

Hello and welcome to the SGO Newsletter

March 2025

Happy spring! This is quite a jam-packed newsletter for you with lots of information as detailed below.

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Parenting and Family Support

Early Help Coffee and Chat Drop Ins

It's fair to say that all parents from time to time need some help and support with issues that impact on family life. There is help and support available in Shropshire through our Early Help coffee and chat drop ins – some of which are also stay and play sessions.

You can get free Information, advice and support on all aspects of family life, at our Family Drop-Ins. You can chat, have a cuppa and see how we can help you with:

- Family life
- Parenting support
- Domestic abuse support
- Money worries
- Housing support
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- and much more



To find your local drop in please visit the [Family Information Directory](https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/family-information-directory)

New Youth Drop in Session for Young People

Our Shropshire Youth team in the south are running a drop-in session for young people aged 13 years+

The session offers young people the chance to chill out with friends in a safe space while also having the chance to chat with our youth workers Tom and Ian. The sessions are every other Wednesday starting from 26th February from 6pm - 8pm and will be held at the Ludlow Youth Centre

Please share this new drop in with any families you are supporting and the partners you work with.





The Family information Service (FIS) is here to give families the information and resources they need to help their family life run a little smoother. We can help with anything and everything to do with family life, whether that's something for parents or something for children and young people. We're a free, universal service so anyone can use us. If you have a question, we're likely to be able to help find out information on services of support or resources, and we have some great tools for practitioners to be able to provide families with information themselves.

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help/family-help-services/family-information-service/>

01743 254400 or email at ShropshireFIS@shropshire.gov.uk

Parenting Help and Support Line

The Parenting Help and Support Line is here for parents with a friendly listening ear and practical advice on everything from behaviours that challenge to sleep issues. No judgment, just support.

Call 01743 250950 Monday - Thursday, 9.30am - 4.30pm or Friday, 9.30am - 3.30pm or email: parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk



Free Sleep Tight Groups

Does your child struggle with their Sleep?



Join us on one of our virtual or face-to-face groups which run for 5 weeks and:

- Find out why sleep is important for our health and emotional wellbeing
- Get support to help improve sleep and bedtime routines Meet other parents/carers to share and discuss experiences Our next groups start:

Sleep Tight SEND Monday 9th June 2025 from 12.45pm to 2.45pm Virtually Via MS Teams or

Sleep Tight Monday 16th June 2025 from 9.15am to 11.15am Virtually via MS Teams

SEND groups are for parents/carers of children who might have special educational needs and disabilities, no formal diagnosis is needed to attend the groups.

To book a place email Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk or call **01743 250950**

Upcoming Parenting Courses

Understanding your child group 29th April from 09:15 to 11:15 at Crowmoor primary school, Shrewsbury.

Understanding your child group 30th April from 09:00 to 11:00 at Clee Hill Community primary school.

Understanding your child SEND group 30th April from 12:30 to 2:30 at Shrewsbury TBA.

Understanding your child group 30th April from 12:45 to 2:45 at Belvidere primary school, Shrewsbury.

Understanding your child group 1st May from 09:30 to 11:30 at Highley Community primary school.

Understanding your child group 1st May from 09:30 to 11:30 Virtually via MS Teams.

Understanding your child group 1st May from 1:00 to 3:00 at St Lucia C of E primary school, Upton Magna.

Understanding your child SEND group 2nd May from 09:30 to 11:30 Virtually via MS Teams.

Understanding your child group 2nd May from 1:15 to 3:15 at Christ Church C of E primary school, Cressage.

All our groups run for 10 weeks from the start date excluding the School Holidays.

To book a place contact the Parenting team on 01743 250950 or email – parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk

Health Support

Health Visiting Open access clinics - for parents of children aged 0-5

Information on the open access clinics run throughout Shropshire by Health Visitors has been updated. You can find out where they are and when they run by clicking on the [Shropshire Family Information Directory](#).

They offer parents the chance to get their baby weighed but also to access information, advice and support on a range of topics, including:

- Infant feeding and breastfeeding advice
- Child development
- Emotional health and wellbeing
- Parenting and local support groups
- Behaviour
- Sleep



0-5 YEARS DROP-IN CLINICS

- EMOTIONAL HEALTH & WELLBEING
- GROWTH/WEIGHT REVIEW & HEALTH ADVICE
- INFANT FEEDING & WEANING SUPPORT
- DEVELOPMENT, BEHAVIOUR & SLEEP SUPPORT

Come along to one of our drop-in clinics for health advice, information and support for you and your baby/child. No appointment needed.

Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust



Call: 0333 3583654 Text: 07520 635212



New Sexual Health outreach clinic


There's a new monthly sexual health drop in for people over the age of 13 starting in Ludlow.

The clinic will be held at Ludlow Youth Centre. The next clinic is Wednesday 26th February. No bookings needed, just drop in.


Ludlow Drop-in Clinic
Free and confidential drop-in clinic with a friendly nurse for people aged 13+, offering:

Contraception




Abortion Pills cannot be fitted at this clinic.

STI Testing




Emergency Contraceptive Pill




Emergency Abortion Pills cannot be fitted at this clinic.

Information and Advice





Scan for clinic information



The next clinics are:

- Wednesday 26th February, 3-6pm
- Wednesday 26th March, 3-6pm
- Wednesday 30th April, 3-6pm

openclinic.org.uk
 Open Clinic NHS
  @OpenClinicNHS
  @openclinicnhs

Young Carers

Shropshire's young carer support offers vital aid to young carers

Shropshire Council's Young Carer Support team is wanting to highlight the support available to young carers across the county.

A young carer could be someone from the ages of 5 to 17 years of age who helps to look after (or 'care' for) a family member who has a physical disability, mental illness, or alcohol/drug addiction.

Shropshire's Young Carer Support team offer a variety of initiatives designed to assist young carers. These include:

- **Monthly Young Carer Groups:** Held across the county, these groups provide a safe space for young carers to have fun, engage in crafts and games, and connect with others who understand their situation.
- **Holiday Activities:** During school holidays, the team hosts various activities to offer respite and enjoyment for young carers.
- **School Project Officer:** A dedicated officer works with schools in Shropshire to identify and support young carers, ensuring they receive the help they need within the educational environment.

If you are supporting a family where there is a young carer, please contact the young carers support team. Find out more here [Shropshire's young carer support offers vital aid to young carers - Shropshire Council Newsroom](#)

Could you be a young Carer?

If you are under 18 and help look after a family member, or a friend with their ...

- illness
- disability
- mental health issues
- alcohol or drug misuse

Many young carers go unnoticed. Don't struggle in silence!

you could be classed as being a young carer.

Contact the Shropshire young carers team today to find out how we can support you.

Shropshire Young Carers

01743 341995 | youngcarers@shropshire.gov.uk

www.shropshire.gov.uk/adult-services/shropshire-carers/young-carers/

Support through Education

Pupil Premium

- **Early Years Pupil Premium**

If your child is in early years education, your early years provider could be eligible for extra funding to help support your child. You can apply for early years pupil premium if:

- *your child is aged 9 months to 2 years*
- *your child is 3 or 4 and you get 15 hours free childcare*
- *you are in receipt of certain benefits*
- *if a child in your care was looked after by a local authority but left care under adoption, a special guardianship order or a child arrangements order.*

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/get-extra-early-years-funding>

- **Pupil Premium**

The pupil premium grant is funding to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in state-funded schools in England.

The grant also provides support for children and young people with parents in the regular armed forces, referred to as service pupil premium (SPP). This has been combined into pupil premium payments to make it easier for schools to manage their spending. Pupils that the SPP intends to support are not necessarily from financially disadvantaged backgrounds.

Funding criteria

Pupil premium funding is allocated to eligible schools based on the number of:

- pupils who are recorded as eligible for free school meals, or have been recorded as eligible in the past 6 years (referred to as Ever 6 FSM)
- service pupil premium is additional funding for schools with pupils who have parents serving in the armed forces.

- children previously looked after by a local authority or other state care, including children adopted from state care or equivalent from outside England and Wales

For more information see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium/pupil-premium> For information about eligibility for Pupil Premium Plus for children who were previously looked after, see further down on this page.

Education Support – Virtual School

From September 2024 Virtual Schools have new non-statutory extended duties to develop their strategic leadership role in promoting the educational outcomes for children in Kinship Care arrangements.

Virtual Schools will be asked to:

- Raise awareness of and promote the educational achievement, progress and attendance for this group of children, including advising schools on how to avoid exclusion for example
- Provide advice and information to Kinship Carers who support their children under a Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangements Order, regardless of whether the child was Looked-After by the Local Authority.
- Answer queries from schools/settings where permission has been given

The reason for Virtual Schools having this extended duty is because research indicates that the outcomes for children who grow up in kinship care have overall better outcomes than those that grow up in 'non-parental care', but that their outcomes can fall below those children who have a social worker. Please see this link for more information <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/childrens-social-care-and-health/looked-after-children/shropshire-virtual-school/support-for-kinship-carers/>

Priority School Admissions/Support in School

Children who have previously been Looked After must be given priority for admission to the school of their carer's choice. Therefore, if changing schools or transitioning to secondary School, Special Guardians should make it clear

on any admission forms that the Child/ren were previously Looked After and now subject to an SGO. There should be a Designated Teacher within the School who should be the initial point of contact to promote the child's education. They have responsibility for ensuring school staff understand and are supportive of children who were previously in the care system and subject to an SGO.

Library Services

Shropshire e-library

Did you know Shropshire Library's e-library lets you read or listen to thousands of adults and kids books and magazines without leaving the house?

E-books and audio books

Cloud Library has thousands of e-books and audio books, which can be accessed on Android, Apple or Kindle devices. Just download the relevant app and login in with your library id and pin number For younger readers there is a kid's mode to make the app even easier to use.

E-newspapers and magazines

This service is provided by Press Reader and gives access to over 7000 newspapers and magazines, including most of the UK national papers. So whether you are looking for recipe inspiration, fitness or fashion advice, or the latest news, save money and see if Press Reader stock the publication you want.

To access this service you will need to click 'sign in' then select 'Library or Group' sign in, choose Shropshire Libraries from the list, and then enter your library card number and PIN.

Free access expires every 30 days but can be refreshed simply by logging out and then in again.



The leading kinship care charity in England and Wales. We're here for kinship carers – friends or family who step up to raise a child when their parents aren't able to. Let's commit to change for kinship families. Use this link to access support and advice and also FREE TRAINING <https://kinship.org.uk/>

Shropshire Kinship support group have regular meetings:

When

1st Friday of each month (term-time only)
10:30am to 12pm

Where

The Lantern, Meadow Farm Drive, Shrewsbury, SY1 4NG

How to join

Contact Peter using the details below to join the group.

Children

Unfortunately children cannot attend this group.

Contact

Please get in touch if you would like to join the group or have any questions.

Name of contact: Peter

Contact by: Email

Email: shropshirekinship@gmx.com

Easter Adventures

- **Stokesay Castle Easter Adventure Quest** (5th–27th April)
- **A Very Victorian Easter Egg Hunt at Blists Hill** (5th–27th April)
- **Hawkstone Park Follies – Enchanted Easter Egg Hunt** (19th–21st April)
- **Park Hall Farm – Fairytale Eggstravaganza** (12th–27th April)
- **Apley Farm Easter Activities** (12th–20th April)
- **Alderford Lake Easter Weekend** (19th–21st April)
- **Oswestry Street Circus** (19th April)

- **BeWILDerwood's Bouncing Easter Fun** (5th–27th April)
- **Shrewsbury Easter Trail**
- **Acton Scott Working Farm – Easter Reopening**

[Log in to Visit Shropshire](#) for more details of the above.

Child/Young Person Emotional & Mental Wellbeing Support

BeeU

BeeU provides emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people (ages 0 to 25) in Shropshire.



The service provides:

- Emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people (0-25)
- Neurodevelopmental assessments for children – autism for 5-18 year olds, and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) for 6-18 year olds
- Community Eating Disorder Services for 0-18 year olds

Children and young people seeking mental health support can call 0808 196 4501, MPFT's Freephone helpline available 24/7. You will be able to speak to specially-trained mental health staff and discuss your mental health care needs. Visit the website for more info [BeeU :: Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust](#)

Child mental health: anxiety

The NSPCC has published a news story for Children's Mental Health Week encouraging young people who are experiencing anxiety to reach out.

The story reveals that in the first six months of 2024/25, Childline delivered over 6,600 online and phone counselling sessions related to anxiety, representing 24% of all counselling sessions about mental health and wellbeing.



The article provides advice for children who may be struggling with anxiety and includes tips to share with parents to help them support their child.

Read the news story: [Anxiety the top mental health concern for children contacting our Childline service](#) **Download Childline posters:** [Childline posters](#)

Online Safety

Children's online experiences

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a new report on children's online experiences. The report draws on the responses of children and adults to the Commissioner's The Big Ambition consultation.

Findings highlight children's vulnerability to online harms and outline children's concerns, exploring: child sexual abuse material; exposure to highly sexualised content; abusive content and bullying; and suicide, self-harm, and eating disorder content online.

The report also presents children's views on the role of tech companies, government, parents and schools in keeping them safe online. The Commissioner makes recommendations on legislation and guidance, as well as system reform.

Read the report: ["I've seen horrible things": children's experiences of the online world](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning [Online safety resources](#)



AI-generated child sexual abuse material

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has published a news story on the increase of artificial intelligence (AI) generated child sexual abuse material (CSAM) being found on publicly accessible areas of the internet. It discusses: the prevalence of AI-generated CSAM online; the difficulty for agencies in knowing if there is a real child being harmed; and the law relating to AI-generated CSAM.

Read the news story: [Public exposure to 'chilling' AI child sexual abuse images and videos increases](#)



AI-generated images or deepfakes

Internet Matters has published a report on children's experiences of nude deepfakes, AI-generated or manipulated images or videos made to look real. The report estimates that 13% of UK teenagers have had an experience with a nude deepfake, including sending or



receiving one, encountering a nude deepfake online or using a 'nudifying' app.

The report presents the findings of a survey with 2,000 parents and 1,000 children. Findings include: most families have little to no understanding of deepfakes; over half of teenagers believe it would be worse to have a deepfake nude of them shared than a real image; and 'nudifying' tools are more often used to create deepfakes of women and girls than boys.

The report recommends a ban on 'nudifying' tools and calls for reforms to the school curriculum so children are taught to use AI technology responsibly.

Read the report: [New report estimates half a million UK teenagers have encountered AI-generated nude deepfakes](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning [Preventing online harm and abuse](#)

Online grooming

The NSPCC has published a news story on online grooming crimes against children in the UK. Figures provided by 45 UK police forces show that 7,062 sexual communication with a child offences were recorded in 2023/24, an increase of 89% since 2017/18. The data also reveals that where a means of communication was known, 48% of offences were on Snapchat; and 81% of grooming cases took place against girls. The NSPCC is calling for Ofcom to strengthen rules for tech platforms to ensure they are proactive and that social media apps do not contribute to abuse; and for the UK Government to strengthen legislation to ensure child sexual abuse is disrupted in private messages such as on Snapchat and WhatsApp.



Read the news story: [Online grooming crimes against children increase by 89% in six years](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning > [Grooming: recognising the signs](#)