



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Telford & Wrekin Local Offer **Newsletter**



SEND Newsletter January 2023

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

Welcome from the Service Delivery Manager

Welcome to the bumper January SEND Newsletter!

I am pleased to announce that the SEND Working Together Charter has been launched this week, hopefully you will have seen it across Telford & Wrekin Facebook and Twitter and on the PODS Parent Carer Forum pages. Please take a look at the press release below to find out more about the charter, and don't forget to keep a lookout for our Working Together Posters coming to you and Workshops that will be announced very soon!

In other news we are strengthening how we collect the voice of children and young people in Telford & Wrekin, the Shout Out for SEND Young Persons Forum is being refreshed and we look forward to sharing information about the developments in the next few weeks. It would be great if we can start to build links between the Forum and existing groups, such as School Parliaments and Councils and consider how we can work together.

There are a few bits of information for parent carers and families, please can I politely request these are distributed to your families. These include information

about a new Statutory SEND Team Drop In's that have been arranged, virtual workshops that are being delivered by Beam, PODS free Challenges at Home sessions that support families and a PODS Befriending Scheme Recruitment Event.

Our Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) has shared two interesting resources to support Health in Schools, please do take a look at the Oliver McGowan Training and information from the Start for Life online hub.

Also included is an overview of all the training opportunities that are available over the next few months. Please don't forget to save the date for the exciting SEND Conference booked in for Friday 19 May 2023 – more information on the agenda and how to book will be shared very soon.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the next SENCo Network Meeting on Thursday 2 February 2023.

Natalie Bevan
Service Delivery Manager: SEND & Personalisation

SEND Local Offer

Telford & Wrekin SEND Working Together Charter

A “Working Together” borough-wide Charter to enable children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families to get involved in shaping and improving local services available to them has been recently launched by Telford & Wrekin Council, PODS (Parents Opening Doors) and NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

The [SEND “Working Together” Charter](#) is structured around four co-production principles to build “trust”: “Feel Valued and Included”, “Open Communication”, “Feel Welcomed and Cared for”, “Working in Partnership”.

These principles ensure that the borough families and their children and young people with special needs and disabilities are listened to and cared for by all local organisations who signed the Charter as well as engaged in co-producing the changes, developments and improvements of local services that affect them.

SEND* Working Together Charter Telford & Wrekin Local Partnership

*Special Educational Needs and Disability

*Developed by Parents, Carers,
Children, Young People, Telford &
Wrekin Council, Shropshire,
Telford & Wrekin NHS and Partners.*



Councillor Shirley Reynolds (Lab), cabinet member for Children, Young People and Families, said: “[The work that Parents Opening Doors \(PODS\) does, together with their volunteers](#), providing face to face support for families, reducing isolation and influencing the improvement of services is incredibly important to support children and young people with special needs in our borough.

“We are delighted to work together with PODS, our NHS partners and any borough family who wishes to get involved - to help children and young people with SEND lead happier lives. We are on their side, we want them to be our equal partner, to feel valued, cared for and to make their voice heard in the decision making for services that matter to them.

“This project will strengthen the Co-production journey in Telford and Wrekin. We will encourage other organisations across the borough, such as schools, health providers and other settings to sign up to the SEND Co-Production charter and to embed its principles in everyday tasks, so we can all keep the involvement of families at the heart of everything we do. “

Jayne Stevens, Strategic Co-ordinator PODS Parent Carer Forum , says: “We are excited to have developed the [SEND “Working Together” Charter](#) with our parents, carers, wider families and local partners.

“The Charter values our families as genuine partners and ensures they have a voice where it matters most, so children and young people with special needs have positive experience throughout their lives.

"Thank you for all your involvement, we look forward to 'Making A Difference' together".

To find out more about the Working Together Charter and Co-production in Telford & Wrekin - please contact jayne@podstelford.org or 0777 534 2092.

For families who wish to join PODS Parent Carer Forum or find out more about their wider Charity offers including activities and groups, befriending and support - please contact support@podstelford.org

[PODS \(Parents Opening Doors\)](#) has been set up in 2008 and is a parent carer/peer led charity in Telford and Wrekin, 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).

The charity delivers a unique offer to families by involving them in decisions about how services are developed and co-produced.

PODS has been recognised with Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for 2022, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year.

SEND Local Offer – SEND Working Together Charter

Shout Out for SEND

Young Person's Forum

Shout Out for SEND Young Persons Forum provides an opportunity for young people to have their voice heard and to influence the decisions in Telford and Wrekin.

The group is interested in working collaboratively with schools and post 16 settings. They would like the opportunity to visit school councils and/or parliaments to share information about the group and discuss how they can work together to encourage young people to share their views.

Further developments are underway to strengthen the voice of children and young people in Telford & Wrekin. If you know a young person who is passionate about sharing their voice and would like to make a difference in Telford, please do encourage and support them to join the young persons forum.

If your school or setting would like to request a visit to find out more please contact us via email: localoffer@telford.gov.uk.

SEND Drop In

Parents, Carers & Families

A new SEND Drop In has been arranged, it provides an opportunity for parents, carers and young people to talk to a SEND Officer. The Drop location has been arranged to enable families to request advice from Future Focus Careers Advisors at the same time, if appropriate.

Time: Every Monday 1pm – 4pm

Venue: Youth Hub (Floor 2), Southwater One, Southwater Square, Southwater Way, Telford, TF4 4JG

Please can we request that this information is shared with your parents, carers and families.

Education Health and Care Plans

Thinking of requesting an EHC assessment?

We ask that all educational settings first discuss new EHC need assessment requests with your allocated SEND officer before starting an application. They will work with you to discuss how best to get SEND support and provision in place for children and young people.

Thank you for your support.

[SEND Officer & Locality Contact Details](#)

Schools

Inclusive School Forum (ISF)

The Inclusive School Forum is a school led forum within Telford and Wrekin that provides support and challenge to mainstream schools regarding the provision and practice they deliver for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). It aims to provide an opportunity to network and deliver peer to peer guidance. The focus is, through sharing best practice, to develop

an inclusive education system within Telford and Wrekin whereby children with increasingly complex needs achieve and succeed within mainstream schools.

SEND Local Offer - ISF

Mental Health & Wellbeing

BeeU Pathway Drop In

A drop in for schools and settings is being arranged to ask specific questions to the BeeU service, SENCo's can register their interest to book a slot at the drop in by email. This session has been organised following feedback from the SENCo Network Briefing in December.

Wednesday 8 March 2023
9am - 10.30am

Friday 10 March 2023
9am - 10.30am

To book a place please email: marianne.johnson-everett@telford.gov.uk with your preferred date, schools will be allocated a 10 minute slot to discuss individual cases.

Telford Mind Calm Café for 11-25 year olds

Telford Mind Calm Café sessions aim to provide a person centred and holistic approach to support young people through the challenges that they are facing. There will be activities to engage in, 1:1 support and the opportunity to meet peers facing similar experiences. Free light refreshments are also offered during the sessions.

The sessions are held as follows:

Monday - Brookside Community Centre 4-6pm (13-16yr olds) Tuesday - Donnington Community Hub 4-6pm (13-16yr olds) Thursday - Wellington Boardroom Cafe 4-6pm (16-25yr olds)

Please download the referral form.

Beam

Virtual workshops for parents and professionals

Beam are pleased to provide the next timetable of virtual workshops for parents and professionals, starting in January 2023, which includes a workshop on

understanding and responding to self-harm as this has been requested by popular demand.

The details needed are provided in the chart below, please click on link at the appropriate time of chosen workshops. All workshops will be done via MS Teams, though please note that we are unable to record sessions for those unable to attend. The workshops are designed to be informative and engaging, so please be willing to participate during them. All sessions have an average duration of 1 hour.

There are four workshops, which will be rolled out to the end of February 2023, at various different times to enable more people to attend:

- **Supporting Children and Young People with Anxiety** The aims and objectives of this session are to look at psycho-education within the topic followed by practical suggestions of methods and techniques to help support the youth experience and their issues with anxiety.
- **Wellbeing Planning** This is a workshop which explains and provides a tool for children and young people to support their general emotional health and wellbeing. It recognises triggers and promotes self-awareness, which can also be used as a relapse tool to support resilience.
- **Sleep Support** This session aims to look at psycho-education within the topic followed by practical suggestions and advice which includes methods and techniques to help support the children and young people having difficulties with getting to sleep and staying asleep.
- **Understanding & responding to Self-Harm** The aims and objectives of this session are to look at psycho-education within the topic followed by practical suggestions of methods and techniques to help support the youth experience issues with self-harm.

The timetable is as follows:

Date & Time	Workshop Name	Booking Link
Wednesday 1 February 2023 1pm start	Understanding and responding to self-harm	Microsoft Teams meeting Click here to join the meeting Meeting ID: 393 316 915 63 Passcode: uyw8NH
Wednesday 8 February 2023 2pm start	Wellbeing planning	Microsoft Teams meeting Click here to join the meeting Meeting ID: 319 622 846 575 Passcode: TZacjt

Wednesday 15 February 2023 11am start	Sleep support	Microsoft Teams meeting Click here to join the meeting Meeting ID: 386 217 310 594 Passcode: 7Ezoto
Wednesday 22 February 2023 9am start	Supporting children and young people with anxiety	Microsoft Teams meeting Click here to join the meeting Meeting ID: 313 589 969 716 Passcode: REG5D7

Speech, Language & Communication Needs

TalkBoost Key Stage 2

Another course is being run on Thursday 16th February for any schools who have not yet accessed their free training and resources. Please book your places via the CPD team.

Thursday 16 February 2023 9am – 3pm Microsoft Teams

Following a successful bid for funding the Telford and Wrekin LSAT Team is in a position to be able to offer training for ICAN's Talk Boost KS2 programme free of charge to all Junior, Primary and Secondary schools in Telford.

What is TalkBoost KS2?

Talk Boost KS2 is a targeted intervention aimed at children 7-10 years old with delayed language, aiming to boost their language skills and help them to catch up with their peers. The programme aims to accelerate children's progress in language and communication, after an eight week intervention.

Why should you sign up?

As previously communicated, The Speech and Language Therapy Team are moving towards a graduated response model which, for some children, will involve collating evidence of having implemented one of the recognised screening and interventions.

The closing date for signing up is: Thursday 9th February AT 5pm

[Course Booking Form](#)

To make a booking, please send a completed booking form to:
cpdschoolimprovement@telford.gov.uk

Year 7 TalkBoost

!!!FREE!!!

There is the opportunity to take part in a pilot scheme of the Y7 TalkBoost programme. This will include free training and resources. Places are limited and the start dates for training are soon. An e-mail has been sent directly to all Secondary SENCOs. Check your inbox and e-mail sarah.court@telford.gov.uk for further details if interested.

[Download TalkBoost Flyer](#)

Early Years

Do you work in an Early Years Setting?

Speech and language UK are working with the Education Development Trust to deliver Phase 3 of the **Early Years Professional Development Programme (EYPDP)** funded by the Department for Education. This programme will help you to support more of the 1.7 million children who struggle with talking and understanding words.

[Find out more](#)

The EYPDP forms part of the government's £180 million **Early Years Education Recovery Plan** to address the continued effects of the pandemic on young children. If you are an early years practitioner or manage an early years setting, then this will enhance your knowledge and skills in supporting the development of young children.

Early years settings across all participating Local Authorities in England who are looking to further their training are invited to register their interest now.

[Register your interest](#)

Early years practitioners will be trained across three modules:

- Communication and Language
- Early Mathematics
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

I'm ready to train

Preparing for Adulthood

Telford 16-19 Website Post 16 Prospectus

The Telford 16 - 19 prospectus has information on the post 16 offer in Telford & Wrekin including almost 300 A - levels, BTECs and Apprenticeships across six schools and colleges, making Telford an inspirational hub for learning, opportunity and achievement.

For more information please contact Future Focus by email: Future.focus@telford.gov.uk or, by phone: 01952 388988.

Telford 16 - 19 Website

The Apprenticeship, Employment and Skills Show

The Apprenticeship, Employment and Skills Show 2023 is back on **Thursday 16 March 2023**. The event will take place at The International Centre, Telford 12noon-7.30pm, with the 12noon-12.30pm slot available exclusively for SEND students as a quieter time before the event gets too busy.

It's the largest event of its kind this side of the NEC in Birmingham and aims to promote local apprenticeship opportunities to people across Telford, Shropshire and the West Midlands. It is completely free to attend.

Apprenticeships are a great way to build the workforce of tomorrow and are now seen as a very viable alternative to university. The show is also a great opportunity for businesses to showcase careers and jobs that exist now and in the future.

Please make sure this date is in your diary and reserve a slot for your school – we very much look forward to seeing you and your students at the show in 2023.

Places can be booked [online](#).

Guidance for young People applying for Post 16 Education (with an EHC plan)

Guidance is available on the SEND Local Offer for young people with EHC plans to help them plan their Post 16 transition and consider their future career prospects. Information is included about educational settings in our local area and an explanation of how young people can express a preference for the setting they wish to attend.

[SEND Local Offer - Guidance for Young People with an EHCP](#)

Telford & Wrekin Children's Autism Hub 0-18

Winter 2022 Newsletter

Please download and share the Winter 2022 Newsletter from the Telford Children's Autism Hub.

[Download Winter 2022 Newsletter](#)

SEND Local Offer

Redesign

Over the last year we have been working behind the scenes with parents, carers and young people to create a redesign of the [SEND Local Offer](#) – we are now pleased to share this with you!

Changes have been made to make the homepage simpler and easier to navigate. Further developments are still in progress so please bear with us as we complete all the changes.

Not sure how to navigate the Local Offer?

We are developing some workshops and webinars for parents and professionals to navigate the Local Offer website - what would you like to see included in these?

In the meantime, we have created a SENCo Space, this is an area where we can include links to all the information and downloads that SENCo's may need to access frequently – we would love to hear your views on what should be included in this space. If you have any suggestions please contact us at: localoffer@telford.gov.uk

SEND Local Offer – SENCo Space

SEND Training Courses

SENCo Network Briefing

The next SENCo Network Briefing is scheduled for Thursday 2 February 2022 at 3.30pm – 5pm, invitations have been sent out to all SENCo's. If you have not received an invitation or would like to attend this session, please contact us at: SENDandInclusion@telford.gov.uk to request your invitation.

Supporting SEND in the Classroom for Early Career Teachers

This course is designed to support teachers in delivering quality first teaching to all children, including those with SEND. It will include strategies and practical techniques that can be used on a lesson by lesson basis.

Course Code: LSAT 502

Part 1: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 1.15pm to 4pm

Part 2: Thursday, March 02, 2023 1.15pm to 4pm

AET Making Sense of Autism – an introduction to Autism for Governors

This virtual training course for governors is delivered using materials from the Autism Education Trust's training module, Making Sense of Autism. The course will examine the three areas of difference that affect autistic pupils and explore how schools can begin to make reasonable adjustments in the way they support autistic pupils.

Tuesday 21 March 2023
6pm to 7.30pm

SENCO: Establishing Yourself as a SEND Leader

This is a 6 part series, there are 3 session remaining this year. 4-5pm via Teams.

1. Quality First Teaching and SEND Provision Matrix - **Tuesday 14 March 2023**
2. Outside agency information – **Wednesday 3 May 2023**
3. Information report writing – **Wednesday 28 June 2023**

Governor's Responsibilities for SEND

This course ensures governors with the responsibility of SEND have up to date knowledge of the SEND agenda and develop their skills as a critical friend.

Wednesday 14 June 2023
5pm to 7pm via Teams

Course Code: LSAT 212

AET Autism Education Trust

A reminder for any school wishing to book AET GAP training to get their training requests in as soon as possible. We are now taking requests for training in 2023/2024 for those of you looking to plan PD days for the upcoming academic year.

For more information about Training Courses, please take a look at the Telford Education Services Website to view the CPD Booklet for Schools and download the course booking form.

[Telford Education Services Website](#)

PODS

PODS Referral Form

PODS have recently amended thier referral process, professionals are now welcome to fill out the Referral Form to make the process easier, however, you are more than welcome to also contact us to discuss individual cases.

Download: [PODS Referral Form](#)

Contact Details:

Phone: 01952 458047 Email: support@podstelford.org

PODS Website

Free challenges at home sessions

Support sessions (for child/young person with Autism with/without diagnosis).

Open to 0-18 years from mainstream and special schools. For families to discuss home/life concerns and seek information and advice from Educational Psychologist team around emotional, behaviour, social, anxieties, routines, etc.

We use these sessions to support families to find solutions together and share experiences and offer mutual support in a safe and supportive place.


Challenges at Home – In Person Sessions

Challenges at Home – Online Evening Sessions

PODS Befriending Scheme Recruitment Event

Please share the flyer for the PODS Befriending Scheme Recruitment event with your families.

PODS Befriending Scheme Recruitment Event

 Thursday 9th February from 10am-12pm at
PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU

Are you a parent carer of a child or young person with an additional need?

Do you have some spare time to spend listening and supporting other parent carers on a 1:1 basis?

Why not join us at our PODS Befriending Scheme Recruitment Event to meet our team of Befrienders and find out more?



If you're unable to join us on the day, but would like to know more about becoming a PODS Befriender, please contact, Kerrie Seagrave, PODS Member Support Co-ordinator by email: kerrie@podstelford.org or call: 07309 753044

PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU
www.podstelford.org 01952 458047



[Download Flyer](#)

PfA Navigator – PODS

PODS have welcomed a new PfA Navigator into the Team, Matt is available to support as young people are preparing for adulthood.

Including:

- exploring further and higher education options
- considering employment and work experience
- looking at general life skills and independent living
- addressing ongoing healthcare needs
- enhancing social skills/experiences

To find out more please contact Matt by email at: matt@podstelford.org

Short Breaks Forum

The forum is an opportunity for parents, children and young people that use Short Breaks services, working together with Local Authority colleagues to talk about what is working well, what isn't and how we can make improvements to the Short Breaks offer. It is a place where we can share knowledge for the benefit of all, including inviting guest speakers on particular issues or services.

[Short Breaks Activities](#)

[Short Breaks Forum - Poster](#)

Health Resources

The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism launched

Following a long campaign led by Oliver McGowan's mother Paula McGowan OBE, HEE and partners at DHSC, NHS England and Skills for Care have launched [The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism elearning](#).

Oliver McGowan was a bright, kind and happy young man with a mild learning disability and autism. Oliver tragically died on 11 November 2016 in an NHS

hospital and his death shone a light on the need for health and social care staff to have better training in understanding, communicating with and treating people with a learning disability and autistic people.

The Oliver McGowan mandatory training aims to provide the health and care workforce with the right skills and knowledge to provide safe, compassionate and informed care to autistic people and people with a learning disability. This requirement is set out in the Health and Care Act 2022.

The training has been co-produced, trialled with over 8,300 health and care staff, and independently evaluated by the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi). It has been designed in two tiers so all staff working across all CQC registered services receive the right level of mandatory training. The elearning is the first part of The Oliver McGowan mandatory training and everyone in health and care needs to do this no matter where they work and what tier of training they need to complete.

Later, staff will need to complete their training by attending either a one hour online interactive session (for Tier 1) or a one-day face to face training (for Tier 2) that will be available from early 2023. HEE is currently working with partners to ensure each Integrated Care Board is being supported to develop training capacity.

For further information, please visit [The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism webpage](#) or [elearning programme webpage](#).

All the little things you do together can help your children learn

A child's development begins the moment they are born. As a parent, the simple activities you do at home, or out and about, prepare them well for school. And it's not just the kids who will enjoy it, you'll see the benefit too.

The Start for Life campaign provides lots of ideas that can help boost your child's learning and help set them up nicely for when they go begin their school years.

Parents lead very busy lives, but it's easier than you think to find time to engage meaningfully with your child. You can chat, play or read on the way to nursery, on public transport or in the car, while you're making a meal, or even in the supermarket.

Plus, it doesn't have to cost a penny; you don't need pricey books or toys, and it definitely doesn't have to feel like 'learning'! Everyday conversations, make-believe play, and reading together can all make a big difference to a child's development.

How about trying some of the following:

- Play 'I Spy' on the bus and see how their imaginations light up
- Talk to your child about what has happened so far in the day, and talk about what is going to happen next
- Look at picture books together. With each new page, give your child time to point out things and talk about what they can see.

For more information, visit the Start for Life online hub for other simple tips and activities, or to find further support in your local area. [Click here for more information.](#)

Assistive Technology

Sign up to take part in the DfE funded Assistive Technology Test and Learn Training Programme today!

The Assistive Technology Test and Learn Training Programme aims to encourage education practitioners to use technology which they already have available to them to reduce or remove barriers to learning.

Through this DfE-funded project, 150 maintained mainstream schools in England will participate in a monthly 60-minute training session, delivered by Microlink PC (UK) between March and July. The free-to-access training will help them improve the way they use AT to support all of the children and young people they teach, including learners with SEND.

The programme builds on the success of a previous AT Training Pilot, which also saw nasen collaborate with Microlink, to run online training sessions to for around 80 schools in England. Then, as now, the partnership brought together expertise in AT and SEND, along with an understanding of the day-to-day operation of schools and how assistive technology supports an inclusive classroom for all SEND learners. Feedback from this earlier programme was consistently positive, and benefits to learners were instantly visible.

If your school is interested in taking part, [sign up today](#) or visit the [website](#) for more information.

Educational Resources

Ace Centre
Charity specialising in AAC & Assistive Technology

Ace Centre is a registered charity that provides Assistive Technology and Augmentative and Alternative Communication services for people with complex needs. They offer assessment, training and information services across England, with a focus on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and Assistive Technology (AT), delivered by our multi-disciplinary team of specialist teachers, occupational therapists, speech & language therapists with the support of technical and administrative staff

[Ace Centre Website](#)

Harmful sexual behaviour in schools training

Online courses to help manage harmful sexual behaviour in primary or secondary schools in the UK.

NSPCC Learning

[NSPCC Learning Website](#)

