

# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019

## *What's Included?*

- Welcome!
- Autism Education Trust
- Early Years - A whole setting approach
- Success Stories
- Local Offer Updates
- PODS - Key Updates
- IASS - An Overview
- SIS resources library
- Upcoming events

## *Welcome!*

Welcome to our 4th 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.



**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)



# SEND PARENT/CARER

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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.aetraininghubs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/AET\\_working\\_together\\_with\\_childs\\_school.pdf](http://www.aetraininghubs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/AET_working_together_with_childs_school.pdf)





## *Early Years: A whole setting approach to SEND*

Telford & Wrekin SEND have been successfully accepted to work alongside NASEN to Improve and develop a whole setting approach to SEND with early years settings. During the first week in July a workshop style event that included early year's settings, professionals and support services all contributed to an Action Learning Session and developed an Action Plan to follow looking at the following outcomes:

- Raise awareness of the partnerships that we develop for Early Years.
- Raise awareness and understanding of SEND in the Early Years.
- Explore how Early Years settings can provide a whole setting approach to SEND.
- Look at how Early Years settings can approach SEN and Disability collaboratively.
- Development of a local Action Plan.
- Improve inclusive practice within settings to improve access and outcome for children with SEND.

This event will be followed up by some training for Early Years Settings in the autumn and will continue to improve services along with the Early Year Providers in the area. So keep a lookout for more information over the next few months.



## *Health Visiting Service Single Point of Access*

The Health Visiting Service now has one single contact number, further details available through the following link :

[www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/health-visiting](http://www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/health-visiting)

## 😊 Success Stories 😊

# Congratulations!



Huge congratulations to Deepak Bhakar who has just completed his first year in Business at Keele University and to his brother Sunil who has just achieved a First Class Degree in Human Biology and Biochemistry. Both boys were diagnosed with a life threatening heart condition as well as having profound deafness. They were fitted with cochlear implants as pre-schoolers and supported by SIS from the point of diagnosis as newborns.

This is the most incredible result and a testimony to the huge efforts of both boys to overcome enormous physical and linguistic challenges!

The boys attended Wrockwardine Infant and Junior Schools and then Idsall before progressing to New College. At every stage, they were supported by dedicated staff in the service and settings and their parents offered the encouragement to keep believing that everything was possible despite the many hurdles crossed along the way!

Thank you to all who worked so hard and gave of their time so generously to the family! Thanks are also due to the Shropshire Deaf Children's Society for making all of the social activities possible which inspired confidence and self-belief and to the multi-disciplinary teams who worked so hard to present solutions to the many challenges. This was the key to the success of both boys! We hope Sunil will come and speak at the SIS conference this year to inspire the many profoundly deaf children and young people following in his footsteps!



## 😊 Success Stories 😊

An inspiring story... We can't always name all the children that the SEND Team work with but sometimes we like to share a little bit about their story. A few years ago we met a little boy who was given an EHCP, his parents were determined that he would go to a mainstream school. He started out at the Bridge Nursery and progressed into Haughton School at each of his Annual Reviews that aim of attending Mainstream was never forgotten, this was soon achieved and he started to attend a mainstream school. At his recent Annual Review even more good news was received as the school have recommended that his supported hours be reduced. A big Thank You goes out to everyone who inspires and supports all the children in Telford & Wrekin to help them achieve!

Also..... A **BIG** Congratulations to Corey Clark who has achieved the most improved student for creative studies at Telford College!



## Key updates

### SEND Local Offer

Parents and Carers have notified the ican2 providers that the information pages on the Local Offer should be easier to find and more prominent on the homepage. To help with this issue we have added a homepage banner button for ican2 short breaks. A “Newsletters” icon has also been added to the top section of Local Offer homepage, please take a look via the link below:

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

The following information pages have been recently added created/updated for the Local Offer:

[Specialist Provision Hubs](#)

[SEN Support](#)

[SEND Strategy](#)

[Telford & Wrekin LA is an Autism Education Trust \(AET\) Hub](#)

[What is a Designated Clinical Officer?](#)

If you provide services or run events for the SEND Community, please contact us if you would like to add them to the website.

Email: [localoffer@telford.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@telford.gov.uk)



## *Parents Opening Doors (PODS) Parent Carer Forum*

"A message from Jayne Stevens, Participation Co-ordinator of PODS Parent Carer Forum":

PODS Parent Carer Forum represents families at a strategic level across all areas of SEND and feeds in the views and experiences of the wider parent carer community across Telford and Wrekin and this is called "Parent Participation".

"Parent Participation is when parent carers and professionals work together, recognising each other's knowledge, to make informed decisions about services that make the best use of resources"

- We work with all key areas – across Health, Social Care and Education – with health and LA partners, and also the voluntary sector partners.
- We work with service leads and share collective views.
- We work with commissioners to develop and design services, pathways and processes to improve outcomes for our children and young people.
- We shape and support improvement to practices and services focusing on person-centred processes where possible.
- We influence policy and strategic direction.

This means that services can better meet the needs of families with children & young people with disabilities and additional needs so resources are not wasted on services which parents and families do not take up.

Effective parent participation happens when parents have conversations with and work alongside professionals, in order to co design, develop and improve services.

Working with parents and carers helps professionals to understand what needs to happen to develop services that meet families' needs and also helps parents and carers understand the complexity involved and the challenges faced by the professionals who have to bring about that change. Working together and sharing knowledge enables parents and professionals to find solutions that work.

PODS strongly believe, along with other forums across England, that in order to have effective partnership working with the best outcomes you need the following: Good Information, Honest Consultation, Effective Participation, Co-production.

We provide weekly e-bulletins to all our members, with key information, invites to our family groups and activities, opportunities to get involved and have your voice heard alongside fellow parent carers and their families. We work throughout the holidays and can be contacted in a number of ways:

Telephone: 01952 271532 or email: [info@podstelford.org](mailto:info@podstelford.org) or visit our website [www.podstelford.org](http://www.podstelford.org) where there is a 'JOIN US' option and also a 'CONTACT US' option.

You can find out more information about us from our website [www.podstelford.org](http://www.podstelford.org).

Thank you and Best Regards  
**Jayne Stevens BA Hons**  
**Participation Co-ordinator**

## 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.

**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.**

## 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.

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





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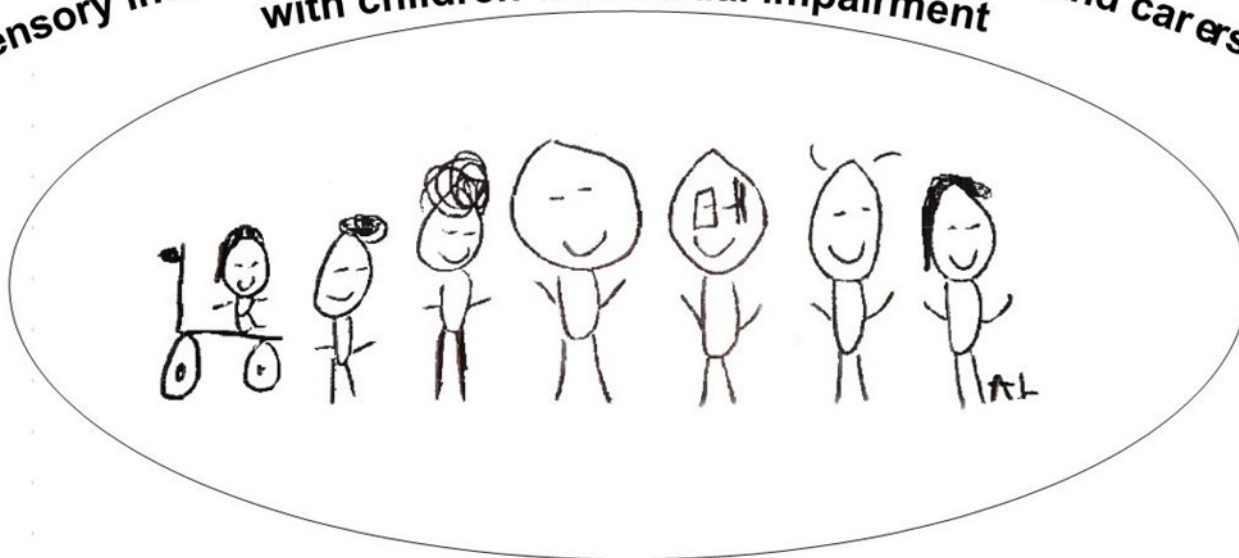


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**Sensory Inclusion Service resources library for parents and carers  
with children with visual impairment**



## Catalogue

The Sensory Inclusion Service (VI) resources library has been set up for the use of parents/carers of children and young people with visual impairment.

Toys and equipment are available to loan for a period of 3 weeks and will need to be collected from and returned to the Sensory Inclusion Service at Darby House, Lawn Central, Telford TF3 4JA.

Please have a look through the catalogue (attached alongside this newsletter) and if there is something of interest please contact

**Jo Adcock**

**01952 382314 or 07773 534390**

## Post 16 Information Event

### What is the event for?

Post 16 Education and Training providers will be all together under one roof for one night, which makes this a great event for finding out more about what opportunities will be available and the support that they provide post 16.

This is a drop in event and you can arrive at any time between 6.00pm and 8.00pm

As well as post 16 Education and Training providers, there will also be those who can provide support, information and guidance about any questions you might have about your son or daughter moving on from school. Organisations that can support young adults into work after they have completed a college course and/or training will also be attending.

This is for pupils in years 9, 10 and 11 attending Queensway North and Southall and for year 11 pupils in mainstream schools.

### Where and When?

**Date: 2nd October 2019**

**Time: 6.00pm - 8.00pm**

**Where: Southall School Sports Hall**

If you would like to discuss this further please contact:

Karen Carter (Future Focus Careers Advisor) on 07976 100547



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## Shout Out for SEND (SOS)

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019

2pm – 4pm

Ages – 11 - 25



Telford & Wrekin in partnership with the Information Advice and Support Service (IASS) have created a young people with SEND group, to ensure that you have the chance to have your voice heard and influence decisions in Telford and Wrekin and IASS.

### We are always looking for new attendees!

If you are thinking of joining our group, please do get in touch and give this session a try.

We are planning on having a fun activity session, as well as discussing what support you can get in school/college. We will be electing a chair and discussing what this role involves.

You can bring a family member or friend with you if you don't want to come alone.

See you soon 😊

**Telford Town Park Visitor Centre**

Hinkshay Rd

Telford

TF3 4EP

To confirm your attendance, please contact IASS on:

**01952 457 176**

or email: [info@iass.org.uk](mailto:info@iass.org.uk)



Telford & Wrekin  
CVS  
Involving, Inspiring, Supporting



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# SEND PARENT/CARER

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## Shout Out for SEND (SOS)

Have your say through our Facebook Group



Are you a young person in Telford and Wrekin who would like to have a say on how SEND services are developed?

We have a meeting in every school holiday, however if you don't want or cannot come then you can still have your say by joining our Facebook group!

If you would like to join our Facebook Group, please follow the points below:

- 1) Go to "Groups" in Facebook
- 2) Search for "Shout out for SEND"
- 3) Request to "add group"

It will ask you a few questions before agreeing for you to join the group. Don't worry this information only goes to the admin of the group!

**What will you get for joining?**

**An opportunity to feedback on SEND services**

**Know when the next meetings are planned**

**Meet or talk to new friends**

**Website / leaflet development**

For more information, please contact IASS on:

**01952 457 176**

or email: [info@iass.org.uk](mailto:info@iass.org.uk)



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Face 2 Face  
Parents supporting Parents  
of disabled children

PARENTS  
OPENING  
DOORS  
PARENT CARER FORUM



PODS  
BIGGEST  
EVER

Mobiloo  
available  
throughout  
the day

OPEN TO  
EVERYONE

Picnic  
IN THE Park

**MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019**  
10AM-4PM AT ADMASTON HOUSE, ADMASTON, TF5 0BN  
part of a celebration of Telford's Community

Lots of **FUN** activities, workshops & attractions  
including a Gaming Van | Quad Bikes | Bouncy Castle | Go Karts | Science  
Workshops | Bubble Football | Glitter Tattoos | The Owl Man

**PICNIC LUNCHES, ICE LOLLIES & CAKES FOR SALE**

Come along and join in the fun, which is made possible thanks to  
Telford & Wrekin Council's Community Events Grant.

*This is going to be our **Biggest Picnic In the Park** to date, we have a wide variety of activities and events planned, with something for everyone. We are looking forward to bringing our community together for a truly inclusive fun day. A huge thanks to all our volunteers who have helped make the day possible and to the Council for the funding.*

Elaine Pearce  
Event organiser

Please park in the car park opposite Admaston House  
Company/Charity number: 1150871



## *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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## Ican2 Short Breaks

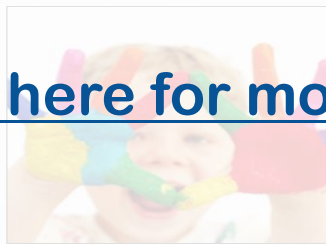
Short breaks provide invaluable support for disabled children, young people and their families. While children are given opportunities to become more independent, have fun, enjoy new experiences, form friendships with their peers; their families are able to take time out to recharge their batteries.

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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# SEND PARENT/CARER

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# What next?

Waiting for exam results?  
Worried or unsure about  
future choices?

24/7 access to self-help materials and  
daily online counselling available  
over the summer holiday



Chat to friendly  
counsellors  
365 days a year



Read self-help  
articles written by  
other young people



Join  
peer-to-peer  
support forums

Visit [kooth.com](http://kooth.com) to sign up for free today



# Changing schools can be exciting and stressful

24/7 access to self-help materials and  
daily online counselling available  
over the summer holiday



Chat to friendly  
counsellors  
365 days a year



Read self-help  
articles written by  
other young people



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Visit [kooth.com](http://kooth.com) to sign up for free today



# Home & Away

24/7 access to self-help materials and  
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Chat to friendly  
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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)

### 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.

