

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

What's Included?

- Welcome!
- SEND Service Deliver Manager - Simon Wellman
- Meet the PFA Team
- Understanding EHCP Annual review amendments
- Autism Education Trust
- Young peoples Voice for SEND
- POD's SEND Conference
- Early Bird Programme
- Key updates
- Events
- Activities

Welcome!

Welcome to our 3rd 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 the year ahead.



SEND Service Delivery Manager - Simon Wellman

It has been a busy start to 2019 and as always there are lots of exciting developments in the world of SEND. Colleagues from the Educational Psychology Service and Learning Support Advisory Team have been working on the development of a SEN support provision matrix. This has been designed as a guide to help parents understand what settings will be doing in terms of support, whilst also helping settings think about what extra support might be helpful for those learners who are not making expected progress. By working together, we can ensure that all mainstream schools are able to cater for all SEND children and set a clear consistent expectation of the SEN support offer across all Telford schools.

In January I joined a working group of representatives (including Telford and Wrekin Headteachers and SENCo's) to visit resource bases in two mainstream schools in Warwickshire and we were able to see two distinct models, a 'partnership model' and a 'mainstream owned' model at first hand. The visit allowed us to consolidate our thinking and develop some clear principles for the development of resource bases in mainstream schools within Telford and Wrekin. We are seeking to pilot two resource base provisions by September, initially focusing upon primary age pupils, and I very much look forward to updating you with progress over the coming months.



In further news, I am delighted to share that Telford and Wrekin is now an Autism Education Trust (AET) hub, and we are actively looking to empower school staff to understand the needs of children with autism. More detailed information is available in this newsletter.

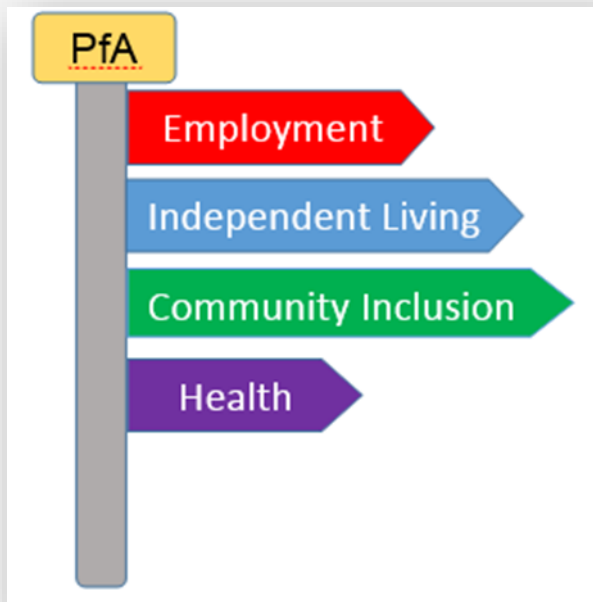
I also have two very brief updates to share, firstly that I have been working with Health colleagues to ensure that services offer a joined up approach as I am aware that there is still a bit of confusion out there. Secondly, you will be aware that a review of the Sensory Inclusion Service was recently undertaken and I just wanted to reassure you that it is business as usual for the service.

Finally, just to say I am looking forward to seeing you all at the PODS conference on 27th February and hearing about what's working well and also what we can do to make things better. See you there!

Best wishes

Simon

We have a new Preparing for Adulthood (PFA) team!



We are excited to inform you that we have 2 SEND Officers and 1 coordinator dedicated to improve SEND for post 16 learners in Telford and Wrekin.



The team is working towards:

- ◆ Positive work with post 16 providers in the area to support meeting the needs of our current and future learners, with and without an Education Health and Care plan (EHCP)
- ◆ Creating a toolkit to support schools in writing outcomes that support the 4 key areas of preparing for adulthood. (Employment, independent living, social inclusion and health)
- ◆ Celebrating success of some of our young people that do not require an EHCP due to employment or moving onto higher education.

If your young person is over 16yrs and has an Education Health and Care Plan then you may meet one of the team at your review.

If you have any questions regarding the support for post 16 learners in Telford and Wrekin please visit our Local Offer www.telfordsend.org.uk

Or contact the team on **01952 385399**.

Annual Review Process

We have received feedback from our parent carer forum (POD's) that there has been some confusion over the way the LA shows parents how we intend to change the contents of an Education, Health and Care plan following an annual review. Where we propose amendments the LA will mark the document to highlight the key changes. A code is used to make this as clear as possible. The code is as follows:

Description	Coding:
The LA intends to remove the sentence from the EHC plan.	Strike out
The LA intends to remove information, that is non-text (i.e. pictures) from the plan.	X
The LA intends to add new information into the plan.	<i>In italics</i>

In addition there may also be some changes to the EHC plan template to bring it in line with our most recent format.

Any changes we propose are as a result of the information given at the annual review.

You will receive a copy of an amended plan and will have up to 21 calendar days to comment on the proposed amendments, which is in line with the SEND Code of Practice.

Feel free to contact the SEND team on 01952 385399 or email sendandinclusion@telford.gov.uk if you wish to discuss this further

How can you help the annual review process?

It would be really helpful if you are involved with other services (Health and/or social care) to bring any updated reports or letters to the annual review meeting that would help inform and update the Education, Health and Care plan.

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Telford & Wrekin is now an Autism Education Trust (AET) Hub!

We are really excited that Telford and Wrekin are delivering AET training to early year's settings and schools. Colleagues from the wider SEND team are now champions in the AET approach and are able to deliver this important resource.

So What is AET ?

These are high quality development programmes supported by the Department for Education for professionals working in education settings.

Research indicates that autism affects around 1 in 100 children and adults. We want to ensure all professionals working in education settings feel prepared to support pupils on the autism spectrum. As a consequence all staff need a basic awareness of autism and the needs of individual pupils.

The AET offers free online resources which can be used at a strategic level to help audit and improve standards of provision and staff competence in schools and settings in relation to autism.

In addition we are rolling out a modular training programme (Levels 1, 2 and 3) for both early years settings and school establishments.

If you want to know more about AET please visit: <https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk>

There is a guide to help parents and carers identify what is important in the education of their child with Autism or Asperger's Syndrome. Parents and carers can use the guide to talk to staff in schools about how best they can work together.

For more information, please visit: http://www.aettraininghubs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/AET_working_together_with_childs_school.pdf



Shout out for SEND

Over the past 6 months, Telford and Wrekin SEND team and IASS have started and continued to run a young people's forum .

We had a small group attend the first session, but we have had an increase in numbers since then. As a forum we have discussed "What is SEND", "Who are IASS", "What is Consultation" and asked what they would like from us as a Local Authority.

Our young people put their heads together and came up with the forums name of "Shout Out for SEND" at our first meeting.

All young people attending the forum were asked to create a logo design that would represent Shout Out for SEND.

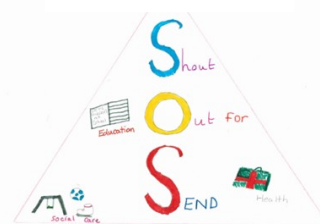
The young people requested that the logo was selected at an Aiming High meeting rather than within the group. All of the logo designs were brilliant and it was really hard for the board to pick one. After a very close run vote the winning logo was selected (see below). The Aiming High Board wished to express their thanks to all of the young people for their hard work and for participating in the process to design the logos.

The young person who created the chosen design will now be asked sit down with the Telford and Wrekin design team and bring their logo to life with professional software.

The Shout out for SEND Logo will be used on all paperwork, flyers, leaflets and the Local Offer.



WINNER!



Would your child / young person like to join SOS? We would love to have their views!

If so please contact Maria Morgan on 01952 457176 or request to join the closed [Facebook group](#)

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SEND Workshop - Hosted by PODS Parent Carer Forum

Come and join us for this years SEND Workshop, listen to updates from Local Authority services and find out more information on what's changing along with plans for the future. A chance for you to provide feedback on what's working well or what improvements could be made. Open to all Telford and Wrekin parents/carers of children (0-25) with an additional need that are or would like to become a member of pods.

Tea/coffee and a light lunch will be provided, could you please email me elaine@podstelford.org any dietary requirements no later than 20th February. The event is free to attend, however we would most appreciate any donation you could possibly make to enable us to continue facilitating as many events as possible.

Date, Time and Location:
Wed, 27 February 2019
09:30 – 14:30 GMT
Ramada Hotel Telford Town Centre

[Book here](#)



EarlyBird programme (National Autistic Society)

EarlyBird (**under five years**) is a support programme for parents and carers, offering advice and guidance on strategies and approaches for living with young autistic children.

The programme aims to support parents in the period between diagnosis and school placement, empowering and helping them facilitate their child's social communication and appropriate behaviour in their natural environment.

The EarlyBird programme is delivered by two NAS licensed trainers who are speech & language and education advisory specialists.

How do I find out more?

Find out more by clicking the link here [NAS EarlyBird](#)

My child is 0-4 years, how do I enrol on the EarlyBird programme?

The EarlyBird programme is usually recommended to parents by professionals supporting their children, so do enquire about the suitability when you have appointments. Alternatively, if you feel you would benefit from the support the programme provides, you can also choose to refer in person and/or with the support of your child's school SENCo.

To register your interest, please complete the quick application form available below:



Earlybird application 18-19.pub

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EarlyBird Plus Programme (National Autistic Society)

EarlyBird Plus (**4-9 year olds**) is a support programme for parents and carers, whose child has received a later diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder.

The programme addresses the needs of both home and school settings by ideally training parents/carers together with a professional who is working regularly with their child, the aim being that a child will be given consistent support. We work to build both parents' and professionals' confidence and encourage them to problem solve together. Parents are of course, able to attend the programme without a supporting professional if their school are unable to release a staff member.

The EarlyBird Plus programme is delivered by two NAS licensed trainers who are speech & language and education advisory specialists.

How do I find out more?

Find out more by clicking the link here [NAS EarlyBird Plus](#)

My child is 5-9 years, how do I enrol on the EarlyBird Plus programme?

The EarlyBird Plus programme is usually recommended to parents by professionals supporting their children, so do enquire about the suitability when you have appointments. Alternatively, if you feel you would benefit from the support the programme provides, you can also choose to refer in person and/or with the support of your child's school SENCo.

To register your interest, please complete the quick application form available below:



Earlybird Plus application 18-19.pub

Key Dates

PODS

SEND Update – 27th February 2019

Transition into Employment and Independence – 2nd April 2019

Family Group Information:

Please visit PODS' website calendar as they have PODS Family Groups and PODS Face 2 Face Family Groups available: <https://www.podstelford.org/events-calendar/>

Local Offer Updates

We thought it would be beneficial to all to see what has been updated on the Local offer.

Please find the information below of the recent updates and information for the local offer.

“Ask us a question” feedback button has been added to all document pages on the Local Offer. This is if someone cannot find the information they want they can email the Local Offer Implementation Coordinator who will try to find the answers or signpost you to the right place!

School Admissions: As you are all aware parents and carers have had many questions about admissions into school and those moving on from Year 11 to post 16. To help we have added the information link onto the local offer to save parents having to use both sites to get information for SEND pupils. [School Admissions information page](#)

Changes have been made to the **ISF paperwork** and the paperwork has been on a diet. It's now only 2 pages long for advice and 4 for additional funds. To support our schools in making an application. For more information visit: [Inclusive School Forum Guidance and Inclusive Funding documents have been added to the Local Offer. This includes FAQs](#)

Telford and Wrekin have a **quality Mark for SEND and Youth Justice System**. To understand more about what this looks like and how we work together please visit: [SEND Reforms and the Youth Justice System Information page](#)

BEAM has expanded!

Who are we?

Beam is operated by The Children's Society, a national charity that works with the most vulnerable children and young people in Britain today.

We listen. We support. We act.

Because we believe no child should feel alone.



Our beliefs and values

Brave

We are brave, fighting injustice at every level, fearless in our determination to be listened to. We expose and directly address 'hard truths' and are determined to turn words swiftly into actions.

Ambitious

We are ambitious for the lives of the children we work with. The pioneering work we do helps them and children across the country aspire to better lives.

Supportive

We support children in their personal development and to build positive relationships. Together we enable children to reach their full potential and realise their ambitions.

Trusted

We have been trusted for over a century to deliver care where it is most needed. We maintain that trust by being dependable and consistent in our approach and by fighting for change based on hard evidence.

What does Beam do?

OUR AIM: to provide children and young people aged 0 – 25, their parents/carers & professionals with advice, signposting and support with any concerns relating to mental and emotional wellbeing.

Our team is very passionate about empowering young people. Simply listening to a young person's experience or using therapeutic strategies and providing information can make all the difference.



"We want to help you acquire the resilience and skills you need when life throws up challenges. We want you to know what to do for yourself if you are troubled by emotions or problems with your mental health"

What will Beam do?



We can provide **low-intensity therapeutic support** under a brief therapy framework.



We promote **psycho-education**.



We give **practical support** and suggestions.



We **listen**, trying our best to ensure our service users feel heard.



We **adapt**: we know there is no such thing as one size fits all.



For more information email: AskBeam@childrenssociety.org.uk

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JUNGLELAND A SAFARI ADVENTURE

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS

COME ALONG TO OUR FREE EXCLUSIVE
FAMILY SESSIONS FOR CHILDREN OF ANY AGE
AND WITH ANY DISABILITIES
OR SPECIAL NEEDS. SIBLINGS WELCOME.

THIS FREE SESSION IS HELD ON THE 1ST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 6PM-8PM

Last Admission at 7pm (Excluding Bank Holidays)

Session includes a ride on the Jungleland Express Train

Our play equipment has no age or
height restrictions so adults can enjoy
playing with their children

EXCLUSIVE SATURDAY MORNING SESSIONS 9.00AM-10.00AM
Reduced admission. Welcome to stay and play after 10am
£3.45 per child, 50p per adult

Entrance includes
FREE SESSIONS
in our
**BABY BUTTERFLIES
SENSORY ROOM**
CLICK HERE FOR
MORE DETAILS



Unit T7 Cedar Court

Halesfield T7

Telford

TF7 4PF

01952 582832

SEN Sessions

Tuesdays 16.00 - 18.00 for Children & families with special needs only.

Sundays 10.00 - 12.00 for Children & families with special needs only.

Cafe closes at 17.30 daily.

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SEN SESSIONS

Wednesday 6-8pm 2hr session only £7.50
Thursday after school bounce & eat
16.00-18.00

Off-peak £8 & carer goes free
Peak price £7.50 & carer goes free
additional carer or sibling only £5
SEN bounce & eat £10 includes 2 hours
bounce + sandwich, crisps & unlimited
squash

[Click here for more info](#)

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PIONEER CENTRE RESIDENTIAL BREAK

8—10 MARCH 2019

For children & young adults
with a
disability

Activity led programme by
certified instructors

Meals Provided

Tailored Support
Staff for your child

Accessible Lodge for
accommodation

48 Hour Friday to Sunday
Weekend Residential

Transport provided from
a central meeting point

Contact the team for more information
and register your interest at A2ABookings@telford.gov.uk or 01952 385119



At the Pioneer Centre Children and Young Adults will try a wide range of exciting activities designed to release their potential and meet their own learning objectives.

The Pioneer Centre's dedicated team of instructors will guide your children through various activities over the course of their stay, helping them to discover hidden strengths and learn new skills.

Activities Include:

- Assisted Climbing
- Assisted Abseiling
- Zip Wire
- Indoor Caving
- Archery
- Raft Building
- Low Ropes Course
- Challenge course
- Shelter Building
- And much, much more!

Pioneer Centre is located
in Cleobury Mortimer,
Kidderminster

For more information about the centre please visit their website
at: www.acuk.net/pioneer-centre

The cost will be dependent on the number of young people joining us but we expect the costs to be approximately:

- ⇒ STANDARD SUPPORT PACKAGE - £550
- ⇒ PREMIUM SUPPORT PACKAGE - £820
- ⇒ SUPER PREMIUM PACKAGE - £1345

Prices will be confirmed when final bookings are confirmed.

Please register interest by Friday 8th February 2019



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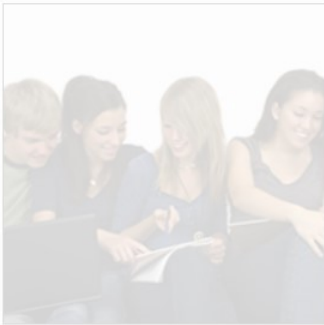


Ican2 Short Breaks

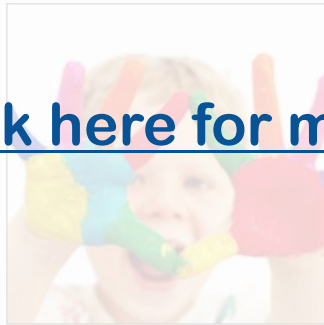
Short breaks provide invaluable support for disabled children, young people and their families. While children are given opportunities to become more independent, have fun, enjoy new experiences, form friendships with their peers; their families are able to take time out to recharge their batteries.

This can include daytime, evening, weekend and overnight activities. They can take place in the child's own home, a family based setting, a residential, educational or community setting, or in their local environment.

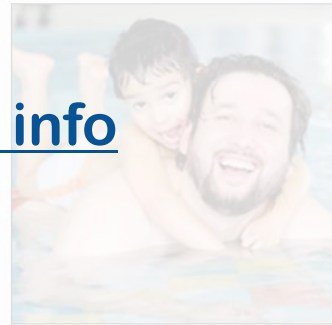
Access 2 Activities



Kreative Kidz



Sports and Leisure



[Click here for more info](#)

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We all want to keep our children safe

You've probably already talked to them about things like crossing the road safely. But have you spoken to them about how to stay safe from sexual abuse? We know it's a conversation no parent wants to have, but we believe it can feel just as natural, and be just as easy, as the road safety chat.

We call it talking PANTS. From P through to S, each letter gives an important message for children as young as four to help them stay safe.

That's why we want all parents to talk PANTS – because we know that talking regularly with children about these important messages really can help them stay safe.

NSPCC



**Simple conversations to help
keep your kids safe from abuse**

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

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Shining Stars

Special needs group for 0-5s

Led by friendly, experienced parents

Where: Family Room, Shortwood Children's Centre,
Limekiln Lane, Wellington TF1 2JA

When: 1 - 2.30pm on Fridays

**Come along and join us
while your child plays**

Email shiningstars2017@hotmail.com

A group with a range of play activities for children who have an additional need. Eligible for families prior, during or after diagnosis. Children must be supervised. Two children per adult. Siblings without an additional need are also welcome to attend.

 **Shining Stars**





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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.

