

# NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2020

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## *Welcome!*

To the Autumn edition of the Parent/Carer Newsletter.

There has been so much going on over the last few months we wanted to share some of the positive stories we have heard and new projects that we are looking forward to.





## Welcome to the Autumn 2020 SEND Parent/Carer Newsletter

Welcome to the Autumn 2020 SEND Parent/Carer Newsletter.

We would like to take the opportunity to share with you some updates and a review of what the Local Authority has been working on since the summer. In this newsletter you will find out about plans for a SEND Local Offer refresh, how we have continued to communicate with PODs (Parents Opening Doors) and IASS (Independent Advice and Support Service) and more about the exciting Voices Co-production project.

Over the next few months we will be working on lots of communication projects, for example looking at how we can share messages more effectively with parent/carers. As a council we are always striving to be open and honest and we want to ensure this is reflected in the way we communicate with you.

The first project is around how we deliver the parent/carers newsletter. Currently it's sent out and distributed by schools, PODs & IASS. However, we are looking at a new way of sending this out using a system where parents can sign up and receive a newsletter directly to their email inbox.

The second, is creating a new 'SEND News' page on the Local Offer. This page will share all the news and updates from SEND, including top tips relating to learning, good news stories and more. There will be a dedicated section for parent/carers.

And finally, we are in the process of setting up a closed Facebook Group: SEND Local Offer. When this group goes live it will be a place for us to share updates, consultation links and much more. This will be a fantastic opportunity to build a community around SEND, we will let you know when it goes 'Live'!

Also included in this newsletter is an open letter from Viv Bennett, Chief Public Health Nurse at Public Health England, and Ruth May, Chief Nursing Officer for England to Directors of Nursing about winter planning to support children and families. Along with information from Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust, explaining how services are being delivered in the community for children and young people

Take Care,

If you would like to contact us about any of the articles in this newsletter please email:  
[SENDandInclusion@telford.gov.uk](mailto:SENDandInclusion@telford.gov.uk)

Or, by phone: 01952 381045

## Information & Guidance Updates

Updates have been made to the Guidance:

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Updates include changes to the information on:

- self-isolation and shielding
- who needs to get a test for coronavirus (COVID-19)
- assessments and exams.
- adding a 'national restrictions' section
- updating the relevant information about face coverings
- clinically extremely vulnerable children
- extra curricular activities.

## SEND Newsflash: Minister Ford's letter to the SEND sector

Please download an open letter from Vicky Ford, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), their families and carers and those who work to support them.

Following the introduction of the new national restrictions on 5 November 2020, this letter provides advice and guidance on several issues, including school attendance, children who are clinically extremely vulnerable, remote education, face coverings in education settings, respite, health services for children and young people with SEND, and the new winter package to provide support for children and young people and their families.

[Download  
Minister Ford's Letter](#)

## Chief Public Health Nurse's Open Letter

A joint letter from Viv Bennett, Chief Public Health Nurse at Public Health England, and Ruth May, Chief Nursing Officer for England to Directors of Nursing about winter planning to support children and families. The letter advises that professionals supporting children and families with SEND should not be redeployed to other services and should be supported to provide services to the most vulnerable families.

[Download the Winter Planning Letter](#)



Public Health  
England

## Community Children and Young People's Health Services during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Download the latest information from Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust, explaining how services are being delivered in the community for children and young people. Information about the different ways that the teams will be working, PPE, appointments, and how they are keeping everyone safe.

Including:

- Immunisation and Vaccination Service
- Community Children's Nursing Team and Paediatric Diabetes Nursing Team
- Children's Community Audiology
- Children's Therapies and Child Development Services
- Child Development Centres
- Children's Occupational Therapy
- Children's Physiotherapy
- Children's Speech and Language Therapy
- Community Paediatric Service
- 0 - 19 Service – Leading on the Healthy Child Programme
- The Wheelchair and Posture Service
- The Paediatric Psychology Service.

[Download the Community Children and Young People Health Services during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#)

## Free School Meals Eligibility

Over the last few months Free School Meals have featured in the media, in Telford & Wrekin Free School Meals (FSM) are available at schools maintained by the council for children whose parent(s) satisfy certain criteria in respect of their income or benefits.

### Free School Meals - information flyer

Your child, or children may qualify for Free School Meals if you meet the following criteria:

- you or your partner have a child for whom you receive Child Benefit and who is attending a school or college in Telford and Wrekin

and you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income gross income of no more than £16,190)
- support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- Pension Credit (guaranteed credit)
- Universal Credit and your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Each school receives a weekly register showing the names of all children who are entitled to Free School Meals.

Should your circumstances change, for example you start work, increase your working hours to more than 16 a week, or cease being entitled to Income Support or Job Seeker's Allowance, you must notify us immediately.

Each school has the right to ask you to repay the value of any school meals that your child has been given for free, if they were not entitled to those meals.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the current phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

More information about Free School Meals and how to apply is available on the Telford & Wrekin Council Website.

### Telford & Wrekin Council Website Free School Meals



## Communication meetings with Parent Carer Forum (PODs) and Telford Information Advice and Support Service

Communication meetings between the Local Authority (LA), PODs (Parents Opening Doors) and Telford IASS (Information Advice and Support Service) have continued to be held on a regular basis. These meetings are vital for the local authority to discuss service developments and talk about key themes that are being heard from parent/carers. Please keep sharing your feedback with PODs and IASS.

Meeting 'Virtually' has been a great experience, it has enabled us to keep in contact and to continue to look at how we can co-produce services. We are keen to make sure that current information is shared and that we are able to update the Parent/Carer FAQ's regularly.

Please make sure that you take a look at the FAQ's as more have been added and they are not all Covid-19 related, we would like some feedback on this way of communicating up to date information and to know if Parents/Carers are finding them useful.

What would you like to see included in the FAQ page?

Email: [localoffer@telford.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@telford.gov.uk)

[Parent/Carer FAQs](#)



## What's NEW on the Local Offer

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

Take a look at some of the highlights of what's been added to the Local Offer over the last few months.

### **New Page: [SEND Provision in Secondary Schools](#)**

Following feedback from primary schools we are happy to announce a new page on the SEND Local Offer for year 6 children and their parents who are looking for a secondary school place for September 2021. On this page you will find information for parents and young people regarding the SEND provision in each school.

Information is included for maintained schools and academies. There are links to the school admissions website, school admissions booklet, myth buster and the school area catchment maps.

Information provided for each school includes:

- School website
- SEN Information Report
- SEND Policies
- Virtual Open Events/Tours (as available)
- School contact information

### **Updated Information: [Preparing for Adulthood](#)**

New information has been added to the [Further Education - Telford & Wrekin Placements/Colleges](#) page in the Preparing for Adulthood section. This year many colleges are having to provide their open events in a different way, links have been added for Virtual Open events for each setting listed, including:

- Telford College
- Shrewsbury College
- Wolverhampton College
- Stafford College
- North Shropshire College  
Walford Campus & Oswestry Campus

### **Online Feedback Form: [Annual Review Feedback](#)**

Have you attended an Annual Review for your child/young person recently, would you like to share your feedback? An online feedback form is available to complete on the Local Offer.





## Local Offer - Refresh Coming Soon...

We are always looking for ways to make the [SEND Local Offer](#) easier to navigate so that parent/carers can find the information they are looking for.

Over the next few months we have some plans to refresh the 'look' of the Local Offer and we would like to hear your views:

What would make it easier to navigate?

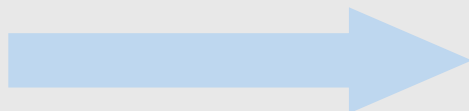
How would you like to see the 'Home Page' laid out?

Would an area for Parent/Carers work?

Is there any information you can't find?

**Refresh Ideas:** One of the ideas we are looking at for the Home Page.

What do you think?



Welcome to Telford & Wrekin's Local Offer

The Local Offer aims to bring together useful information across education, health and social care within one website. You can find information, advice and guidance and a range of local service providers who support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Simply click on the age range that applies to you, or your child if you are a parent or carer.

<b>Education</b> Early Years Schools Post 16	<b>Parent/Carers</b>	<b>Young People</b>
<b>Social Care</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Preparing for Adulthood</b>
<b>Have your say – Feedback Form</b>	<b>Find a School Choose an option</b>	<b>Add your service to the Local Offer</b>

### New Sections - In Development

We are currently developing four sections on the Local Offer.

- Early Years
- Young People
- SEND News
- Preparing for Adulthood  
(this has already been developed but there are more improvements to make)



Find a service by specific area of need:

<b>Autism</b>	<b>Behaviour</b>	<b>Continence &amp; Toileting</b>
<b>Hearing &amp; Vision</b>	<b>Learning Difficulties</b>	<b>Medical Needs</b>
<b>Physical Disabilities &amp; Complex Health Needs</b>	<b>Sensory Processing Difficulties</b>	<b>Sleeping, Eating &amp; Drinking</b>
<b>SEMH Social, Emotional and Mental Health</b>	<b>Therapies (SALT, OT, Physio)</b>	<b>Speech, Language &amp; Communication Needs</b>

All feedback would be gratefully received, please email us at: [localoffer@telford.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@telford.gov.uk) or fill in the [Feedback Form](#) to share your views.



## Voices Project—Update

### An opportunity to share your story

In the last newsletter we were excited to announce the launch of a new co-production project Voices. Co-production in this case can be defined as: the Local Authority, Health and Education working with Parents/Carers and Young People to build policies and resilience in the services that are delivered.

This project is a collaboration between Local Authority SEND, Parent Carer Forum (PODs) and Health. It will invite young people, parents/carers, health, social care, education and schools to share their experiences, working together and looking at how the five principles of co-production can be further strengthened. Parents/Carers and young people will be encouraged to share their stories and experiences.

Voices is organised and facilitated by [Genuine Partnerships](#) which is supported by Rotherham County Council. Genuine Partnerships are a skilled and experienced team of parent carers, service practitioners and young people working with Contact.

So how is it going?

All six focus groups have now been held and we would like to thank everyone who has been involved. All the groups have been well attended by a whole range of professionals, partners, parent/carers and young people.

Next steps...

Following all the Focus Groups, all of the feedback, views and experiences will be collated by Genuine Partnerships into a report, each section will be shared with all the attendees of the focus groups so that they will have an opportunity to give their feedback and add any additional comments.

Once finalised the report will be published, this will be shared with everyone in Telford & Wrekin.

The report will then be followed up with an Action Planning event in the new year to look at the areas we can improve in coproduction and look how we can continue to move forward.

If you would like more information about this project please contact us at: [localoffer@telford.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@telford.gov.uk), or by phone: 01952 567422

WELCOME AND CARE

VALUE AND INCLUDE

COMMUNICATE

WORK IN PARTNERSHIP

Developing and nurturing  
each of these to build

TRUST

## Great Results from Landau - Class 2020/2021

Landau students have had fantastic results this year. Considering the challenges we are very proud of every one of our learners and it just shows that education can be a positive experience for everyone if you focus on the individual's strengths, nurture their skills and accept our differences.

Well done class of 2020/2021!



### 100% Said the course...

- Increased their confidence in **functional skills**
- Increased their **confidence** in using **social media** + made it easier to connect with peers and tutors
- Was key in them taking steps towards **future independence**



## Telford & Wrekin SEND IASS Newsletter

[Download](#)

[Telford & Wrekin SEND IASS Newsletter](#)

### Highlights from the Newsletter:

SOS Group

Parent wellbeing sessions

[Mind of My Own App](#) for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aged 10-18 years.

For more information on downloading the Mind of My Own App:

[Telford & Wrekin IASS Website](#)

[Google Play](#)

[Apple](#)

### How to contact Telford & Wrekin IASS

By phone: 01952 457176

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

[Website](http://www.telfordsendiass.org.uk): [www.telfordsendiass.org.uk](http://www.telfordsendiass.org.uk)

Facebook: IASS Telford & Wrekin

Twitter: @SENDIASSTelford



# PODS HELPLINE

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

Are you in need of some guidance or information? Would you like to access our Befriending service or maybe receive a call from one of our staff?

Then please give us a call or email us!

Hello it's PODS,  
how can we  
help?



**01952 458047**

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

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



**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)



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



PODSForumTelford



PODSTelford



PODS (Parents Opening Doors)

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



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IASS Telford & Wrekin



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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





## 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.

