



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Telford & Wrekin Local Offer 



Newsletter



SEND Newsletter

March 2022

**Discover all the current news and information
about Special Educational Needs and Disability in
Telford & Wrekin.**

Welcome from the Service Delivery Manager

Welcome to the March SEND Newsletter, I hope that everyone has been enjoying the sunny weather and I am sure you are hoping for it to continue into the Easter Holidays!

I am sure many of you will have seen the SEND Newsflash from the Department for Education, the Government's SEND and alternative provision green paper was published on Tuesday 29 March 2022. This paper sets out a vision for SEND and a system that will introduce new standards in the quality of support for children and young people. The paper is now out for public consultation and I would like to encourage schools and education settings to take this opportunity to share their views and shape how the new system will work in the future, please do take a look at the full article for more information.

In Telford & Wrekin we truly believe that families lived experience is key to developing services, therefore we have been developing ways that families can share their experiences and feedback. The starting point for this project is a refresh of the Education Health and Care Needs Assessment Feedback Form, please can we request that you encourage families to complete the feedback form and return to the service so we can continue to make improvements. We would also be happy to receive feedback from schools and settings around the process. Please can we also politely request that you encourage families that have recently had an Annual Review to complete the Annual Review Feedback Form, this is available to complete online. Further information on this project will continue to be shared over the next few months as we continue to look at how families can be involved working together to develop and improve SEND services.

The Emotional Health and Wellbeing Panel Review is still underway, at this time there is currently a waiting list for the Panel, SEND services and Health partners are working to resolve this and are currently 'triaging' Panel referrals to ensure they are reviewed by specialist clinicians and directed to the appropriate pathway . We will be in contact with all schools who have open referrals to the Panel to advise of the next steps very soon.

Developments on the SEND Local Offer this month have included updates to the Travel Assistance section, the pages have been redeveloped with all the information related to transport now located in one section. It details the eligibility criteria, links to the transport policies, independent travel training which now includes a new whiteboard animation voiced over by the SOS Group, FAQ's and more.

Upcoming training opportunities include, the offer from The Autism Education Trust Post 16 and Telford & Wrekin Educational Psychology Service who are pleased to announce a free training session for all Post 16 Providers on Leading Good Autism Practice, please take a look at the article to find out more information and how to book your place.

Finally, please can I encourage all schools and settings to take a look at the Whole School SEND website. Whole School SEND are a consortium of charities, schools and organisations who are committed to helping children reach their full potential. On the website are resources and publications to support SEND in schools, information on SEND Reviews and access to Forums that provide advice and support, please do take a look.

Best Wishes,

Natalie

SEND Newsflash

SEND and Alternative Provision Green Paper

The Government's SEND and alternative provision green paper has been published (Tuesday 29 March), it sets out a vision for a single, national SEND and alternative provision (AP) system that will introduce new standards in the quality of support given to children across education, health and care.

You can access a copy of the Green Paper on gov.uk

[SEND and Alternative Provision Green Paper](#)

Alongside the Green paper is:

- A dedicated SEND Review website with further information about the consultation and upcoming events: <https://sendreview.campaign.gov.uk/>
- Supporting resources on gov.uk to help understand the green paper: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-and-ap-green-paper-responding-to-the-consultation>
- A press release on gov.uk: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ambitious-reform-for-children-and-young-people-with-send>
- A series of social media graphics across DfE social media channels, including [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

The ambitious green paper is the result of the SEND Review, commissioned to improve an inconsistent, process-heavy and increasingly adversarial system that too often leaves parents facing difficulties and delays accessing the right support for their child.

The plans to reform the system will be open for a 13-week public consultation, giving families frustrated by the existing, complicated and bureaucratic system of support the opportunity to shape how a new system will work in the future - and give them confidence that their local school will meet their children's needs so they can achieve their full potential.

Capital funding allocations worth £1.4 billion have also been published today at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-needs-provision-capital-allocations>. This funding is for councils to pay for new places and improve existing provision for children and young people with SEND, or those who will benefit from high-quality AP. This funding will help stabilise local systems ahead of any further legislation from the green paper proposals.

The Government will also look to approve up to 40 new special and AP free schools in regions where they are most needed. This is in addition to over 60 special and AP free schools already in the pipeline.

Low-income families with seriously ill or disabled children will be further supported through investment of £27.3 million next year. This funding will help pay for equipment, goods or services - from washing machines and fridges to sensory and educational equipment that they might not otherwise be able to afford.

Over £10 million will also be invested to train over 200 more educational psychologists from September 2023, to give advice and input into EHCP assessments, advise schools on how to support pupils with SEND and offer wider wellbeing support to them, their families and teachers.

Whole School SEND

Whole School SEND are a consortium of charities, schools and organisations. They are committed to helping children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities or learning differences reach their full potential.

On the website there are resources and publications to support SEND in schools, information on SEND Reviews and access to SEND Forums that provide advice and support, please take a look to find out more.

[Whole School SEND](#)

Your Views Matter

Annual Review Feedback

A short feedback form is available to complete at the end of each Annual Review.

[Annual Review Feedback Form](#)

Shout Out for SEND

Young Persons Forum

Shout Out for SEND (SOS) is a group of 11-25 year olds who meet every month to ensure they have the chance to have their voice heard and to influence the decisions in Telford & Wrekin SEND and the Information Advice and Support Service (IASS service).

The SOS group met up during February, face-to-face, and Sarah from the Telford Youth Forum came along with a video of the candidates for the Youth Parliament and the SOS Group had the opportunity to vote and put their paper in an official ballot box. The group shared how great this was, as they had never done an official ballot before!

The next **Shout Out for SEND Group** is on:

- **Tuesday 12 April 2022**
2-4pm
Hazledine House

To find out more information you can call Telford & Wrekin SENDIASS on 01952 457176 or email info@iass.org.uk.

Shout Out for SEND on Facebook: You can find out more about the group by joining the [SOS Facebook page](#).

Search for [Shout Out for SEND on Facebook](#) and request to 'Join Group' (young people will need to be over the age of 13 to access this Facebook Group). Please can we request that this information is shared with any students who may be interested.

[SOS Group - SEND Local Offer](#)

SEND Local Offer

Travel Assistance

A new section has been updated on the SEND Local Offer that collects together information on Transport Assistance in one place, please take a look. This section is still undergoing development and we would love to hear your feedback.

[SEND Local Offer - Travel Assistance](#)

[SEND Local Offer Feedback](#)

SEND Activities & Events

The Activities & Events page is a quick and easy place for families to see what is going on in their community. Take look at the pages below to find art, dance, drama, music, clubs & activities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

[SEND Local Offer - Activities & Events](#)

How to add or update your activity details

Do you provide a service for children & young people with special educational needs and disabilities, please complete the form (available to download) below or contact us at localoffer@telford.gov.uk to add your service to the directory.

[Download: SEND Local Offer – Activities & Events](#)

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



Updates & Guidance

Thinking of requesting an EHC assessment?

If you are thinking of requesting a new EHC needs assessment we are asking that all educational settings first discuss these with your allocated SEND officer before starting an application. They will work with you to discuss how best to get SEND support and provision in place for children and young people.

Thank you for your support.

[SEND Officer and Locality Contact Details](#)

Accessibility Reminders

The Council is required under the Equality Act 2010 to have an accessibility strategy in which it promotes better access for disabled pupils at school.

All schools should have due regard to this Accessibility Strategy and use it to inform their Accessibility Plan that shows how, over time, access to education for disabled pupils will be improved. Schools must publish their Accessibility Plan with links to their SEN Information report on the Local Offer.

Schools are also required to pre-emptively consider accessibility of their site in relation to parents, contractors and other site visitors under their public sector Equality Duty of reasonable adjustment

[SEND Local Offer – Accessibility Strategy](#)

Message from Shropcom – Advice Line

Please can we remind all schools and educational settings to use the Advice Line for Shropcom prior to making a referral to OT (Occupational Therapy) or SALT (Speech and Language Therapy). The advice line provides a triage service for referrals, including answering enquiries during your call.

[Children's Occupational Therapy](#)

Advice Line Tel: 01743 450800 E-mail: shropcom.OT4kids@nhs.net

[Children's Speech and Language Therapy](#)

Early Years

Early Years Inclusion Panel

The Early Years Inclusion Funding Panel is a meeting of Local Authority and Health Professionals including Advisory Teachers, Speech and Language Therapists and Portage Home Visitors who have expertise in special educational needs within the Early Years. It has been developed for all Early Years settings in Telford and Wrekin in order for them to access additional funding to support children who attend their settings with special educational needs.

[Local Offer: Early Years Inclusion Panel](#)

Early Years and Childcare Training

To find out more about the Early Years SENCo Network Meeting and the training provided, please take a look at the Talking Training webpage for more information.

[Telford & Wrekin – Talking Training](#)

Schools

Inclusive School Forum (ISF)

The Inclusive School Forum is a school led forum within Telford and Wrekin that provides support and challenge to mainstream schools regarding the provision and practice they deliver for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). It aims to provide an opportunity to network and deliver peer to peer guidance. The focus is, through sharing best practice, to develop an inclusive education system within Telford and Wrekin whereby children with increasingly complex needs achieve and succeed within mainstream schools.

[Find out more](#)

Emotional Health & Wellbeing Panel

The Emotional Health and Wellbeing Panel (EHWP) aims to support schools and young people, by providing advice to schools, to signpost services and to ensure the students with the appropriate level of need are referred to BeeU.

[Find out more](#)

Preparing for Adulthood

Autism Education Trust Post 16 Leading Good Autism Practice

Telford & Wrekin Educational Psychology Service and the Autism Education Trust are providing a **Free** training session for Post 16 providers.

- **Thursday 28 April 2022**
9am - 4pm
- **Friday 29 April 2022**
9am - 4pm

Our vision is that every college, sixth form, independent education/training/work-based learning provider and adult/community learning provider will have an Autism Lead. This should be a senior member of staff on the Senior Leadership Team or in a management role that can impact upon inclusion and will ensure effective policy development around autism. As part of the training, delegates will be supported to develop a plan of action,

drawing on the AET Post 16 Standards & Competency Frameworks, to identify areas of strength and for development.

Course tutor: Dr Jane Park
(Telford & Wrekin Specialist Practitioner EP for Post 16/PfA)

To book a place on this course please contact:

Email: cpdschoolimprovement@telford.gov.uk

Tel: 01952 380861

SEND Local Offer - Preparing for Adulthood

The Preparing for Adulthood section has been updated on the Local Offer with a new look and additional information, please take a look.

[Preparing for Adulthood](#)



Independent Living Centre

Telford and Wrekin's Independent Living Centre (ILC) is a purpose built environment to provide a 'showhome' with built in features to both physically and digitally promote independent living in your own home to reduce costs of care and support needs using modern technology and Assistive Equipment.

The ILC is here to be used by the whole community, please note some drop in's and the walk in availability may be effected by Covid Restrictions, staffing and/or busy periods, you can get further advice and information by calling the ILC on 01952 457181.

You can also access up to date information about the ILC in our Live Well directory.

[Website: Independent Living Centre](#)

[Website: Live Well Telford](#)

The ILC can support:

- To access ideas and equipment that can be used by those with physical or sensory needs,

- Advice and support about what care may mean for you or a family member now or in the future,
- Access to advice and support regarding community support,
- Booked appointments for Occupational Therapy Assessments

Independent Living Centre
3A, Hazeldine House,
Overdale
Telford
TF3 4JL

Telford 16-19 Website Post 16 Prospectus

The Telford 16 - 19 prospectus has information on the post 16 offer in Telford & Wrekin including almost 300 A - levels, BTECs and Apprenticeships across six schools and colleges, making Telford an inspirational hub for learning, opportunity and achievement.

[Telford 16-19 Website](#)

For more information please contact Future Focus by email: Future.focus@telford.gov.uk or, by phone: 01952 388988.

For young people with an EHC Plan, please take a look at the [guidance for young people applying for post 16 education \(with an EHCP\)](#).

Annual Health Checks

Annual health checks are for adults and young people aged 14 or over with a learning disability.

An annual health check gives people time to talk about anything that is worrying them and means they can get used to going to visit the doctor.

To help explain what is involved in an annual health check, a group of inspiring young people from Derwen College have created the following video to raise awareness of the importance of annual health checks.

The video is aimed to help young people with learning disabilities to understand the process of an annual health check in a simple, easy to understand format.

[Watch the video](#)

SEND Training Courses

Summer Term 2022

SEND Developing the Role of Teaching Assistants in Supporting SEND

- **Thursday 19 May 2022**
1.00pm-3.45pm

This course is for SENCOs and Teachers involved with deployment of support provided by teaching assistants.

- **Consider** and increase knowledge related to deployment, practice and preparedness of teaching assistants for their role.
- **Identify** approaches, techniques and factors to consider when undertaking an internal audit.
- **Undertake** an audit of current practice.
- **Reflect** on strengths and weaknesses in current TA roles, consider alternatives and develop learner independence.
- **Begin** to develop an action plan for improving and developing practice (maximising impact) and managing change.
- **Discuss** and collaborate with colleagues.
- **Relate** practice to research based evidence.

OFSTED links:

Leaders have a clear and ambitious vision for providing high-quality inclusive education and training to all. This is realised through strong, shared values, policies and practice.

Leaders focus on improving staff's subject, pedagogical and pedagogical content knowledge to enhance the teaching of the curriculum . The practice and subject knowledge of staff are built up and improve over time.

AIMS

- To engage in a process of review and performance improvement, identifying and building on existing good practice.
- To develop and undertake a rigorous school-based audit for self-evaluation.
- To develop a workable action plan.
- To identify a consistent, whole school approach to supporting pupils with SEND

Course Code: LSAT 507

To book a place on this course, please send a completed booking form by email to:
cpdschoolimprovement@telford.gov.uk

Telford Education Services

Supporting SEND in the Classroom for Early Career Teachers

- **Tuesday 5 April 2022**
9.15pm—12pm via Teams

This course is designed to support teachers in delivering quality first teaching to all children, including those with SEND. It will include strategies and practical techniques that can be used on a lesson by lesson basis.

Suitable for: Early Career Teachers, Newly Qualified Teachers and those returning to the profession after a break

Course Content

- Understanding barriers to learning and how to overcome them.
- The inclusive classroom: what this looks like and how to ensure you own classroom reflects this.
- Working with Teaching Assistants: effective deployment of additional adults to ensure optimal progress of pupils with SEND.
- Provision maps: an overview to look at provision maps for your own pupils

Outcomes:

- Delegates will be able to understand the needs of SEND in the classroom and how to support these needs effectively.
- Delegates will begin to develop an understanding of what is and is not SEND.
- Delegates will know the responsibilities of the class teacher in relation to SEND and how these are complemented by SENCOs and TAs.
- Delegates will be able to identify barriers to learning and know where to go for help in overcoming these.

To book a place on this course, please send a completed booking form by email to:
cpdschoolimprovement@telford.gov.uk

Welcome & Goodbye

Welcome to...

PfA SEND Officer
Jamie Goodall-Barber

Hello everyone and I am delighted to have recently been appointed as a SEN Officer in the post 16 team. I have joined Telford having worked for several local authorities where I have had the chance to work on projects with both OFSTED and the DfE and I am also a former headteacher and cannot wait to meet many of you soon!

Email: Jamie.Goodall-Barber@telford.gov.uk

SEND Quality Implementation Officer
Gwen Nutting

Hello, I am delighted to have been appointed in the Education and Skills team as SEND Quality Implementation Officer.

I am a qualified teacher, SENCo and qualified access arrangements assessor. I was also designated teacher for LAC in my former setting.

Having previously worked in Telford and Wrekin I am very pleased to return in my new role, supporting the SEND Team with quality assurance.

Email: gwen.nutting@telford.gov.uk

Goodbye to...

Graham Groves
Joint Team Lead - Sensory Inclusion Service

After 34 years, as a key member of the Sensory Inclusion Service, Graham Groves has taken the decision to retire. He's looking forward to embracing new challenges and opportunities, one of which is trip of a lifetime to South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe soon after he leaves the service.

He began working in Shropshire in 1988 and worked within a resource base in Shrewsbury before moving into the peripatetic service in 1991 where he supported children and young people in a variety of age groups in settings across the county. Following this, he undertook further training as an Educational Audiologist which led to close liaison with colleagues in Audiology and ENT. In the service, he is affectionately known as 'the baby man' due to his passion for early intervention and ensuring that families are well supported in the early years following the detection of hearing loss. He has represented SIS in various Leonardo projects in the EU to formulate a model of support that would strengthen what was on offer to CYP with hearing impairment across the European Union.

The joint working with Health, that he has been instrumental in developing, has acted as a template for many other services across England. He has acted as Joint team Leader of

SIS for 7 years and has had a key role in delivering SEND services across both Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin. His work has been greatly valued by colleagues in many professions.

It is with heavy hearts that we bid him 'farewell' (but not goodbye) as we know that with his passion for offering informed choice and supporting the needs of cyp with hearing loss will see him involved in the profession again!

Bon voyage Graham.

Early Help

Reducing parental Conflict Conference

Professionals from across the Early Help partnership came together for a 1 day face to face Reducing Parental Conflict conference held on 28.2.22 , we were pleased to hear from Honor Rhodes, OBE from the Tavistock clinic and Amity Relationship Solutions, with a tool kit provided for every attendee.

It was fantastic to have stalls provided by partners from PODS, SENDIASS, Beam and Kooth for them to showcase their services.

A video will be released of the conference and further training is being provided for RPC champions.

PODS Parent Carer Forum

PODS Referral Form

PODS have recently amended their referral process, professionals are now welcome to fill out the referral form to make the process easier. However, you are more than welcome to also contact them to discuss individual cases.

Download: [PODS Referral Form](#)

Contact Details:

Phone: 01952 458047 Email: support@podstelford.org

[PODS Website](#)

PODS Helpline

Supporting families with disabled/Additional need children aged 0-25 years

- Do you know a family in need of some guidance or information?
- Do you know a family who would like to access PODS Befriending service or maybe receive a call from one of their staff?

Please share the information and flyers below with your families.

Phone: 01952 458047

Email: support@podstelford.org

Calls will be answered between 10am-4pm Monday-Friday, outside these hours please leave a message.

Download: PODS Helpline Flyer

[Website: PODS Telford](#)

Family Groups and Befriender Groups

Available to download are the dates and times of the next family groups and befriender sessions for April, May, June and July.

[Download: Family Groups and Befriender Sessions April and May](#)

[Download: Family Groups and Befriender Sessions June and July](#)

All events available to book via the PODS Eventbrite page: select 'follow us' to be notified of any events as soon as they go 'live'.

Save the Dates!

Upcoming events include:

Thursday 2 June 2022 Jubilee Celebration Event

Monday 1 August 2022 Annual Picnic in the Park

[PODS Parent Carer Forum Events | Eventbrite](#)

Children's Autism Hub

The Telford Children's Autism Hub has now opened its doors in January 2022, and recently had their Official Launch Event. The Service is available to children and young people aged 0-18 years and their families who have a formal diagnosis of Autism living in Telford and Wrekin. They provide peer support for families, activities for children and young people and their families, training workshops and opportunities for children and young people with autism to aspire, develop and have access to community centred support.

They believe in:

- " the empowerment of children and young people with autism to live a full and active life "
- "Our work is based around child centred principles focused on building up and celebrating the individual strengths and gifts of each child"

The team are available to listen and explain the hub and what we can offer through a range of support options.

There is also specialist advice available through Autism West Midlands through advice sessions and workshops.

They would love to hear from families, as you are the experts, and we value your feedback to support the future development of the hub. They also sit alongside the Telford Adults Autism Hub. This supports the transition of young people into the support for adults and opens the pathways of support into adult independence.

They already have feedback, and would like to share this with you from a family accessing support.

"The hub provides friendship for us and our daughter. A safe and non-judgemental place where we can access support and our daughter is free to be herself".

[Website: Children's Autism Hub](#)

SENDIASS

The IASS Service provides a wide range of impartial and confidential information, advice and support to parents, children, and young people 0-25, relating to Special Educational Needs and Disability.

It is important for parents and young people to receive appropriate information to increase their confidence and understanding of the SEND processes. We support parents, children and young people to express their views, participate fully in their education and support

positive relationships with those professionals involved in your child's education, health and social care support. Our small and friendly team offer opportunities for families to access the service through telephone email, training workshops and individual information sessions. We can also ensure that you are able to receive the appropriate information and also be signposted to wider services that may be able to help.

If you require any further information, please get in touch by,

Phone: 01952 457176

Email: info@iass.org.uk

[Website: Telford SENDIASS](#)

New Support Webinars

Telford SENDIASS have produced a comprehensive **NEW Information, Advice and Support webinar** exploring how pupils with special educational needs and disabilities are supported in school.

The link for this is at the top of the website home page.

[Website: Telford SENDIASS](#)

Workshops and Question & Answer Sessions

Relaxed **SEND Support Workshops and Q&A Sessions**, both virtual and face-to-face are now taking place – if you've got any questions you need answering, big or small, relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, please pop along.

- **Face to face**
Tuesday 15 February 2022
10am—11.30am
- **Face to face**
Wednesday 23 March 2022
10am-11.30am
- **Virtual**
Wednesday 27 April 2022
1pm-2.30pm
- **Face to face**
Thursday 26 May 2022
10am-1130am

- **Virtual**
Tuesday 21 June 2022
4.30pm 6.30pm

SEND Support Workshop Dates

- Tuesday 10 May 2022
4.30pm-6.30pm
- Thursday 23 June 2022
10.am-12.30pm
- Tuesday 12 July 2022
4.30pm-6.30pm

If you require any further information, please get in touch by,

Phone: 01952 457176
Email: info@iass.org.uk

[Website: Telford SENDIASS](#)

Steering Group

It's really crucial for the service to have Parent/Caregiver Steering Group members to give a voice to parent and child issues and concerns. If you would like more information about being a Steering Group member, **please get in touch with Julie Collins on julie.collins@tandwcvcs.org.uk**

Resources

Ambitious about Autism

Ambitious about Autism has today launched the UK's first online platform for autistic young people.

[Ambitious about Autism](#)

This will offer autistic young people aged 16 to 25 a safe and moderated online space to help them understand their autistic identity and reduce isolation and loneliness that many feel. Young people will be able to take part in peer support sessions, share experiences and find volunteering, work experience and employment opportunities. There will also be opportunities for them to work together and campaign for change.

Parents Carers & Families

SEND Parent Carer & Family Newsletter

The Newsletter for Parent Carer & Families is published regularly, please can we request that you encourage your families to sign up to receive their personal copy of the Newsletter.

[SEND Local Offer: Parent Carer & Family News](#)

Parent Carers and Families can sign up to receive the email bulletin direct to their Inbox using the link below:

[Sign up to the SEND Parent & Family Carer News](#)

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

