

# SEND PARENT/CARER NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

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## Welcome!

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have created this Parent/Carer Newsletter to update you on what is hot in the world of SEND and deliver key messages. The Newsletter will be sent out via the Parent/Carer Forums and the Information, Advice and Support Services (IASS).



## Who's Who?



### Heather Loveridge

Heather Loveridge is Assistant Director: Education & Corporate Parenting at Telford & Wrekin Council. Heather's vision is that every child is in at least a good School, making good progress and that no child should miss out on their education despite challenges that they may face. Heather is committed to the SEND agenda, working with all schools to open new opportunities for all.

### Andy Cooke

Andy Cooke is the Service Delivery Manager for SEND and Inclusion for Telford and Wrekin Council. Andy leads the teams working across SEND, the Virtual School for Children in Care and services to support behaviour. He is passionate about ensuring that there is high quality education available for all children to meet their needs and to help them to thrive both educationally and personally.



### Simon Wellman

Simon Wellman is the SEND Group Manager for Telford and Wrekin Council. As well as managing a very busy SEND team, Simon works very closely with schools within the Telford and Wrekin borough, building positive working relationships with them. He enjoys seeing the fantastic work that settings are doing to develop our children....but of course, he has a special eye on those with SEND.

## *SEND Team – What do we offer and how do we support?*

*Every newsletter will provide information about other services and what they can provide.*

- ◆ Advice and support for parents and schools/settings to enable children and young people with special educational needs to have their needs met in local mainstream settings.
- ◆ Managing the statutory needs assessment process in order to determine whether additional provision needs to be made through an Education, Health and care Plan (EHCP).
- ◆ Representing the Local Authority in first tier tribunal cases.
- ◆ We work with the SEND Code of Practice 2015 in order to fulfil legal and statutory requirements.
- ◆ The ultimate aim is to promote the inclusion of children and young people in local mainstream settings.
- ◆ The Transfer Team are responsible for transferring all those children and young people with Statements of Special Educational Needs to Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP). This process will be completed by the end of March 2018.
- ◆ Access to the team can be gained through the **SEND Team 01952 385399** or through **Family Connect 01952 385385**.

## What are Special Educational Needs?

A child or young person has Special Educational Needs if they have a learning difficulty or disability requiring special educational provision. If your child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or has a disability that prevents him or her from making use of mainstream school facilities, then he or she may have a Special Educational Need (SEN). If you are concerned that your child may have SEN, you can contact our service for information, advice and support.



Those working with children or young people with SEN must take into account:

- ◆ The views, wishes and feelings of the child or young person, and the child's parent/carer;
- ◆ The importance of the child or young person, and the child's parents/carers, participating as fully as possible in decisions;
- ◆ The need to support them to achieve the best possible educational other outcomes.



## What is the purpose of the Local Offer in Telford and Wrekin?

The Local Offer has two key purposes:

- ◆ To provide clear, comprehensive, accessible and up-to-date information about the available provision and how to access it.
- ◆ To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving disabled children and those with SEN and their parents, and disabled young people and those with SEN, and service providers in its development and review.



The Local Offer should not simply be a directory of existing services. Its success depends as much upon full engagement with children, young people and their parents as on the information it contains. The process of developing the Local Offer will help local authorities and their health partners to improve provision.



## Updates from Telford & Wrekin Council

### SEND Strategy

The SEND Strategy [www.telfordsend.org.uk](http://www.telfordsend.org.uk) also has details of the SEND Action Plan for 2017 – 2018. The SEND Strategy gives an Introduction and where we are now, along with our Vision, Principles and Priorities.

**Our Vision** - We want children and young people, aged from 0 to 25, with SEND across Telford and Wrekin to make excellent progress; to achieve the best possible outcomes, to open doors for their own future and thus enable them to become active citizens within their community

**Our Principles** - This vision and delivery of key priorities will be underpinned by the following principles:

**Collective Responsibility** – SEND is everyone’s business and we need a fair system where everyone plays their part to solve even the most complex of problems.

**Early Support and Intervention** – Early help and support through a high quality graduated response to offset and mitigate against the entrenchment of difficulties.

**Inclusion** - The majority of children and young people with SEND will attend mainstream settings with support from specialist providers.

**Localisation** - Children and young people should be educated as close to their home as possible to support meaningful engagement in their community.

**Personalisation** - A personalised approach leading to greater choice and control for families, valuing unique circumstances.

**Co-production** - Parents and carers know their children and families the best. They are active participants in decision making and help to develop and shape services.

**Partnership** – Integration, joint commissioning and coordination of approaches to deliver better outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

**Culture Change** – Our ‘SEND offer’ must change which means we need to think in different ways, create alternative methods for delivery and develop more flexible approaches to support.

**Our Priorities** - We will deliver the SEND Strategy through 4 key priorities outlined in the following pages. These priorities and their underpinning delivery objectives, along with the vision and principles above, have been informed by extensive consultation and co-production with partners; including parents, health, care colleagues and educational settings.

The following link will take you to our SEND Strategy:

[http://www.telfordsend.org.uk/localofferservices/info/1/home/61/send\\_strategy](http://www.telfordsend.org.uk/localofferservices/info/1/home/61/send_strategy)

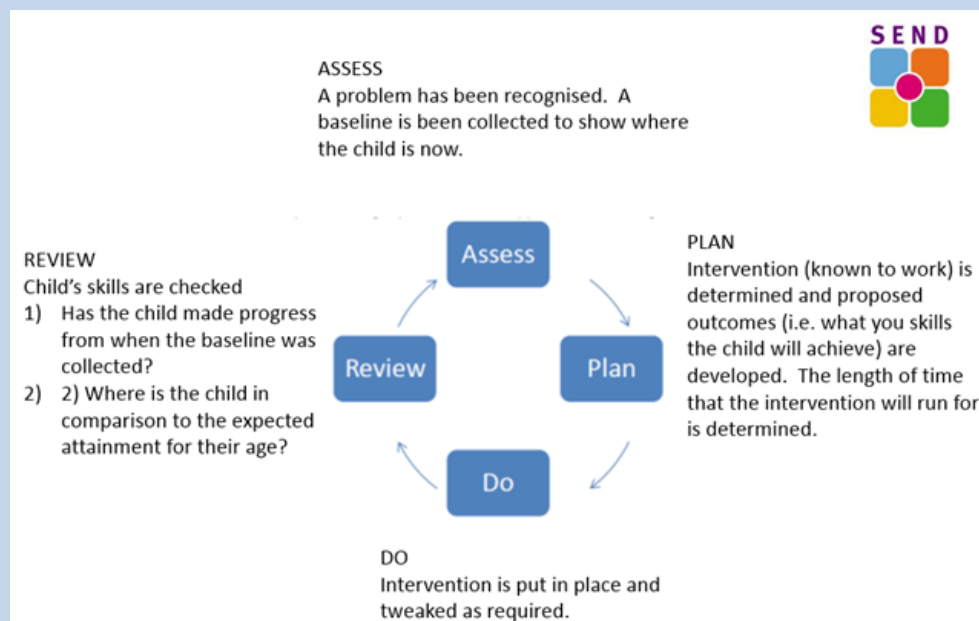
## SEN Support

### The Graduated Approach – A spiral of support

In the new SEND Code of Practice the categories of School Action and School Action plus have been replaced by a single category called SEN Support. Where a pupil is identified as having SEN, to enable the pupil to participate, learn and make progress schools should take action to:

- Remove barriers to learning;
- Put effective special educational provision in place.

SEN Support should arise from a four-part cycle, known as the graduated approach, through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised, leading to a growing understanding of the pupil's needs and of what supports the pupil in making good progress and securing good outcomes. The four stages of the cycle are:



The graduated approach starts at the whole-school level. Teachers are continually assessing, planning, implementing and reviewing their approach to teaching all children. However, where a potential special educational need has been identified, the cyclical process becomes increasingly personalised:

- Individual assessment leads to a growing understanding of the barriers to and gaps in the pupils learning;
- Continual reflection on approaches to meeting the pupil's needs and understanding strategies that enable the pupil to make good progress and achieve good outcomes.

## Timeline for 20 Week Educational Health Care (EHC) Needs Assessment

The Local Authority has published some new guidance for parents and carers about the EHC Needs Assessment. The timeline has been developed to show parents what is happening during the 20 week timescale. The timeline will be sent to families upon receipt of a request for an EHC Plan. We have attached a copy of the timeline to this newsletter and you can also access it on the Telford and Wrekin SEND Local Offer website: <http://www.telfordsend.org.uk/>

## Moving Forward Meetings

Part of the changes that we have made to the EHC Needs Assessment process is the development of Moving Forward Meetings.

Within the 20 week process there are **3 scenarios**, therefore where parent will be invited to attend a Moving Forward Meeting:

- ◆ At week 6 where the Local Authority has not agreed an EHC Assessment;
- ◆ Between week 12 and 16 where the Local Authority has said **no** to issuing a plan (after the assessment has occurred);
- ◆ Between week 12 and 16 where the Local Authority has agreed to issue an EHC Plan.

*Parents will only need to attend a Moving Forward Meeting once, unless the Local Authority changes a decision.*

Where the Local Authority has not agreed to an EHC Assessment or does not issue an EHC Plan following an assessment, the moving forward meeting will be an opportunity for parents and the educational setting to discuss the decision with the SEND Officer responsible.

Where it has been agreed to issue an EHC Plan, the Moving Forward Meeting will be an opportunity for parents to help the Local Authority decide (or co-produce) what goes into a plan. The meeting will be led by the SEND Officer and will be held at the child's educational setting. The professionals who were part of the EHC Assessment will also be invited to attend although their attendance will be dependent on their capacity.

**The meetings will take place at the child's setting and be facilitated by the responsible SEND Officer.**

## Who do we work in partnership with?

### PODS (Parents Opening Doors) Parent Carer Forum

*'Involving and supporting families who have a child or young person with a disability or additional need (age 0 – 25 years).'*

PODS is a parent carer/peer led charity with staff and volunteers who have the relevant 'real life' experience to support families who have a child with a disability or additional need (aged 0 – 25 years). Parent participation is at the heart of the forum, as parent carers can pinpoint problems frequently experienced by families with disabled children. This knowledge is useful to professionals in helping to improve how children's services are delivered so they better meet families' needs. PODS continues to ensure communication links exist between these families and the strategic decision makers.



Parent carers are supported to ensure that their views are heard around local and national issues regarding services and provisions. PODS ensures that the parent carer voice is carried to the decision makers.



Face 2 Face  
Parents supporting parents  
of disabled children



### Information Advice Support Service (IASS)

Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS) aims to increase the confidence of parents/carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disability and Young People by offering independent and impartial information, advice and support, enabling them to make informed decisions. They can help if parents/carers or young person (who have a child who has, or may have, Special Educational Needs or a Disability) and live in Telford & Wrekin or if you need information, advice or support about your or your child's education or matters relating to disability, health or social care.



IASS can offer advice on Special Educational Needs procedures and provision in school, the assessment process for an Education, Health and Care Plan, Exclusions, Disability Discrimination, Local Offer and Personal Budgets, Transition and Annual Reviews and Negotiation, Mediation, Tribunals and Dispute Resolution. They can help parents/carers or young people with putting their views forward to the right people, education paperwork, preparing for an education meeting, occasionally (with advance notice) may be able to support parents/carers or young person at a meeting, get in touch with other organisations who may be able to help and local support groups. Their service is free, confidential, impartial and accessible.

## Future Focus

“FutureFocus are the Careers Service within Telford and Wrekin and provided a traded service to Schools within the Borough who choose to buy in Careers Information Advice and Guidance. We work closely with young people within these schools and link closely with the SEND team to support young people who have an EHCP. As part of the joint work we do together we have a strong focus on providing young people with impartial Careers Guidance which will help support young people and families to make an informed decision as to where a young person transitions to post 16 once they have completed year 11. This guidance then feeds into the EHCP review process and supports the SEND Team to be able to name a post 16 provider by the 31<sup>st</sup> March of the young person final year in school. We will take advice as a service from both the young person and their family, professionals and also the SEND team as to the best way to support a young person’s transition from school to their post 16 provider. This advice in turn will hopefully support young people with an EHCP to have a planned and successful transition which ensures their needs are met post 16 and into adulthood. FutureFocus and the SEND Team also work closely with the Post 16 High Needs Commissioner to ensure that the funding required to meet a young person’s provision post 16 is in place and ready prior to them starting with their provider. This joint work ensures that the post 16 commissioner is aware of the needs and provision requirements of the young person, this in turn means that the young person and their family can be confident that the provision outlined within the EHCP is being delivered by the provider”. Tim Smart. FutureFocus Careers Team Leader

Looking forward with  
**future**  
**focus**







## Useful Websites, Links & Apps

By following these links, it will navigate you to services that are provided within the Telford & Wrekin area.

### Local Offer

The Local Offer ([www.telfordsend.org.uk](http://www.telfordsend.org.uk)) has the SEND newsletter which offers regular updates of what's going on in the Local Authority, also if you are new to the EHCP process the Local Offer has a detailed explanation of the process, including a short video of what an EHCP should include. As we are moving closer to the summer holidays, details of holiday activities can be found on the Ican2 page, booking details can also be found here.

### Jayne Stevens



01952 271532



0777 534 2092



[info@podstelford.org](mailto:info@podstelford.org)



[www.podstelford.org](http://www.podstelford.org)



PODSForumTelford



PODSTelford



PODS (Parents Opening Doors)

P O Box 772, Telford,

Shropshire TF7 9FD



### Shashana Weare



07557 130 091



Face2FaceTelfordandWrekin



[Face2Facepods@hotmail.com](mailto:Face2Facepods@hotmail.com)



C/O Parents Opening Doors,

P O Box 772, Telford, Shropshire

TF7 9FD

Face 2 Face  
Parents supporting parents  
of disabled children

**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](http://www.telfordsend.org.uk)



# SEND PARENT/CARER

Spring 2018



01952 457176



[info@iass.org.uk](mailto:info@iass.org.uk)



IASS Telford & Wrekin



The Glebe Centre, Glebe Street,  
Wellington, Telford  
TF1 1JP



01952 385385 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)



0779 787 5385



[familyconnect@telford.gov.uk](mailto:familyconnect@telford.gov.uk)



01952 388988



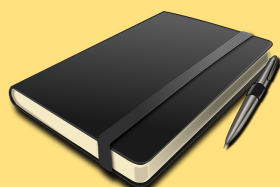
[future.focus@telford.gov.uk](mailto:future.focus@telford.gov.uk)



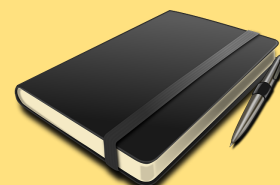
Southwater 1, Southwater Square,  
Southwater Way, Telford  
TF3 4JG

## Useful Contacts

Educational Psychology (EP) Service	01952 385216
Learning Support Advisory Teacher (LSAT) Team	01952 385485
Behaviour Support Advisory Team (BSAT)	01952 385485
Sensory Inclusion Service (Hearing Impairment)	01952 385269
Sensory Inclusion (Visual Impairment)	01952 385269



## *Dates for Diary*



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### **Admaston Family Group**

First Monday of the month

10.00am – 12.00pm

Admaston House, Admaston, Telford, TF5 0BN

Free car parking on site

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### **Dawley Evening Family Group**

Second Thursday of the month

7.00pm – 9.00pm

Elephant and Castle Pub, Dawley, Telford, TF4 2ET

Free car parking: Station Road Car Park (Entrance just after Royal British Legion).

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### **Hollinswood Family Group**

Third Wednesday of the month

9.30am – 11.30am

Hollinswood Community Centre, 7 Downmead, Telford, TF3 2EW

Free car parking available at front of shops.

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### **Pirates and Princesses Family Group**

STARTING 29th JANUARY 2018

Last Monday of the month

5pm-7pm

Pirates and Princesses, Unit 17, Cedar Court, Halesfield 17, Telford, TF7 4PF

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### **Dawley Daytime Family Group**

Last Friday of the month

9.30am – 11.30am

Dawley Town Hall (opposite Langley School/CAMHS) New Street, Dawley, Telford, TF4 3JR

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## 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](http://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.

