

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

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Welcome!

Welcome to our 2nd edition of the SEND Parent/Carer Newsletter.

We want to keep you updated about what has been happening over the last term and provide insights into developments for next year.



SEND Service Delivery Manager - Simon Wellman

We have a NEW Service Delivery Manager (SDM) 0-25

We would like to welcome Simon Wellman into the post of SEND Service Delivery Manager in Telford and Wrekin. Simon is keen to hear the voices of our parents / carers and children and young people and has regular meetings with our parent carer forum (POD's) and Information Advice and Support Service (IASS) to hear your views!

Update from Simon including a review of the last 11 months:

In September, we implemented changes to the EHC needs assessment process which included new guidance, clearer forms and moving forward meetings. The moving forward meetings have provided much more opportunity to work alongside parents when we create an EHC plan and explain decisions that have been taken. The online admission process, for school places, was also launched and this made sure that we collected 100% parental preferences for school placements.



In October we held a SEND conference, where over 85% of Telford and Wrekin schools attended. An expert in the field provided a masterclass to us all about working alongside parents and the importance of coproduction OR working together. We all appreciate that this leads to the very best outcomes for children and young people. During November and December we worked with schools to develop a new forum which meant funding could be provided quickly to support early intervention. In January we held a workshop with parents focusing on the graduated approach, which is used by all schools to support children with SEND and launched the proposal to relocate Haughton Special School to the New College Site. In February, we created our first parental SEND newsletter which was welcomed by focusing on streamlining education services for those aged 0-25.

Continued...

During March we hit the national deadline to transfer all statements of SEN to EHC plans and in April a restructure began within education and corporate parenting over here in the Local Authority, that placed SEND in a distinct service area. During May we began a review of the Sensory Inclusion Service, and in June published the high need review and strategic plan for SEND (more information about that is supplied later in the newsletter). These are just some of the big hitters, I know I will have missed many more activities that have taken place during the year!

For me, it was with great pride that I was recruited into the position of Service Delivery Manager for SEND 0-25. Telford is a brilliant place to work and your children amaze and inspire me every single day!

So, as we approach the end of the academic year I extend my thanks to all the parent groups and community projects that help families. There is some great work going on out there and it is always a pleasure to meet you. I am really looking forward to next year - as you can imagine there is plenty on the horizon.

Best wishes,

Simon



Updates from Telford and Wrekin Council

High Needs Review and Strategic Plan for SEND

We have been working with POD's and IASS to gather your views as part of the consultation regarding the high needs review.

What is the plan?

It is focused around developing specialist (high need) provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We have developed a plan, available on the local offer at www.telfordsend.org.uk showing how we intend to make changes, including reallocating Haughton special school to Wellington.

Our next step aims to secure sufficient specialist provision well into the future. Recommendations within the review are that we broaden our provision in schools to include resource bases within mainstream schools. This will provide parents with greater choice when considering placements for those children with higher needs.

It is exciting that we have an opportunity to do something different!

Are you involved in having your say?

Make sure you are through our parent carer forum (POD's) and IASS. Contact details are provided on pages 13.

Overview of Telford and Wrekin's High Needs Review and Strategic Plan for SEND

Nationally there is recognition that the population of children with SEND is growing.

In March 2017 the DfE committed funding across local authorities to review their specialist provision and services. The work we commissioned has resulted in the high need review and strategic plan for SEND.

At this time the DfE also announced capital funding for local authorities to invest in new places and/or improvements for pupils with EHC plans. Telford and Wrekin received £616K (2018-21).

The local authority has developed a concise plan, available on the local offer at www.telfordsend.org.uk, to show how it intends to invest capital funding focusing initially on the relocation of Haughton Special School.

The publication of the high need review and strategic plan for SEND, is our next step that will help to determine our longer term strategy which aims to secure sufficient specialist provision well into the future.



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The focus of the review is currently on provision for school aged children. Early Years and Post 16 provision will be considered at a later date.

4 proposals and a number of delivery options (see below) are suggested to ensure Telford and Wrekin has sufficient provision moving forward.

The full report can be found on the local offer at www.telfordsend.org.uk

Future proposal	Delivery options
<p>Proposal 1 – To develop specialist resource base provision in mainstream schools for primary and secondary aged learners with social communication issues including Autistic Spectrum Conditions.</p>	<p>Option 1 – Delivered by a mainstream – school where the learners are on the roll of the mainstream school with the base managed and staffed by that school.</p> <p>Option 2 – Delivered via a partnership model where the base is operated as a satellite of a special school but is located on a mainstream ‘host’ school site, where the pupils are on-roll at the special school and the base is managed and staffed by the special school.</p>
<p>Proposal 2 - To develop specialist resource base provision in mainstream schools for primary and secondary aged learners with cognition and learning difficulties.</p>	<p>Option 1 – Delivered by a mainstream – school where the learners are on the roll of the mainstream school with the base managed and staffed by that school.</p> <p>Option 2 – Delivered via a partnership model where the base is operated as a satellite of a special school but is located on a mainstream ‘host’ school site, where the pupils are on-roll at the special school and the base is managed and staffed by the special school.</p>
<p>Proposal 3 - Developing specialist resource base provision at a designated site for primary aged (KS2) learners with social, emotional, mental health needs.</p>	<p>Delivered as a satellite of a) a special school or b) a pupil referral unit and is located at a designated site, where the pupils are on-roll at the special school/pupil referral unit and the base is managed and staffed by the special school/pupil referral unit.</p>
<p>Proposal 4 - Developing highly specialist provision to cater for our most complex children with SEND.</p>	<p>Delivered via highly specialist resource hub provision within existing local special schools.</p> <p><i>and/or</i></p> <p>Delivered via special free school – dependent on successful application. Likely to require regional collaboration.</p> <p><i>and/or</i></p> <p>Delivered via external providers (i.e. independent special schools) via regional commissioning and procurement framework.</p>

Inclusive School Forum:

We have been working together with schools to develop a forum to support children identified as having SEND. It started in January and it is going really well!

What is the Inclusive School Forum?

The Inclusive School Forum is a meeting of school professionals including head teachers and SENCo's who have expertise in special educational needs. It has been developed for all schools in Telford and Wrekin so that they are able to get advice and guidance from each other about how to meet children's needs effectively.

In addition schools can ask the Inclusive School Forum for funding. This is known as Additional Inclusion Funding or AIF for short. Many parents say they have long waits to access support some of which have been only accessible with an Education, Health and Care Plan. There will be no need for a child to have an Education, Health and Care Plan to access funding (AIF) from the Inclusive School Forum. One aim of the forum is to provide funding much earlier so that children's needs can be supported quickly. Schools must work with parent/carers, children and young people in a person centred way, to make an application to the Inclusive School Forum.

What happens at forum?

Once an application has been made, the SENCo of your child's school will discuss your child with the forum. Forum meets once a month and a number of children are discussed from schools across Telford and Wrekin. The members of forum understand that all information shared about your child is to be kept confidential. Where members feel there is a conflict of interest, for example they are aware of the child outside of work, then they will leave the forum while the child is being discussed.

Schools may not always receive funding (AIF) following attendance at forum. Some schools will only want some advice and guidance whereas others will seek funding (AIF). Where funding (AIF) is not agreed the school will be given some next steps to consider. When the school are making an application for the Inclusive School Forum they must talk to you so you know what they are asking for.



What can funding be used for?

- This may include, but not limited to, support services, therapy, positive play and or teaching assistants to provide specific learning programmes.
- Support must be appropriate for the child or young person to meet the individual child's identified needs.
- Requests for funding need a clear rationale and based on specific outcomes.
- Schools must record the provision they put in place using an Inclusive School Provision Plan (ISPP).

For more information about the Inclusive School Forum please visit the Local Offer or talk to the SENCo in your child's school..

Designated Clinical Officer for SEND

My name is Catherine Smith and I am the Designated Clinical Officer for SEND. My role has developed as part of the changes made to SEND procedures in 2014 and aims to provide a clear link between health and education. It has a broad remit and is developing differently around the country.

Since I began last September, my initial focus has been to gain oversight of the different health teams and their contributions to the EHC process, in particular reviewing and improving advice health practitioners provide for EHC plans. I have also worked with the local authority SEND teams and schools to understand medical conditions. A key element to the role is to attend EHC panel where I help to make decisions and quality assure health contributions in plans. I have also started to work on improvements to the Local Offer and in particular whether information is clear about health services that are available.

The role sits within the commissioning team in health (the Clinical Commissioning Group or CCG) so that commissioners are aware of how services can better support children's outcomes. The role is concerned with improving quality and working with children, young people and families to inform strategic developments.

Direct support to schools includes answering queries and supporting them to work alongside health professionals to ensure the correct support is in place to manage health needs. This may include contributing towards individual health care plans. If indicated, via health professionals, I will undertake a continuing care assessment where needs are very significant .

Educational Psychology Service

The Educational Psychology Service works in a variety of ways to support children, young people with special educational needs, and their families. The team are equipped with the skills necessary to assess children and young people and provide a range of evidence based interventions.

The teams offers:

- Assessment and interventions for children and young people who have complex needs within mainstream schools, special schools and Assessment Intervention Centres;
- Critical Incident and Bereavement support for schools following a child or adult's death;
- Statutory guidance to the LA to contribute to the Education Health and Care Plans.
- Therapeutic intervention to assist children with social emotional and mental health difficulties;
- Support to Children in Care and the Virtual School Team;
- Training to staff to provide therapeutic interventions;
- Support to the Strengthening Families Agenda through joint multidisciplinary working with a range of support agencies and social workers;
- Support and advice to Education Social Workers to assist their interventions within families.

The Educational Psychology Service is provided as a traded service which schools can buy into. Schools will refer children in to the service, as required. For further information please speak to your school's SENCo.

IASS - An Overview

Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS) aims to increase the confidence of parents/carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disability by offering independent and impartial information, advice and support enabling parents to make informed decisions.

We can help if you:

- Have a child who has or may have, Special Educational Needs or a Disability
- Live in Telford & Wrekin
- Need information, advice or support about your child's education

We can offer information and advice on:

- Special Educational Needs procedures in school
- Assessment process for Education, Health & Care Plan
- Exclusions information
- Disability Discrimination
- Local Offer and Personal Budgets
- Transition and Annual Reviews
- Negotiation, mediation, tribunals and dispute resolution.



The service is free, confidential, impartial and accessible.

SEND IASS Steering Group

We are in the process of developing a SENDIASS Advisory Group, to guide and monitor the overall development of the service and ensure that the service is equitable to parents/carers children and young people.

In order to support, promote and develop the service, we are inviting representatives from a number of areas, including education, health and social care involved with special educational needs.

PTO

We would like a representative from the following areas:

- Parents/Carers and Young People
- Primary
- Secondary
- Post 16 Providers
- Health and Social Care
- Local Authority

If you are interested in joining the Steering group, please feel free to contact us on **01952 457176** for an informal chat.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Mental Health

Please get Telford and Wrekin talking about Mental Health! Children and young people's mental health really matters, not only for the individual and their family but for society as a whole. The importance of recognising and promoting good mental health and well-being in all people needs to be valued, not just focussing on mental illness and diagnosis.

Future in mind

Schools are linked to Future in Mind which promotes, protects and improves our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. Please follow the link below to find out more about future in mind.



[Future in mind: promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing](#)

BEAM Service

The Children's Society's Beam Service provides immediate support for children and young people aged between 0 and 25 years every Thursday upstairs at Palmers Coffee Shop on Claremont Street, Telford.

It includes weekly drop-in sessions for young people and those in the community who can visit without needing an appointment or a referral. The charity will also be launching a further drop-in service for young people in Telford in October.

Figures show that an estimated 4,000 children and young people are living with a diagnosed mental health problem in Shropshire, and in Telford and Wrekin it is estimated that there are around 3,100. Beam focuses on immediate one-to-one and group support for children who urgently need it. The aim of the service is to provide support, preventing mental health crises and responding quickly, making it easy for young people to get help.

Bee U

Bee U exists to help children and young people to be resilient and to have a positive sense of emotional and health and well-being. There are lots of reasons why children and young people might visit the Bee U service; children and young people who are worried, sad or angry or have problems with their behavior. Growing up can be stressful and it may feel lonely, frightening or having the feeling that nobody understands. These problems are sometimes called emotional health and well-being or mental health problems.

For more information visit the Bee U website: <https://beeu.org.uk/>

Kooth

Kooth is an online counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people, accessible through mobile, tablet and desktop and free at the point of use. It offers free, safe and anonymous support for young people.

For further information, please visit the website: <https://kooth.com/>



browsealoud on the SEND Local Offer



Did you know that the SEND Local Offer Website has something called “BrowseAloud” that can help people to access the information?

BrowseAloud can:

- Read out the text on the page at a speed of your choice
- Translate the text into 99 different languages
- Readout translated text in 40 different languages
- On screen text magnifier
- MP3 generator converts text to an audio file so you can listen offline
- Screen mask to block on-screen clutter
- Web page simplifier to remove distracting content and make reading more easy.

To launch the toolbar click on the BrowseAloud symbol (shown below) which is located in the top right corner of the Local Offer website.



Your feedback – we are always looking for feedback on the SEND Local Offer and anyone can let us know what they think by contacting:
localoffer@telford.gov.uk

Useful Websites, Links & Apps

Local Offer

The Local Offer (www.telfordsend.org.uk) has the SEND newsletter which offers regular updates of what's going on in the Local Authority, also if you are new to the EHCP process the Local Offer has a detailed explanation of the process, including a short video of what an EHCP should include. As we are moving closer to the summer holidays, details of holiday activities can be found on the Ican2 page, booking details can also be found here.

Jayne Stevens



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www.podstelford.o



PODSForumTelford



PODSTelford



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P O Box 772, Telford,
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Face 2 Face
Parents supporting parents
of disabled children

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



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01952 457176



info@iass.org.uk



IASS Telford & Wrekin



The Glebe Centre, Glebe Street,
Wellington, Telford
TF1 1JP



01952 385385 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)



0779 787 5385



familyconnect@telford.gov.uk



01952 388988



future.focus@telford.gov.uk



Southwater 1, Southwater Square,
Southwater Way, Telford
TF3 4JG

Useful Contacts

Educational Psychology (EP) Service	01952 385216
Learning Support Advisory Teacher (LSAT) Team	01952 385485
Behaviour Support Advisory Team (BSAT)	01952 385485
Sensory Inclusion Service (Hearing Impairment)	01952 385269
Sensory Inclusion (Visual Impairment)	01952 385269



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

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.

