

Sensory Inclusion Service

Visual Impairment Newsletter

Issue
34
Summer 2025

Sensory Inclusion Service, Floor 6, Darby House, Lawn Central, Telford, TF3 4JA

Summer Cover

There is a QTVI on duty every week of the summer holidays.

Contact SENDandInclusion@telford.gov.uk or 01952 385269 for support.

5 steps to Transition Success

Congratulations! Your daughter or son has reached year 6 and they are getting ready to move to a new school. This will involve lots of changes and new experiences for them in September 2025. Exciting times are ahead...

The following five steps are tried and tested by the young people and parents Sarah Hovington has supported in other services - survival tips for parents!

1. Keep a large print copy of your child's timetable in place where your child can see it so that s/he can check what lessons s/he has the following day.
2. Encourage your child to pack the books, sports kit, etc. the night before so that there is no panic in the morning.
3. Make sure that your child knows how and where to print their work.
4. Get into a consistent routine for completing homework. Look at their homework planner to check that there are no deadlines looming.
5. Some young people find it helpful to have individual plastic zipped folders for each subject. That way, they know that they have all the books they need for that lesson in one place.

All the very best with the next stage of your child's learning.

Sarah Hovington

QTVI

Transition Support, Shropshire

for people with a visual impairment aged 18 - 25 years

Employment

Building Better Opportunities (BBO) Shropshire

Supports people 19+ years across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin who are experiencing multiple barriers, resulting in social exclusion. The project will help participants to gain skills and develop confidence through intensive personalised support to equip them with the abilities needed to move towards and into employment.

01952 245015

bboprojects@landau.co.uk

<https://www.landau.co.uk/building-better-opportunities/bbo-shropshire/>

RNIB Employment Advice

Support with CV writing, job search and retention. Please see website for further information on Equality, Rights & Employment

Vicky Johnson, Employment Advisor - West Midlands Network

0121 665 4215 or 07834 174 704

vicky.johnson@rnib.org.uk

<https://www.rnib.org.uk/advice/equality-rights-employment>

Enable - supported employment services

Enable offers a range of individual support for people with disabilities who are keen to get into work. They have a team of Employment Support Specialists who can support people throughout their employment journey.

01743 276900

enable@shropshire.gov.uk

<http://www.enable-services.co.uk/>

Training

Royal National College for the Blind, Hereford

SES (Specialist Employability Support) Programme provides people with a visual impairment with the skills, training and confidence to find permanent employment. Referral is via Disability Employment Advisers at Job Centres. The programme is best suited for those seeking intensive support, potentially including mobility and living skills training.

01432 265725

info@rnc.ac.uk

<https://www.rnc.ac.uk/ses>

Queen Alexandra College, Birmingham

Queen Alexandra College is a national college for people with disabilities offering courses for people aged 16 - 25 in addition to employment focused and supported living programmes.

0121 428 5050

info@qac.ac.uk

<https://www.qac.ac.uk/>

Social

Guide Dogs Children Young People and Family Service

Support available from age 0 - 25 with mobility training, benefits and education; family days out and weekends away. Custom Eyes can provide tailor-made books with large print, font size, spacing and page colour made to personal specifications.

07825 202189

louise.neuchterlien@guidedogs.org.uk

<https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/services-we-provide/>

SLOG - Sight Loss Opportunity Groups

For information, advice, friendship, & support. Monthly groups in Ludlow, Shrewsbury and Oswestry. Monthly cycling group at Sundorne Sports Village, Shrewsbury

01743 342 168

<https://www.shls@shropshire-rcc.org.uk>

AccessAble Activity Group

Gives people with sight and hearing impairments the opportunity to get involved in a variety of activities and much more besides. It's a great place to make friends, learn new skills and have fun. Archery, sailing and many more activities.

01952 501437

accessableactivity@gmail.com

www.accessableactivity.group

Telford VI group

A community-based group focused on helping make Telford a better, happier place for visual impaired people, their family and carers. They organise activities, exciting community events, and informative sessions at our monthly meetings.

Call Ken on 01952 250110 or Hayley on 01952 501437

<https://telfordvisuallyimpaired.group/>

RNIB Connect

RNIB Connect is a diverse community led by blind and partially sighted people that brings together anyone affected by sight loss.

0121 665 4211

RNIBNetworkWM@rnib.org.uk

<https://www.rnib.org.uk/rnibconnect>

For more information about any of these services please contact

Emma Chaplin

Eye Clinic Liaison Officer

RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People)

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital Princess Royal Hospital Telford

07808 736449 01743 261000 ext. 3616

e.chaplin2@nhs.net



Ben with QTVI Louise Kitson

Ben was initially referred to the Sensory Inclusion Service by the Children with Disabilities Team following an Occupational Therapy Assessment. They shared that Benjamin was diagnosed with a brain tumour in March 2022, a type of tumour called an Astroblastoma Malignant Tumour. He had surgery to remove the tumour, and it was reported by the family that 100% of the tumour was removed, which is very positive. The surgery has left Benjamin with extreme fatigue and weakness in both legs, some balance and visual difficulties, and he also has some memory issues. The tumour and treatment have meant that Ben now has a peripheral vision loss in each eye called homonymous hemianopia. It has been a joy visiting Ben termly and building up a trusting and long-lasting friendship with him. Ben's ambition is to join the Royal Marines after leaving college, or to join some other service. In college, he is currently studying level 3 aviation and English language. He has been in college for 2 years, but is looking to extend this by attending additional adult courses in cybersecurity and electronic design.

He reports that having our involvement has helped him to thrive in college, making it a lot easier to get the help he requires. He reports to me that we have helped support him and college with the organisation of work, font size, and exam arrangements. We have attended meetings with exam officers to resolve issues that arose in his exams. The support has enabled him to be more independent and confident in himself. He reports that he loved working alongside Guide Dogs to build up his confidence when travelling alone and using the cane in unfamiliar environments.

He found having access to the RNIB Bookshare, helped him a lot, especially when studying for his current course, as the books he needed were on there for him to download in the correct font size.

Ben is an advocate for our service and is often invited to our training course to speak to other professionals about his needs in education and the importance of having his requirements met.

If you are interested in finding out about RNIB Bookshare, visit

<https://www.rnibbookshare.org/about>

Addison began learning to use the long cane Spring 24 to support her with walking independently when out with her family. She now uses her cane to walk to and from school with her Mom and she uses it at the weekend and takes it on holiday. Mom has said that she loves having a cane and now she is able to walk besides them and even in front of them on familiar routes at home. Well done to Addison for working so hard and being determined to learn a new skill.



**Addison with
her cane**



**Ella with Lead
teacher Lee**

Congratulations to Ella who gained her yellow stripe belt in kick boxing. She has now reached the end of this stage and starts the junior group where a high standard of kick boxing is taught at a quicker pace. This group will continue to help mould her into a talented, fit, flexible, strong and confident girl.



**William with
his hoople**

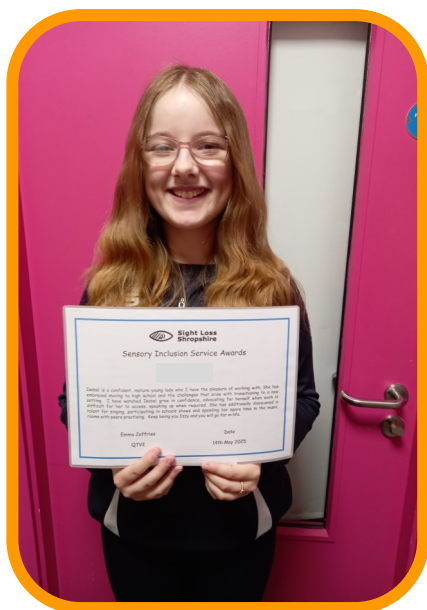
William was reluctant to go outside at break and lunch times, he relied on an adult guiding him. Now William has his mobility aid called the 'hoople' he can now walk independently with close supervision. William immediately took to the hoople and uses it to negotiate the school corridors and playground. Well done William, we are all very proud of you adapting so well to a new skill.

Sight Loss Shropshire Awards 2025

Frankie has started Touch Typing and has a very positive attitude towards it even when he would rather be doing something else.



Frankie holding his certificate



Isobel holding her certificate

Isobel is a confident, mature young lady who I have the pleasure of working with. She has embraced moving to high school and the challenges that arise with transitioning to a new setting. I have watched Isobel grow in confidence, advocating for herself when work is difficult for her to access, speaking up when required. She has additionally discovered a talent for singing, participating in schools shows and spending her spare time in the music rooms with peers practising. Keep being you Izzy and you will go far in life.



Faris has settled into his school well and is dedicated to his education and wants to learn. Faris has adapted well to catching the bus to get to school and now has a lovely and supporting group of friends. He is starting to learn the skill of touch typing and can't wait to start. I am sure he will be excellent at it.



Faris holding his certificate

Sight Loss Shropshire Awards 2025



Alfie with his certificate

Alfie has recently made some good progress with his braille reading and he is happy to read to adults and friends in school. Keep up the good work Alfie.

Tomasz has done exceptionally well with his touch typing and always approaches each session with positivity and dedication.



Tomasz being presented with his certificate



Noah being presented with his certificate by QTVI Sarah Hovington

Noah has been supported by Gill Dorricott during his time at Shrewsbury Academy. Noah has been nominated for an SLS award by Sarah Hovington. Noah was keen to talk about the next stage in his learning journey and what he wants to do in the future. Your passion for art and design is certainly evident Noah. All the very best with your college studies. Keep working the way that you do.





Sight Loss Shropshire Awards 2025

Amber can now braille the alphabet in 37 seconds. She is working well on her braille both at home and at school. She is a pleasure to teach.



Amber being presented with her certificate by QTVI Sarah Hovington



Lacey

Lacey has overcome so many challenges and managed extremely well moving schools, established new friendships and managing her GCSE's. She has blossomed into a mature young woman with her confidence growing a little bit with each day. In September she plans to move to college for the next phase in her education. I'm sure if Lacey embraces college like she has the past 12 months she will do extremely well. Lacey, it has been a pleasure working with you on this journey.

Michael has been supported by Gill Dorricott during his time at Shrewsbury Academy. He has been nominated for an SLS award by Sarah Hovington. Sarah was most impressed how Michael was able to articulate his career aspirations during a recent SIS visit as well as explain what he needed to do to get to college. You have an amazing 'can do attitude' Michael and all the very best in your future studies.



Michael being presented with his certificate by QTVI Sarah Hovington

Sensory Inclusion Service Visually Impaired Family group

Little Stars My Time To Play meets every Tuesday morning during term time for 2 hours. It is an opportunity for families of pre-school, visually impaired children to support each other and to meet with professionals from Sensory Inclusion Service and Guide Dogs. It's a friendly, welcoming group which aims to provide a relaxed atmosphere.

Families receive a programme of events at the start of every term.



Guest speakers
Art and craft activities
Planned visits and parties
Stories and singing



Time



Venue

Tuesdays (term time only)

The Stepping Stones Centre,

9.30 to 11.30

Brunel Road, Malinslee,



Professionals in attendance



Louise Kitson – QTVI

Liaises with families regarding all aspects of their child's development and ophthalmology needs.

Nichola Clark – Social Inclusion Facilitator

Organises programme for the term, books key speakers, First Aider, organises refreshments, art and craft activities.

Carla McGowan – Access Support Assistant

First Aider, ensures all resources are accessible via braille if needed.

Nancy Moodie - Habilitation

Specialist for Guide Dogs Delivers a bespoke programme to develop a broad range of skills and mobility through play.

Jodie Newman - Habilitation Specialist for Guide Dogs

Delivers a bespoke programme to develop a broad range of skills and mobility through play.

Sensory Inclusion Service Family Group programme Autumn 2025

SIS (VI) Family Group takes place every Tuesday during term time for hearing impaired pre-school children and their families.

Families can arrive anytime between 9.30 am – 11.30 am.



September

2nd - Shapes

9th - Guide Dogs Session

16th - Dot crafts

23rd - Guide Dogs Session

30th - Fairtrade

October

7th - **VI Course - No group**

14th - Diwali crafts

21st - Guide Dogs Session

28th - **Half term - no group**

November

4th - Bonfire crafts

11th - Guide Dogs Session

18th - Numbers

25th - Guide Dogs Session

December

2nd - Calendars

9th - Guide Dogs Session

16th - Party

The Stepping Stones Centre, Brunel Road, Malinslee, TF3 2BF

Sat Nav TF3 2HZ

If you have not attended Family Group recently, or if you are interested in attending for the first time, then please get in touch. It is a chance to meet other families, have a coffee, for the children to play and to engage in art and craft activities.

If you are interested in attending, contact Nichola Clark on

07581 035 047 or nichola.clark@telford.gov.uk



The Home of England Football Family Event

Thursday 21st August 2025



Guide Dogs' Children and Young People's Services are delighted to invite children with a vision impairment and their immediate family members to our Summer Sports themed family event at

St George's Park, Newborough Road, Burton-Upon-Trent, DE13 9PD

Have you ever wanted to visit the home of England football? The very place where Harry Kane and teammates train for important matches! With its world-class facilities, you can be at St George's Park! We invite children to a day that is all about having a go and getting into the spirit of sport. Expert coaches will provide fun taster sessions in three sports: Goalball, Football and Athletics. All of this plus the chance to explore the inspirational Football Centre with all its England Football history!

Our day together will include refreshments on arrival and a cold buffet lunch. We will also have our very own base for the duration of the day, where Guide Dogs staff from our Children and Young People services will be on hand to provide information, advice and guidance.

Please note: To allow the most accessible experience, we recommend for children with a vision impairment to be age 7 and above. Siblings of any age are welcome but parental involvement may be required for those younger.

Children with a vision impairment along with one parent/guardian can attend for free. For other immediate family members, we recommend a donation of £7.50 per person.

Booking is essential please request a booking form via email at familyevents@guidedogs.org.uk.



Susie and Chris will be running the Great North Run in Newcastle upon Tyne on 7th September to fundraise for Hope House Children's Hospice which supports their eight-year-old son Will. Will has an underdeveloped brain causing spasms and a severe visual impairment and are supported by QTVI Sarah Hovington. All at Sensory Inclusion Service wish you the best of luck for the event. If you would like to donate, please visit

<https://ajbellgreatnorthrun2025.enthuse.com/pf/susanne-seymour>



Upcoming Events

Comer Woods

6th August 2025

Attingham

29th November 2025

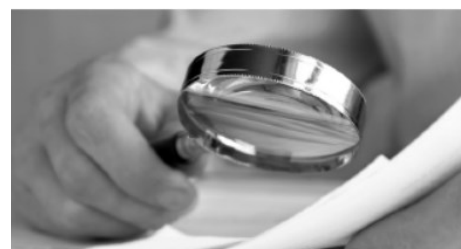


Have a wonderful summer from everyone at
Sensory Inclusion Service!

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.



www.telfordsend.org.uk

Need this in large print or Braille?

If you would like to receive this newsletter in Large Print or Braille, please email

**sendandinclusion
@telford.gov.uk**



[Shropshire's SEND Local Offer](#) is a single place for information and services for children and young people with special education needs and/or disabilities, their families and the practitioners who support them.

Take a look at the [SEND Family directory](#) for local events, groups and things to do. For news and updates please like and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Email: Local.Offer@shropshire.gov.uk Telephone: 0345 678 9063

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