West Midlands
SEND and AP
Change Programme

The Assistive Technology Lending Library

Friday 23rd January, 2026

Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Agenda

8.45 tea and coffee on arrival

9.10 Welcome

9.15 Introduction to Assistive Technology – what is it and why should we use it?

10.00 Widgit – an overview

10.45 Tea and coffee

11.00 Room 1 – Clicker and DocsPlus – an overview

- Room 2 – Scanning Pens/Switches

11.30 Swap rooms

12.10 how to use the Assistive Technology Lending Library

12.30 End.

What is Assistive Technology and Why Should We Use It?

Assistive Technology refers to any item, piece of equipment, software program, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

It is an umbrella term that covers a wide range of tools designed to remove barriers and enable participation in education, work, and daily life.

Examples

Physical Devices: Wheelchairs, hearing aids, braille note takers, adaptive keyboards.

Digital Tools: Screen readers, text-to-speech software, speech recognition programs.

Educational Aids: Scanning pens, Clicker software, symbol-based communication tools.

Why It Matters
AT empowers individuals by:

Increasing

Increasing independence in learning and daily tasks.

Removing

Removing barriers to communication.

Supporting

Supporting inclusion in classrooms.

Video

- https://youtu.be/wDu5sCQsqhI?si=fO4HKQXcsjr2fQ-2

Telford's Vision for Assistive Technology

In Telford, the vision for Assistive Technology is rooted in a commitment to inclusive education, where every learner—regardless of ability—has equitable access to the curriculum and the opportunity to thrive.

Assistive Technology should be embedded as a core component of teaching and learning, enabling students with additional needs to participate fully, achieve their potential, and develop independence.

The Assistive Technology lending library will provide mainstream schools with access to licenses and to trial equipment before purchasing.

This initiative will help embed Assistive Technology into the universal offer, ensuring it becomes an integral part of inclusive practise across all educational settings.

Inclusive Access to Learning

AT will be used to remove barriers to learning for pupils with SEND, ensuring they can access the same curriculum as their peers.

Schools will be offered training to ensure their awareness and appropriate use of free accessibility tools, such as text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen readers.

Schools with have access to programmes/equipment that will support literacy skills and enable pupils to access all curriculum areas.

Alternative input devices for pupils with significant needs will be readily available and integrated into classroom practise.

Personalised Approach

Technology will be tailored to individual needs, promoting student agency and self-advocacy.

Pupils will be supported to choose and use the tools that work best for them, fostering independence and confidence.

Training/support will be available to identify appropriate AT solutions and embed them into personalised learning plans.

Curriculum Integration

AT WILL NOT BE AN ADD-ON BUT A SEAMLESS PART OF CURRICULUM DELIVERY.

DIGITAL TOOLS WILL SUPPORT ACCESS THE CURRICULUM.

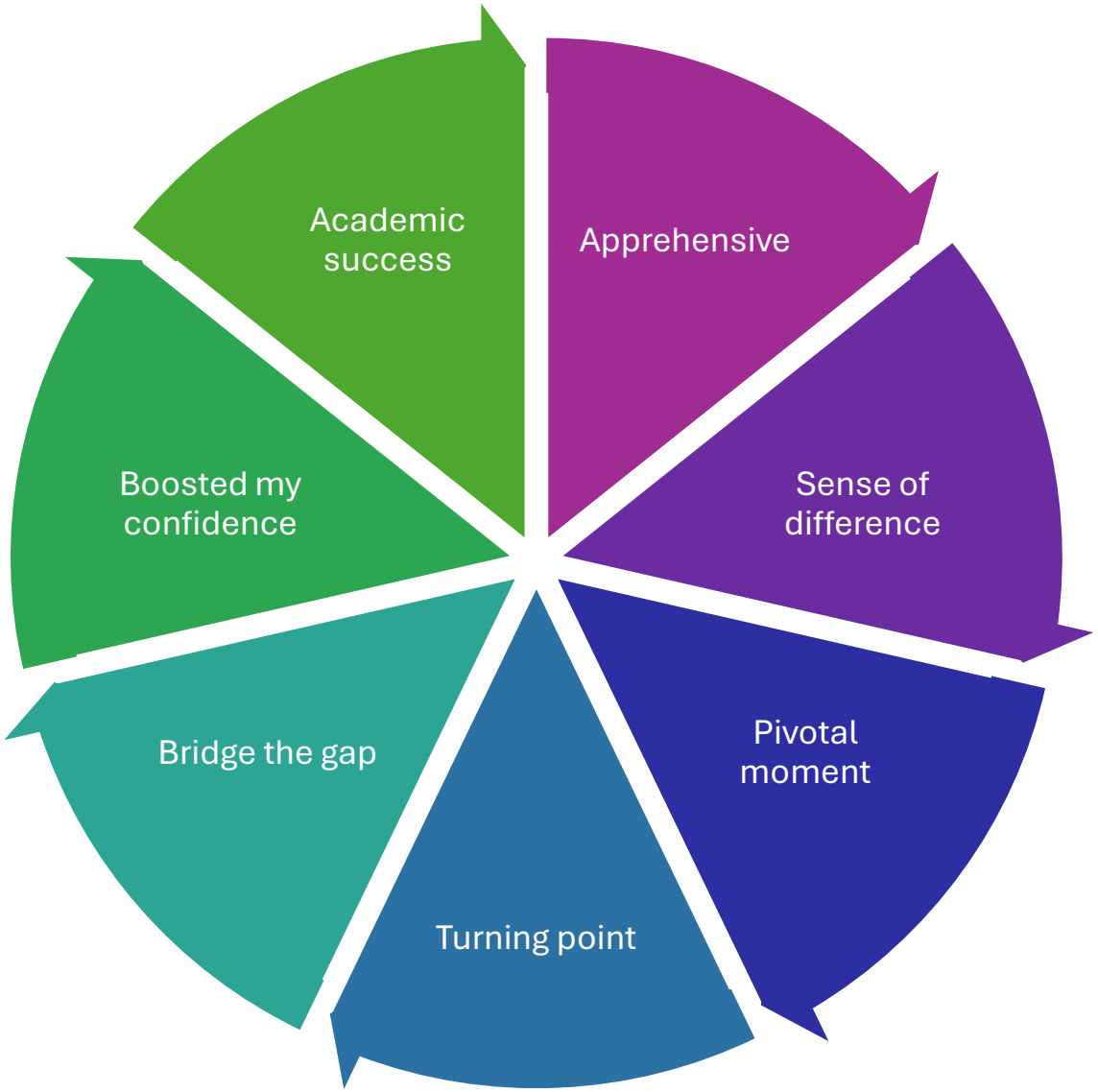
Equity and Sustainability

- All mainstream schools will have access to a core set of AT resources.

The Lending Library

- Short term loans – half a term
- Widgit licenses
- Clicker and DocsPlus licenses
- Exam Reader Pens
- Laptops
- Adapted switch toys
- iPads with Talking Mats
- Voice Pads and Rainbow Recorders

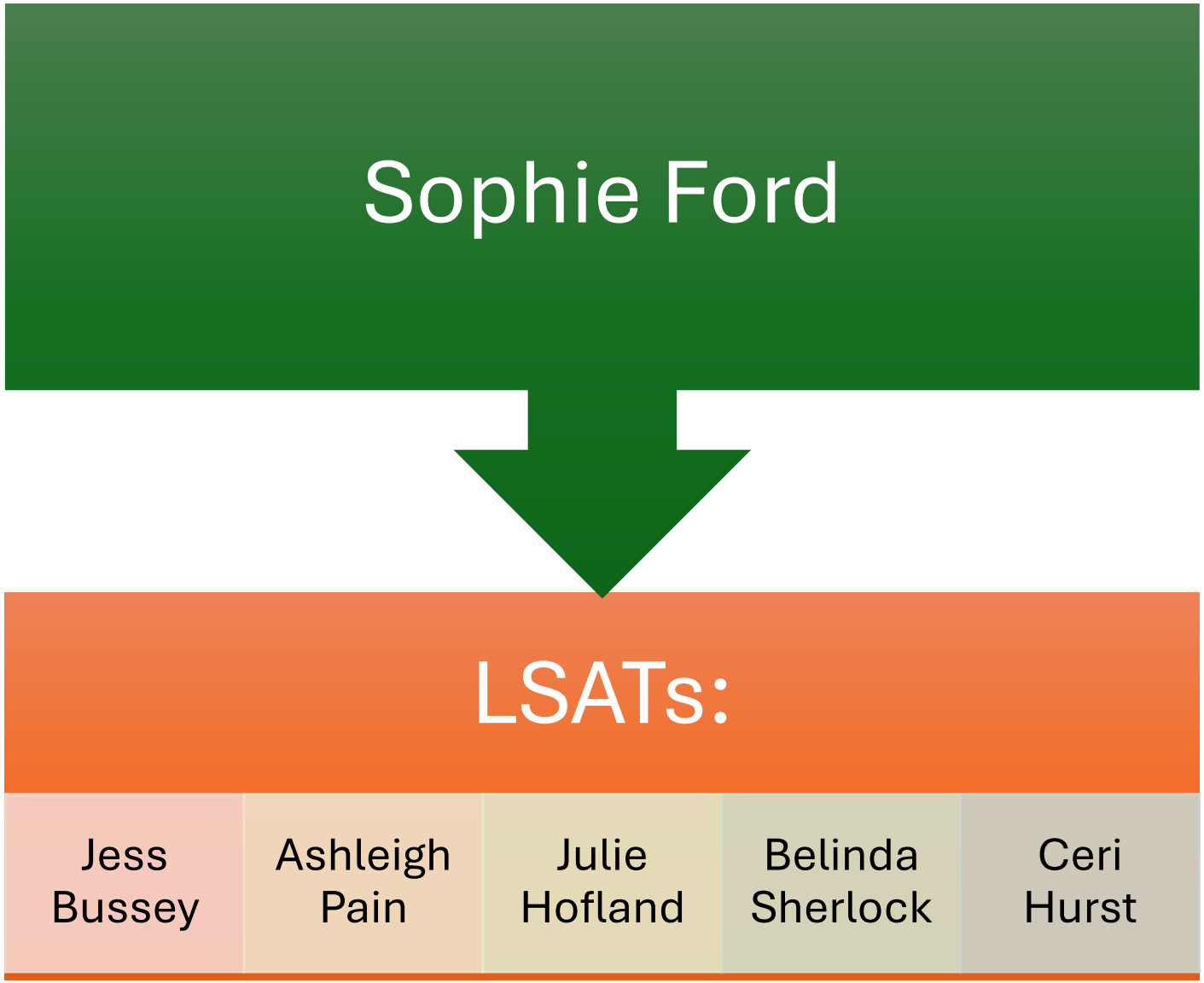
Assistive Technology can change a life.



Widgit
Dipa Chohan

How to access the Assistive Technology Lending Library.

Introductions



Available equipment

- Clicker licenses
- DocsPlus licenses
- Widgit licenses
- Talking Mats subscriptions/iPads
- Exam Reader Pens
- Voice Pads/Rainbow recorders
- Laptops with Office 365
- Switch toys

Local Offer

- Add in link

Process

Access Information

Visit the SEND Local Offer – Assistive Technology page for guidance and available options.

01

Submit Request

SENCo/HT completes form and emails it to ATlendinglibrary@telford.gov.uk (must include parental consent).

02

Assessment

LSAT arranges a school visit to assess the pupil.

03

Outcome Notification

SENCo/HT receives an email with the outcome.
If approved: email includes collection date and time frame.

04

Process

Collect Equipment

Member of staff collects equipment from Darby House on the agreed date.

05

Loan Period

School keeps equipment for 7 weeks (half a term).

06

Reminder & Evaluation

SENCo/HT receives a reminder email including: return date, time frame and DfE evaluation form.

07

Return Equipment

Member of staff returns equipment to Darby House on the agreed date.

08

Inbox address

ATlendinglibrary@telford.gov.uk

QUESTIONS
why
who
where
what
when
how
?