



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Education Noticeboard

7 March 2025

A round-up of news, guidance and key updates for education settings

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Directors Update

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you're having a wonderful week and making the most of the warmer weather. It's always nice to have a bit of sunshine to brighten the days.

Telford & Wrekin Council is participating in National Careers Week 2025, which promotes careers advice and guidance for people of all ages across the UK.

The council's Job Box service has been actively supporting individuals with career planning, CV writing, job applications, and communication skills.

Councillor Shirley Reynolds highlighted the importance of this week in providing career support for both young people and adults facing career challenges or seeking new directions. The council is proud to assist residents at any stage of their career journey.

I encourage you to have a look at the Maxell offer below, schools with suitable projects to improve educational standards are encouraged to apply for grants, even if their previous projects did not receive funding last year. Due to market conditions, the maximum grant amount is £3,000. All educational projects, regardless of size, are welcome. Applicants should complete the online form, providing a brief summary, estimated costs, requested funding, and contact details.

NHS Shropshire, Telford, and Wrekin is seeking input through a new survey to improve diabetes care. The survey aims to gather feedback to help plan better services, support health management, provide easy-to-navigate and inclusive services, focus on prevention and treatment, and ensure coordinated efforts across organizations. The survey is open until April 30, 2025, and responses will be anonymous if you wish to partake.

There are numerous training opportunities and offers listed below. Please take the time to review these offers carefully. Where applicable, I encourage you or your staff to enrol before the specified deadlines.



Enjoy the rest of the week.

Best Wishes,

Simon

Simon Wellman

Director: Education & Skills

News

Contractor appointed for school expansion



Telford & Wrekin Council has appointed local contractor, Pave Aways, to extend and renovate Millbrook Primary School and Nursery in Leegomery to provide capacity for 420 primary age children.

Pave Aways has experience in delivering a number of school projects across the Borough, including the recent successful expansion of Lawley Village Academy and ongoing works at Ercall Wood Academy.

Improvements to Millbrook Primary School and Nursery will provide two additional classrooms, a new hall, improved kitchen facilities and a new SEND hub, funded by a developer contribution linked to housing development at the former Maxell Europe Ltd site.

Councillor Shirley Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education, Employment and Skills, said:

“I’m really pleased to see this project get off the ground as we protect, care, and invest to create a better borough.

“We remain committed to investing in our schools to provide more school places, improved facilities, and modern learning environments for the benefits

of pupils and staff. Education is the cornerstone of a vibrant community. By investing in our schools, we are investing in our future.

“The new SEND hub at the school will also allow the school to increase the number of spaces available for children for special education needs and ensure their learning environment is dedicated and tailored to support their needs.

“I look forward to seeing the progress made by Pave Aways as the project moves forward and to returning to the school to see the finished results.”

Jo Edwards, Deputy Headteacher at Millbrook Primary School and Nursery, said:

“We’re absolutely delighted to be working in partnership with Pave Aways on this vital project, which marks an exciting new chapter for Millbrook.

“This expansion is a significant milestone in our school’s development, reflecting our commitment to providing the very best learning environment for our children.

“This addition of a brand-new hall and classrooms will not only enhance our facilities but will also create a dynamic, modern, and stimulating space where our pupils can thrive.

“We are confident that this investment in our school’s future will have a lasting, positive impact, supporting the growth, wellbeing, and educational experiences of all our children for years to come.

Steven Owen, Managing Director of Pave Aways, said:

“We are proud to partner with Telford & Wrekin Council and Millbrook Primary School and Nursery on this project. With our extensive experience in delivering education projects across the region, Pave Aways is committed to creating high-quality learning environments that benefit pupils, staff, and the wider community.

“By working with our trusted local supply chain, we look forward to enhancing the school's facilities to support its long-term growth and future needs.”

In the budget for 2025/26, the Council has earmarked a further £45.2million to support and develop its school expansion programme. The funding will come through as a combination of government grant and developer contributions and is part of an overall budget which will also see £365m invested in a wide

range of service areas, helping to create jobs, homes, transport improvements and boost town centres.

£2,000 up for grabs for community projects



A project that offers young people aged 11-18 the chance to turn a passion into a reality, is now inviting submissions.

Applicants are encouraged to apply to Telford & Wrekin Council's Make a Change project and use it as a platform to raise awareness for something they feel passionate about.

Those that are successful are given up to £2,000 to turn projects into reality.

A confidence boost and a sense of accomplishment are just some of the positive experiences applicants can expect as part of the scheme.

Councillor Raj Mehta, (Lab) Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Engagement, Equalities & Civic Pride said: "Being part of a community project is not just about understanding the world around us but also for laying the groundwork for a better future for others.

"When we invest our time and energy into meaningful initiatives, we pave the way for a society that is more compassionate and inclusive.

"Hopefully by leaving a legacy of projects that make a positive change, we inspire others, ensuring our efforts have a far-reaching impact that extends beyond our own lives."

The criteria for projects should either improve people's mental health or make where people live, cleaner or greener.

The scheme is funded through the Council's Building Safer & Stronger Communities project and in part by the West Mercia Police and Crime

Commissioner, John Campion and the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Councillor Metha added: "By doing good for others and the community, people gain a natural sense of accomplishment, pride and identity.

Make a Change launched in 2023 and among winning ideas was one put forward by Dawley Youth Club to set up a mental health project with the support of Telford Mind.

Hayden Banks-Morgan, aged 13, was one of the young people involved.

"I'm more confident because of the mental health group. I have less social anxiety and now I can talk to new people.

"Make a Change could benefit other children, so I definitely think they should apply."

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion, said: "Young people are often the most vulnerable in our society and it is important they are being given the opportunity to take a more positive direction in their life.

"This project is going to not only benefit the young people taking part but the community too and I look forward to seeing what creative ideas young people have."

The closing date for applications is Friday, May 2 and to apply or for more support with an application visit www.telford.gov.uk/makeachange

You can also email the team direct for further information at saferstronger@telford.gov.uk

Council joins National Careers Week celebration



We've joined a national celebration of careers advice and guidance this week.

[National Careers Week 2025](#) encourages people of all ages to explore different career pathways that match their interests and signposts people of all ages to guidance and free education resources across the UK.

Our [Job Box](#) service has been on hand all week to help people with their career planning and support them with CV writing, job applications and communication skills.

Councillor Shirley Reynolds, Telford & Wrekin Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education, Employment & Skills, said:

“National Careers Week is a celebration of careers guidance which is widely recognised across the UK.

“Not only does the week focus on the careers support which is available for young people as they leave education, it also promotes support for people of all ages who are facing career challenges or are looking for a change of direction.

“We are proud to offer this support and help people across Telford and Wrekin with their career journey, whatever stage it's at.”

National Offer Day



It was national offer day on Monday for secondary school places.

For the fourth year running 95 percent of pupils who are due to start school in September were given a place at one of their preferred schools, with 81 percent getting their first preference.

You can read more on this at

<https://newsroom.telford.gov.uk/news/secondary-school-national-offer-day>

We now look forward to the national offer day for primary school places, which is on 16 April.

Safeguarding



News and updates

February TWSP Newsletter includes details of Free multi-agency training

TWSP face-to-face training – either virtually or in-person – is available to all TWSP partner agencies. If you already have an Ollie account, please log in to Ollie and book your place, unless otherwise instructed. If you do not have an existing Ollie account, please email partnerships@telford.gov.uk and they will be able to assist.

[Click here for website](#)

Maxwell Educational Trust Grant Opportunity



The Maxwell Educational Trust is now in its 35th year and we are very proud to continue our support.

Since its inception in 1989 the total awarded is now at £591,660. The trust has supported many local schools and colleges in Telford & Wrekin towards a whole variety of projects with 'Educational' themes.

The trust has charitable status and its income is generated from managed investments. Market returns last year were reasonable, which means we as trustees are in a position to consider funding selected educational projects.

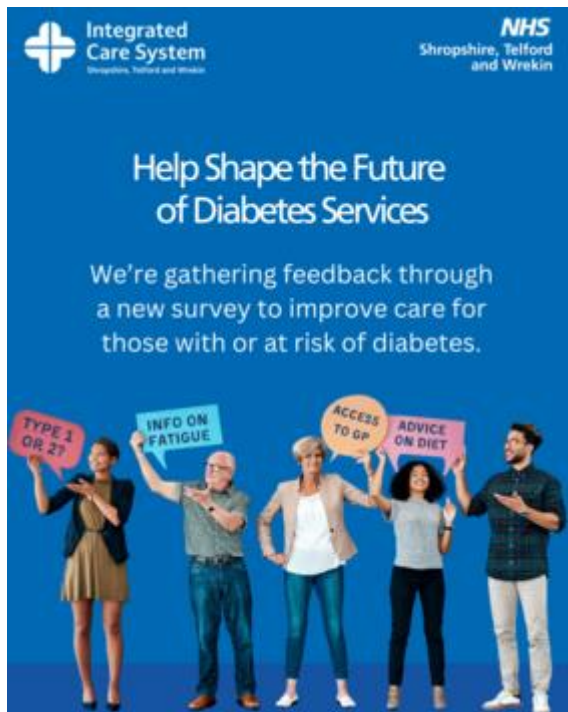
We know that school budgets are very restricted, but if you feel you have a suitable project which would improve educational standards, or you have a previous project that did not benefit from an award last year, now is the time to apply. Due to market conditions, we must put a maximum amount on grants given at £3,000 for any one grant.

We welcome all educational projects large or small for awards; please follow the attached link Grant Application Form - Maxell to complete the online form, providing a brief summary, estimated costs and requested funding with your contact name, email address and telephone number.

Trustees will next meet to consider all proposed projects in late April 2025, therefore applications should be made to the trustees via the grant application form above on or before Friday 4 April 2025.

[Apply here](#)

Help Shape the Future of Diabetes Care in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin



NHS Shropshire, Telford, and Wrekin is looking to improve the care for people living with and at risk of diabetes.

We have developed a new survey to get your input on how to shape future diabetes services.

Your help will let us know how to:

- Plan the best services in our area
- Help you to take control of your health
- Offer easy-to-navigate services with help for those who need it
- Offer digital help and alternatives to stop exclusion
- Focus on both prevention and treatment
- Work as one team across organizations

If you have diabetes, let us know if you're getting the support you need to stay healthy and avoid complications.

Your feedback will help us improve diabetes services in our area.

If you need any help completing the survey, call us on 01952 580300

The survey is open until April 30, 2025.

Details will be anonymous

[Online form](#)

Mental Health Training

Beat
Eating disorders

Free Training on supporting Young People with Eating Disorders from SPOT

[SPOT](#) is a free online learning resource for school's professionals. The platform has been designed to help support those working in a school setting

to understand eating disorders and build confidence when speaking to pupils about mental health. This includes those training to work in a school setting.

Research has shown that the earliest opportunity to prevent eating disorders is during primary school, with children showing concerns about physical appearance at an increasingly young age.

Making sure children and young people feel comfortable talking to staff about eating disorders can:

- Increase the chances of early detection
- Prevent pupils from falling through the gaps
- Ensure that support is given quickly

What can I do on SPOT?

By accessing SPOT, you will be taught how to spot the early signs of an eating disorder, talk to a pupil exhibiting them, engage their families, and support them to seek medical assessment. We have created the online platform to encompass different features including:

Learn – Gain key skills to give your pupils the best possible support through our bite sized interactive e-Learning modules and our webinar videos delivered by our expert clinicians. We also have downloadable resources in the form of lesson plans and access to school policy templates.

Engage – Share and gain knowledge from an inspiring community that is here to help you learn through our role specific workspaces and our resources section where you can find helpful videos, podcasts and articles that have been shared.

If you would like to see a video of the user experience, please see here

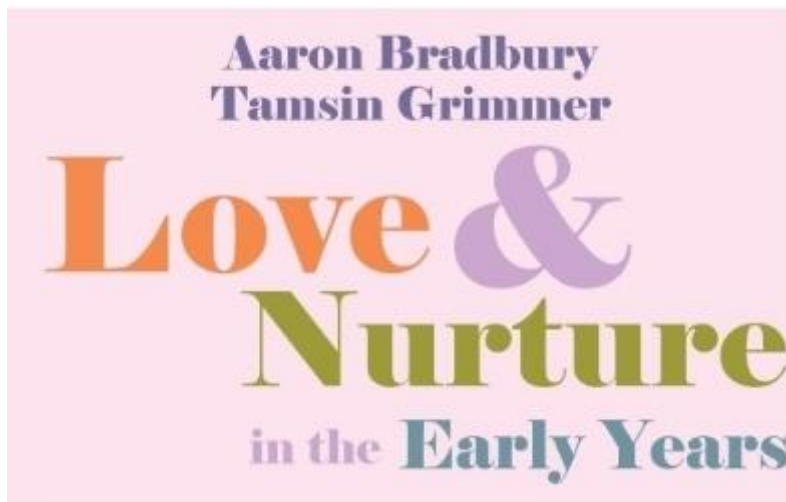
<https://vimeo.com/670741717>

SPOT is currently fully funded for all primary, secondary and sixth form schools/colleges in the United Kingdom.

Completion of all the learning units on the platform should take around 7 hours, but this is very much dependent on the learner. There is no time limit, and the units can be partially completed and returned to at a later date.

If you have any questions, please contact carers@beateatingdisorders.org.uk / 01603 619 090 (Option 2), Mon-Thurs, 9am-5pm.

Early Years



Love & Nurture in the Early Years

Thrive Together are excited to invite you to their Love & Nurture Learning Circle, a unique opportunity to connect with fellow early years practitioners and explore the role of love and nurture in early childhood education.

Led by Tamsin Grimmer, this interactive series of short training and discussion sessions will provide a space for reflection, collaborations, and professional growth.

What to Expect:

- Engaging discussions on key themes chosen by attendees
- Expert insights and guidance from Tamsin Grimmer
- Practical gap tasks to enhance your practice, including observations and team discussions
- Free PDF of the Love & Nurture Scale by Tamsin Grimmer & Aaron Bradbury

This is a fantastic opportunity to share experiences, gain new perspectives, and strengthen your nurturing approach in early years settings.

Sessions will be held on the following dates:

Tuesday 25th March, 4 – 5:30PM

Tuesday 8th April, 4 – 5:30PM

Tuesday 29th April, 4 – 5:30PM

Tuesday 13th May, 4 – 5:30PM

Tuesday 3rd June, 4 – 5:30PM

Zoom links will be sent after you have secured your space.

Register now to secure your place!

[Website](#)

Young Person Grant – back for 2025



The Leader and Cabinet Members' Young Person Grant is back for 2025.

The popular scheme which can give up to a £500 cash boost to help young people take the next step in their career will go live next week.

In the meantime, young people can start prepping their application and find out more about the application process here:

[Website](#)

CPD

CPD courses to the end of the Spring Term 2025

Further details of these and all other courses are available in the 2024-25 CPD booklet on the [Telford Education Services](#) website and on the [Ollie](#) website.

The CPD Booklet to the end of the 2024-25 academic year can be viewed via [Telford Education Services](#)

As always, courses can be booked by completing and returning a CPD booking form to cpdschoolimprovement@telford.gov.uk (unless denoted differently)

[Read More](#)

Council Launches New Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Calendar

Telford & Wrekin Council is proud to announce the launch of its new Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Community Calendar, a tool designed to foster community engagement and showcase events happening across the borough.

The Community Calendar is an online platform that highlights a wide range of campaigns and events throughout the year, celebrating the diverse cultural, social, and community-oriented activities within Telford and Wrekin. From cultural festivals and religious observances to national wellbeing events and inclusive recreational activities, the calendar aims to bring people together, promote mutual understanding, and build a more cohesive community.

Key Features of the Community Calendar:

- **Comprehensive Event Listings:** A centralized resource for all EDI-related events, making it easier for residents to find and participate in activities that interest them.

- **Inclusive Participation:** Encourages all community members to get involved, regardless of background, age, or ability.
- **User-Friendly Interface:** An easy-to-navigate platform that allows users to search for events by date, category, or theme and more.
- **Community Contributions:** Offers local organisations and groups the opportunity to submit their events for inclusion, ensuring a diverse and up-to-date event list.

The calendar comes as a result of the Council's EDI Strategy, an annually reviewed document to outline the Council's vision and commitment to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion across all aspects of community life. The EDI Strategy for 2024-25 was approved by Cabinet on Thursday 19 September 2024 where it was emphasised that the council will continue to create a supportive environment where everyone feels valued and can contribute to the community's success.

Councillor Raj Mehta (Lab), Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Engagement, Equalities & Civic Pride, said: "The launch of the Community Calendar is a significant step forward in our commitment to fostering an inclusive and vibrant community.

"This tool not only highlights the wonderful diversity within Telford and Wrekin but also strengthens our connections by encouraging participation and engagement from all residents.

"Alongside the calendar, our wider EDI Strategy and future plans were approved by Cabinet, and we will continue to strengthen and diversify the work we do as a council, and the opportunities available to residents too."

Residents, community groups, and organisations are encouraged to visit the new Community Calendar and explore the diverse range of events taking place across the borough. For more information or to submit an event, please visit :

[Website](#)

Crucial Crew 2025

Booking is now open



Crucial Crew 2025 is being held between 23 June and 11 July 2025.

Crucial Crew is back for the 30th year and booking is now OPEN.

Crucial Crew is a multi-agency partnership event aimed at Year 6 students designed to provide them with life skills and knowledge that will help to keep themselves and others safe, both now and in the future.

Crucial Crew aim to raise students awareness of important safety issues, encouraging them to think about their own and others safety and guiding them on what to do in a number of potentially unsafe situations.

This year the event is taking place between 23 June 2025 and 11 July 2025, excluding transition days.

Booking is now open until 11 April 2025, so complete the form by clicking on the [link](#) or scan the QR code:



Other Information and Resources

SEND Family Newsletter - March 2025

A newsletter for the families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Telford and Wrekin.

[Read More here](#)

Awareness Dates

Supporting Muslim Pupils During Ramadan: Important advice for schools



This guidance provides essential support for children who choose to fast during Ramadan. It also offers an excellent opportunity to educate students about the significance of the Islamic Festival of Ramadan and to build stronger connections with Muslim parents and communities. It is important for staff to have good understanding of the meaning and importance of the fasting month.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is one of the holiest months of the Islamic year for Muslims. The Islamic calendar is based on the lunar cycle. As this is shorter than the solar year, the month of Ramadan begins 10 or 11 days earlier each year. This year, Ramadan begins on Saturday, 1st March.

Fasting during Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims believe that fasting has many benefits. For instance, it strengthens self-discipline, creates sympathy for the poor and the destitute, and reminds them that they belong to a larger Muslim community. Fasting is prescribed for all healthy Muslim males and females once they attain the age of puberty. However, it is common practice for Muslim children to begin fasting before they attain puberty, to become progressively accustomed to the act. Although fasting for the entire month is not prescribed until the age of puberty, many children under the age of 11 may be seen observing the daily fast on certain days of the week or for the entire month.

Muslims also regularly offer **extra prayers** every night during the month of Ramadan, called 'Taraweeh' prayers. Many Muslims of all ages will stay up late saying prayers and reading the Holy Qur'an.

Schools can play a pivotal part in the development of the spiritual, moral, and social aspects of their pupils by recognising and building upon the spirit of Ramadan. This will help in promoting diversity and enhancing mutual understanding of respective faiths. There are various areas of support that schools can provide for their pupils during the month of Ramadan. Features of good practice in schools include:

Make sure that all staff are aware that it is Ramadan and its implications on school life. Inform midday supervisors and other support staff so they can also support children who are fasting.

Contact parents/carers to discuss a Ramadan plan. Talk to parents/carers and work with children who are fasting to see how best they can be supported by holding a meeting, sending a letter, or both.

It may be beneficial to talk to other students or peers in school about Ramadan and discuss how the fasting month impacts children who will be fasting.

Use Ramadan positively as an educational experience for all pupils by holding assemblies about it so that the whole school community can learn about its

place in Muslim life, and by discussions in history or religious education lessons.

Plan for teaching and learning opportunities during lessons and assemblies, including inviting speakers to come into school for all pupils to acknowledge, appreciate, and build understanding.

Waking up before sunrise to have the first meal will mean disturbed sleep for many, so concentration levels may be low. Make special provision at lunchtimes for pupils who are fasting. This could involve setting up a space or room where they can rest, pray, or read the Holy Qur'an with other Muslim pupils or staff.

Keep fasting children occupied during lunchtime with activities. Perhaps set up a Ramadan club during the lunch hour.

Take care in the timetabling of activities so that no pupil who is fasting is required to do anything that would make them break the fast or become dehydrated or weak. This could include swimming, strenuous physical exercise, or tasting food in food technology/ cooking sessions.

PE activities may need to be adjusted to suit the needs of pupils who are fasting.

Provide space for older children who may want some quiet time for reflection or to observe prayers.

On sunnier days, aim to provide shaded areas during outdoor play. Encourage adequate sun protection.

Be aware of the timing of evening events such as parents' meetings, so that Muslim staff and pupils either have time to return home to break their fast or are given earlier times before the end of the fast.

When planning any activities, after-school clubs, day trips, or any residential during Ramadan, give consideration to how this will affect children who fast.

Weblinks for Useful Resources

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ramadan-teaching-resources/z7c7qfr>

<https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/2021/04/12/guidance-and-resources-for-schools-for-ramadan>

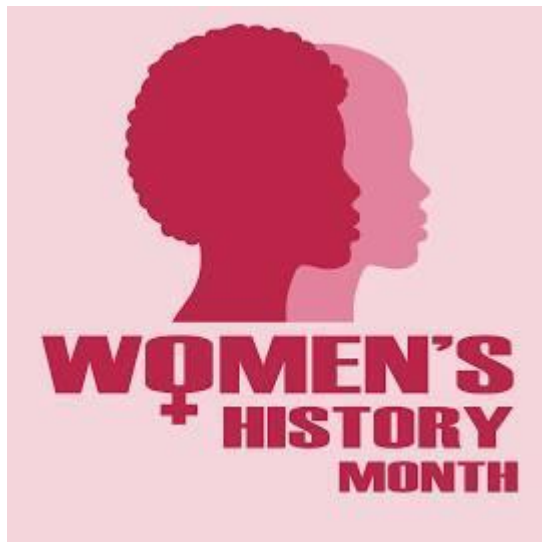
<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/study-break/magazine-zone/ramadan>

<https://education.theiet.org/primary/themed-primary-resources/ramadan-resources/>

For further advice and guidance, please contact Multicultural Development Team on multicultural.development@telford.gov.uk

Women's History Month

March 1, 2025 - March 31, 2025



Women's History Month takes place every March, offering a dedicated time to celebrate the remarkable achievements and contributions of women throughout history. While the dates remain consistent each year, spanning from the 1st to the 31st of March, the celebration is anything but routine. It's a vibrant and dynamic period where the spotlight shines brightly on the incredible stories and accomplishments of women from all walks of life.

In recognition of Women's History Month, we delve into the rich tapestry of women's experiences, triumphs, and challenges. From pioneering activists who fought for equality to trailblazing scientists, artists, and entrepreneurs who defied expectations, women have left an indelible mark on society. This month serves as a poignant reminder of their enduring legacy and the ongoing quest for gender equality and empowerment.

To infuse your digital platforms with the spirit of Women's History Month, here are some content ideas:

- Share inspiring quotes from influential women throughout history.
- Highlight lesser-known stories of women who made significant contributions to various fields.
- Host Q&A sessions or interviews with modern-day female trailblazers in your industry.
- Create engaging polls or quizzes to test knowledge about women's history.
- Share recommendations for books, films, or podcasts celebrating women's achievements.
- Collaborate with female creators or businesses for cross-promotional opportunities.

[Website](#)

