

SEND 0-25



Telford & Wrekin
COUNCIL



Newsflash

End of Term 2020

Update from SEND Service Delivery Manager – Simon Wellman

Dear Colleagues,

The end of term is here and well, what a strange one it is! We definitely did not know what the year had in store for us back in September 2019! Many, many thanks for your sterling work, as always, but particularly over the last few months. Your response to the various demands over recent weeks and support provided to children and their families has been truly exceptional. Thank you to you all for going the extra mile!

My thanks to our colleagues in the local authority who are leaving us at the end of term, Fiona Davidson from SIS and Wendy Gregory from LSAT. Both have provided many years of dedicated service to Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire's children and young people! I am pleased to let you know that we have successfully recruited into a number of positions. Claire McGuiggan will be joining us as Principal Educational Psychologist in October (Karen Grandison is still here until the end of October half term) and we have Linda Webb, a qualified teacher of the Visually Impaired, joining the Sensory Inclusion Service.

I am sure the autumn term will bring us fresh challenges but I know we have the resilience, expertise and knowledge to handle whatever is to come. I am proud to lead a service that is so committed to children and young people with SEND and to work with such a dedicated workforce in our nurseries, schools and colleges. We are very lucky to have strong partnership working in Telford and Wrekin.

Yesterday it was announced that I will undertake the role of interim Director role for Education and Skills from September. This is a role that I am very much looking forward to. With regard to cover for the SDM SEND position I will update in due course.

So there is a lot going on and plenty for us to do! For now though it is definitely time to have a rest and enjoy the holiday season.

Very best wishes to you and your families.

Simon

[DfE briefing: Supporting children and young people with SEND as schools and colleges prepare for full opening](#)

Yesterday a briefing was delivered by a SEND DfE adviser to local authorities about the recent guidance that has been issued on full opening. Information from the various documents were pulled together to promote key messages about planning support for children and young people with SEND. The briefing has been provided as an attachment to this newsletter.

SEND Fair Share Fund for Mainstream Schools 20/21

SEND Fair Share Fund for Mainstream Schools 20/21

'Fair share' of children with SEND across our mainstream schools is a local priority area for action. Fair share would assume that the distribution of pupils with SEND across schools is proportionate to the same proxy indicators that are used to generate the notional budget for SEND however data, shared with the school community, shows that some settings have disproportionately high numbers of pupils with SEND. Those schools report financial difficulties, given the support costs required are substantially higher than their allocated notional SEN budget. Longer term, work on creating a fairer share of pupils will create more balance in pupil numbers across schools but based on the current profile there is a need to release additional high need funding for SEND to those mainstream schools with disproportionate numbers.

The SEND Fair Share Fund for Mainstream Schools 20/21 has an allocated budget of £200K. This is double the allocation of a similar scheme from previous years and represents the ambition that mainstream schools are enabled and have the resilience to support increasing complexity of children's needs. The fund is split into two parts; Part A is determined through a generic formula and Part B is through a request process. To qualify for Part B you must have received funding from Part A, unless exceptional circumstances apply.



Details about schools that are eligible are provided alongside this newsletter. Funding is allocated in two tranches. Schools who qualify for PART A support in the summer term will be notified by 31st July 2020. Schools that qualify for support in the autumn and spring term will be notified by 30th September 2020.

Applications for PART B funding should be made as soon as possible and preferably before 31st October 2020.

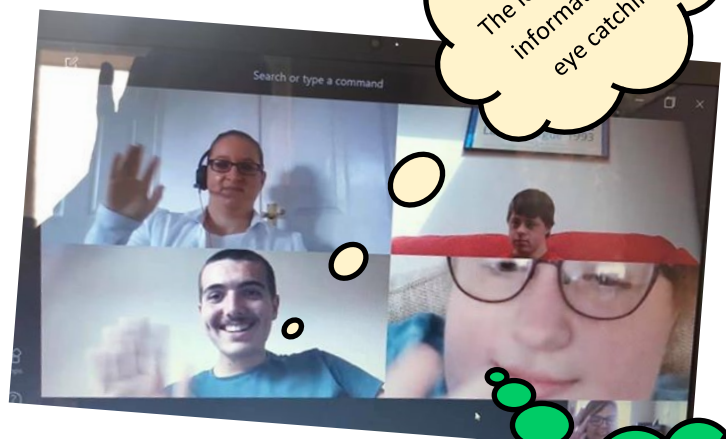
The SEND Fair Share Fund for Mainstream Schools will be reviewed on at least an annual basis and its renewal into future financial years will be dependent on the availability of budget within the high need block. Criteria is subject to change at any point.

Celebrating Success

We are sure you will agree with us that this year has set everyone some unique challenges! Over the next few pages we would like to share some personal stories of how young people, parents, carers and the SEND Teams have adapted in order to succeed.

These range from the Sensory Inclusion Service who have been able to create an innovative way to help young people during the transition to their new schools, and the Portage Service who have supported parents and children in creative ways.

Over the past few months the [SOS \(Shout Out for SEND\) Group](#) (young persons focus group) have met “virtually” every two weeks on Microsoft Teams. During these meetings they have shared their experience of education and virtual learning. They have discussed how to make the front page of the EHC plan more young people friendly, sharing their creativity and design ideas. During the most recent Virtual Group, we discussed the new [Independent Travel Training](#) leaflet, reviewed the new whiteboard animation and looked at the web pages on the Local Offer. The group provided valuable feedback and were very positive about the new ITT information and are excited to see the finished animation when its complete.



The leaflet (ITT) is informative and eye catching

The ITT Web page is easy to read and understand.

Good News stories and successes from the Sensory Inclusion Service

[SIS VI Newsletter](#)

Portage Stories from Lockdown

Since the last update, the portage home visitors (PHV's) have continued to support families on their caseload through a variety of means and more recently through Microsoft Teams.

Interactive virtual home visits are now taking place and PHV's are dropping off laminated resources (under strict guidelines). This support has been well received by the families.

Some of the children have started to transition back into nursery, and again the PHV's have offered support with this and supplied resources where appropriate (laminated).

"We have really appreciated the continued weekly support over lockdown. It has been great to have someone to share Emma's triumphs with and our PHV is a great sounding board for any problems we're having. I have found our weekly chats really helpful and the activities have helped us structure some play/learning with Emma".

"The tasks set week by week really showed us Lucy's hidden capabilities, from feeding dollies to drawing circles."

"Portage has allowed us to have care and support that was otherwise cut off due to lockdown. "

"As much as they enjoy their time at home, they have liked getting back to some kind of a routine, and being back with their friends and Teachers. We have been kept very informed and up to date from both Nursery and School too".

The team will continue to work and support the children and families over the summer break and are always ready to offer support to settings.

If you wish to contact us please email portage@telford.gov.uk



"We were concerned about our daughter regressing without her weekly direct therapies. However, with our Portage Home Visitors' advice and support, we've been undertaking activities at home and our daughter has made great progress!"

SEND Team: Farewells

Farewell from the SIS Team

At the end of this term we will sadly be saying goodbye to Fiona Davidson as she will be retiring after 27 years with the Sensory Inclusion Service as a Qualified Teacher for the Visually Impaired. Fiona has a wealth of experience in providing advice and support to meet visual needs and promote positive outcomes for children and young people. She has a particular interest in working with secondary and FE students and she has constantly 'gone the extra mile' for these students and their families. Fiona has exceptional expertise in the teaching of braille which has been highly valued by the team over the years. She has also had a pivotal role in promoting close working relationships with NHS professionals for example through low vision aid clinics and visual assessment clinics.

Fiona is a very kind and caring person and she has always taken a personal interest in the wellbeing of her colleagues which we have all greatly appreciated.

We wish you all the best Fiona and we will miss you!



Farewell from the LSAT Team...

At the end of this term we will sadly be saying goodbye and good luck to Wendy Gregory as she is retiring. Wendy joined the LSAT team in 2007 and has been a credit to Telford and Wrekin in terms of the support she has been able to offer schools within the authority. Wendy has built very strong relationships with the schools she has worked with and I already know she will be missed. Wendy is passionate about providing teachers with the knowledge and confidence they need to ensure excellent provision for all children, and I know she has been at hand to listen and support Headteachers, SENCOs, teachers, parents and children. Wendy has been an asset to the team, with her passion for effective dyslexia education and in bringing mathematics support for SEN to the forefront with the Numicon: Breaking Barriers programme. I believe Wendy will be enjoying her retirement; bike-riding, overseeing the farm and spending time with her family, both here and overseas.

We wish her well.



SEND Team: Farewells

Mark Wadhams - Joint SEND Team Lead

Whilst Mark will not be leaving us, from the end of term he will relinquish the role of SEND team lead. Mark has supported the SEND team over the last 3 years and engaged in various projects. Most recently he led the live annual review pilot which has been a big success. I know colleagues in schools and settings welcome his warm approach and will want me to thank him for his time in this role. Mark will remain as a SEND officer, part time, and is looking forward to semi-retirement.



I am delighted to let you know that **Natalie Bevan** will take over as full-time SEND team lead.



Resources to support Parent, Carers, Young People, Schools & Settings: Moving Beyond Lockdown

The Local Offer resources have been updated to reflect the changes that are now taking place. The resources have been reorganised and new information added to provide support and guidance for parents/carers, young people, schools & settings. Links to support mental health & wellbeing, resources to aid transitions, support for 'Going Back to School' and more.

[Moving Beyond Lockdown](#)
[Resources for Parents, Carers, Young People](#)
[Schools, Settings & Professionals](#)

Thinking of requesting an EHC assessment?

Please call the SEND team.

Over recent months you have spoken to the SEND team before starting an EHC assessment for a child or young person. In many cases this has enabled us to provide alternative ways of supporting need through flexible use of ISF funding. This has often meant that provision for children has been put in place quickly. We will continue with this approach as we move into the Autumn Term. The SEND team respectfully request that no EHC assessments are submitted before the new academic year.

Thank you for your continued support.



thank
you!

Tips on Transition

Talking about transition, particularly in the current climate where we are adjusting to a new normal, may create some anxiety. This coping skills wheel is a visual tool for children to help them with independent management of anxiety and self-care. Activities have been suggested as prompts for your child during moments of difficulty, but we have also left space for children to fill in their own activities which they know support their wellbeing. This may be a great thing to use if children are worrying about transition.





SEND 0-25 Newsflash

End of Term 2020

Annual Reviews: Early Alert — please start planning now

As you are aware, we are working to provide all settings with accurate lists each term detailing dates when we require annual reviews to be completed by. There are however some key annual reviews that require completing in the Autumn Term to link annual reviews with the phase transition process.

As you know we have some statutory dates by which we need to finalise EHC plans with a named September placement where a child/young person is moving between phases:

15th February 2021 for any child going into reception, year 3 (where there is movement between an infant school to a separate junior school only) and Year 7 in September 2021

31st March 2021 for young people entering post 16 provision in September 2021

We therefore require annual reviews for the following year groups to be completed during the Autumn Term, please do stagger the reviews throughout the term. The final deadline for these annual reviews to be received by the SEND Team is detailed below:

Year Groups	Please send completed annual reviews
Nursery year (aged 3 since 1 st September	13 th November 2020
Year 2 pupils (infant school only)	23 rd October 2020
All Year 6 pupils	13 th November 2020
All Year 11 pupils	18 th December 2020

We understand that in some circumstances, a full year may not have passed since the last annual review for children in these year groups but their completion is still required by the specified dates.

The annual reviews of all other year groups should occur within 12 months of their previous annual review.

Coming Soon... Voices Project

Something to look forward to in September is the start of the Coproduction project ,Voices. The Coproduction project is a collaboration between Local Authority SEND, Parent Carer Forum (PODs) and Health. It will involve young people, parents/carers, health, social care, education and schools to share their experiences, work together and look at how the five principles of coproduction can be further strengthened. Schools and settings will be able to share their thoughts and feedback into the project.

Voices is organised and facilitated by [Genuine Partnerships](#) who are a skilled and experienced team of parent carers, service practitioners and young people working with the national organisation Contact.

WELCOME AND CARE

VALUE AND INCLUDE

COMMUNICATE

WORK IN PARTNERSHIP

Developing and nurturing
each of these to build

TRUST

Welcome and Care is important as it helps people to feel like they have a happy and secure environment, it nurtures confidence, wellbeing and self-esteem and builds a supported community where people can have their voices heard and valued.

Value and Include involves people in the development of policies, systems and values, it enables having a 'can do' approach and makes sure that staff have the right skills and understanding to share information effectively and enabling people to be creative and flexible to respond to individual needs.

Communicate this means opening effective, clear and honest communication channels. It includes asking for views and involvement, being available to talk when people need to and listening calmly and respectfully.

Working in partnership helps us to encourage participation, it shows that we value everyone's participation as equal partners and enables us to work together to develop plans and create and deliver programs.

The Voices project in Telford & Wrekin will build on the good practice that is already happening in our area. There will be opportunities for everyone to be involved and contribute their stories that will contribute to a strong and resilient coproduced Action Plan.

Keep a lookout in the new term for how your school or setting can be involved.

POEM: Lockdown Star

The year was 2020 when Corona came to town.
We all needed protecting so in March began lockdown.

You played at home, you tried to learn, you crafted, baked and read.
And every morning Joe Wicks popped up to bounce you out of bed.

You clapped for the keyworkers,
You banged your pots and pans.
You painted lots of rainbows and you
ALWAYS WASHED YOUR HANDS.
You missed your friends and family

Whilst we were all afar.
In the year of 2020 you have been our
LOCKDOWN STAR.





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.

