aim to promote and advocate for behaviour analytic instructional approaches to teach academic skills, and interventions for behavioural challenges in mainstream settings. Our goal is to disseminate within our field and to a wider community including teachers, parents, and professionals involved in mainstream education.

Goals for 2022 are:

1. Continue sharing resources via Facebook group
2. Collaborate with the ABA in Schools SIG in the new year

Mission Statement: To develop a network of behaviour analysts interested in the application and dissemination of behaviour analysis in mainstream education. We aim to promote and advocate for behaviour analytic instructional approaches for learning academic skills, and interventions for behavioural challenges with typically developing children, in mainstream settings.

To disseminate research and knowledge of practice in this area within the UK behaviour analytic community and to the wider community (e.g., teachers and parents).

To develop training opportunities and promote professional development in this area.

To facilitate information sharing and provide opportunities to collaborate on research that improves the application of behaviour analysis in general education.

ABA in Schools UK SIG

Activity: The SIG has been developing a network of behaviour analysts interested in the application and dissemination of behaviour analysis in mainstream educational settings. The SIG met once in 2020.

Membership: There are 77 current members of the SIG.

Summary: We have managed to meet three times this calendar year (March, May and September). All meetings were done online via ZOOM.

During the March meeting, we discussed Governance, the Governors' role within the school community, recruitment of Governors and their role in monitoring the quality of teaching and learning. We have also discussed the schools' experience with transition classes from primary to secondary or transitioning into adult provision. Criteria to fade behaviour support plans were also discussed as a step towards independence and increasing the chances for more successful community inclusion, whether that is in mainstream or less restrictive school settings. In addition, the group discussed strategies and tactics in place to reduce the staff ratio for pupils.

During the May meeting, the previous chair, Tracie Linehan, announced that she would step out of the role. The group's vice-chair, Konstantinos Rizos, Head Behaviour Analyst at Forest Bridge School, became the co-chair with Emma Hawkins, Director of Education at Jigsaw School. In that meeting, the Heads of services discussed staff mental health & wellbeing and shared strategies to support and promote staff welfare amidst the challenges we were facing with the pandemic. We have also discussed the future of the BCBA qualification in the UK and that a UK qualification, designed and established by the UK-SBA, is going to be substantial and recognised internationally. During the Practitioners meeting, the clinicians shared the mental health & wellbeing success stories of their pupils. The settings' representatives also shared best practices such as funding training on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for resident ABA supervisors and working on a hierarchy of skills for emotional regulation to promote mental welfare.

The September meeting was a preliminary one to set the items and topics for the three academic year meetings (December 2021, March 2022 and May 2022) and confirm dates and times. The September meeting was also complemented by a CEU event, making the planned CEU events four in number for this academic year, the group's most organised.

The co-chairs updated the statement and the vision of the SIG on the UK-SBA website with the latest meeting's agenda for the upcoming academic year. The co-chairs have also reached out for possible collaboration between SIG groups (e.g. ABA in Mainstream Education), with further discussions to follow at the beginning of next year.

It was agreed that meetings would continue to take place remotely over Zoom for the foreseeable future, with the aim of having an opportunity to meet together once restrictions allow.

Goals for 2021 are:

1. To promote best practice amongst services by introducing Grand Rounds and case studies that will benefit from the input and skillset of multiple practitioners and clinicians.

2. To address the burning issues of recruitment and retention of staff in education and share best practices and strategies that mitigate staff turnover
3. To Hold the following events

7 December 2021	Recruitment, Retention & Training	Grand Rounds
15 March 2022	Promoting Neurodiversity and the science of ABA	Promoting Neurodiversity and the science of ABA
24 May 2022	Ethics and Governor reporting	RSE / PHSE adapted requirements and the role of therapies

Mission Statement: The ABA In Schools SIG aims to be a group that promotes the development of high standards of practise in the application of behaviour analytic principles in schools in the UK. Our mission includes

- Promoting acceptance, knowledge and understanding of behaviour analytic approaches within a school context
- Supporting existing and emerging schools and units
- Sharing information innovation
- Promoting and generating new research
- Contributing to the development of standards for ABA service delivery and accreditation, where possible

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy SIG

Activity: No details provided

Membership: No details provided

Summary: No details Provided

Goals for 2022 are: We are hoping to relaunch the SIG with a UK SBA members SIG Facebook page where we can form a community of behaviour analysts with an interest in ACT. We aim to engage with our SIG members to organize to meet and decide on the direction of the SIG as a group using the Prosocial framework.

Mission Statement: None provided

Behavioural Gerontology SIG

Activity: The SIG was unable to have a meeting this year. At the moment, the SIG is only comprised of Bangor University staff and students, and so it has been identified that we need to expand, reach out to members outside the university.

Membership: There are currently 10 members of the SIG

Summary: Although this is an area of growing interest in the UK, much of the interest is outside the behaviour-analytic community. Therefore, the growth of the SIG is currently limited by the small

number of practitioners. Therefore, we propose that this SIG is merged with the Acquired Brain Injury SIG, which faces similar issues. There is a lot in common between these two areas, and we feel it is important that the work in this subfield remains an acknowledged practice area in the UK by being represented by a SIG. Rebecca has discussed this with the ABI SIG lead, Laura Higgins. We suggest the combined SIG be named 'Adults with Neurological Disorders'.

Goals for 2022 are:

- To merge with the ABI SIG

Mission Statement: To provide a network through which clinicians, researchers, and students with an interest in applying the science of behaviour to working with older adults can connect, share materials and evidence, and collaborate to further the field of behavioural gerontology in the UK. The SIG aims to:

- Promote the use of conceptually systematic behaviour-analytic technologies with older adults by clinicians
- Promote and support high-quality behavioural gerontology research by UK-based researchers
- Support evidence-based practice by training and professional development events
- Promote and disseminate the use of behaviour analysis with older adults both within the field of behaviour analysis in the UK, and to services, policymakers and other professionals.

Organisational Behaviour Management SIG

Activity: The Organisational Behaviour Management (OBM) SIG has met on three occasions in 2021 and will meet again in December. Each meeting consisted of brief introductions, a presentation by OBM practitioners, and following discussion. In keeping with the SIG's goal to increase the number of free CEU opportunities, one CEU was available for each meeting.

Membership: There are 22 current members of the SIG.

Summary: The first meeting featured a presentation by Becky Herring, a behaviour analyst from the US who started her behaviour analytic career working in the animal welfare industry for over ten years before working for the US Bureau of Prisons with federal inmates, then finally in her current role as a Project Management and Planning Operations Senior Staff for Lockheed Martin's Supply Chain. Becky discussed the ways she has applied behaviour analytic principles across settings throughout her career, as well as how the science is applied in OBM, especially in project management.

The next two meetings featured presentations from SIG member Tessa Buckfield, who gave SIG members insight into a project she is carrying out as an internal staff member in a supported home living service. During her first presentation, Tessa walked attendees through the various data gathering methods she used to understand which systemic barriers and enablers exist in her organisation that may be associated with the quality of services. During the second presentation, we discussed the various ways in which these barriers manifest themselves in services, and how OBM practitioners work inside organisations to bring stakeholders on board, and how they develop sustainable, effective, evidence-informed interventions. We look forward to more presentations from Tessa as well as other SIG members who are willing to share their experience applying OBM.

Some members of the OBM SIG are also working together to potentially put forward an NIHR bid to conduct research focusing on the impact of practitioner interpersonal skills on consumer experiences and perspectives on behavioural services in the UK. Updates on this project will follow during SIG meetings..

Goals for 2021 are:

1. To offer at least 3 OBM-themed CEU events.

Positive Behaviour Support SIG

Activity: The PBS special interest group met via zoom three times during 2021 (with another meeting planned in December 2021), each meeting included updating the SIG members on PBS news, case study discussion and subjects that were agreed and were of interest to the members. Subject discussions during 2021 included ACT in PBS, effective debriefing, updates to the restraint reduction standards, using assistive technology effectively and in December the group will discuss the redefinition of PBS.

Membership: There are 63 current members of the SIG.

Summary: The PBS news section within the group meetings, ensures that all members are aware of developments within PBS nationally and what links the members have with other PBS groups. PBS SIG members have been involved with local PBS groups and there are members of the SIG in Surrey, SHIP, Norfolk, Suffolk, Ealing, North West, Avon and Wiltshire and Northants local groups.

The PBS SIG has two working parties, Research and Dissemination. The working parties typically meet on the same day, prior to the main meeting of the group. There is a lead for each of the working parties and the working parties achievements this year are:

1. Dissemination:

a. Linking with other PBS Groups – Contact has been made with the various PBS groups around the UK using the Skills for Care PBS group list. A newsletter has been sent to all of the groups to inform them of the PBS SIG activities and other useful PBS information.

b. Podcast – During 2021 the SIG has released eight episodes of the PBS Matters podcast. The episodes during 2021 included topics on individual service funds, ACT and PERMA. The podcast also made links with the Atypical Behaviour Analyst podcast to discuss effective disseminate of ABA and how to work effectively with others. To date the podcast has been listened to 15,000 times and has listeners located in every continent.

c. Bibliography (at end of the report) – The PBS SIG has updated the bibliography of useful PBS resources. This is included at the end of this report.

d. Skills for Care pilot – During 2021 several members of the PBS SIG were involved in the Skills for Care pilot which has been evaluating the feasibility of a peer-based PBS training accreditation scheme.

2. Research:

The research group is aiming to complete research on the readability of PBS plans and how these impacts on the implementation and treatment fidelity. This aim has been carried forward from 2020.

What's happening in 2022:

1. Meeting topics – PBS SIG members have requested topics on Intensive Interaction and School Wide PBS. The meeting dates set in 2022 will be set in the December meeting but are typically in March, June, September and December.
2. Podcast – Episodes to be released in 2022 include Psychiatry and PBS, Sexuality support, PBS in Forensic settings and Using Capable environments to enhance quality of life.
3. Dissemination – The dissemination group is aiming to arrange another Network of Networks national meeting in 2022 (this was planned in 2021 but due to Covid was postponed).
4. CEU – the presentations during the SIG meetings will provide members with the opportunity to gain CEUs (if the content is appropriate).

Goals for 2022 are:

1. Conduct research on the effectiveness of PBS
2. Disseminate information on what PBS should look like
3. Link with other PBS groups

Mission Statement: The Positive Behaviour Support Special Interest Group (PBS SIG), brings together practitioners, educators, researchers and students interested in Positive Behaviour Support (PBS), and aims to improve the quality of PBS as it is practiced in the UK and to support those involved in its delivery and dissemination.

Independent Practitioners SIG

Activity: Since last AGM, 10 members have joined the SIG.

Membership: There are 48 current members of the SIG.

Summary: The Independent Practitioner SIG has been developing a network of behaviour analysts who work independently in the UK. Developing this network will facilitate information sharing regarding best practices and provide much needed peer support. We have grown from 27 members last year to 48 members this year. The Facebook group is a forum for members to ask questions, post job adverts and provide support. We have had seven Zoom meetings, in which selected topics were discussed and peer support was provided.

Goals for 2022 are:

1. To hold two virtual meetings in 2022
2. To promote UK-SBA membership for all Independent Practitioners as best practice
3. To increase membership by 10%

Mission Statement:

- To develop a network of behaviour analysts working independently in the UK
- Provide support and information
- Promote the development of high standards of practice in the application of behaviour-analytic principles in independent settings