



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Telford & Wrekin Local Offer

Newsletter



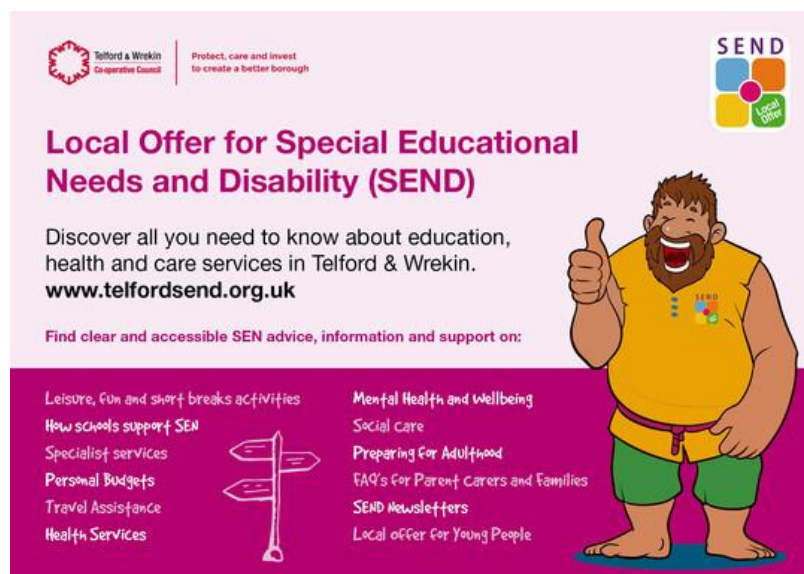
SEND Newsletter April 2024

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

SEND Local Offer

SENCo Space

Take a look at the SENCo Space on the Local Offer, all the useful information for SENCOs has been put in one area, including the slides from SENCO network meetings.



The screenshot shows the 'Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)' page. It features the Telford & Wrekin Co-operative Council logo and the SEND Local Offer logo. The main heading is 'Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)'. Below this, it says 'Discover all you need to know about education, health and care services in Telford & Wrekin.' and provides the website 'www.telfordsend.org.uk'. A cartoon character with a beard and a thumbs up is on the right. A list of services is provided on the left, including 'Leisure, fun and short breaks activities', 'How schools support SEN', 'Specialist services', 'Personal Budgets', 'Travel Assistance', and 'Health Services'. On the right, it lists 'Mental Health and Wellbeing', 'Social care', 'Preparing for Adulthood', 'FAQ's for Parent Carers and Families', 'SEND Newsletters', and 'Local offer for Young People'.

[Link to: SENCo Space](#)

[Link to: Local Offer](#)

SENCo Network Meetings

SENCo Network Meetings are an opportunity to find out the latest information from SEND 0-25, to network and to provide and receive support from other professionals.

They are an opportunity for SENCo's, senior and middle leaders from primary, secondary and specialist maintained schools to share collaborative working, best practice, policy changes and good news stories of how we all can make a difference to Children & Young People living in Telford & Wrekin.

The next SENCo network meeting will be:
Thursday 13th June at Telford College, 4-5.30pm.

Whole School SEND and Barnardo's will be joining us to share information about how they can support you and we have a number of colleagues sharing positive outcomes from some work they have done this academic year to support pupils with SEND.

It will be a celebratory session to recognise all of the amazing work that goes on in Telford and Wrekin and we hope to see you all there.

SEND Team Transition Reminders

September Transitions

- For children and young people with EHC Plans, please can we encourage schools to link with the new school and set up 'Meet and Greets' for new children and young people.

Secondary Schools and Junior Schools

- Will receive a list of young people who are currently in receipt of ISF funding in Y6 / Y2 shortly.

Post 16

- Let the SEND team know about Post placement change requests and any meetings that need to be held with Post 16 settings to support transition.

Advice for Schools

- Forward plan for 2024/2025
- Key Annual Reviews – Year 5 & Year 10, make sure that updated advice has been requested as these are the plans that will be used for consultations with schools and settings.

PODS Parent Carer Forum

Award Winners!

PODS Parent carer Forum are delighted to announce that their 'Challenges at Home' sessions, delivered jointly with Telford EPS team, were nominated for an NHSE SEND Award. They were finalists in the Co-Production Award, having been chosen by a panel of SEND experts, and are proud to announce that they won their category!

Their award winning sessions continue. There are QR codes in the flyers below, or places can be booked via the following direct links:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS/e-ggybxj>

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS/e-kqzbxk>

SAVE THE DATE: 'Growing Up' Workshop (Puberty and Adolescence) is on 7th May 2024 (day and evening) - contact jayne@podstelford.org for more information and express an interest in joining.

[Challenges at Home sessions](#)

[\(find out more\)](#)

[Challenges at Home sessions](#)

[\(find out more\)](#)

CPD

Fantastic Upcoming CPD

LSAT 212 Governors' Responsibilities for SEND

- Thursday, May 16, 2024 5pm to 7pm

LSAT 514 AET Making Sense of Autism – an Introduction to Autism for Governors

- Wednesday, June 12, 2024 6pm to 7.30pm

Bespoke Autism Education Trust training for Early Years, Primary, Secondary and Post-16 settings. Please contact:

- **Early Years:** samantha.evans@telford.gov.uk
- **Primary and Secondary:** sarah.court@telford.gov.uk
- **Post-16:** jane.park@telford.gov.uk

Please see the Telford and Wrekin CPD booklet for further details and to book: [cpd-booklet-for-schools-2023-24.pdf](https://www.telfordeducationsservices.co.uk/cpd-booklet-for-schools-2023-24.pdf) ([telfordeducationsservices.co.uk](https://www.telfordeducationsservices.co.uk))

Staffing Changes

Staffing changes in Education and Skills from 1st April

| Strategic Lead SEND & AP Change Programme | Service Delivery Manager SEND & AP | Service Delivery Manager Achievement and Enrichment | Service Delivery Manager Access and Sufficiency | Skills Interim Lead | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------|-----------------|
| Natalie Bevan | Andy Cooke | Rebecca Carey | Adam Womack | Tara Foran | Richard Probert |

Staffing changes in SEND

| Strategic Lead SEND & AP Change Programme | Interim Service Delivery Manager SEND & AP |
|---|--|
| Natalie Bevan | Andy Cooke (6 months) |
| SEND & AP Change Programme Manager | Interim SEND Group Manager |
| Sarah Court (until Aug '25) | Laura Goodfellow (until Aug '25) |

| Interim SEND Team Lead | Interim Lead LSAT | Senior HI lead (SIS) | SEND Project Lead |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| TBC | Angela Denton | Ruth Lawton and Nikki Coombes | TBC |
| | | | Quality Assurance Officer |
| | | | Lucy Hunt |

SEND and AP Change Programme Update

March 2024

As part of the SEND and AP Change Programme, some of the key reform areas that we are currently focusing on across the West Midlands region are:

- Local Area Inclusion Plans (LAIP)
- EHCP Standardisation
- Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC)
- Advisory Tailored Lists
- Multi Agency Panels

Local Area Inclusion Plan

Our Local Area Inclusion Plan is in the process of being developed and will be finalised by May 2024.

This plan will help to bring together the action required to identify need and provide support for both early intervention and specialist support and addressing any gaps in specialist provision for particular SEND needs.

EHCP Standardisation

A workshop took place on 27th February with the Statutory SEND Team to begin trialling the new EHCP template.

From 4th March, all new EHCPs are being drafted in the new template and feedback is being gathered to send back to the DfE and REACH partners regularly. To date, 12 plans have been drafted in the new template. We will have to draft a total of 80 plans in the new template.

We held a workshop with schools and settings on 12th March to introduce them to the new EHCP template. All schools and settings are providing feedback on the new plan template by Tuesday 9th April. This feedback will then be shared with DfE and REACH colleagues. Some of the feedback to date includes:

- Section on primary need is missing
- The new template is easy to navigate
- It is helpful to have the parent carer and child views grouped together in a child centred section of the plan
- It is clear where there has been co-production and where multi-agencies are involved

We will be looking to hold a workshop with parent carers about the new EHCP template over the coming months – please look out for the dates.

Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC)

Locally we are planning to enhance the use of Talk Boost and provide some additional universal support for selected mainstream primary schools and early years settings, we anticipate that the ELSEC programme will be rolled out in 30 mainstream primary schools and early years settings across Telford & Wrekin.

A workshop took place with schools and Early Years settings on 21st February. Thank you to those of who attended the focus group – it provided us with some very helpful feedback to help to shape the ELSEC project and to consider the proposals for both universal and targeted support, as well as the criteria which we should be considering when selecting schools and settings to be part of the pilot.

Recruitment to key posts as part of the ELSEC project is currently in progress.

Advisory Tailored Lists

Look out for the parent carer survey that will be circulated over the next few weeks to have your say on what you would like to see included as part of an Advisory Tailored List. We would like to understand how you would prefer to receive information and how we can best support you to access information.

A review is also being undertaken to update all information on schools and settings that is included on the Local Offer.

Multi Agency Panels

We are currently in the process of reviewing our Terms of Reference for Multi Agency Panels – this will include representation from the Local Authority, Health and schools/settings.

This process will help to improve the quality and consistency of decision making on EHCPs and help to build confidence and understanding of parent carers and education settings in the decision-making process and next steps regarding support.

Find Out More!

For more information on the Change Programme, please visit the Local Offer website: [SEND and AP Change Programme - SEND - Local offer \(telfordsend.org.uk\)](http://telfordsend.org.uk)

You will also find information about how you can sign up to the monthly REACH newsletters.

Dates for upcoming workshops to be confirmed.

Updates From Health

Speech, Language and Communication Needs workstream update

The SLCN workstream met in January and February. January's meeting focused on the impact of speech, language and communication interventions and included evidence around the impact of Talk Boost interventions. We are grateful to all settings who have been able to input their Talk Boost data into the SLUK database, this has enabled us to demonstrate the impact of Talk Boost. We have received feedback from parent carers that they are often not aware when their child is receiving Talk Boost so please do share if you are delivering this intervention. You may also wish to refer to Talk Boost in your published SEN information report. Please see some information below which might be helpful:

"Talk Boost is a catch-up programme for children who are behind with talking and understanding words to boost their language skills, for children between the ages of 3-10 years. The programme aims to accelerate children's progress in language skills by an average of six months, after a nine-week intervention. "

We also want to thank all of those schools and settings who contributed to the focus group on Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC). Your contributions will help us shape the offer of support which will be rolled out to some schools from September 2024.

Finally, we are pleased to share that the Speech, Language and Communication Needs Workstream was nominated for an NHSE SEND Award. The workstream were finalists in the Health and Education Settings Partnership Award, finalists have been chosen by a panel of SEND experts and we are proud to announce that we were runners up in our category! We want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of children with speech, language and communication needs.

Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Children and Young People's Mental Health Services: BeeU Contract Update

Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin children's emotional wellbeing and mental health services are provided by BeeU, for children and young people up to the age of 25. The service is delivered by Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT) and also provides neurodevelopmental assessments for children – autism (ages 5 to 18) and ADHD (ages 6 to 18).

Since 2017, MPFT has worked in partnership to deliver the BeeU service, including The Children's Society's Beam service (which provides emotional wellbeing support through face-to-face drop-ins in Shrewsbury and Wellington); Kooth (a website open to 11-19-year-olds offering 24/7 emotional support on an anonymous basis); and Healios (which provides online psychological therapies).

MPFT's contract to provide the BeeU service has been extended until 31 March 2025. As part of this extended contract, MPFT will continue to deliver BeeU in partnership with Healios and Kooth. The sub-contract with The Children's Society Beam service will come to an end. This decision was informed by engagement where the views of children and families were sought and from service user feedback.

In replacement of this sub-contracted service, MPFT will continue to support children and families via an alternative service provision. This will prioritise a reduction in both the numbers of children and young people awaiting access to appropriate assessment and support, and the length of time they are waiting. There will be a greater focus on providing accessible services to children, young people and families; this is likely to include a growth in the prevention offer within schools.

To ensure the BeeU service continues to serve the needs of Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin residents and is fit for the future we remain committed to working collaboratively with all our partners, stakeholders, service users and the public. Our goal is to shape future services collectively, making sure that children, young people, and their families are central to the design and have a key role in decision-making.

If you would like to get involved or provide any feedback on the BeeU service, please contact: stw.getinvolved@nhs.net

For more information on the BeeU service and how to access emotional wellbeing and mental services, contact the BeeU Access Team on [0300 124 0093](tel:03001240093) or visit the [BeeU website](#).

BeeU Service Update

We are really pleased to update you on how the BeeU emotional wellbeing and mental health service will be supporting children, young people and their families for the year ahead (2024/25).

The BeeU service commissioned by NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and delivered by Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT) provides:

- Emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people (0-25)
- Neurodevelopmental assessments for children – autism for 5-18 year olds, and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) for 6-18 year olds
- Community Eating Disorder Services for 0-18 year olds

The enhanced offer for 2024/2025:

The way children and young people access mental health services has changed since BeeU was launched in 2017, and the demand on the service has continued to grow significantly in recent years.

We understand this has led to longer waits to access services than we would wish and appreciate the frustration felt by families who are seeking support.

In recognition of this, from April 2024 MPFT will enhance the BeeU service offer, with additional investment from NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. MPFT will bolster its capacity by **growing the BeeU team**, with more registered mental health professionals able to respond to the increased demand; and **developing the prevention offer available in schools and communities**.

These changes aim to prioritise a reduction in the number of children waiting for an assessment, enabling more **timely access to assessment and intervention** for children and young people and ensuring they **receive the right help, in the right place, at the right time**.

Additional support will be available to schools through the successful Mental Health Support Teams (MHST). These teams collaborate with Mental Health Leads in schools to provide targeted support to vulnerable pupils, with the goal of addressing issues at an earlier stage and preventing them from becoming more serious. MHSTs are already working with nearly 50% of schools throughout the county, facilitating swifter access to specialist services and building on support already in place from professionals, such as school counsellors, Public Health school nurses, Children & Young Peoples Social Prescribing, educational psychologists and the voluntary sector. A new team commenced operations in January, focusing on South Shropshire. Moreover, we are pleased to announce that funding has been secured for an additional team, scheduled to commence operations in January 2025, further extending our reach and impact in the community.

New for 2024/25, and supporting the MHST offer, will be the launch of a **partnership with SYA**, alongside a number of other voluntary and community sector organisations, providing emotional wellbeing services to children in their schools and local communities across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

To find out more about the enhanced BeeU service visit our newly revamped website: <https://camhs.mpft.nhs.uk/beeU>

Accessing the BeeU service:

- **Direct digital support** is a crucial part of the BeeU offer, and children and young people will continue to be able to **directly access Kooth** (www.kooth.com) **without the need for a referral being made**. Kooth is an online emotional

wellbeing community for children and young people aged 11 to 25 offering 24/7 free emotional support on an anonymous basis.

- **Direct telephone support** – call 0808 196 4501, MPFT's Freephone helpline available 24/7 for people of all ages seeking mental health support.
- **Making a referral** – children, young people and their families can speak to their GP, school or other health/education professional to request a referral into BeeU. It is best if a professional who knows the child well, and can therefore provide good information on the child's strengths and difficulties, makes the referral.

The service has updated its referral forms to access Mental Health, Neurodevelopmental or Community Eating Disorder support, and these can be found on BeeU's web page at <https://camhs.mpft.nhs.uk/beeU>

Please ensure to complete the relevant form if you wish to make a referral into BeeU. The web page provides more information on the referral process, including how to submit a completed referral.

An enhanced approach has been introduced for those seeking to make a referral to access BeeU's Neurodevelopmental assessment offer, and increasing the workforce allows for further integration of the previously separate Autism and ADHD processes.

Healios (www.healios.org.uk) works in partnership with MPFT. BeeU and other services can refer children and young people to access online psychological therapies.

Other mental health and wellbeing support available:

- **Childline**: a free, private, and confidential service where young people can talk about anything. Calls are free and confidential. Calls are not recorded, and its number won't show up on any phone bills. Call 0800 1111 (24 hours a day, every day).
- **Shout**: confidential crisis text support for times when immediate assistance is required. Text 'SHOUT' to 85258 (24 hours a day, every day).
- **YoungMinds**: a mental health charity for children and young people. Whether you want to understand more about how you're feeling and find ways to feel better, or you want to support someone who's struggling, Young Minds can help.

If you would like to get involved or provide any feedback on the BeeU service, please email stw.getinvolved@nhs.net

Thank you for your continued partnership and we look forward to updating you in due course on our plans to engage local people on BeeU's service provision for 2025/26 and beyond.



Autism
Education
Trust

AET AUTISM LEADS NETWORK



Thursday 18th April 2024



15:30 - 17:00



Mercure Telford Centre Hotel
TF3 4NA



FREE

We invite all established AET autism leads in Telford & Wrekin schools and post-16 settings to join us for our first networking event. This is an exciting opportunity for professional development, sharing of good practice, problem solving and networking led by Dr Jane Park and Sarah Court.

Click [here](#) to RSVP

Please note – this network is only open to those who have already undertaken the GAP for Leaders training. If you have not yet attended the leaders training and would like to do so, please get in touch with jane.park@telford.gov.uk

