

# SEND & INCLUSION

# NEWSLETTER

December 2017

## Update from SEND Group Manager – Simon Wellman

Dear Colleagues,

A short version of the SEND newsletter this month! Many thanks to you all for the work and commitment you give to our vulnerable families and their children and enjoy a well earned rest over the Christmas holidays! Best wishes for the new year.

### Government consultation regarding developments in mental health support for children and young people

The government has recently announced its intention to ensure that children and young people in England are able to access support for mental health. On 4<sup>th</sup> December a green paper was published that outlined plans to increase mental health support and provide earlier access to services, with over £300 million funding available to take the proposals forward. Detail of the green paper can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/transforming-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-provision-a-green-paper> and details of the consultation at <https://engage.dh.gov.uk/youngmentalhealth/>

Mental health is a significant concern in Telford and Wrekin with many requests for an EHC needs assessment for children and young people with special educational needs in the area of social, emotional and mental health. This recent announcement from the government is a positive step in the right direction and it important that the views of all are represented going forward. You have until 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 to complete the consultation. Please share widely and support children, young people and families to have their say.

Simon

#### Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disability

Discover everything you need to know about education, health and care services in your local area for children and young people with SEND 0-25yrs at...

[www.telfordsend.org.uk](http://www.telfordsend.org.uk)



## Changes to the Learning Support Advisory Team (LSAT)

As many of you are aware Bev Porter, Team Lead for the LSATs, will be retiring from her post at Christmas. Bev has worked in the Local Authority since 1998 and worked tirelessly with schools, families and their children to support those with additional needs. Many, many children have benefitted from her work and we are very sorry to see her go. Vicky Honeybourne is also leaving the team to pursue her work as an author. Again I know she is a well respected colleague and schools will miss her expertise. Finally Wendy Gregory will not be with us during the Spring Term as she will be recovering from an operation.

This week we are (trying) to recruit a new advisory teacher to join the team. I say 'trying' because the snow keeps thwarting our plans! We are seeking to recruit a full time teacher to take on Bev and Vicky's schools. Because the new starter is unlikely to start until Easter we are seeking to cover pre-paid sessions at those schools, alongside Wendy's, from existing members of the team (where they can but they are all very busy!) and possibly recruit supply to bridge the gap. We will provide a further update early in the new term for those schools affected. Apologies that we do not have concrete plans at this stage.

Unfortunately due to current staff capacity the LSAT team will be unable to provide any further 'additional' or 'spot purchase' sessions for the remainder of the financial year. Instead the LSAT team will focus on delivering support to schools who have pre-purchased sessions via their service level agreement (contract) either through Services for Schools (Telford and Wrekin Schools) or directly with the LSAT team (Shropshire Schools).

It is worth noting at this point that it is unlikely that the LSAT team will offer 'buy as you go' or 'additional sessions' during the 18/19 financial year. Schools who are considering LSAT input are therefore advised to consider their requirements during contract renewal so that sufficient sessions are purchased for the whole year or where a service level agreement does not currently exist buy a contract. For Telford and Wrekin schools this can be done by contacting Services for Schools on 01952 380137 by 31st January 2018. Shropshire schools will be sent further details about 2018/19 buy back early next term.



## New access arrangements for the 0-25 Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service

New access arrangements for the 0-25 service will be commencing on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December. The new access team will be available between 9.00am and 17.00pm Monday to Friday to receive referrals for young people. Referrals can be received electronically.

By secure email to [025SPA@sssft.nhs.uk](mailto:025SPA@sssft.nhs.uk) or by phoning 0300 124 0093.

The electronic referral form is attached to this newsletter

### **Who can you refer into the service?**

All young people under 18 can be referred to the service, but only new referrals for care leavers can be accepted past their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The service will, however, be able to signpost and support young people to access other services which are available up to the age of 25 such as Kooth and The Children's Society. The team can also be contacted for advice for young people who are 18 and over.

### **What are the out of hours arrangements?**

The existing arrangements remain for out of hours support through the on call psychiatrists.

As you can appreciate, embedding new systems and processes is challenging so please bear with the team whilst we establish this new service. Also on 4<sup>th</sup> December, the whole service will be moving to an electronic patient record which may initially slow down the rate we can process referrals as staff get up to speed with the new system.

The new team will be located in Redwoods Centre in Shrewsbury however the new arrangements are for all referrals across Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.

Thank you in advance for your care and patience and understanding as we implement these vital changes to improve the quality of care we provide.

Further updates about the new service can be found at <http://www.sssft.nhs.uk/0to25> or on the Local Offer [www.telfordsend.org.uk](http://www.telfordsend.org.uk)



## Workshop for parents on the Graduated Approach to meeting SEND

Parent/Carer  
SEND Workshop  
31<sup>st</sup> January 2018  
10 – 12pm  
At Ramada Hotel  
60 Places

**FREE!**

### Outline

Over the last year the Local Authority has been working closely with Telford and Wrekin settings and schools to further develop their practice for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. This workshop is to share key messages about our work, with parents and carers, and to develop greater confidence in delivery of SEN support.

### Workshop leads:

Simon Wellman Local Authority SEND Group Manager

Natalie Bevan Local Authority SEND Project Lead

IASS (Independent Advice Support Service)

PODS (Parents Opening Doors) – Parent Carer Forum

### This workshop will look at:

SEN Support – what does it mean and how does it work.

Initial support provided by settings and schools – what does this look like?

The graduated approach and the cycles of assess - plan - do - review

Recent changes that promote inclusive practice in our settings and schools

The Local Offer – the Local Authority website showing you what support services are out there and how they can be used?

To book please ask parents to contact

[sendandinclusion@telford.gov.uk](mailto:sendandinclusion@telford.gov.uk) or call 01952 381045



## The Value of Board Games.

**With Christmas around the corner, here are some thoughts about the value of board games. By Angela Denton - Learning Support Advisory Team.**

Sadly, the playing of board games is becoming a thing of the past. Many children now only experience the playing of a game on a tablet, phone or a games console.

The playing of board games can help in the development of many vital skills that can be transferred into the classroom and develop skills essential for life.

Board games are an excellent way of developing social skills, such as turn taking, patience and persistence and how to learn from experiences. When playing a game, children have to consider the concept of rules and practise following them, and when provided with effective role models, learn how to win and lose with good grace. For those that find it difficult to interact with others in an informal way, the playing of a game, provides a structured way of doing so.

When children play in pairs and small teams, they automatically have the opportunity to develop their communication skills. They must discuss their ideas, listen to others and learn how to negotiate.

There are many games out there, old and new, that would support the development of spelling: *Scrabble*, *Upwords*, *Boggle* and *Pairs in Pears*.

*Dobble* is a fun way to develop visual processing skills.

Visual perception and the ability to plan ahead can be developed through such games as *Blokus*, *Q-Bitz*, *Draughts* and *Connect 4*.

*Brain Box* games, available for a wide range of ages and in a variety of different themes, rehearse visual memory.

Fine motor skills can be developed through games such as *Pick Up Sticks*, *Ker-Plunk* and *Jenga*.

I'm sure you can think of many more.

And most importantly of all – it's fun!

So, during those wet breaks and lunch times, please consider getting the board games out or even introduce an after school or lunch time club.

## Suggested Strategies For SLCN

Think about yourself when you are talking to a class, pupil or small group, just for a few minutes - try this teacher checklist.

How much of the time is it you talking?

How many opportunities are there for the pupils to talk?

How many questions do you ask?

How many complex sentences (with connectives) do you use?

How long do you wait for pupils to reply?

Do you pause between instructions or bits of talking?

Think back on your non-verbal communication. Do you use your hands? Facial expressions?

Consider if you were listening to yourself in a language you did not know well. What would help?

How many words are there usually in a sentence?

How do you adapt your language if children don't understand?



## Key Reminders

### Phase transition key dates:

Don't forget, for those schools that have received formal consultation documents for pupils moving between phases — Nursery to reception, Yr 2 to 3 (infant school only) and Yr 6 to 7, responses are due to be returned to the [sendandinclusion@telford.gov.uk](mailto:sendandinclusion@telford.gov.uk) email box by **Friday 15th December**.

### **December**.

If we do not receive a response from you by the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017 we will amend the EHC Plans of these pupils to reflect that they will be allocated a place at your school in September 2018.

### What happens next?

The SEND team will be sending out amendment notices to parents and carers naming their child's school for September 2018. The final plan will be issued by the 15th February 2018 in line with statutory guidelines.

### Yr 11

All secondary schools should have completed and returned their Yr 11 review reports for those pupils with an EHCP by the 8th December 2017. Thank you to those schools who have already returned them to the SEND team.

### What happens next?

The SEND team will be formally consulting with the young people's preferred post 16 setting by February 2018 with a view to finalising plans by the 31st March 2018 in line with statutory guidelines.

## Farewell to Vicky Honeybourne

Vicky has been a member of the Learning Support Advisory Team for the past two and half years.

In her role as a senior teacher for Speech, language and communication needs, Vicky has run successful training and formed excellent relationships with her schools. She is becoming well known as a national speaker on Girls and Autism, presenting talks and workshops at many conferences. Vicky has also published several books and has decided that she would now like to spend more time following this route.

We will miss Vicky and her generosity in sharing her expertise but wish her all the best in the future.



## LSAT Courses - January 2018

Please see below the LSAT courses for January. Please contact Beth Seymour on: [Bethany.Seymour@telford.gov.uk](mailto:Bethany.Seymour@telford.gov.uk) or 01952 380861 to book or for more information.

### **LSAT 221 - Early Number in the Early Years – 16.01.2018 – 4.30pm – 7.30pm**

#### **Tutors**

Lorraine Nutt and Laura Goodfellow

#### **Target Audience**

Early years practitioners working with children age 2/3 years

#### **Cost per delegate**

T&W LA Schools: £90

Academies & non T&W LA Schools: £108

#### **Course Content**

Supporting children to develop early number concepts

### **LSAT 222 - An Introduction to Tourette's (secondary phase) – 23.01.2018 - 1.15pm – 4pm**

#### **Tutor**

Georgina Roycroft

#### **Target Audience**

Teachers and support staff

#### **Cost per delegate**

T&W LA Schools: £90

Academies & non T&W LA Schools: £108

#### **Course Content**

To provide an introduction to Tourette's Syndrome for both teachers and support staff - incorporating information surrounding diagnosis, challenges and support techniques.

#### **Key Outcomes**

Delegates will have an increased understanding of Tourette's Syndrome



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### Key features...

- Search for clear and accessible information, advice and sources of support.
- Explore leisure, fun and short breaks activities.
- Find out about specialist services and education health and care plans.
- Learn how schools support special educational needs.
- Use the interactive map showing what is available near to where you live.
- Have your say through our online feedback form.

