

Shropshire SEND and Inclusion Newsletter

for practitioners and professionals

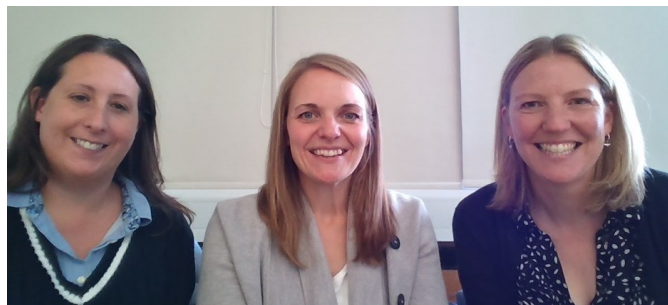
Issue 1, October 2024

Welcome to the first 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. We are also developing a SEND distribution list so that we can e-mail it direct to SENCOs.

We welcome articles, contributions and suggestions for content. If you have any enquiries or content for the newsletter, please contact EQA@shropshire.gov.uk.

Hello from our new Education Quality Advisers for SEND and AP



Heidi White Emma Simkins Sarah Court

We are the new Education Quality Advisers for SEND and AP and have been in post since the start of September.

What we do

- Ensuring the quality of education for children and young people with SEND is ambitious and consistently high quality across all age ranges (0-25) so that Shropshire children and young people with SEND are healthy, happy and safe, and able to achieve their potential to lead a fulfilling life.
- Implementing a consistent approach to review and quality assure SEND and AP provision including within SEND hubs and mainstream settings.
- Reviewing the quality and effectiveness of leadership and management in SEND and AP provision including within SEND hubs and mainstream settings.
- **Our role doesn't include** work with individual children such as observations, BSAT, LSAT and EP assessment work, although we may support with signposting.

Our priorities for the 2024/25 academic year

- Implementation of systems to challenge and support with respect to SEND Hubs and main-stream settings.
- Provision of support to all schools with respect to the SOAP.
- Review consistency and effectiveness of Alternative Provision.
- Development and implementation of multi-agency SEND and AP workforce development plan.
- Ensure effective communication and support is available to SENCOs and other wider school professionals with respect to SEND and Inclusion.
- Implementation of systems to support deployment of SEND funding (EIG and GSP)

Since we have started, we have been developing our understanding of the SEND and AP landscape across Shropshire. We have visited our network of SEND specialist hubs, begun work on quality assurance frameworks and started developing our Shropshire Ordinarily Available Provision (SOAP) implementation plan. We are keen to engage with all our schools and settings as soon as possible and welcome invitations to come out and meet with you in person; please get in touch at EQA@shropshire.gov.uk



Network Meetings



The EQA Team are starting half-termly SEND and Inclusion Network events. The first of these will be face to face events after half term and all SENCOs, Inclusion Leads and pastoral staff who support children with SEND are invited to attend. These initial events are an opportunity for you to meet the EQAs, let us know what you want to get from the new Shropshire SEND and Inclusion Network and provide the opportunity for you to network with SEND staff from other local schools.

Network meetings are in **North**, **Central** and **South** locations and bookings are via Eventbrite. You only need to attend one event and you must book a place in order to attend due to capacity at the venues.

Monday 11th November, 1.15pm-3pm at The Marches, Oswestry

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1041970661297?aff=oddtcreator>

Tuesday 12th November, 1.15pm-3pm at William Brookes, Much Wenlock

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1041984933987?aff=oddtcreator>

Wednesday 20th November, 1.15pm-3pm at The Lantern, Shrewsbury

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1042001333037?aff=oddtcreator>

Refreshments will be provided but **please bring a mug!**

These network meetings are pre-funded so there is no charge for attendance.

Any questions or suggestions, please e-mail: EQA@shropshire.gov.uk and we look forward to seeing you there.

CPD for SEND

We are currently developing our SEND and AP CPD opportunities. These will be available to book through the Shropshire Learning Gateway: [CPD Schedule and Booking Information 2024-2025 | Shropshire Learning Gateway \(shropshirelq.net\)](#).

We will be collecting information about what CPD opportunities you would like to see in the future at the SEND and Inclusion network meetings but if you would like to contact us regarding CPD directly, please e-mail: EQA@shropshire.gov.uk

Shropshire SENCo Induction Training

We will be holding a series of three induction training sessions for SENCOs who are new to the role or recently qualified. This course will also suit experienced SENCOs who are new to Shropshire or those who would just like a refresher on local processes. The course is in three parts and you should attend all three. There is a face to face option for those who can get to Shrewsbury and would prefer the opportunity to meet other SENCOs face to face. There is also an online option (on different dates) for those who cannot or prefer not to attend in person. Details are below. Booking will be via Eventbrite and will go live later on this term.

SENCo Induction Training - face to face

Part 1: Tuesday 21st January, 9.15am-12pm, Shirehall, Shrewsbury

Part 2: Tuesday 25th March, 9.15am-12pm, Lantern Centre, Shrewsbury

Part 3: Thursday 22nd May, 9.15am-12pm, Lantern Centre, Shrewsbury

SENCo Induction Training - online sessions

Spring and summer terms - dates tbc

SEND Governor Training

This online training session is for SEND Link Governors and will provide an outline of the legal duties of the Governing Body under the Children and Families Act 2014 in relation to pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) as well as providing a brief overview of the Code of Practice and the support available for schools to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.

- Wednesday 26th March 2025, 6-8pm via MS Teams.

Booking will be via Eventbrite and will go live later on this term.

Education Psychology Service

Shropshire EPS have a range of CPD opportunities this year including training for ELSA practitioners and Level 1 Attachment. Details can be found on the Local Offer at this link:

[Role of the service | Shropshire Council](#)

Updates from the EHCP Team

Admissions and Phased Transfers

Starting school in September 2025

Please encourage your families to explore different local schools when deciding on where they would like their child to go. **Remember to remain impartial.** When they have decided, encourage parent carers to share their choice with you so that a plan for the phased transfers can be made.

Phased Transfers

Please be aware that all **annual reviews** for pupils who are transitioning to another setting from September 2025 need to be completed by no later than **Friday 20th December 2024.**

Shropshire SEND Portal

Exciting news! The Shropshire SEND Portal has now been rolled out wider.

The SEN Team have been developing the Shropshire SEND Portal for a number of years with special schools, secondary schools and colleges using it to submit annual reviews. We have now invited all primary schools to have access and have expanded the use to include submitting EHCNA requests, GSP requests, consultation responses and contract/commissioning information (colleges) as well as being able to pick up documents from the SEN Team. You can find out more information in the guidance document below.

Link to the Shropshire SEND Portal: <https://shropshirecouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/ssen>

Link to the Shropshire SEND Portal Guidance: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/aqbj3th1/shropshire-send-portal-guidance.pdf>

All primary schools have been asked to complete this Microsoft form as soon as possible so I can give staff at your school access to the portal.

<https://forms.office.com/e/pqpy0jCS5S>

Once you have received notification that you have access to the portal please upload all documents to the portal in future.

If after reading the guidance document you have any further queries, please email senteam@shropshire.gov.uk



Spotlight on SOAP



Following the Inclusive Practice days held last academic year, the Shropshire Ordinarily Available Provision document (SOAP) was published in the summer term. It is available via The Local Offer: [shropshires-ordinarily-available-provision-v2-final.pdf](https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/1000000/ordinarily-available-provision-v2-final.pdf) This is a first draft and we will continue to develop and add to this document based on feedback from settings.

The Early Years and Post 16 ordinarily available provision documents are currently in development. If you would like to be part of a working group to help inform the SOAP, please e-mail: EQA@shropshire.gov.uk

The 'Spotlight on SOAP' section of this newsletter is an opportunity for provisions to share examples of best practice implementing the SOAP. Please send examples to the EQA team so that we can celebrate some of the amazing inclusive practice happening across Shropshire!

SEND and AP Change Programme

The SEND and Alternative Provision (SENDAP) Change Programme is a national programme designed to test a number of policy changes to systems and processes for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and those accessing Alternative Provision (AP).

For our region, the Change Programme Partnership consists of Shropshire Council, Telford and Wrekin Council, NHS Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System (ICS), Herefordshire and Worcestershire Councils and Hereford and Worcestershire ICS, with Telford and Wrekin Council being the named lead local authority. For further details, please see the updates on the Local Offer:

[SEND and Alternative Provision Change Programme September update | Shropshire Council](#)

ELSEC Update: September to October 2024 – Wave 1

ELSEC (Early Language Support for Every Child) launched in September to the 8 Shropshire schools and Nursery settings in Wave 1. We have screened full cohorts in nursery, reception and year 1 in these settings using the Talk Boost EY or KS1 tracker.

ELSEC launched to PVI feeder settings to these schools at the beginning of October and screening of the pre-school will commence shortly. The team are currently busy upskilling targeted schools not familiar with using Talk Boost and will be jointly running intervention groups with settings after half term. The aim is that each setting involved in the project will become a communication friendly setting after the completion and implementation of the recommendations following a communication audit. These audits are currently underway across all settings.

Early Inclusion Grant

The Early Inclusion Grant (EIG) Panel, is a panel of Local Authority Early Years Professionals who meet monthly to look at the requests for support and funding for those children who may need additional support in order to meet their needs.

The next meeting of this panel is on **Wednesday 6th November**. The forms to request support can be found at: [Funding information for settings | Shropshire Council](#)

Updates from the Sensory Inclusion Service

The SIS Hearing Impairment course took place on 26th September and was really well received by all attendees. We had over 50 delegates from across Telford and Shropshire schools. Feedback forms were very positive, with often a special mention of the two profoundly deaf KS3 pupils who came to talk at the end of the day about their experiences and top tips for settings.

The VI team continue to offer a wealth of activities for children, young people and their families. You can take a look at the latest VI newsletter here:

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/3xwcze0d/visual-impairment-newsletter-summer-2024.pdf>

Teachers of the Deaf (ToD) and Qualified Teachers of the Visually Impaired (QTVIs) continue to offer training to settings throughout the year. If you would like to book a session with the ToD or QTVI who visits, please let them know.

It is that time of year when settings are ensuring exam access arrangements are in place for pupils. Please remember to check SIS reports for our recommendations around which arrangements should be in place that are pertinent to a child or young person's hearing or visual impairment. ToDs and QTVIs can also advise when in settings.

- Please note that the main number for contacting Sensory Inclusion is now: 01952 381045.
- You can also continue to contact us on sendandinclusion@telford.gov.uk

Updates from Health

Occupational Therapy

The OT team have a wealth of resources available for parents and professionals. Please see the link below for videos and workshops relating to sensory processing:

[Children's OT Sensory Information \(shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk\)](https://www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/childrens-ot-sensory-information)

A reminder that the OT Resource Pack is also an excellent source of advice and resources and be freely downloaded here: [Services for Children and Young People \(shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk\)](https://www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/services-for-children-and-young-people)

School Nursing Service

School Nurses offer services to school aged children between the ages of 5 to 19 years old and children 5-25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who attend local state schools and some special schools. Please visit their website for details of their services and how to refer: [Shropshire School Nurses \(shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk\)](https://www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/shropshire-school-nurses)

Preparing for Adulthood

The Council would like to hear from Shropshire young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) from year 9 upwards, including young people who have completed their education. We would also like to gather parent carer and professionals' views.

Please complete the relevant survey by following this link:

[Preparing for adulthood survey | Shropshire Council](#)

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!

Parent Carer Newsletter

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 share [Issue 30 - October 2024](#) with families.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 6th November	Autism Awareness Event for all ages, Oswestry Library, further information is available from Autism West Midlands.
Thursday 7th November	Meet and Chat SEND: Meole Brace Primary School, Meet n Chat SEND - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (Meole Brace, Shrewsbury) Shropshire Family Information Directory (openobjects.com)
Monday 11th November	SEND and Inclusion Network meeting, face to face at The Marches—see booking information above
Tuesday 12th November	SEND and Inclusion Network meeting, face to face at William Brookes—see booking information above
Wednesday 13th November	Autism Awareness Event for all ages, Bridgnorth Library, further information is available from Autism West Midlands.
Wednesday 20th November	SEND and Inclusion Network meeting, face to face at The Lantern—see booking information above
Friday 20th December	Annual Review deadline for all pupils who are transitioning to another setting from September 2025

And finally...

Thankyou for taking the time to read this first issue of the new 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

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](#)