View as a webpage / Share



Protect, care and invest to create a better borough





SEND Newsletter March 2023

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

Welcome from the SEND & Personalisation Service Delivery Manager

Welcome to the March edition of the SEND Newsletter, I am sure that many of you are looking forward to the Easter Holidays!

It has been a busy three weeks while the Ofsted & CQC Area SEND Inspection has been taking place, this has been an inspection across the whole partnership in Telford & Wrekin and we would like to extend our thanks to all our colleagues and partners who have been involved in the Inspection – your support has been very much appreciated.

I would also like to extend my thanks to everyone who shared their feedback during the consultation on the SEND and Alternative Provision Draft Strategy, all the feedback is being collated together and the completed Strategy will be shared in the Summer Term. A clear focus will be on our <u>SEND & Alternative Provision Action Plan</u> overseen by the SEND Partnership Board. Actions include imbedding our <u>Working</u> <u>Together Charter</u> and to build on how we listen to the voice of children and young people. We have the <u>Shout Out Young Person's Group</u> which provides an opportunity for young people to share their views and influence decisions in Telford & Wrekin. We want to ensure your parents and young people in your school or setting have their voices heard.

I hope you all enjoy the Easter Break and I look forward to catching up with you in the Summer Term.

Natalie Bevan Service Delivery Manager SEND & Personalisation

SEND Local Offer

OFSTED & CQC Area SEND Inspection

A huge thank you

To all those that participated in the area SEND inspection over recent weeks, we would all like to extend our sincere thanks.

Many colleagues supported the process (over 150!) including representation from across education, health and care and there were numerous conversations with parents, children and young people. We do appreciate that those involved changed their plans at short notice, took time to attend briefing sessions and prepared for meetings with the inspectors. Your commitment and passion for making a difference to children and young people has clearly come through your conversations with inspectors.

You will understand that we are unable to let you know the outcome of the inspection at this stage. We can let you know that the publication of the letter from OFSTED and CQC is expected towards the end of May.

Best wishes and thanks again.

SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan

The Department for Education has set out their plans to change the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision system in England.

The plan explains what the DfE will do to make sure more children and young people with SEND or in alternative provision get the support they need.

It follows the <u>SEND and alternative provision green paper</u> which was consulted on in March 2022.

The plan includes:

- responses to the feedback they received
- the improvements that will be made as a result of the feedback
- the proposals they are going to test and review

The roadmap summarises the actions that will be taken to improve the SEND and alternative provision system in England that are set out in the improvement plan.

An <u>executive summary</u> of the improvement plan is available in British Sign Language (BSL).

If you would like a Braille or audio version of the improvement plan or an accessible format that is not listed, email <u>SENDAP.IMPROVEMENTPLAN@education.gov.uk</u>.

View this information on GOV.UK

SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan

SEND and Alternative Provision Roadmap

SEND & Alternative Provision Strategy Consultation

Thank you to everyone who contributed their feedback to the SEND & Alternative Provision Strategy Consultation, all your views are now being collated and we look forward to sharing the final version with you all very soon.

The SEND & Alternative Provision Strategy for Telford & Wrekin area partnership has been developed using feedback from parents, carers, young people and professionals across health, social care, education support services, early years settings, schools and post 16 providers.

The strategy sets out Telford & Wrekin local area partnership's vision for children and young people aged 0-25 years with special educational needs and/or disabilities and for children and young people who are accessing or may need to access alternative provision.



Download: Draft SEND & Alternative Provision Strategy

SEND and AP Vision

Localised provision

- System that makes sense
- Early identification and help
- Participate in decisions
- Data informed and intelligence rich
- Preventative alternative provision
- Children and young people fell values and visible in their community

View this information on the SEND Local Offer

We have extended the Post 16 Provider Survey

Feedback from Young People, Parents, Carers and Families

Please can we request that the survey link and information below is shared with young people and their families.

Since 2020, we have seen a number of specialist post 16 provisions open in Telford such as; Derwen@Telford, Crossbar (Inspire+), Really NEET and Mencap. As the first young people are completing their programmes and moving on from these settings, we wanted to give you the opportunity to share your experience of attending your Post 16 setting.

Your feedback will help us understand what is working well in post 16 education in Telford, but also to identify things that could make the experience in Post 16 education even better.

Please share your feedback to 'Make a Difference' for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities in Telford & Wrekin.

The closing date has been extended until: Sunday 30 April 2023

Complete the Post 16 Provider Survey

Travel Assistance

Independent Travel Training

Please take a look at the new video on the SEND Local Offer, Josh shares his experience of Independent Travel Training.

Telford & Wrekin SEND Working Together Charter

The Telford & Wrekin SEND Working Together Charter, supports children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families to get involved in shaping and improving local services.

Look out for posters that will be delivered to schools, early years settings, post 16 providers, health providers and any local organisations that would like to join up and embed the principles of co-production within their working practices.

Further information and downloadable versions of the Charter, poster and plasma screen are available on the SEND Local Offer.



SEND Local Offer – SEND Working Together Charter

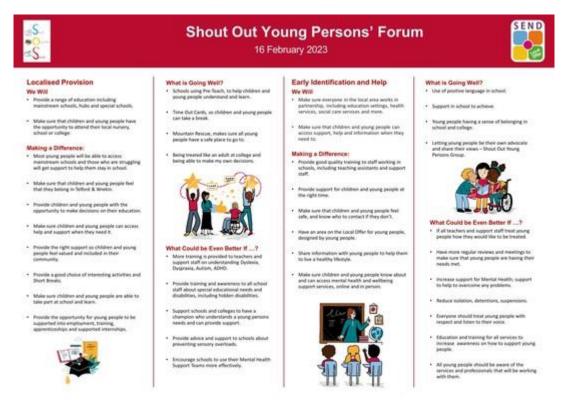
Shout Out Young People's Group

Shout Out Young People's Group provides an opportunity for young people to have their voice heard and to influence the decisions in Telford and Wrekin.

The next group will be held on:

Thursday 27 April 2023 4.15pm - 6pm

Please take a look at some of the feedback young people shared with us at the last session.



Young people told us what is working well in the priority areas and what could be even better if...

Localised Provision

What is working well...

- Schools using Pre-Teach, to help children and young people understand and learn.
- Time Out Cards, so children and young people can take a break.
- Mountain Rescue, makes sure all young people have a safe place to go to.

• Being treated like an adult at college and being able to make my own decisions.

What could be even better if...

- More training is provided to teachers and support staff on understanding Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Autism, ADHD.
- Provide training and awareness to all school staff about special educational needs and disabilities, including hidden disabilities.
- Support schools and colleges to have a champion who understands a young persons needs and can provide support.
- Provide advice and support to schools about preventing sensory overloads.
- Encourage schools to use their Mental Health Support Teams more effectively.

Early Identification and Help

What is working well...

- Use of positive language in school.
- Support in school to achieve.
- Young people having a sense of belonging in school and college.
- Letting young people be their own advocate and share their views Shout Out Young Persons Group.

What could be even better if...

- If all teachers and support staff treat young people how they would like to be treated.
- Have more regular reviews and meetings to make sure that young people are having their needs met.
- Increase support for Mental Health; support to help to overcome any problems.
- Reduce isolation, detentions, suspensions.
- Everyone should treat young people with respect and listen to their voice.
- Education and training for all services to increase awareness on how to support young people.
- All young people should be aware of the services and professionals that will be working with them.

Next steps

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 group.

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

SEND Local Offer: Shout Out Group

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.

| DATE OF FORUM | TIME | VENUE | PAPERS DUE IN |
|---------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| 2 May '23 | 9am - 1pm | MS Teams | 25 April '23 |
| 6 June '23 | 9am - 1pm | MS Teams | 30 May '23 |
| 4 July '23 | 9am - 1pm | MS Teams | 27 June '23 |

SEND Local Offer - ISF

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

SEND Reviews

The SEND Review Guide has been developed by <u>WHOLE SCHOOL SEND</u> to enable schools to self-reflect on their provision for children and young people with SEND. It is nationally recognised and has been widely adopted through various networks as supporting the development of SEND provision. It can be used by all sectors including mainstream, special, AP and PRU providers. The review aims to:

- help and improve progress for children with SEND.
- support effective implementation of SEND provision.
- develop inclusive practice.
- identify key areas of development in schools.
- support whole school change.

The WHOLE SCHOOL SEND Self Review guide can be found here.

Telford and Wrekin SEND Best Practice Guidance

The SEND Best Practice Guidance has been produced by Telford and Wrekin to support and compliment a school's self-review using the WHOLE SCHOOL SEND evaluation tool. It is a catalogue of statements which come from Telford and Wrekin schools and has been produced by SENCos and professionals with expertise in SEND. A number of resources are included too. It intends to be an evolving document which will be regularly updated with new additions.

The guidance is divided into sections that match the WHOLE SCHOOL SEND evaluation tool and includes:

- Outcomes for pupils with SEND
- Leadership of SEND
- The quality of teaching and learning for pupils with SEND
- Working with pupils and parents/carers of pupils with SEND
- Assessment and identification
- Monitoring, tracking and evaluation
- The efficient use of resources
- The quality of SEND provision.

Telford and Wrekin Best Practice materials can be found here.

FREE visits to Telford and Wrekin schools

Schools must contact the Severn Teaching School to arrange their FREE visit from a SEND SLE.

Please send in expressions of interest stating you want a 'SEND self review' to <u>sue.stoddart2@taw.org.uk</u>.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

BeeU Drop In Sessions

Thank you to everyone who attended the Drop In Sessions provided by BeeU in March. We would be happy to arrange additional dates for drop in's, please can we politely request that you register your expression of interest by email.

Email: SENDandInclusion@telford.gov.uk

If you attended the session in March and would like to share any feedback we would be happy to hear from you.

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)

BEAM

Beam is an emotional well-being service for children and young people under 25 years old who are registered with a GP in Shropshire or Telford & Wrekin.

Come along to our drop-in session and be seen by an Emotional Health & Wellbeing Practitioner on the days below, no appointment needed.

 Monday 'Drop Ins' – 12pm - 4pm (last session 3.15pm) at The Lantern, Meadow Farm Drive, Shrewsbury, SY1 4NG

- Tuesday 'Drop Ins' 10am 6pm (last session 5.15pm) at Beam, 9 Market Square, Wellington, TF1 1BP
- Thursday 'Drop Ins' 10am 6pm (last session 5.15pm) at Beam, 9 Market Square, Wellington, TF1 1BP

You can also register via our

website: https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk//beamshropshire Young people aged 14 years+ can register themselves. Young people aged 13 and under will need a parent/carer to register on their behalf.

If you have any questions about the Beam service, please contact us by email: shropshirebeam@childrenssociety.org.uk

Kooth

Kooth provides an anonymous 24-hour online service offering peer support, self-help and have trained counsellors to talk to. Anyone aged 11-25, living in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, can register to access this service and you don't need to be referred or have an appointment Whilst the website is available 24 hours, there will be someone to talk to online at the following times:

- 12:00 to 22:00 (Monday to Friday)
- 18:00 to 22:00 (Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays)

For more information visit Kooth: http://www.kooth.com

Health

Cool Kids Information Session Occupational Therapy Service

FREE educational session for the Cool Kids programme.

The Cool Kids movement programme Session aims:

- To provide basic understanding of sensory motor development and why it is important to children in school
- Understanding developmental stages of lying on the back, tummy, rolling, creeping and crawling
- Understanding the underlying principles of the Cool Kids Programme
- Identify pupils who would benefit
- Deliver the programme effectively
- Incorporate strategies successfully in the classroom

The session will be completed online via TEAMs, and a link will be sent via email once a place has been confirmed.

Wednesday 26 April 2023 1pm - 3pm

Places are limited and must be booked in advance.

To book a place:

- We are able to offer up to two places for this session to your school.
- We recommend that a Class Teacher/SENCo attends this session, if they have not already done so.
- Additionally the session will be valuable to any member of staff who will be potentially delivering the group in your school.

Please contact Occupational Therapy by telephone to book your place on this training, and provide an email address that joining links can be sent to.

Telephone – 01743 450800 (Option 2) Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis

Download: Cool Kids Letter

Annual Health Checks

Annual health checks are for adults and young people aged 14 or over with a learning disability.

An annual health check gives people time to talk about anything that is worrying them and means they can get used to going to visit the doctor.

To help explain what is involved in an annual health check, a group of inspiring young people from Derwen College have created a video to raise awareness of the importance of annual health checks

The video is aimed to help young people with learning disabilities to understand the process of an annual health check in a simple, easy to understand format.

For more information and to watch the video please use the link below.

SEND Local Offer - Annual Health Checks

Message from Shropcom – Advice Line

Please can we remind all schools and educational settings to use the Advice Line for Shropcom prior to making a referral to OT (Occupational Therapy) or SALT (Speech and Language Therapy). The advice line provides a triage service for referrals, including answering enquiries during your call.

Speech and Language Therapy

Advice Line: 01743 450800 (option 4)

Children's Speech and Language Therapy

Occupational Therapy

Advice Line: 01743 450800 E-mail: shropcom.OT4kids@nhs.net

Children's Occupational Therapy

Early Years

Specialist School Outreach

The Bridge School, Southall, Haughton and the Severn School Training Alliance have all worked together to create an outreach service for our mainstream settings – including early years providers.

This menu of support is intended to complement what is already available from central support services within Telford & Wrekin and to support settings in providing for **pupils with more complex needs**.

Applications

- Applications for Outreach are via EYIP or from discussion with your Early Years team
- Any request in writing must specify why you feel Outreach is needed and what you anticipate the impact will be.
- There must be parental consent
- A decision will be made with Special School Head teachers and outreach workers as to whether Outreach is agreed
- When Outreach is agreed the request will be forwarded to the Outreach team to discuss the nature of support that will be provided.

Early Yeas Inclusion Fund

Who can I talk to about the support and if it's really needed?

You can contact your Early Years team, SEND team and SEND Services.

For more information email: <u>SENDandInclusion@telford.gov.uk</u>

Early Years SEND Support Team

Preparing for Adulthood

Civil Service Internship Opportunities

An exciting four-week work experience opportunity in the Civil Service is being offered to approximately 100 autistic young people.

They must be:

- autistic
- aged between 18 and 25 at the time of the internship
- achieved a minimum of 2 GCSEs (or equivalent) in English and maths at Grade 4-9 (or A*-C) or above
- have the right to work in the UK
- interested in work relating to the Civil Service.

The opportunity will provide them with a great chance to gain experience within the Civil Service and an insight into the workplace. They will be offered developmental coaching sessions and other activities throughout the internship.

Closing date: Monday 3 April 2023

Civil Service internship opportunities | Ambitious about Autism

Future Focus SEND Education & Training Information Event

Please share the information about this special event to support young people and their families.

Key staff members from local colleges and training providers will be available for young people and their families to discuss their aspirations and find out about courses that are available.

Tuesday 25 April 2023 4pm - 6.30pm

Venue:

Southwater One, Second Floor, Southwater Square, Southwater Way, Telford, TF3 4JG

Free car parking can be provided at Southwater multi-storey through collection of a pass during the event.

A downloadable flyer is available to share with young people and their families.

Download: Future Focus Flyer

SEND Drop In Parents, Carers & Families

A new SEND Drop In has been arranged, it provides and opportunity for parents, carers and young people to talk to a SEND Officer. The Drop In location has been arranged to enable young people and their 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.

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

Future Focus

Welcome to...

Karen Carter has recently been successful in gaining the part time post of Senior SEN Careers Adviser with Future Focus, please take a look at Karen's introductory message.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. Many of you will most probably know me as I have worked for Future Focus as a SEN Careers adviser since November 2011 and prior to this within adult services.

I have recently been successful in gaining the part time post of Senior SEN Careers Adviser with Future Focus and will be continuing with my previous post for the remainder of my hours.

As part of this role I will be providing mentor support to team members within Future Focus, but also working closely with Telford and Wrekin's SEND team to maintain and improve streamlined, collaborative processes, ensuring all young people with an ECHP have an identified and supported progression pathway. This also supports the Local Authority's statutory duty to encourage, enable and assist vulnerable young people. To do this I will be working with other professionals using a multi-agency approach.

I have completed a number of visits to teams and services and if you would like me to come and provide an overview of the service and support we offer, or would like further information, please feel free to contact me on 01952 388988 / 07976100547 or via email <u>Karen.carter@telford.gov.uk</u>.

SEND Training Courses

SENCO: Establishing Yourself as a SEND Leader

This is a 6 part series, there are 2 session remaining this year.

- 1. Outside agency information Wednesday 3 May 2023, 4-5pm via Teams.
- Information report writing Wednesday 28 June 2023, 4-5pm via Teams.

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.

TalkBoost - Reminder Online Tracker

Please can we remind all schools who have been on the TalkBoost Training to make sure they use the online tracker and tick the data sharing box in settings so that data can be collated.

If you have any queries please contact us by email at: <u>SENDandInclusion@telford.gov.uk</u>.

Talk Boost KS1

Following a successful bid for funding, Telford and Wrekin LSAT Team and Shropshire Community Health Trust are in a position to be able to offer training and resources for ICAN's Talk Boost KS1 programme free of charge to all Infant, Junior and Primary schools in Telford.

Thursday 8 June 2023 9am - 3pm Microsoft Teams

Please note, this is likely to be the last opportunity to access this free of charge.

What is TalkBoost KS1?

Talk Boost KS1 is a targeted intervention for 4-7 year old children with language that is delayed, including children in Reception classes.

The programme is delivered in primary schools by classroom teachers and teaching assistants and provides a structured programme that boosts children's progress in language and communication by an average of 9 - 18 months after a ten 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 intervention tools prior to referral. Being able to deliver TalkBoost KS1 in your school will enable you to evidence your graduated response.

What's included?

One pack of resources per school (RRP £500)

- A full day of online training for 2 members of staff (this should be a Foundation Stage or KS1 class teacher and a TA who will be overseeing and delivering the intervention together).
- NB: as a Junior school, you can sign up for the TalkBoost KS1 free training if you feel it will be beneficial.
- NB: if your school has already had a free resource pack via LSAT TalkBoost KS1 training, you are eligible for 2 free delegate places but will not receive another resource pack.

The closing date for signing up is: Thursday 25th May AT 5PM

Someone from your school will need to come and collect your free resource pack from a central location, you will be e-mailed with details regarding this shortly after booking has closed.

If you wish to send more than 2 delegates, there will be an additional charge of ± 135 per person (with a 10% reduction for 2 or more paying delegates).

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

TalkBoost KS2

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.

Thursday 29 June 2023 9am - 3pm Microsoft Teams

Please note, this is likely to be the last opportunity to access this free of charge.

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 intervention tools prior to referral. Being able to deliver TalkBoost KS2 in your school will enable you to evidence your graduated response.

What's included?

- For Junior and Primary schools only: One pack of resources per school (RRP £500).
- A full day of online training for 2 members of staff (this should be a class teacher and TA who will be overseeing and delivering the intervention together)

For secondary schools:

We recognise that not all secondary schools will need to carry out this intervention. We are offering free training for 2 members of staff from your school and will then have packs of resources that we can loan out for secondary schools who have students in Years 7/8 who will benefit.

We will ask our Primary and Junior schools to indicate during transition any Y6 students who are coming up in September who they feel would benefit. You will not be able to borrow the resources and deliver the intervention unless someone has had the training.

The closing date for signing up is: Thursday 15 June 2023.

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

Telford Education Services Website

PODS

PODS Referral Form

PODS have recently amended their 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

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 Forum Newsletter

The Short Breaks Forum Newsletter - March 2023 is now available to download, please share with your parents, carers and families.

Download: Short Breaks Newsletter - March 2023

SEND Local Offer: Activities & Events

Learn Telford

Learn Telford is part of Telford & Wrekin Council and exists to provide high quality learning opportunities to the people living in the borough.

They aim to widen participation so that as many sections of the community as possible can experience the joy of learning and take advantage of the wider benefits that participation in learning brings, such as improved confidence, reduced social isolation, improved wellbeing, improved social cohesion and increased civic participation.

Learn Telford

