



Telford & Wrekin  
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest  
to create a better borough

# Telford & Wrekin Local Offer **Newsletter**



## SEND Newsletter January 2024

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

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### Phased Transition

#### Key Dates

Please can **Year 11** annual reviews and preference forms be returned to the SEND team by Friday 12 January 2024 in preparation for consultation.

The SEND Team require the Phase transition consultation forms for children with EHCPs going into **Reception and Year 7**. Please return by 12 January 2023. If there are any queries regarding this date please do contact your SEND Officer.

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### SEND Local Offer

#### SENCo Space

Take a look at the SENCo Space on the Local Offer, all the useful information for SENCo's has been put in one area.

[SENCo Space](#)

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# SEND Training Courses

## SENCo Network Meetings

SENCo Network Meetings are an opportunity to find out the latest information from SEND 0-25, to network and to provide and receive support from other professionals.

They are an opportunity for SENCo's, senior and middle leaders from primary, secondary and specialist maintained schools to share collaborative working, best practice, policy changes and good news stories of how we all can make a difference to Children & Young People living in Telford & Wrekin.

The next SENCo network meeting will be on **Thursday 11 January at Charlton School, 4-5.30pm.**

Bee-U are joining us for this session and the focus will be on their services, referrals etc. We have invited Early Years, school and post-16 settings to this session and are inviting up to 2 people from each setting to attend as we know that as well as your SENCo you may also wish your Mental Health or Autism Lead to attend.

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# Children's Autism Hub

## Activities This Term

Thursday 1 February 4.30pm – 6pm – [DUGOUT/Youth Group Session](#)

Monday 5 February 9.15am – 10.45am [Early Years SEND Support & Play](#)

Monday 5 February 11.15am – 12.15pm [Coffee & Chat](#)

Wednesday 14 February 10.00am – 12.30pm [Autism Champion training](#)

Monday 19 February 9.15am – 10.45am [Early Years SEND Support & Play](#) at Dobbies Garden Centre, Donnington

Monday 19 February 11.15am – 12.15pm – [Coffee & Chat](#)

Tuesday 20 February 4.00pm – 5.00pm – [Primary Family Fun Session](#)

Monday 26 February 11.15am – 12.15pm – [Coffee & Chat](#)

Monday 4 March 11.15am -12.15pm [Coffee & Chat](#)

Monday 4 March 9.15am – 10.45am [Early Years SEND Support & Play](#)

Thursday 7 March 4.30pm – 6pm – [DUGOUT/Youth Group Session](#)

Monday 11 March 11.15am -12.15pm [Coffee & Chat](#)

Monday 18 March 9.15am – 10.45am [Early Years SEND Support & Play](#) at  
Dobbies Garden Centre, Donnington

Monday 18 March 11.15am -12.15pm [Coffee & Chat](#)

Tuesday 19 March 4.00pm – 5.00pm – [Primary Family Fun Session](#)

All our activities are held at our Hazeldine House office unless otherwise stated.

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## CPD

### Fantastic Upcoming CPD

- **LSAT 212 Governors' Responsibilities for SEND**

Thursday, May 16, 2024 5pm to 7pm

- **LSAT 514 AET Making Sense of Autism – an Introduction to Autism for Governors**

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 6pm to 7.30pm

- **LSAT 515 Teaching Revision Skills at KS3 and Beyond**

Wednesday, June 26, 2024 9.15am to 12noon

- **Bespoke Autism Education Trust training for Early Years, Primary, Secondary and Post-16 settings. Please contact:**

**Early Years:** [samantha.evans@telford.gov.uk](mailto:samantha.evans@telford.gov.uk)

**Primary and Secondary:** [sarah.court@telford.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.court@telford.gov.uk)

**Post-16:** [jane.park@telford.gov.uk](mailto:jane.park@telford.gov.uk)

- **Talk for Work, training for professionals**

Monday 29 January, 9am-3pm, Online via Microsoft Teams

Talk for Work is an evidence based intervention for children and young people with delayed SLCN aged 13+, focused on developing speech, language and communication skills for the workplace.

For more information please contact: [sarah.court@telford.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.court@telford.gov.uk)

**Talk For Work Flyer**

- **TalkBoost KS2**

Tuesday 6 February

**Talk Boost Flyer**

Please see the Telford and Wrekin CPD booklet for further details and to book: [cpd-booklet-for-schools-2023-24.pdf \(telfordeducationservices.co.uk\)](#)

**NASEN CPD:**

Please visit the NASEN website for information regarding their online training opportunities: [Online CPD Units | Whole School SEND](#)

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## Opportunities

### Cool Kids Information Session

The Cool Kids programme are offering a FREE education session to our schools on Tuesday 27 February 2024, 1pm - 3pm.

The sessions will take place on Microsoft Teams.

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)

**Cool Kids Session Invite Letter**

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## Leader and Cabinet Members' Young Person Grant 2024

Telford & Wrekin Council has launched 'The Leader and Cabinet Members' Young Person Grant 2024', supporting young borough residents to take the next steps in their career.

In its eighth cycle, the grant of up to £500 is available for young people who are seeking support to help get them into education, employment or training. Additionally, the grant is also available to young people looking for help to pursue extracurricular activities to support their learning and development.

To be eligible for the grant, the young person must live in Telford and Wrekin - or be a child in care or care leaver living outside of the borough. They must also be aged between 15 (and in Year 11) through to 25 at the close of applications.

They must showcase how the funding could successfully help them overcome barriers, including those that are currently preventing them from accessing education, employment or training. It is also available to those seeking to start up their own business and need an initial investment.

[Find Out More](#)

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## Updates From Health

### Dynamic Support Register (Learning Disability and Autism)

The Dynamic Support Register (DSR) is a register of people with a learning disability and/or autistic people who are at risk of going into hospital (children or adults) or into a 52-week residential placement (children) as result of deteriorating mental health conditions or distressed behaviours. It enables all agencies and services involved in commissioning and delivering their care and support to provide the type of support the person needs to stay well at home. For children and young people aged 0-25 years, inclusion on the DSR can lead to the [allocation of a Keyworker](#).

A diagnosis of learning disability and/or autism is needed to be included on the DSR and to receive the support of a Keyworker. The individual's lead professional can refer, or individuals/parent carers can self-refer.

Further information regarding Shropshire Telford & Wrekin's DSR process can be found [here](#). In 2024 a digital DSR is being introduced which will allow professionals to better collect and share data. For self-referral this will mean that individuals or parent carers can self-refer online. However self-referral will still be available by phone or email which is the current system.

## Speech, Language and Communication Needs workstream update

The Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) workstream meets on a monthly basis and has representation from parent carer forum (PACC & PODS), health, social care and education including schools and early years settings. Back in 2021 we agreed the vision that "speech, language and communication is everyone's business" this means that everyone has an important role in supporting a child's speech, language and communication skills. Since 2021 we have rolled out a number of initiatives across the system to ensure that practitioners working with children, and their parents can support speech, language and communication skills.

These have included Talk Boost in early years settings and primary schools, [Talk Boost](#) is an intervention to support speech, language and communication skills. Many children across the area have benefited from this support, speak to your child's school or early years settings to find out more about Talk Boost. You can also look at the [Talk Boost Parent Hub](#) for activities and strategies you can use at home.

In Shropshire we have developed the [School Readiness](#) resource as a helpful guide focused on early years development, this was developed in conjunction with the SLCN workstream. We are working to further join up the SLCN offer with the development of Family Hubs and Best Start For Life.

The [Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service](#) has redeveloped their website with the support of parents, the content on the website is regularly updated so please take a look. Two free training videos on the topics of **early vocabulary** and concepts and **selective mutism** are now live on the website, with two further videos coming soon; **early attention and listening skills** and **school aged vocabulary and concepts**. The children's SLT service also have a useful [facebook page](#) which has regular updates with links to national campaigns.

The Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service also have an advice line which can be accessed without a referral to the service, this is an opportunity to call to speak to a SLT for advice about your child's speech, language or communication. The advice line has received over 350

calls! Speech and Language Therapy Advice Line number: 01743 450800 (option 4)

As a workstream we are keen to make sure that information about all of the support available for speech, language and communication needs can be found in one place. We are working on developing an area on the Healthier Together website which is similar to the [Neurodiversity Support Information](#).

## Updates from the Neurodiversity Workstream

The Neurodiversity Workstream includes representatives for education, health, social care, voluntary sector organisations and PODS parent carer forum. We meet to discuss the challenges for neurodiverse children and young people, and aim to improve the support and services available. We know that there is still a lot to do to improve the experiences for neurodiverse children and young people but we wanted to share some steps which have been taken to improve things.

- [ELSA](#) is an educational psychology led intervention for promoting the emotional wellbeing of children and young people in schools. As part of our initial ELSA training in October 2023 led by Co-Principal EPs Dr Jane Park and Dr Meryl Newton, TAW Educational Psychology Service updated our professional development session on supporting neurodiversity and emotions. Working with 26 new ELSAs we shared research and resources to ensure that, regardless of diagnostic status, the strengths and needs of our neurodivergent learners can be understood and met from within schools' available resources.
- TAW EP and LSAT teams continue to move forward with our [Autism Education Trust](#) Professional Development strategy across the Early Years, Schools and Post 16 programmes. In October 2023 Dr Jane Park and Lead LSAT Sarah Court ran a 'catch up' session for new Autism Leads in schools and post 16 settings in Telford & Wrekin. Our next step is to establish regular network meetings for Autism Leads in order to support implementation of good autism practice in our schools and settings.
- Work has taken place over the summer to develop a webpage which includes a range of local support available to neurodiverse children and young people and their families. The webpage can be found [here](#). It also includes information about national support available, such as [Scope](#), which offers emotional support for parents and carers of children who are on a diagnostic pathway or have recently been diagnosed. We are pleased to see that the neurodiversity section on the Healthier Together website has been receiving an increasing number of visits, you can provide feedback on the Healthier Together website [here](#)
- MPFUT's BeeU service complete autism diagnostic assessments for 5 - 18 year olds across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. As is the case nationally there are often long waits for autism diagnostic assessments

and we appreciate that waiting can be difficult. Following feedback from parents the service have now started to send a letter to children, young people and their families if they are waiting for an autism diagnostic assessment. This letter includes confirmation that they are on the waiting list, although there is a long wait. The letter also includes suggestions of support available and encourages families to contact the BeeU service if their circumstances have changed.

- A new Assistant Psychologist was recruited to BeeU in October 2023. The focus of this role who will be to primarily work to support children and families who are on the waiting list for ND assessments. The assistant psychologist has already made contact with many families who have been waiting the longest for diagnostic assessments.
- Autism West Midlands have started the latest webinar series Rising To The Challenge The Early Years. This series comprises of six topic-based sessions tailored to the needs of families with younger autistic children, optional Teams chat after to explore in more details with Autism Specialist Advisors and other parents carers. The sessions can be viewed live or on catch up and free to access. <https://autismwestmidlands.org.uk/events/rising-to-the-challenge-summer-2023-west-midlands-region/>
- Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust have recently launched a new advice phone line to provide support to families who have children waiting to be seen at the [Child Development Centre](#), or for those who have very recently been seen for assessment. If your child is on the waiting list you can call the service and speak to a specialist practitioner about your child's needs. The specialist practitioner will give you advice and sign post you to services and resources which may help your child and you as a family. If you are eligible to access the advice line you should have received a letter from the Child Development Centre. Please contact the CDC if you think you should be eligible but haven't received a letter.

## **Paediatric Epilepsy Nurse Specialists, NHS Shropshire Telford and Wrekin**

Louise and Kirsty are Paediatric Epilepsy Nurse specialists covering Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Mid Wales. They are both experienced children's nurses with a variety of experience having worked together on the acute children's ward at Shrewsbury hospital for over 10 years. Louise then moved into her Epilepsy specialist nurse role 10 years ago. Kirsty started her Epilepsy specialist nurse role 5 years ago.

They are hospital based and have a caseload of approximately 700 children who have Epilepsy; many of whom also have other varying medical needs including Autism, ADHD and learning difficulties or learning disabilities. Louise and Kirsty not only support these children and their families in dealing with



their Epilepsy diagnosis, but they also provide training for educational settings on Epilepsy management and Epilepsy awareness.


Louise and Kirsty work to support the identification and reduction of health inequalities in the care of children and young people living with epilepsy. They also contribute to the improvement of health information required for Education, Health and Care Plan's, specifically for children and young people living with Epilepsy and SEND. Supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities is a large part of their role and something they are both keen to develop and improve over the coming months.

Louise and Kirsty work in partnership with schools, children, young people and families to develop Individual Healthcare plans. The aim is to ensure that schools know how to support children and young people effectively and provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom.

They also regularly meet with children and young people within the outpatient's clinic setting, as well as acute setting, such as during admission to the children's ward at Princes Royal Hospital. They provide a telephone help line for families to discuss any concerns related to epilepsy. This may also involve referral to other services to help support children form a holistic approach.

**Louise Edmunds** 01952 565937

**Kirsty Wagg** 01952 282889



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Local Offer

## Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Discover all you need to know about education, health and care services in Telford & Wrekin.  
[www.telfordsend.org.uk](http://www.telfordsend.org.uk)

Find clear and accessible SEN advice, information and support on:

- Leisure, fun and short breaks activities
- How schools support SEN
- Specialist services
- Personal Budgets
- Travel Assistance
- Health Services
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Social care
- Preparing for Adulthood
- FAQ's for Parent Carers and Families
- SEND Newsletters
- Local offer for Young People

[Find out more](#)

