

# Short Breaks Newsletter

News, Updates and Activities for Children with Disabilities and their Families in Telford



June 2024

## Short Breaks Statement 2024

Following consultation in December 2023, we have been working on our new Short Breaks Statement. In Telford & Wrekin we work together with children, young people and their families to achieve the best possible outcomes in all areas of their life. We believe that with the 'right support at the right time' this is possible. Working together, children and young people with disabilities can and will achieve their full potential. The Short Break Statement is designed to show how we meet the social care needs of Children and Young People with disabilities in Telford.

We would like to thank all parents who contributed to the statement and have provided feedback to help us create such a useful and informative document. You can view the Short Breaks Statement [here](#).

## Rocksteady Music Session

Following the success of last year's event, Rocksteady came back and hosted another great session on 28th May. Rocksteady provide an opportunity for children with disabilities to play an instrument and have fun whilst playing music. We received such great feedback from parents of those that attended the session:

'Such an inclusive and well run session by lovely and clearly very experienced individuals. My daughter has severe autism and learning disabilities and some SEN activities are too much for her. In this environment although she wasn't able to follow instruction easily she was able to be herself and do what she wanted to without judgement. I loved the fact that despite the fact she is mostly non-speaking she wanted to use the microphone! I would welcome any further sessions and would like to thank the Children with Disabilities team for organising these sessions.'

Keep an eye out for our next Rocksteady session!

## NEW—iCan2 Creative Arts Club

We are pleased to announce that the 4 All Foundation is, following a tender process, the selected provider of a new Arts activity programme for iCan2 members. The 4 All Foundation is an experienced provider of various activity programmes from Shropshire that include holiday clubs, youth clubs, multi sports programmes and more. You can read more about them [here](#) including their annual report.

The new Arts Club will offer sessions for Music, Dance and Drama, offering a programme across the year that may offer:

- Music: African Drumming, Ukulele, DJ Making and Steel Drums
- Dance: Zumba, Clubbercise, Street Dance and Irish Dancing
- Drama: Activities and performances linked to Disney and the West End.

The activities offered by the 4 All Foundation are designed to be not only educational but also fun, memorable, and enjoyable. By fostering a nurturing and inclusive environment, the Foundation seeks to empower young people to pursue their passions, build meaningful relationships, and unlock a world of possibilities.

George Hounsell, Director of the 4 All Foundation "The 4 All Foundation are delighted to be extending our reach across the county and supporting more communities. Our programmes are delivered by qualified and experienced staff members who have a passion to make a difference".

Jayne Stevens, PODS Parent Carer Forum "PODS are committed to ensuring the parent carer voice is included when developing and co-producing new services within the Local Authority. As part of the Short Breaks offer, we were pleased to be involved in the tender process for the new Arts Club that will include Creative Arts, Dance and Music sessions. We are sure that families will enjoy this exciting new offer and we look forward to hearing all about it."

## Short Breaks Forum Feedback

The Short Breaks Forum provides an opportunity for local families to meet with Telford and Wrekin Council representatives to discuss and exchange views, information and options to meet the social care needs of children with disabilities.

At our last forum on 21st May 2024, the following points were discussed:

- The LA acknowledges the on-going lack of choice of community support providers. A new approved provider framework has been introduced that includes a Lot just for children's support. As new providers are accepted onto the approved provider list, families will be updated with this information.
- Despite provider engagement there are little emerging options locally for overnight respite. The LA views this as a significant local issue and understands the impact of this on families. The options we are developing are to increase the number of Short Breaks foster carers and providers to develop a residential unit. The goal is to provide regulated overnight provision that offers value for money and much needed support to families.
- The LA is pleased to announce that the recent tender for a new Arts Club has concluded and the successful provider will be announced shortly. The Arts Activities will offer music, dance and drama opportunities and is expected to start from September. ***Post forum update—the provider has been announced as 4All Foundation.***
- The LA is tendering for a Sports & Leisure Club that will provide a 3 hour session each Saturday morning.
- iCan2 is the umbrella term for the LA's Short Breaks 'Targeted' offer for children and young people with a disability that results in barriers to accessing universal/universal plus activities. Membership is required prior to any children booking on to the any of the new iCan2 offers. There will be several providers that offer activities/passes that are part of the wider iCan2 offer. iCan2 registration documents will be shared shortly.
- Parents acknowledged positively the development of the Inclusive Leisure offer. They gave feedback about the swimming sessions to take on board, to improve this – such as lowering the pool floor, removing the music, feedback on the changing facilities. This will be communicated to Leisure Services.
- The LA fed back on the Council's Play Strategy that includes how we create meaningful and dedicated play opportunities for disabled children and people in the borough. We would encourage families to engage in any consultation regarding this.
- The LA is pleased to announce a small grants capital programme, available to activity providers, community centres, providers, etc, to support the purchase of equipment to benefit children. More information on this can be found [here](#).

If you would like to attend, our next forum is 10th September 2024, 10-12pm at PODS Hub, 1 Hawkworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU. You do not need to register—you are more than welcome to come along!

## iCan2 Membership Scheme

As you may be aware, iCan2 is the membership scheme ran by Telford and Wrekin Council to offer fun and engaging activities to children and young people 0-17 with disabilities. iCan2 provides targeted and preventative level support for children and young people where disability has a moderate or severe impact on day-to-day life. Within the scheme, there are providers that deliver creative arts, sports and leisure, and youth clubs. We also offer passes for local attractions, such as Tenpin Bowling, Hoo Zoo, Attingham Park, Ironbridge Museums, Shugborough Estate and Monkey Forest at Trentham.

The scheme has recently undergone some changes, and in order to access all of the wonderful activities and local attraction passes, membership is required. If you would like to become a member and access these exciting opportunities, you can download the membership form and find more details, including eligibility criteria [here](#).

Date and Time	Activity	Location	Details
<b>Monday</b>			
Every Week—10-11.30am	PODS Sensory Session	PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU	To book PODS activities, visit <a href="http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS">www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS</a> . For any queries, contact <a href="mailto:support@podstelford.org">support@podstelford.org</a>
Every Week—3.45-4.45pm	PODS Sensory Session		
Every Week—4-5pm	PODS Stop Motion		
Every Week—4-5.30pm	Soft Play for Juniors	Telford Ice Rink, International way, Telford TF3 4JQ	To book, visit <a href="https://www.telfordicerink.co.uk/info/5/soft-play">https://www.telfordicerink.co.uk/info/5/soft-play</a>
Every Week—6-8pm	Soft Play for Seniors		
Every Week—11.15-12.15pm	Children's Autism Hub Coffee and Chat	Hazeldine House, Central Square, Telford TF3 4JL	To book, contact 01952260062 or email <a href="mailto:childrensautism@tandwcvcs.org.uk">childrensautism@tandwcvcs.org.uk</a>
<b>Tuesday</b>			
Every Week—3.45-4.45pm	PODS Sensory Sessions	PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU	To book PODS activities, visit <a href="http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS">www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS</a> . For any queries, contact <a href="mailto:support@podstelford.org">support@podstelford.org</a>
Every Week—4-5pm	PODS Minecraft		
Every Week—4-6pm	Pirates and Princesses Soft Play SEND Session	Unit 17, Cedar Court, Halesfield 17, Telford TF7 4PF	To book, call 01952582382
Every Week—6-7pm	Airea 51 SEND Session	Airea 51, Stafford Park 12, Telford, TF3 3BJ	To book, visit <a href="https://www.visittelford.co.uk/things-to-do/airea51-p1418561">https://www.visittelford.co.uk/things-to-do/airea51-p1418561</a>
Every Week—4-5pm	Challenging Perceptions Youth Wellbeing Group	Park Lane Centre, Woodside, TF7 5QZ	To book, call 01952683700.
Every Week—3.30-4.30pm	4 All Boxing	104-106 Southgate, Telford TF7 4HG	No booking required.
Every Week—10-11.30am (term time only)	Shining Stars SEND Playgroup 0-5yrs	The Linden Centre, Oak Road, Overdale, Telford, TF3 5BT	If you have any enquiries, email <a href="mailto:shiningstars2017@hotmail.com">shiningstars2017@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Wednesday</b>			
Every Week—3.45-4.45pm	PODS Sensory Session	PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU	To book PODS activities, visit <a href="http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS">www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS</a> . For any queries, contact <a href="mailto:support@podstelford.org">support@podstelford.org</a>
Every Week—4-5pm	PODS Lego		
Every Week—6-7pm	Airea 51 SEND Session	Airea 51, Stafford Park 12, Telford, TF3 3BJ	To book, visit <a href="https://www.visittelford.co.uk/things-to-do/airea51-p1418561">https://www.visittelford.co.uk/things-to-do/airea51-p1418561</a>
Every Week—4-5pm	4 All Dodgeball	104-106 Southgate, Telford TF7 4HG	No booking required.

If you would like to discuss your child's needs or accessibility requirements, please contact the activity provider on the details above ahead of the session to avoid disappointment.

Date and Time	Activity	Location	Details
<b>Thursday</b>			
Every Week—4-5pm	PODS Activity Sessions	PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU	To book PODS activities, visit <a href="http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS">www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS</a> . For any queries, contact support@podstelford.org
Every Week—10.30-1.30pm	Special Needs Activity Centre	7 Downemead, Hollinswood, Telford, TF3 2EW	For more information, please visit SNAC on Facebook.
First Thursday of Month—4.30pm	Children's Autism Hub Dugout 11-18yrs	Hazeldine House, Central Square, Telford TF3 4JL	To book, contact 01952260062 or email <a href="mailto:childrensautism@tandwcvcs.org.uk">childrensautism@tandwcvcs.org.uk</a>
<b>Friday</b>			
Every Week—1-2pm	PODS Sensory Sessions	PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU	To book PODS activities, visit <a href="http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS">www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS</a> . For any queries, contact support@podstelford.org
Every Week—10-12pm	Ice Rink SEND Session	Telford Ice Rink, International way, Telford TF3 4JQ	To book, visit <a href="https://www.telfordicerink.co.uk/info/5/soft-play">https://www.telfordicerink.co.uk/info/5/soft-play</a>
Every Week—5-6pm	Ice Rink SEND Session		
Third Friday of Month —7pm	Funky Friday Inclusive Disco 15+	The Navy Club, Bellman's Yard. Newport, TF10 7AJ	Entry is by pre-booked ticket only. See Facebook page Funky Friday Inclusive Disco for booking details.
Every Week—10-11am	Challenging Perceptions Under 5's Parents and Toddlers	Park Lane Centre, Woodside, TF7 5QZ	To book, call 01952683700.
<b>Saturday</b>			
Every Week—1.45-2.15pm	Silhouette Dance SEND Session	Randlay Avenue, Telford, TF3 2LH	To book, call 07792300692.
Every Week—10-11am	PODS Activity Session	PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU	To book PODS activities, visit <a href="http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS">www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS</a> . For any queries, contact support@podstelford.org
<b>Sunday</b>			
Every Week—12.15-1.30pm	SEND Swimming	Abraham Darby Leisure Centre, Ironbridge Rd, Telford, TF7 5HX	To view full timetable, visit <a href="https://www.telfordandwrekinleisure.co.uk/info/4/swimming">https://www.telfordandwrekinleisure.co.uk/info/4/swimming</a>
Every Week—9-10.30am	Pirates and Princesses Soft Play SEND Session	Unit 17, Cedar Court, Halesfield 17, Telford TF7 4PF	To book, call 01952582382
Every Week—5-6pm	Wrekin SEND Swimming Club	Wellington Leisure Centre, Tan Bank, Wellington, Telford TF1 1LX	For more information, search Wrekin Special Swimming Club on Facebook or call 07530465472.
Alternate Sunday's	Big Street Little Feet Role Play Centre	2 Anstice Square, Horseshoe Court, Madeley, Telford TF7 5BD	To book and find out more information, visit <a href="https://www.bigstreetlittlefeet.co.uk/home">https://www.bigstreetlittlefeet.co.uk/home</a>

