

# Shropshire SEND and Inclusion Newsletter

*for practitioners and professionals*

**Issue 3 February 2025**

Welcome to the third edition of the new **Shropshire SEND and Inclusion Newsletter**. This newsletter is aimed at practitioners and professionals who work with children and young people with SEND in Shropshire. Through this newsletter we hope to keep you informed about developments and opportunities in SEND, act as a point of reference for key information, share best practice and develop supportive professional networks.

The newsletter will be uploaded to the Local Offer in the last week of each half term and the link to it will be including in the weekly e-mail to schools. Previous issues can be found here:

[SEND and Inclusion newsletter | Shropshire Council](#)

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## **SOAP Update**

Following an update in terminology from the SEND Change Programme, Shropshire Ordinarily Available Provision (S.O.A.P) will now be referred to as '**Shropshire Inclusive Practice**'.

EQAs are continuing to work with a range of stakeholders to develop the existing SOAP into three new 'Inclusive Practice' documents for Early Years, School-age and Post-16.

If you would like to be involved in supporting the development of these guidance documents, please do contact us: [\*\*EQA@shropshire.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:EQA@shropshire.gov.uk)



# CPD for SEND



New courses for SEND and Inclusion are continuing to be developed. These are bookable via Eventbrite and links will be posted on the Local Offer as more are released. Further details regarding course content on the next page.

Date	Course Title	Venue and Time	Booking Link
Part 1: 30th April Part 2: 21st May Part 3: 26th June	New Early Years SENCO Course	MS Teams 9.30am-12.30pm	To come
Part 1: 25th March Part 2: 22nd May Part 3: 4th June	SENCO Induction Course	The Lantern, Shrewsbury 9.30am-12.30pm	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1144502761569?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1144502761569?aff=oddtcreator</a>
24th February	Talkboost KS1	The Lantern, Shrewsbury 9am-3pm	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1145512401429?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1145512401429?aff=oddtcreator</a>
1st May	Talkboost KS2	The Lantern, Shrewsbury 9am-3pm	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1145801044769?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1145801044769?aff=oddtcreator</a>
Part 1: 17th March Part 2: 7th April	Adaptive teaching for SEND	The Lantern, Shrewsbury 9am-12pm	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1145697244299?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1145697244299?aff=oddtcreator</a>
27th February	SEND, Inclusion and the law	MS Teams 3.30-4.30pm	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1214706302249?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1214706302249?aff=oddtcreator</a>
26th March	SEND Governor and Trustee Training	MS Teams 6-8pm	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1232898164599?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1232898164599?aff=oddtcreator</a>
3rd March 3rd April 7th May	Early Years SEND Solution Circle	MS Teams 9.30am-11.30am	March: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1234935167329?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1234935167329?aff=oddtcreator</a> April: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shropshire-council-early-years-send-solution-circle-tickets-1237801199709?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shropshire-council-early-years-send-solution-circle-tickets-1237801199709?aff=oddtcreator</a> May: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1237811119379?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1237811119379?aff=oddtcreator</a>
28th February	Quality Assurance of Alternative Provision	Lakelands Academy 9.30-11.30am	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1213253506899?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1213253506899?aff=oddtcreator</a>
31st March	SEND and Inclusion network meetings	The Lantern 1.15pm—3pm	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1237743426909?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1237743426909?aff=oddtcreator</a>
1st April		The Marches School 1.15pm—3pm	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1237686025219?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1237686025219?aff=oddtcreator</a>
2nd April		William Brookes School 1.15pm—3pm	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1237700709139?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1237700709139?aff=oddtcreator</a>
3rd March 4th March 5th March	New GSP Panel— information session for all schools	MS Teams 4-4.30pm <i>No need to book, just use the Teams links on the right to join at the appropriate time.</i>	3rd March: <a href="#">Join the meeting now</a> 4th March: <a href="#">Join the meeting now</a> 5th March: <a href="#">Join the meeting now</a>

**PLEASE NOTE:** schools and settings will be invoiced for courses directly by the Council. Payment will not be made via Eventbrite. As a result, the Eventbrite page will state that the course is 'Free' when **this may not be the case** – please read all the course information carefully to ensure you are aware of the cost.



# CPD for SEND



## **Quality Assurance of Alternative Provisions Training**

The session will include:

- guidance surrounding unregistered alternative provisions
- overview of responsibilities regarding alternative provisions
- areas of focus as part of the quality assurance process
- a look at a quality assurance process

The session will take place on:

Friday 28th February, 9:30am-11:30am at Lakelands Academy.

There are limited spaces so please sign up if you are interested.

Please note that parking is limited at Lakelands Academy. Where possible, please can you car share with other colleagues. Thank you.

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## **Shropshire Early Years New SENCo Training**

We will be holding a series of training sessions for Early Years SENCOs who are new to the role within a nursery or childminder setting. The course will support the SENCOs develop an understanding of SEND legislation and SENCo responsibilities. This will include a focus on putting theory into practice and on localised Shropshire SEND practices, pathways and professionals who can be called on for advice and support.

The course is online and in three parts and you should attend all three:

Part 1: Wednesday 30th April

Part 2: Wednesday 21st May

Part 3: Wednesday 25th June

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## **SEND, inclusion and the law - FREE session for Shropshire Schools**

In order to provide access for Shropshire schools to clear, impartial advice, we have arranged for Laura Thompson (Senior Associate Education Solicitor from Browne Jacobson) and Hugo Besterman (Director and Accredited Mediator, Prime Resolution) to lead a webinar for all Shropshire schools. This will be an opportunity to learn about the law in relation to SEND and inclusion, how to make the most of mediation (and how to avoid it) and to ask any questions.

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## **SEND Governor and Trustee Training**

Following the publication in January of the new DfE guidance 'Special Education Needs (SEN) and disabilities: guidance for school governing bodies,' this course will:



- \* Support school governing boards' understanding of their role and responsibilities in relation to children and young people with SEND
- \* Empower governors and trustees to hold their schools to account

# CPD from Shropshire's Educational Psychology Service

## No Worries Training

No Worries is a practical resource to reduce anxiety in children and young people. The programme uses Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) and consists of 1½ days' training delivered by the Shropshire Council Educational Psychology Service, together with an accompanying manual and CD. The training will prepare delegates to run groups for between 6-8 young people. This practical resource is designed to provide fun and experiential learning opportunities. The next course of training will commence Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 at a cost of £280 per delegate.

More details can be found on the flyers below. Please complete the booking form and email to [eps@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:eps@shropshire.gov.uk) to secure a place or email or phone 01743 258414 for more information.



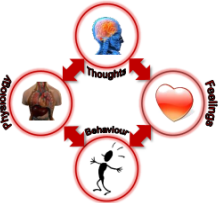
## No Worries – Primary

**No Worries** is a practical resource to reduce anxiety in children aged between 7-12 years.

The programme uses **Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT)** and consists of 1½ days training delivered by the Shropshire Council Educational Psychology Service, together with an accompanying manual and CD.

The training will prepare delegates to run groups for between 6-8 young people, covering:

- Establishing the group.
- Signs and signals.
- Relaxation.
- Helpful versus unhelpful thoughts.
- Challenging unhelpful thoughts.
- Achieving your goal.
- Planning for success.
- You are not on your own.



This practical resource is designed to provide fun and experiential learning opportunities.



The next course of training will commence in February 2025 at a cost of £280 per delegate.

**Training Dates:**  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 9.30 - 12.30 pm  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 9.30 - 3.30 pm

**Venue:**  
Barnabas Community Church, Longden Coleham, Shrewsbury SY3 7DN

To book a place, please complete the No Worries booking form and return to [eps@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:eps@shropshire.gov.uk)

For enquiries, please contact [eps@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:eps@shropshire.gov.uk) or 01743 258414




## No Worries

**No Worries** is a practical resource designed to reduce anxiety in young people aged 11 years and upwards.

The programme uses **Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT)** and consists of 1½ days training delivered by the Shropshire Educational Psychology Service, together with an accompanying manual.

The training will prepare delegates to run groups for between 6-8 young people, covering:

- Establishing the group.
- Signs and signals.
- Relaxation.
- Helpful versus unhelpful thoughts.
- Challenging unhelpful thoughts.
- Achieving your goal.
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For enquiries, please contact [eps@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:eps@shropshire.gov.uk) or 01743 258414



## No Worries Training Booking Form 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**Training Dates:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb (9:30 - 12:30) & Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb (9:30 - 3:30)

**Venue:** Barnabas Community Church, Longden Coleham, Shrewsbury SY3 7DN

**Parking:** Nearest chargeable parking at Abbey Foregate SY2 6AH or St Julian's Friars SY1 1XL. Pay at meter or in advance using [MiPermit](#)

**Refreshments:** Tea/Coffee will be provided but please bring your own lunch or purchase locally

<b>Educational Setting</b>	
<b>Headteacher</b>	
<b>Headteacher Email</b>	
<b>Signed</b>	
<b>Date</b>	
<b>Name/s of delegates to be trained in No Worries</b>	(a)
	(b)
<b>Email address(es) of Delegate/s to be trained:</b>	(a)
	(b)
<b>Line Manager</b>	
<b>Line Manager Email</b>	
<b>Payment of £280 per delegate to be made by</b>	Invoice <input type="checkbox"/> Journal Transfer <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>If paying by Journal Transfer, please provide cost centre and subjective</b>	Cost Centre <input type="text"/> Subjective <input type="text"/>

**Please return by email to [eps@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:eps@shropshire.gov.uk)**

Contact 01743 285414 or [eps@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:eps@shropshire.gov.uk) with any enquiries

# Updates from the EHCP Team

## New Look EHCP Team

You will be aware that there has been a restructure within the organisation for us to align the right people to the right posts and consider how best to deliver our services.

I am pleased to say that the former SEN Team redesign is now completed, and we are able to share our new look team. We will be called the **EHCP Team** as this better describes the statutory area of work for which we are responsible. All Education Health Care Needs Assessments (ECHNA) will come to the team as before and we will support all those processes around the consideration of assessments and plans, plus the support of those children and young people with a plan.

The team will be divided into four principal areas with a fifth temporary team supporting a piece of project work around Annual Reviews. Below is the table which shows how case work will be managed and distributed. Within each team, there will be a case officer with responsibility for those cases in the North, Central and the South of Shropshire. Our Senior EHCP Case Officers, will disseminate this information as we progress with our plans.

<b>EYFS to end of KS1</b> <b>Claire Fellowes</b>	<b>KS2</b> <b>Helen Petrie</b>
Sam Cain (0.6) Maternity cover required + <a href="#">0.4 Vacant post</a>	Amber Hughes
Judith Pilkington (SEND Early Intervention Officer to Feb 2025)	
Abi Pemberton	Autumn Cass
Jo Phillips	<a href="#">Vacant post</a>
<b>KS3 to end of Y10</b> <b>Gaynor Styles</b>	
Charlie Vaughan	<b>Y11 to 25</b> <b>Keith Melville</b>
Louise Gornall	Aimee Hearn
<a href="#">Vacant post</a>	Kelsie Wall
	<a href="#">Vacant post</a>
<b>ARRT</b> <b>Steve Teagle</b>	
Gina Nel	
Hayley Matthews	
Camilla Velarde	

The Annual Review Recovery Team (ARRT) has been created on a temporary basis with a view to getting the backlog of Annual Reviews back on track. Our aim is to complete this piece of work by the end of the academic year 2025/2026.



# Updates from the EHCP Team

We are very conscious to try to maintain as much consistency as we can with our case work. We plan to retain the current agency workforce to April 2025 whilst we recruit to permanent roles. This will be 10.4 EHCP Case Officer posts and will be advertised over the coming weeks. Whilst we have an enormous richness of skills and knowledge across the teams, you will understand that there will be a period of time for adjustment to new roles and functions in some cases. We would ask that you bear with us whilst we become a cohesive team.

## **Statutory Assessment Panel (SAP)**

Most of you will be aware that we have invited SENDCOs to our SAP each week which takes place on a Tuesday morning between 9am and 12pm. **We have commitment from SENDCOs to attend panels up to the February half term, and would like to ask that anyone who has an interest in attending should let us know by replying to the**

[EHCPTeam@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:EHCPTeam@shropshire.gov.uk)

**and we will extend the meeting invite to you.** The panel consider all those new requests for a needs assessment plus whether plans should be issued and look at the quality of our plans. From February we will also add the ceasing of plans to this panel's responsibilities.

## **Local Offer - EHCP Team**

We have updated our page on the local offer. Here you will find the role of the team, the current members of the team, case officer allocations and contact details:

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/education/education-services/ehcp-team-previously-known-as-sen-team/ehcp-team/>

## **Email address**

Our email address has changed from [senteam@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@shropshire.gov.uk) to [EHCPTeam@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:EHCPTeam@shropshire.gov.uk). There will be a divert in place for a couple of months. Please start using our new email address as soon as possible.

## **Phone number**

Our team telephone number remains the same - 01743 254267.

**Thank you**

# NEW EBSA Resources

## EBSA

Emotion based school non-attendance or avoidance is a national and international issue, which has always been there but has been exacerbated by COVID. Challenges around attending have affected some groups more than others, such as children and young people with SEND, children and young people with mental health difficulties and families where there are financial pressures.

The current evidence base tells us that we need to investigate what barriers to attendance are, investigate them and not make assumptions; we need to understand them and address them. There is a need to spot the trends and data earlier for earlier intervention. There is a need to listen to parents, children, and young people, even if there appears to be no current issues in school.

The evidence base tells us that developing relationships and a sense of belonging in school is important for developing outcomes and staff being trained in trauma-informed practice also supports EBSA. When EBSA is entrenched, there is a process of respite, recovery, reconnecting through relationships, rediscovering curiosity, re-engagement with the world and then attendance.

With all the above in mind, resources can be found on the learning gateway developed in Shropshire alongside other great resources to support schools with EBSA. They can be found here:

[Emotionally Based School Avoidance | Shropshire Learning Gateway](#)

An introductory video to EBSA that can be shared with staff can be found here:

[EBSA | CPD | Anxiety Cycle \(edpsyched.co.uk\)](#)



## SHROPSHIRE EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

## NEURODIVERSITY PRACTITIONERS

About Us

We are the Neurodiversity Practitioners (NDPs) who work within Shropshire Educational Psychology Service (EPS). We are all qualified teachers with a wide range of experience in Special Educational Needs. You can find out more on Shropshire Learning Gateway. This page is still in its infancy with many plans in progress, but there is already a document with links to readily available resources that schools and settings can use to enhance and support in many areas, including: pupil voice; understanding and meeting sensory needs; environments; emotional regulation; transitions; practical strategies and activities for classroom teachers; and mental health.

Our Work So Far

Since our pilot project started in January 2024, we have worked with 49 primary and secondary schools across Shropshire to enable their neurodivergent pupils to thrive. We have recognised and celebrated the good inclusive practice schools are already engaged in and planned together for how to build on this and to move towards schools' aspirations. As well as supporting systemic change, we have also been working directly with KS2 and KS3 pupils and their families on a needs-led, not diagnosis-led basis. We have additionally been involved in the Partnerships for the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project and are supporting schools by providing training and guiding them in implementing strategies for the greater inclusion of neurodivergent pupils.

**We are thrilled to announce that our posts have now been made permanent.**

Our Next Chapter

We are pleased to share that we are able to support settings / schools of children and young people across the 0-25 age range. We are also expanding our offer to support neurodivergence on a needs-led basis beyond autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. We will continue to be a preventative support offer. Therefore, we will accept referrals for those who do not have an EHCP or in the ECHNA process. We will also be continuing to provide support to schools systemically in multiple ways, including through coaching, training, supervision and modelling. Our brochure, containing more detail on the support we can offer, will be available soon but please contact us with questions and queries in the meantime [eps@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:eps@shropshire.gov.uk).

17TH - 23RD MARCH 2025

CELEBRATING DIFFERENT MINDS



Neurodiversity Celebration Week is a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences. It aims to transform how neurodivergent individuals are perceived and supported by providing schools, universities, organisations, and others around the world with the opportunity to recognise the many skills and talents of neurodivergent individuals, while creating more inclusive and equitable cultures that celebrate differences and empower every individual.

Top Tip for Supporting Neurodivergent LearnersA SENSE OF BELONGING

For some children, the transition from home to school can be a source of anxiety. It can help to greet children as they come into the classroom and to walk around the room while they are settling, communicating through talking or non-verbal gestures. This promotes the 'Held in Mind' approach through which every child feels seen and valued.

# Updates from the Learning and Skills Team

## Changes to costed provision maps for EHC needs assessment

There is a strong ambition to review bandings and funding to support pupils with SEND and for these changes to be fully in place by the end of this academic year.

As part of this review of top-up payments to schools and settings, it is recognised that there is need to make immediate changes to the costed provision map. To reflect this, and following the briefing provided to schools' forum last week, there will be an **immediate increase in £12 to £17 p/h to the costed provision map.**

For early years settings, Early Intervention Grant amounts will remain, for the time being, at £12 p/h. Remember – settings will need to add the hourly rate on top of this amount. This will bring funding in line with that of schools.

It must be emphasised that this reflects the start of a wider piece of work to increase support for schools and settings and that there remains a good deal of work to reform high-needs funding for schools and settings.

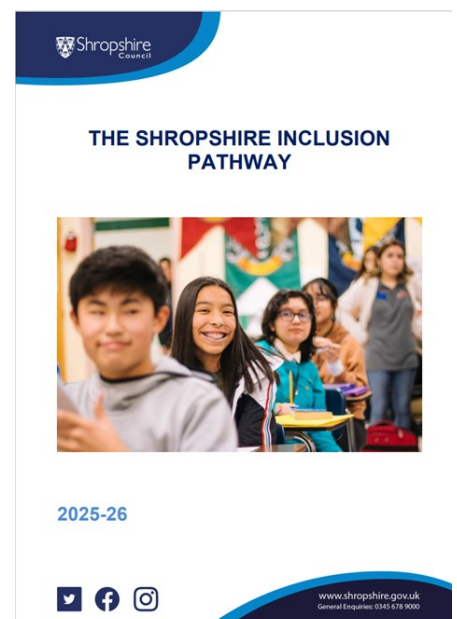
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## Shropshire Inclusion Pathway

Please see the latest version of the new Shropshire Inclusion Pathway document that was sent out to schools in the Education update email dated 28.01.2025. This document supports schools in accessing a range of sources of support for children and young people.

The new Inclusion Pathway will start on 1st February 2025.

For queries, please contact Jo Kelly, Head of the Virtual School and Access to Education: [jo.kelly@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:jo.kelly@shropshire.gov.uk)



# Early Years Updates

## Early Years Intervention Grant Funding

**Important EIG information - an exciting opportunity to be part of the future.** As you may be aware we are currently working to relaunch our Early Years Intervention Grant (EIG) Funding panel as the Early Years advice and Funding Panel.

We are now at a position where we would like to test out our proposed new paperwork and panel format with your support. From this we will learn what works and where final adjustments and tweaks are needed. To support this we will be asking settings who put in requests for the following panels to trial the new paperwork and new panel format.

### Panels

- Wednesday 5th February 2025, 1.30pm to 3.30pm
- Tuesday 18th February 2025, 1.30pm to 3.30pm
- Wednesday 5th March 2025, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

For new requests settings will be asked to attend panel at a given time for a 10-minute slot in which to present their case and take part in a discussion, answering any questions panel members may have. Guidance on attending and presenting at panel is included in the links below. We ask that the person attending from the setting is someone who knows the child extremely well. Each settings' time slot will be sent in a confirmation email once the request paperwork has been received. The email will include a link to the Teams meeting for the panel to be attended. We ask that you join the meeting 5 minutes ahead of your time allocation; you will enter a waiting lobby and will be admitted to the meeting at your allocated time.

Those settings requesting a review to funding will not need to attend panel but maybe contacted to provide some clarification, if panel feel this is needed.

### Request and Review Paperwork

- New Request for EYIF (EIG funding) <https://shropshirelg.net/media/ibxihhxf/early-years-inclusion-advice-and-funding-panel-appendix-1-test-learn.docx>
- Early Years Person Centred Plan (PCP) <https://shropshirelg.net/media/o03bvioe/my-early-years-person-centred-plan-pcp-appendix-2-test-learn.docx>
- Review of Early years Inclusion Funding (EIG funding) <https://shropshirelg.net/media/yfzjksq/review-of-ey-inclusion-funding-form.docx>

All paperwork must still be returned to the [nef@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:nef@shropshire.gov.uk)

### Presentation advice and Guidance

A guide to what to include with your request, along with support to help you prepare to present at panel can be found through the link below.

<https://shropshirelg.net/media/ka4j1gxn/checklist-and-presentation-guidance-appendix-7.docx>

### **Your feedback is vital**

After attending panel in your decision email, there will be a feedback link. We welcome all feedback on the request and review paperwork along with the panel process. This will be so important to enabling us to make amendments, if needed, to the paperwork and process ahead of the launch at in April 2025.

**We extend our thanks to all those settings who will be involved in this test and learn project.**

# SEND and Inclusion Spotlight

**This is where we ask you to shine a light on what is working well in SEND in your settings. This issue's spotlight comes from Dave Watts from Clive Church of England Primary School.**

## Neurodiversity at Clive

We have been incredibly fortunate to be included in the PINS (Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools) project and we also have a link Neurodiversity Practitioner. To date we have had two meetings with parent carers of children with SEND, organised by PACC. These have been great in beginning to raise awareness of what is happening in school to ensure inclusion of those with neurodiverse conditions. We have received training through PINS on what Neurodiversity is and strategies to help ensure ND children are included in the classroom. Additionally we have had consultations with some children who may, or may not, have a neurodiverse condition, through the NDP project. These have involved 1-1 discussions with children and discussions with parents. These have been invaluable to all involved in helping to address particular concerns with individuals and offering strategies for managing behaviours. Further referral to ASC/ADHD pathways or mental health pathway may be made in the future but just to have that independent view on an individual has proven really useful.



There is no doubt that we are witnessing a rise in the identification, assessment and diagnosis of a range of neurodiverse conditions so both of these projects have been incredibly timely. As a school we have looked at ways of supporting and including children with neurodiversity whilst at the same time having some positive effects on neurotypical children. Some of the strategies employed to support ND have been useful for NT children. For example, stripping away some of the display in classrooms for sensory reasons and over stimulation has enabled all children to more easily and quickly access the parts of the displays that help all children with their work.

We are only part of the journey through these two projects but we are very much, at the time of writing, looking forward to seeing where the second part of the journey will take us. As SENCo, I feel more confident and consequently will be sharing the learning experiences and strategies with my two sister schools in our small MAT.



# SEND and Inclusion Spotlight

**This is where we ask you to shine a light on what is working well in SEND in your settings. This issue's spotlight comes from Sue Dix from St Martin's 3-16 Learning Community**



St Martin's is a special place; we are an all-through school from nursery (age 3) up to Y11 (age 16).

We are working on an initiatives that will gradually come into being by the spring term. We have lots of spaces around our secondary school that students retreat to at break and lunchtime - some to chat loudly and happily with their friends and some to find a quiet space. We have lots of children who can't yet fully regulate or navigate the break and lunchtime chaos.

We are hoping to label the different places and zones according to the colours of Zones of Regulation 'Blue' zones will be manned to support those who just need peace and quiet and there will be 1-2 'red/yellow' (or rhubarb) zones manned by staff trained in de-escalation and social skills.

Some zones inside the building will also be labelled as yellow (chatty) zones or green (homework/study) zones. Staff will support targeted students back to class to manage the transition and help them get ready for learning. The spaces will become informal intervention zones.

*If you would like to be featured in our next SEND and Inclusion Spotlight and celebrate the positive work in your setting, please contact us at:*  
***EQA@shropshire.gov.uk***



Information to share with parent carers



**autism**  
west midlands

## Shropshire Family February half term



<https://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/>  
[Shropshire@autismwestmidlands.org.uk](mailto:Shropshire@autismwestmidlands.org.uk)

**17TH  
FEB**

**10:00AM**

**Teens - Actio all  
in games and  
crafts**

Sunflower House

**20TH  
FEB**

**1:00pm**

**Teens - Actio all in  
Attingham Park**

National Trust -  
Attingham Park  
Atcham Atcham SY4

**21ST  
FEB**

**9:30AM**

**Soft Play Family  
Event**

Gingerbread man soft play  
Market Drayton

# SEND and AP Change Programme

## Update – January 2025

Since our last update, we've been focusing on improving our services. Here are our next steps:

- **Develop Inclusion Services:** We're enhancing service provision and curriculum development across our schools and services.
- **Develop Alternative Provision support:** A new specialist taskforce model is being developed in Shropshire to further develop Alternative Provision.
- **Improve ELSEC Programme:** We're working to ensure high-quality services and plan to extend the programme to new schools and nurseries.
- **Develop Inclusive Practice:** We are supporting our schools to further develop their Inclusive Practice to support the needs of all learners.

### Alternative Provision (AP) Plan:

- A three-level approach to support students in both Alternative Provision and main-stream schools.
- An improved staffing model for Alternative Provision is in development to support students needing support.

### ELSEC (Early Language Support for Every Child):

- Children continue to be supported in early years settings and primary schools.
- Talk Boost program is halfway through its 10-week plan in a select number of schools.
- Staff training for schools is ongoing.

### Inclusive Practice:

- Further development of SEND Hubs across Shropshire.
- Training to support schools with improving their inclusive offer to all learners.

### Completed

- The SENDAP Programme will no longer test EHCP templates, thank you to all families who agreed to take part in the pilot template, your feedback was fed back to Department for Education and proved valuable.
- The Local Area Inclusion Plan has been completed and signed off and sent to Department for Education.

Thank you for your dedication, continued support and engagement with this important work and for your commitment to the learners of Shropshire. Together, we can make a difference and enhance the educational experiences and outcomes for all CYP in Shropshire.

Please remember regular updates are provided on the Local Offer here: [SEND and Alternative Provision Change Programme January Update | Shropshire Council](#)



# ELSEC (Early Language Support for Every Child)

**The ELSEC project is now approaching the halfway point in the school year and has achieved so much in such a short amount of time. Find out what we have done so far and a taste of things still to come.**

Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC) is a pilot project set up by the Department for Education (DfE), to explore ways in which professionals and parents can support children with their speech and language development, building capacity to meet the needs of all children and their families. It is a joint project between Education and Health across T&W and Shropshire, one of 9 Pathfinder sites in the country and sits within the SEND and AP Change Programme.



Since the launch of the ELSEC project in September 2024, 8 Primary schools and 6 private nursery settings in Shropshire have committed to working with the ELSEC team, during this first phase, to improve the speech and language offer for the children in Year 1, Reception and the pre-school year. In total, around 850 children have been screened using the Talk Boost tool to identify the level of need in each setting, with 66% of children identified as needing some degree of support. As a result, around 225 children are now accessing small, targeted intervention with both ELSEC practitioners and school staff.

The ELSEC team have allocated a practitioner to each setting, with multiple visits per week from them to run interventions, model and coach school staff and begin to run parent groups. The wider ELSEC team have met with school leaders in their settings, completed a communication audit in every setting as well as offering free Talk Boost training for all staff.

Feedback from all settings has been extremely positive and include:

*The entire process from launch through screening to delivery has been very well organised and we have been very well informed at each stage. Support from the SaLT team through both the 'communication friendly environment' audit, parent workshops and general guidance has been very good and will have a real impact on our children and their families. In addition, we are able to offer intervention to a significant number of children both with the ELSEC HLTA's support and the training offered to our staff. We anticipate this will have a significant positive impact on early language for many of our children.*

*(Mel Wight, Assistant principle, Holy Trinity Primary, Oswestry)*

# ELSEC (Early Language Support for Every Child)

*I am writing to provide feedback on the outstanding work Kerry has done while delivering the ELSEC project at Wilfred Owen Primary School. From the moment she joined our team, she has seamlessly integrated into our school community, demonstrating exceptional professionalism, knowledge, and dedication. Kerry has expertly trained our staff, ensuring their confidence in implementing the project, and has been highly accommodating in the face of challenges such as staff absences and timetable changes. Her commitment to running Talk Boost groups has been invaluable, allowing all our children to receive the support they need without disrupting regular classroom activities. Kerry has also been highly responsive to staff feedback, consistently adapting her approach to meet the needs of our school and children. Beyond her professionalism, Kerry's ability to build strong relationships with the children has been remarkable—they genuinely look forward to her sessions and thrive under her guidance. Her hard work, flexibility, and outstanding contributions have made a significant positive impact on our school, and we feel incredibly fortunate to have her as part of our team.*

*(Lynsey Wray, SENDco, Wilfred Owen Primary )*

Now in the Spring term the ELSEC team continue to be very busy leading interventions and supporting staff, leading whole school CPD and rolling out a series of 4 more parent workshops both in settings and online. All settings will be offered training in other speech and language interventions to develop the school's own toolkit in meeting the needs of all pupils at the earliest possible stage of development.



# Updates from Health

## Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service Update

### Have Your Say: Help Shape the Future of Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services

We need your input!

A new survey is now open to help shape the future of emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people in Shropshire, Telford, and Wrekin.

This initiative builds on previous feedback that has already made a difference, ensuring that the voices of young people, parents, carers, professionals, schools, and volunteers continue to guide how these essential services are planned and delivered.

Your feedback is vital to ensuring that services are accessible, effective, and focused on what matters most to children, young people, and their families. By sharing your experiences and ideas, you'll play a key role in shaping services that meet the diverse needs of our community.

#### Who Should Participate:

- Children and young people (with adult guidance for those under 16)
- Parents and carers
- Professionals, schools, and volunteers who support children and young people

The survey is anonymous, and your responses will help ensure diverse representation, guiding future improvements and decision-making.



**Deadline for responses: 7 March**

Take part in the survey today: [Have Your Say: Help Shape the Future of Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services - NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin](#)

Let's work together to build a brighter future where every child and young person has access to the emotional wellbeing and mental health support they need to thrive.

For any questions or further information, contact us at [stw.getinvolved@nhs.net](mailto:stw.getinvolved@nhs.net)



# The Local Offer



The [Shropshire SEND Local Offer](#) is a single place for information, services, and resources for children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and / or disabilities, their families, and the practitioners who support them.

It's been designed with a family's needs at the heart of the process. We have a [video](#), an [easy read document](#) and [promotional materials](#) for you to share with families.

Please make sure your educational setting's social media pages are following the Shropshire SEND Local Offer [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) as we share lots of news, events and updates that you may wish to share with families!

## Newsletters

There is a parent carer SEND newsletter which is co-produced by Shropshire Council, Shropshire Integrated Care Board and Parent Carer Council (PACC). The newsletter aims to provide easy access to key information for SEND families, as well as an opportunity for parent carers to hear from each other about their experiences.

Please see the [Local Offer news page](#) for all the latest:

[News | Shropshire Council](#)

## *And finally...*

**Thankyou** for taking the time to read this issue of the SEND and Inclusion Newsletter for practitioners and professionals. We will continue to develop the content over the course of the year and welcome all ideas and feedback for future issues.

Please send feedback, questions or comments to: [EQA@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:EQA@shropshire.gov.uk)

There will be lots more information shared regarding further developments in support for schools and settings in Shropshire at the SEND and Inclusion Network meetings and we hope to see you there. For anyone who is unable to attend, the slides and any handouts will be uploaded to the Local Offer after the final meeting and will be found on the practitioner pages:

[Practitioners | Shropshire Council](#)