

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2020

What's Included?

Welcome to the Winter 2020 SEND Parent/Carer Newsletter which includes:

- Occupational Therapy Update*
- Advice for Parent/Carers during Coronavirus - what to do if your child is unwell*
- Annual Health Checks for Adults and Young People 14 plus with a Learning Disability*
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment has been published*
- Update from SEND IASS*
- PODs (Parent Carer Forum)*
- Learn Telford Courses*

Welcome!

To the Winter edition of the Parent/Carer Newsletter.

There has been so much going on over the last few months we wanted to share some of the positive stories we have heard and new projects that we are looking forward to in 2021.



Welcome to the Winter 2020 SEND Parent/Carer Newsletter

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In this newsletter you will find links to downloads that provide information and updates from Occupational Therapy. They have published a letter for SENCo's (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators) to share information on referrals and how services are currently being provided.

An update is available on how overnight respite services are provided at Acorn Way, the full letter is available to download on page 3.

There is information available on Annual Health Checks for young people and adults with a learning disability aged 14 and over. This includes what happens during a health check, how to find out if the young person that you care for is eligible, links to an easy read guide and a video. Please feel free to share this information.

One of the major tasks undertaken by the Local Authority this year has been the refresh of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment referred to as a JSNA. The JSNA is described by the Department of Health in this way 'The purpose of a JSNA is to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community and reduce inequalities for all ages. They are not an end in themselves but a continuous process of strategic assessment and planning, the core aim is to develop local evidence-based priorities for commissioning which will improve the public's health and reduce inequalities'. To find out more on how the JSNA has been coproduced in Telford & Wrekin please take a look at page 7, here you will find a description of the process along with the recommendations and actions that have been produced. The full JSNA document is available to download on the SEND Local Offer.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Parent/Carer focus group for Voices coproduction project, we are currently working with Genuine Partnerships to publish the report in the New Year - watch this space!

Take care,

Natalie Bevan

Interim SEND Service Delivery Manager

If you would like to contact us about any of
the articles in this newsletter please email:
SENDandInclusion@telford.gov.uk

Or, by phone: 01952 381045



Occupational Therapy Update

Shropshire Community Health Trust have provided a letter for SENCo's regarding the Children's Occupational Therapy Update.

This letter details how SENCo's can refer children to the Occupational Therapy Service and how the service is currently working.

Information in the form of an infographic has also been included regarding referrals for Developmental Coordination Disorder.

Both these are available to download from the [SEND Local Offer here](#)

If you have further questions about referrals please speak to your SENCO at your school.



Acorn Way Respite Provision from 1 January 2021

Care Tech working jointly with Telford & Wrekin Council are proposing a new overnight respite provision system is introduced from January 2021. The need to ensure Acorn Way continues to operate in Telford & Wrekin in a sustainable way and for the long term as well to ensure families benefit from their total respite allocation in their support plan whilst delivering high quality of care for each child and to ensure that the service is used in a meaningful way.

[Download the Full Statement Here](#)

Included in the statement:

- Why are these changes happening?
- What is the new respite offer?
- Statement from Telford & Wrekin Council
- Statement from PODs Parent Carer Forum
- Acorn Way Shortbreaks Offer



Advice for parents/carers during coronavirus. What to do if your child is unwell.

It can be confusing to know what to do when your baby or child is unwell during the coronavirus pandemic.

Remember that the NHS is still providing safe care.

GP practices and hospitals have made changes to help reduce the risk of infection. Only one parent/carer will be able to attend A&E with their child.

Please use the hand sanitisers provided, wear a face covering in enclosed spaces and maintain social distancing.

Remember: if your baby or child is unwell, seek advice and medical attention, take a look at the advice sheets which are available to download.



[Advice for parents/carers of babies less than three months old during coronavirus.](#)

[Advice for parents/carers during coronavirus](#)



Annual Health Checks Adults and young people aged 14 or over with a Learning Disability.

Who's eligible for an annual health check?

Adults and young people aged 14 or over with a learning disability. Annual health checks are important – even if the person does not feel unwell.

You can check if you're on your GP's learning disability register via your GP practice.

GP practices offer annual health checks to people with a learning disability. Contact your practice to discuss the best course of action and to understand what options and alternatives are available.



How will an annual health check help?

- Getting to know your GP better, which will help if you ever get ill
- Understanding how you can treat any minor health problems with easy to understand information from your GP
- Asking your GP any questions you have about your health, including how you are feeling, your care, as well as any medicines you take
- Help your GP to stop you getting a serious health condition, rather than waiting until you are ill.

An annual health check gives people time to talk about anything that is worrying them and means they can get used to going to visit the doctor.

If you have any worries about going for your annual health check you can speak to your doctor or nurse to let them know your concerns. You can talk to your local GP practice if you need support to meet your needs. You can also bring someone along if you like.

What will happen during an annual health check?

Your GP practice will call you to have a chat and decide the safest way to do your annual health check. You can also tell your GP how you would prefer to do it.

A part of the annual health check can be performed at home, phone, or video consultation (i.e. recording weight, height, any changes in behaviour, as well as using online tools and tests), however you will still need to be seen in person to finalise the check. These appointments usually last between 30 to 40 minutes.

Annual Health Checks Continued...

The following is what you can expect to happen during an annual health check:

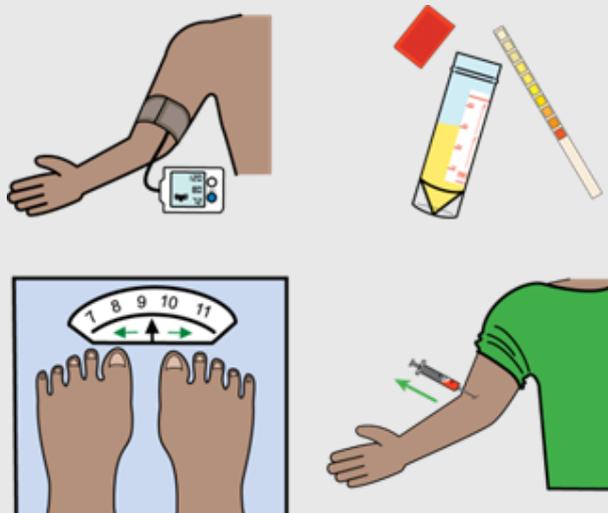
- A physical check-up including heart rate, blood pressure and taking blood/urine samples
- A chat about staying well, the medicines you are taking, as well as any health problems you might be dealing with (such as asthma or diabetes)
- A talk about conditions such as epilepsy, constipation, and problems swallowing (which are more common for people with a learning disability)
- A check to see if your vaccinations are up-to-date and if you have any other health appointments, such as physiotherapy or speech therapy
- Some health advice on healthy eating, exercise, contraception or stopping smoking
- As well as support, if needed, for family and/or carers.

For any other advice and guidance on annual health checks, please call the Community Learning Disability team on 01743 211 210.

For further information on annual health checks, an [easy read guide](#) and a [short video](#) are available to view which have been produced by Mencap.

To discuss annual health checks in more detail, or if you have any questions or comments, please contact 07775342092 or visit www.podstelford.org. For Shropshire contact PACC www.paccshropshire.org.uk.

You can also contact [Healthwatch Shropshire](#) or [Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin](#) for support and advice.



Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2020 JSNA

Over the last few months a working group has been developing a revised version of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2020 (often called a JSNA). The aim of the JSNA is to build evidence for local commissioning plans and services by collating and analysing a range of data, information, lived experience and feedback. It creates a comprehensive picture of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities in Telford & Wrekin.

“The purpose of JSNAs...is to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community and reduce inequalities for all ages. They are not an end in themselves, but a continuous process of strategic assessment and planning – the core aim is to develop local evidence-based priorities for commissioning which will improve the public’s health and reduce inequalities...”

Department of Health, 2011

In Telford we have worked collaboratively and in true partnership to create our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for SEND. Led by the SEND Joint Commissioning Task & Finish Group, which includes PODs (Parent Carer Forum) as the recognised voice of parent carers in Telford & Wrekin. Young peoples views were consulted through the SOS Group (Shout Out for SEND Young Peoples Forum) the young people contributed ideas around the activities they like to take part in and a representative joined the workshop to share their lived experience.

The workshop was held in February 2020, attended by representatives from Education, Social Care, Health, Schools, Settings, PODs (Parents Opening Doors), IASS and more all gathered together to review the data and information from all the services.

One of the main priorities from the workshop was to keep in mind:

‘Are we doing things in a joined-up way that makes the best use of all locally available resources, and are these things making a difference to children, young people and families so that they feel the system is supporting them?’

The best practice guidelines from the Council for Disabled children was referenced throughout the whole process.

What does the JSNA include:

- A description of the population of children with special educational needs and/or disability
- A range of user views
- Evidencing gaps in service provision and develop recommendations on how these may be addressed.



Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2020 Continued...

What were the Key Findings from the JSNA?

1. There are rising numbers of children with SEND, particularly with autism and poor social emotional mental health.
2. At the 2-2 ½ year old check, almost 1 in 3 children are not at or above the expected level in 5 areas of development.
3. Moderate learning difficulties are the most common primary need of pupils with SEND. We perform below the national target in all 4 standards to reduce over-prescribing of medication for children and young people with Learning Disabilities.
4. Parent Carers value some services, but report poor experiences from others. For example, there are gaps in service provision i.e. autism and trauma and long waiting lists in services such as autism, SALT, physiotherapy.
5. Improve access to information and support to navigate education, care and health services and development of published pathways, clear information and better communication
6. The need to improve engagement and co-production with children and young people.
7. Opportunities to build on digital and information management improvements put in place during Covid times i.e. information sharing, casework practice, service delivery.

Recommendations and Actions - What happens next?

The data and findings from the JSNA process has been used to identify a set of actions to improve the provision of Health, Education and Care services locally. They are briefly listed on the next page and more detail is contained within the full JSNA document.

Progress on actions will be monitored via the SEND Aiming High board.

The JSNA is not a one-off document, but will require regular updates to ensure it provides an ongoing accurate picture of service delivery, helping to identify further areas of improvement. The JSNA will also be used to help shape forthcoming SEND and SEND-related strategies.

[Download:
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
JSNA](#)



Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2020 Recommendations and Actions

Area	Recommendation
Early Years	Enhance collaborative local action to give every child the best start in life
Autism Services	Recommission diagnostic pathway and commission a community support offer
Positive Behaviour Support	To commission a Positive Behaviour Support service for CWD initially and scale up
Sleep	To establish and publish the community health pathways in relation to sleep
Continence	To establish and publish the community health pathways in relation to Continence
Tics & Tourettes	To establish and publish the community health pathways in relation to Tics and Tourettes
SALT	To review and improve SALT services
Community Nursing	To review community nursing services
Physiotherapy	To review Physiotherapy services
Transition	To improve information and clarity of pathways for services and transitions from 14 years
Maternity Services	To support the LMS on the MLU review across the county and ensure co-production
SEMH	Improve emotional health and wellbeing in children and young people.
Public information	To ensure clear and accessible service information, referral and service pathways



Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2020 Recommendations and Actions Continued...

Area	Recommendation
Community Wellbeing	Build upon our community-centred approach to improve wellbeing. Build a strong and sustainable local offer for social prescribing, using asset based approaches.
Accessibility, Acceptance, Inclusion	To support a range of stakeholders including communities and staff in health and social care settings to ensure accessibility, acceptance and inclusion.
SEND prevalence	Undertake analysis of why there is an increase of SEND in secondary schools
Data, Intelligence	To develop a data dashboard. To re-launch the Children with Disabilities Register
Market Development	To develop the social care market with regard to sufficiency of PA's and community services
Support Planning	Use the Progression Model to maximise independence
SEN Mediation	Commission a SEN Mediation service
Navigating the System	Support for families to navigate the system – peer support/buddy system/emotional support/'key worker' approach for parent carers.
Digital delivery	Embed the use of digital and use of Assistive Technology to assist independence.
Housing	To support the Assisted Housing Strategy
LD Health	To support improvement in the health and wellbeing of people with Learning Disabilities

If you would like any additional information on the JSNA process or would like to feedback on any of the actions that are listed, please contact PODs Parent Carer Forum.

Email: info@podstelford.org



Telford SENDIASS Update

The Service has been busy since the opening of the schools in September, ensuring that parents/carers, children and young people have been supported with the transition back into school and are provided with regular up to date information on SEND developments both locally and nationally.



The Service has been able to provide the full range of information, advice and support through access to virtual information sessions. Parents have also valued the weekly Wellbeing Sessions.

We have been contacting schools and colleges to look at recommencing Coffee Morning Sessions, individual school drop-in sessions for students and continue to run our regular SEND Workshops for families.

Children and Young People

IASS has recently introduced a resource to support children and young people to express their views wishes and feelings through an App. This can be downloaded to a device and a young person can be supported to complete their own contribution, with support from our Children and Young Person IASS Caseworker Maria.

Please get in touch if you would like information on the Mind of My Own App for your child or young person.

This year has been particularly difficult and an uncertain time for children and young people, and in particular for those children with additional needs. The Service is able to offer individual and group support for children and young people 10 years to 18 years to support their emotional wellbeing over this period.

Telford SEND IASS continued...

Shout Out for SEND

The SOS Group is a forum for young people with SEND and is coordinated by SENDIASS and Telford and Wrekin Local Authority. It is important for young people to have a voice and be consulted on a wide range of SEND issues that impact on young people across Telford and Wrekin. We continue to widen membership to the group. Please get in touch if you are a young person who would like to be involved. The group is also great fun with lots of fun activities along the way.



How to Join the SOS Facebook Group:

- On Facebook search 'Shout Out for SEND'
- Select 'Join Group'
- Answer the questions to be admitted into the group
- Find out what the group gets up to and when the next session is being held.

Early Years

The Service is currently looking at how we can ensure that information is available at the most appropriate time for families with a younger child, who may be attending nursery, starting the transition into school, or may be going through an assessment process. We are able to share our information through our newsletters to providers of Early Years support and we also have an Early Years page on our website. We would like to hear from any families who are at this point, and would be willing to share their views on their own experiences, which may range from the following:

- Availability of information on Special Educational Needs?
- I am not sure what I need to know?
- My child is having an assessment, what does this mean?
- What type of support is my child receiving in nursery and how will that continue when they start school?
- I am concerned for when my child starts school?
- I would like to be able to express my views and feel more confident to do so?
- Please get in touch if you would like more information on how to share your views.

Telford SEND IASS continued...

Schools/Colleges

The Service works closely with schools and colleges in Telford and Wrekin and believe that supporting positive communication pathways for parents/carers and their schools helps to promote increased understanding and improved relationships. We know that schools have been able to support these communications through SEND Coffee Morning Sessions. These have been successful prior to the current Covid-19 pandemic. We hope that we can work with schools to hopefully start these again, even if they can be through virtual platforms. Some of the ways that Coffee Mornings have helped:

- Parents have been able to meet with their SENCO on a regular basis.
- Supporting early identification of needs.
- Parents have been able to participate to SEND developments in their individual schools
- Introduction of SEND School Governor and role
- Increase parental confidence and understanding in SEND processes.
- Representatives from the Local Authority, information on the SEND Local Offer and local signposting.
- IASS SEND workshops

SENDIASS Steering Group

The service continues to ensure we meet our National Minimum Standards through regular monitoring of our service and development through our steering group. The group meets every three months, and we have representation across 0-25 years and membership consists of both professionals and parents who have an interest in SEND. We welcome parents who would be interested in becoming a member. We really need your views to help shape the future of the service. If you have accessed our service or have an interest in SEND, please get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

For further information on any of the above please get in touch and speak to a member of the team.

Julie Collins
SENDIASS Service Manager
Tel: 01952 457176
Email: info@iass.org.uk
www.telfordsendiass.org.uk

PODS Parents Opening Doors



PODS (Parents Opening Doors) Charity continues to work with families, representing your voices at meetings, through our network of parent reps and champions who we are very grateful for. Our staff cover the strategic development, the overall project management, the administration and sharing information and organisation, our befriender service, our family groups and activities and fundraising opportunities. We've been really busy these last weeks arranging deliveries of over 150 gifts to our families via our own special 'Elf Delivery Service'. We've had fantastic feedback from our families and lots of smiles.

We hope that you've enjoyed seeing our weekly e-bulletins with lots of opportunities to join in with our activities - whether these be at a strategic level, or at a fun level - we always welcome all our families. The link to the e-bulletins is via our website here [E Bulletin – PODS \(podstelford.org\)](http://E Bulletin – PODS (podstelford.org))

If you would like to join PODS to understand more about what we do and how we can work with you and support your family, please join us using this link: [Become a member of PODS – PODS \(podstelford.org\)](http://Become a member of PODS – PODS (podstelford.org))

On the next page is our PODS Helpline which is available for any questions, or if you need a chat with a member of our team - remember we are all parent carers in the first instance and we understand the challenges we are all facing at the moment.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Best Wishes from all at PODS Charity



PODS HELPLINE

(Supporting families with disabled/Additional need children aged 0-25 years)

Are you in need of some guidance or information? Would you like to access our Befriending service or maybe receive a call from one of our staff?

Then please give us a call or email us!



01952 458047

info@podstelford.org

Calls will be answered between 10am-4pm Monday-Friday, outside these hours please leave a message.





learn telford

www.learntelford.ac.uk

Functional Skills English and Maths

New courses will be starting in February 2021

Our free English and Maths courses are for people who do not already hold a Level 2 qualification in English and/or Maths and who want to gain a qualification.

Courses take place at a range of community venues across Telford. We run morning and afternoon sessions during school term times. The courses are offered at different levels and are intended to provide an opportunity to work towards a City and Guilds qualification in Functional Skills.

During our information and advice sessions, an experienced tutor will explain more about our courses and advise you of the most appropriate options.

*Park Lane Centre

* Dawley Social Club

*Jubilee House

*The Wakes

* Hadley Community Centre

*Online

For more information or to register your interest, please visit our website www.learntelford.ac.uk or call Learn Telford on 01952 382888



Telford & Wrekin
COUNCIL



learn telford

Oakengates

www.learntelford.ac.uk

Positive Mind Positive Life

The Wakes, Oakengates

(Course code 7931701)

Course Dates:

Monday 11 January – Monday 8 February 2021
9:30 am – 11:30am

Free wellbeing course under the guidance of an experienced tutor. No previous experience is needed.

On this course you will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about the benefits of positive thinking
- Look at steps you can take to improve your self-confidence and self-esteem
- Understand how to keep a positive mindset by incorporating small changes into your daily life to improve your mind and wellbeing

With current restrictions on social distancing, numbers are strictly limited. People will be offered places on the basis of who registers first. Registering does not guarantee a place.

You can register your interest at www.learntelford.ac.uk or by calling us on 01952 382888. You can also call or text 07866 619328



Telford & Wrekin
COUNCIL

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

**Donnington Community Hub
St Matthews Road, TF2 7RB**

**Beginners Class: 4 January, 9:30am to 12noon
Advanced Class: 4 January, 12:30 to 2:30pm**

Weekly classes to help you build your skills in:

- Speaking
- Listening
- Reading
- Writing

Please call or text to book a place

01952 382888 or call/text on 07800 671757

Visit www.learntelford.ac.uk

Course may be free depending on circumstances



Telford & Wrekin
COUNCIL

Local Offer
for Special Educational Needs and Disability

Discover everything you need to know about education, health and care services in your local area for children and young people with SEND 0-25yrs at...

www.telfordsend.org.uk



SEND PARENT/CARER

Winter 2020



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0777 534 2092



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www.podstelford.org



PODSForumTelford



PODSTelford



PODS (Parents Opening Doors)

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IASS Telford & Wrekin



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01952 385385 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)



0779 787 5385



familyconnect@telford.gov.uk



01952 388988



future.focus@telford.gov.uk



Southwater 1, Southwater Square,
Southwater Way, Telford



Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disability

Discover everything you need to know about education, health and care services in your local area for children and young people with SEND 0-25yrs at...

www.telfordsend.org.uk

Key features...

- Search for clear and accessible information, advice and sources of support.
- Explore leisure, fun and short breaks activities.
- Find out about specialist services and education health and care plans.
- Learn how schools support special educational needs.
- Use the interactive map showing what is available near to where you live.
- Have your say through our online feedback form.

