

## **Sensory Inclusion Service information for families re Support during Covid19 situation**

**03/04/2020**

### **General Notes**

SIS hope that you are all well and following the national guidance. We are now at the end of the second full week of the `stay at home` situation as a result of the Covid -19 situation. A brief update from SIS as we enter the Easter break.

### **New referrals / Appointments**

We have agreed with both ENT and Ophthalmology how new referrals will be processed and they have drawn up guidelines on how this will work. If you are in this situation then the relevant department will tell you how they are going to proceed. If a child is referred to SIS we will support you as best we can, given the current limitations we have around physical contact. The situation around other appointments and equipment is unchanged and was in the last update. If you have any particular issues regarding your child`s hearing or vision the first point of contact is your Teacher of the Deaf or QTVI who may be able to signpost you in terms of actions to take.

### **Contact with families**

The team are continuing to make contact with all our carers of hearing aid wearers (that includes CI / Ponto/ BAHA) and teachers of the visually impaired are doing the same. I hope that by the end of this week we have made contact with the majority of you.

We have now agreed a more interactive way of keeping in touch with families after this break. This has been approved by the Service Delivery Manager for SEND and the Information Governance team. It`s vital for us that even during these exceptional circumstances we continue to protect your data in line within national guidelines. Individual support teachers may discuss this with you after the break

### **Easter Break**

We are planning to work in terms of cover over the Easter Break as we have done in the past. The teaching staff are on leave as are others in the support team on occasions. Graham Groves will be on duty the first week and Theresa Robinson the second. Usually we give out the office number for **emergency** issues. This is now however more complex so for this break please email any **emergency** enquiries to:

[Graham.groves@telford.gov.uk](mailto:Graham.groves@telford.gov.uk) (First week)

[Theresa.Robinson@telford.gov.uk](mailto:Theresa.Robinson@telford.gov.uk) (Second week)

### **Resources and Links**

For those of school age individual schools may have sent work for the children to do. After the break if you need support with these please contact your relevant support teacher. They are also likely to offer you a range of other materials that we collecting for working at home with children. There are however a number of national organisations that you can link into. They have a host of information and NDCS and RNIB are organisations we would recommend as a starting point.

## NDCS

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/blog/coronavirus-and-support-for-deaf-children-information-for-families/>

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/language-and-communication/supporting-your-childs-learning/>

## RNIB

The RNIB Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) team in their Sight Loss Advice Service are available to support with advice and information, so please call them on 0303 123 9999 or email [cypf@rnib.org.uk](mailto:cypf@rnib.org.uk).

Note on Book share from RNIB:

`RNIB Bookshare ([www.rnibbookshare.org](http://www.rnibbookshare.org)). If you have a child who has a print disability that affects their reading RNIB Bookshare can help with access to nearly half a million curriculum and leisure titles in accessible formats at all educational levels. If your child does not already have access to this service through their school, we don't want any child to miss out on the books and resources they need whilst they are having to learn at home. Please email us proof of their disability along with your name and your contact details and we will make sure they get access to the services for titles they need. Contact us at [Bookshare@rnib.org.uk](mailto:Bookshare@rnib.org.uk) or tel. 0300 3038313`

Your QTVI will be able to offer advice on this:

## **Local Offer**

Please ensure that you look at the local offers for Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire

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

[Local.Offer@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Local.Offer@shropshire.gov.uk)

There are also a number of videos that are going to be posted that deal with hearing aid management

We hope you all have good Easter break – stay safe and well

Graham Groves / Theresa Robinson

Joint Team Leaders – Sensory inclusion Service

