

# Education Strategic Partnership Board Newsletter – November 2025



Click here for the Telford & Wrekin Education Strategic Partnership Board Charter: [10567\\_partnership\\_charter\\_a4\\_8pp\\_v5.pdf](https://www.telford.gov.uk/10567_partnership_charter_a4_8pp_v5.pdf)

Click here for the Telford & Wrekin Partnership Board Website: <https://www.telford.gov.uk/TESPB>

Click here for the Telford & Wrekin Partnership Board Workplan: [Appendix B - TWESPB Workplan - October 2025.pdf](https://www.telford.gov.uk/Appendix_B_-_TWESPB_Workplan_-_October_2025.pdf)

Working in partnership is a key component of practice within public sector services which is defined as a working relationship where more than one professional work together to improve the lives of vulnerable citizens. For partnership working to be effective, several key elements must be observed and adopted by those working in partnership. These elements are described by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (2016) as respect for one another, empowerment, joint decision making, sharing of power and independence.



**Independent Chair:**  
**Gill Eatough**



**Education & Skills Director:**  
**Simon Wellman**

## The vision for our Education Strategic Partnership Board

The vision for our Board is to bring together education leaders from across all sectors in Telford and Wrekin to work together to provide the best possible education and care for the young people of the Borough. The aim is to work strategically with key groups of Head Teachers and leaders that recognises their priorities and supports and challenge their work so collectively we can focus on whole system improvements across our schools. The Board believes that by collaborating, sharing and developing great practise in our organisations all our children can achieve their potential, at each stage in their education and development, to becoming successful young adults who have a real sense of belonging in Telford.

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## Welcome and Introductions:

- SW confirmed he will be leaving Telford & Wrekin Council during the Spring Term to join the London Borough of Islington as Director of Education; however, SW will still be in post for the next Board meeting on 28 January 2026.
- Board member, Sally Noble has taken the decision to retire at the end of the Autumn Term 2025. GE commended SN's significant impact on school improvement in Telford over many years, both as a Senior Primary Adviser working for the LA, and subsequently in her role leading the STSA. In her absence, GE thanked SN for her hard work, determination and relentless pursuit of the highest standards for all children in Telford & Wrekin; SN will be huge loss.

## Minutes of the last meeting and actions arising:

- All actions arising from the last meeting, held 2 October 2025, were already scheduled on the agenda.
- It was noted that KS4 data is still awaited.

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## Annual Autumn Leadership Conference – next steps:

- GE stated that the conference evaluation reflected a generally positive view and that there had been a strong appetite to continue to stage this annual event.
- GE is keen to seek two keynote speakers for the 2026 conference, possibly with two different themes; however, the difficulty of finding suitable and relevant speakers was acknowledged and GE asked colleagues to send through any thoughts and ideas.

- In addition to the conference evaluation, a **cluster review** document was circulated to headteachers directly following the event.
- Responses were received from 24 headteachers across all five clusters.
  - 62% felt that their clusters were either working very effectively, or effectively.
  - The main improvement areas centred around possibly reducing the size of the cluster and increasing secondary representation.
  - 79% of respondents felt that it would be helpful for cluster chairs to meet to share agenda items and issues prior to cluster meetings.

## Actions:

- Colleagues were asked to send any suggestions about possible keynote speakers for the 2026 Leadership Conference to GE.
- SW will circulate further information / ideas re the clusters via the Education Noticeboard.

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## KS2/3 Transition in Maths Update:



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### Updates on KS 2/3 Transitions & Key Stage 4 Math's

- Autumn cross phase maths subject leader session (KS2-KS3)
- Plans for facilitating more cross phase working throughout the year (linked to Maths Hub and Clusters)

#### Beginning in the Autumn Term

- Maths Hub Year 5-8 Continuity Project
  - Primary and Secondary Participation
- Unstoppable Learning
- LCT Secondary Trust working

#### Work going forward

- Align maths priorities into the cluster model (as is the case in Newport)
- Provide a programme of cross phase networking
- Agree KPIs and monitoring across secondary phase

- RC reported that the STSA had convened an excellent cross phase session focused on transition. One of the key discussion points had been how multiplication is taught in KS2 and the different approach taken in KS3.
- Whilst the original intention under this objective was to try to develop a whole-LA approach, several strategies are being employed across the borough and within various trusts, presenting an opportunity to learn from each.

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## SEND Sufficiency Update:

### Specialist Sufficiency - Enhanced Provision

- A working group, comprising 10 school leaders, the LSAT Lead, a Specialist Teacher and the LA QA Lead, meets half termly. The focus has been on completing audits of each school's enhanced provision offer, developing enhanced spaces and classroom spaces, exit and entry criteria and curriculum development - culminating in the production of Best Practice Guidance for all primary schools in the Summer Term 2025.
- AW reported on applications for the Accessibility and Inclusion Capital Grant, which provides an opportunity to make physical changes to the environment to support inclusion and SEND. Over 40 applications have been received, far more than had been anticipated. Letters will be sent out to the successful bidders this week (around 15); however, conversations will take place with the remaining schools to see what else can be done to support them. GE highlighted the fact that the issue is not just about the space and the provision, but also about staffing costs. It was acknowledged that in some settings there is simply no space to make the necessary adjustments.
- SS reported that schools in the North Cluster visited each other's hubs last week. Whilst there was a lack of consistency of provision, the importance of the expertise of the lead was very clear. Sustainability is a concern and needs further examination.



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## SEND Update

- National Picture – White Paper – expected early 2026
- SEND & AP Change Programme – ending March 2026
- Learning from programme has been used to support national reform development
- Current focus - Local Support System for Settings – Inclusive mainstream Provision
- Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce (APST) is a multi agency outreach support offer for SEMH needs
- Assistive Technology Lending Library. Launch event – 23rd January 2026

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## Education Safeguarding Partnership Subgroup Update:

- As one of four key safeguarding partners (police, health, social care and education), schools are now well represented on a number of safeguarding groups (through either SS or GB) - including the Children's Safeguarding Partnership Executive; the Safeguarding Children's Board; CSPR; MACFA; the Family First Program Partnership and Rapid Review. SS co-chairs the Education Safeguarding Partnership Group and participated in the CSA Audit.
- Key messages are fed back through the various headteacher forums (SS for the PHF and through SW for the SHF).
- This highly effective partnership approach is ensuring that arrangements for safeguarding are robust.
- STW and DTW (from legal services) are providing excellent training for all primary headteachers on the Schools' Role in the Safeguarding Legal Process and this course is also available for other staff through the CPD booklet.

- SS outlined the key findings from a recent Headteacher Voice Survey, including the current key themes concerning headteachers in relation to safeguarding:
  - Domestic Violence
  - Vaping
  - Self-harm / suicide / suicidal ideation
  - Inappropriate online activity
  - Toxic parental relationships
  - Parental conflict

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## Education Safeguarding Partnership Subgroup Update:

- LW commented that all the 2350 students who attend Telford College are well behaved and motivated and a credit to their former schools.
- The new Sixth Form centre is scheduled to open in September 2026, with a capacity for 600 students. The transformation of the previously named Addenbrooke House is taking shape and now houses a library (*not planned for in the original design*). The science laboratories have been created in conjunction with science tutors to ensure an educators' perspective is built into the design.
- The location is very important, in terms of not only easy access, but proximity to the social and public spaces of the town centre and Southwater Square. The College has worked closely with a design company which ordinarily specialises in private education and in higher education, to ensure a professional university-style environment. There is a focus on social spaces and collaborative study.
- Attendance at open events has been very good and 130+ applications have been received so far - which is a positive number but also linked to demographics.

TELFORD 6<sup>th</sup>

### Telford 6th

- Opening September 2026
- Central, accessible location
- Aspirational learning environment
- Bridge between school and university
- Contemporary feel



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## Any Other Business:

- A discussion took place about the October half term break and whether it should move to a two-week holiday.
- RC reminded schools that they will have a statutory duty to issue a penalty notice if pupils do not attend school for 5 days or more.
- There is a general feeling amongst schools that a two-week October half term break could provide a chance for staff (and children) to rest and rejuvenate, which might have a positive impact on absence levels in the second half of the Autumn Term.
- A decision was made not to make any changes currently, but to possibly return to the issue in due course.

## Upcoming Partnership Board Dates:

<b>Wednesday, January 28, 2026</b> Telford College – Wellington Campus	<b>10am to 12pm</b>
<b>Wednesday March 11, 2026</b>	<b>2pm to 4pm</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 06, 2026</b>	<b>2pm to 4pm</b>
<b>Wednesday, June 24, 2026</b>	<b>10am to 12pm</b>