



**UK Society for  
Behaviour Analysis**

## **SIG Chair Summaries – AGM 2024**

### ***Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Summary***

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 4 established groups and 3 have a completed webpage on our website. At the time of writing this report the Business owners SIGs were in the process of developing and submitting website content.

In 2023, there were 4 SIGs:

- Behaviour Analysis in Schools – established 2022
- Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) – established 2015
- ABA and Autism – established Jul 2023
- Business Owners – established Nov 2023 (webpage under development)

### ***Aims for the Year Ahead***

This year the SIG Lead will continue with the existing objectives:

1. To continue to highlight and approach new groups who work using Behaviour Analytic practice, and encourage them to consider developing a SIG.
2. To continue to encourage those with an interest or research area in new applications of Behaviour Analysis to consider developing a SIG.
3. To help SIGs develop Forums established via Facebook.
4. To ask SIGs to update research lists specific to their area.
5. To ask SIGs to suggest potential stakeholders from their field, to ensure information is effectively disseminated.
6. To 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 Lead will hold clearer information on SIG members and clearer checks on UK SBA registration status. Also, “closing of non-responsive SIGs” protocol will be shared with the registrants. These processes will be introduced at the AGM.

## **Overall summary:**

Adele Yellow holds the role of SIG Lead. Two of the SIGs have returned annual reports – Children with Autism SIG and Positive Behaviour Support SIG. The Business Owners SIG has not submitted a report as the SIG had only been active for 2 weeks at the time of report submission was required.

ABA Tutors SIG, OBM SIG and Independent Practitioners SIG have all submitted requests to pause their SIGs, this has been actioned.

The further five SIGs have not responded to any contact over the past year and so these SIGs have also been paused.

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

### **Positive Behaviour Support**

**SIG Email Address:** [uksba.sig.pbs@gmail.com](mailto:uksba.sig.pbs@gmail.com)

**Name of SIG Chair:** Chloe-Ann Elmer-May

**SIG Co Chair:** Hannah Newcombe

**Membership:** There are 109 members of the PBS SIG

**Activity:** The PBS SIG has met four times in 2023.

Each meeting included updating the SIG members of news in PBS, discussing current projects members of the SIG are involved in and discussing subjects of interest.

The first meeting of the year was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 and was attended by 14 members. The group discussed various topics during the news in PBS section and then went onto discuss the new UKBA(cert). Several group members had attended the speaker series and therefore were able to feedback to the group on the structure and competencies. The group then went onto discuss PBS specific behavioural markers and how as a SIG we can support with this. During the final part of the meeting the group discussed the range of PBS training in available in the UK.

The second meeting of the year took place on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 22 members attended. Following discussing the news in PBS, two of the group members then presented to the group on the PBS Academy Competency Framework. This included reviewing some of the strengths and difficulties with the framework and then some proposed refinements and solutions based on the learning. The group also then explored how this aligns with the competency assessment the UKSBA have put forward.

This then led into a Q&A session that Adele Yellow kindly led on. Adele provided the group with a number of updates including the new membership levels/categories and that these will all carry PSA registration (other than student membership). Adele also provided information around important dates and considerations.

The group also discussed the BSP-CAT tool as this was presented on at the BILD conference. It was reported by members of the group that this is still in development and they are currently testing the

inter-rater reliability. It was then decided that we would look to invite a speaker to a future SIG to present on this.

The third meeting of the year took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023, with 30 attendees. The group went through the recent news in PBS and also discussed that during this meeting Jo Coulson would provide those that wished a CEU for attending the meeting as PBS Matters are now an ACE accredited provider for CEU's.

Nick Gore then joined the group to present on the BSPCAT tool where he opened by working through the updated PBS definition (12 key components from the state of the nation report) and related to relevant items related specifically to BSP quality. He then went onto discuss functional assessments and why they are important and then onto behaviour support plans. He discussed that these are a key part of the PBS process, combining FBA and person-centred goals, supporting good lives, reducing the likelihood of behaviours that challenge. They should be multi-component and personalised and developed in collaboration with the person and other key people.

Another BSP evaluation tool was also discussed, the BSP-QEII. Some pros and cons of this tool were assessed including some incompatibilities within the context of UK practice. Nick then provided the group with an overview of the tool, where they are at in terms of its development and some plans for when this is released.

The group then fed back following the talk. This provided some insight into some of the potential benefits of having the tool but also some potential limitations. Nick was able to provide reassurance to the group around the areas that were raised.

Lastly, the group then held a discussion around the common PBS misconceptions and controversy, specifically reference to dropping the word 'behaviour' from PBS (motivated by recent nursing conferences). A number of the group were able to contribute to this discussion and with time the SIG hopes to look to produce something to combat some of these common PBS misconceptions.

The final meeting of the year took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 with 26 attendees. The group once again ran through some news in PBS before they were joined by Dr Thanos Vostanis who presented to the group on the Tizard Learning Disability Review (TLDR). The aim of this presentation was for the group to be provided with all relevant information on the TLDR with the view of assessing whether this is something as a group we wish to endeavour to submit to support with the groups mission of bringing 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.

Following Thanos's talk, the group fed back that the group would like to aim to work towards a PBS special edition to publish in the TLDR. It was felt that this would be a good way of working towards the groups aims and objectives, particularly as currently when trying to apply the practical applications of PBS from the current literature this can require some heavy adaptations. This would also enable practitioners to have a resource to pinpoint other stakeholders towards. The SIG chairs will meet with Thanos again in the new year to begin to look at how this can be facilitated.

Lastly, those that attended the most recent UK-SBA speaker series provided an update from the session on some key points. Some other members are also joining the virtual version later in the month. Dates for 2024 were then agreed with the group alongside the consideration of some face-to-face working groups based on geographic areas and areas of interest. Chloe and Hannah

developed an E-Survey last year to collect information from members around their areas of interest/expertise and connections with other projects which should also support with this.

To summarise, moving forward the aim is to establish the working groups which will be focused and led by an understanding of the overall PBS work being carried out in the UK, where the gaps are, and where the groups interests and expertise lie with the aim of publishing any relevant findings in the TLDR. It would also be beneficial for the group to liaise with other groups and organisations to raise the PBS SIG's profile and further support with the dissemination of good practice. The SIG has grown significantly in the past year, now having 109 members (an increase from 70 members).

#### Goals for 2024:

Goals	UK-SBA Objective
Conduct research on the effectiveness of PBS	These all align with the broad aims of the UK-SBA to promote behaviour analysis as a field and the support and development of the professionals, researchers and educators active in its various domains. It is recognised that many organisations state that they do PBS however the element of ABA is often missing, the PBS group aims to highlight that without the ABA element organisations are not using the PBS model.
Disseminate information on what PBS should look like (with the aim of formally publishing in the TLDR)	
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.

#### ABA and Autism

**SIG Email Address:** [uksba.sig.autism@gmail.com](mailto:uksba.sig.autism@gmail.com)

**Name of SIG Chair:** Sarah Martin

**Membership** – there are 22 members of the SIG

**Activity** - The ABA and Autism SIG have been developing our initial aims and goals this year.

As a group we have held two meetings (June 2023 and September 2023) to discuss these aims and to make initial steps towards reaching them.

We have created a small working group of volunteers who will be creating a quarterly email newsletter for members of the SIG. This email will include spotlights on services represented within the SIG, upcoming CEUs and training opportunities, featured research, current news or trending topics within the field, and sharing of relevant resources.

We have also created another small working group of volunteers who will be creating a reference list of relevant research that can be added to our SIG page. We are keen to include new developments within the field, UK based research, and responses to criticisms within the field.

Our other longer-term aims are:

1. To increase the inclusion of autistic voices within the SIG and field by making connections with autistic people/ groups who would be willing to have an open discussion about ABA and autism, building on the connections that may already exist within the UK-SBA members.
2. To contribute to a list of autism specific competences as part of the new UKBA (cert) supervision standards, initially by having representatives of the SIG attend the upcoming UK-SBA speaker series in November 2023.
3. To organise SIG events to provide learning opportunities for our members, for example having invited speakers attend our SIG meeting to provide additional information within specific areas and hold journal clubs where we can discuss relevant research papers.
4. To continue to grow the SIG so that this network of professionals increases and we can continue to work towards our goals. We are doing this via social media and word of mouth. We hope that the commencement of our email newsletter will also increase membership.

#### **Goals for 2024:**

<b>Goals</b>	<b>UK-SBA Objective</b>
1. To establish a bank of up to date and relevant research, particularly that pertinent to the UK, which can be accessed by professionals	Promoting the recognition of behaviour analysis as a science and in its various applications
2. To hold regular peer supervision/journal clubs to discuss issues pertinent to practitioners working with individuals with a diagnosis of autism e.g., working in schools, attending tribunals, working with a culturally diverse population.	Formulating standards of professional conduct and competence for those engaged in behaviour analysis services in the UK
3. To regularly share articles and research in the form of a quarterly email update.	Advocating for and facilitating research

#### **Mission Statement**

Our mission is to develop a network of professionals who have an interest in or are working with individuals who have a diagnosis of autism using an ABA approach.

We aim to promote high standards in ABA services, collate and share research and provide networking and opportunities for professional development within this area.