

Shropshire SEND and Inclusion Newsletter

for practitioners and professionals

Issue 4 April 2025

Welcome to the fourth 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.

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

Emma, Heidi and Sarah

Shropshire's Inclusive Practice Conference

SAVE THE DATE: Friday 11th July, Shrewsbury Town Football Ground
Shropshire Inclusive Practice Event—see pages 5&6 for further details.

Changes to the Local Offer and SLG for SENCOs

In order to improve the timeliness in which we can share information with you and to keep information for schools in one place, we are further developing the Shropshire Learning Gateway (SLG).

- All information for SENCOs and schools that relates to inclusive practice, training and resources is moving over to the SLG.
- **CPD** opportunities are now all together on a dedicated CPD page—click [HERE](#).
- Inclusive Practice information for practitioners, including newsletters, slides from network meetings, resources and **GSP paperwork** can be found in a new Inclusive Practice section—click [HERE](#).
- All information relating to **statutory SEND processes** (ECHNAs, EHCPs and Annual Reviews) will remain on the Local Offer so that it can be easily accessed by parent carers.
- The Local Offer will remain as a central point of information for all things SEND and you will be able to link to all information from both the Local Offer but for ease of updating, the SLG will host the main content for practitioners.

If you have any suggestions for online content you would like to see made available for practitioners or for parent carers, please e-mail us:
EQA@shropshire.gov.uk.

Newsletter Delivery Updates—*subscribe now!*

- We are shortly moving to a delivery system for the SEND and Inclusion newsletter so that it can be delivered direct to your inbox. We therefore need to ensure we have your correct e-mail address.
- Please complete the following MS Form as soon as possible so that we can add you to the mailing list:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ETDBti03i0O8gmfkx5ZuiaaziZIIUHZPgylWnpSskWxUOEhJUUtJU0pLTDM0MFITUUw5NEtMNTM1Vi4u>

- A link to the newsletter will continue to be added to the Inclusive Practice pages of the SLG so you will be able to view and download it if you don't receive the e-mail.



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	Cost	Booking Link
6th May 1-3pm	AET: Transitions in School	Shrewsbury Guildhall	£80	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1309698255739?aff=oddtcreator
6th May 3.30-4.30pm	SEND and Inclusion Update: Primary	Online	n/a	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1281050409259?aff=oddtcreator
7th May 9.30-11.30am	Early Years SEND Solution Circle	Online	n/a	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1237811119379?aff=oddtcreator
7th May 3.30-4.30pm	SEND and Inclusion Update: Secondary and Post-16	Online	n/a	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1281019075539?aff=oddtcreator
8th May 6-7pm	SEND and Inclusion Update: Early Years	Online	n/a	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1281051612859?aff=oddtcreator
20th May 6-7pm	Early Years graduated response through the APDR Process	Online	n/a	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1280995675549?aff=oddtcreator
23rd May 9am-3pm	Talk Boost KS2 intervention training	Shrewsbury Guildhall	£160 (for up to 2 members of staff)	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1145801044769?aff=oddtcreator
23rd May 10-11am	Early Years graduated response through the APDR Process	Online	n/a	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1280998995479?aff=oddtcreator
11th July	Shropshire Inclusive Practice Conference	Shrewsbury Town	£35/£45	https://forms.office.com/e/k4jQa7f0F0 Shropshire Inclusive Practice Conference Poster July 2025 (V2)

All CPD is now listed on the Shropshire Learning gateway, please click [HERE](#).



CPD for SEND



AET training – *bookings now being taken*

	Good Autism Practice (GAP) package details	Cost
Cost A	Standards and Competency Framework, GAP training, Neuroinclusive Practice Network (3/year)	£550
Cost B	If another school (including Standards Framework and Neuroinclusive Practice Network for each school 3/ year)	+ £50 / school
Cost C	If over 50 trainees (additional trainers needed)	+ £100

Good Autism Practice: 3 hours (½ PD day or 3 twilights).
For more information please contact: leah.bate@shropshire.gov.uk

FREE CPD opportunity for secondary schools and Post-16 settings

We have secured funding from the SEND and AP Change Programme to fund the resources and training for deliver of the Speech and Language UK intervention 'Talk for Work'.

Talk for Work (formerly called Talk about Talk Secondary) is an evidenced targeted programme that helps students aged 14 to 18 with difficulties in talking and understanding words to be ready for the workplace. It can be used in both secondary schools and Further Education colleges.

For further information and to register your setting's interest, please e-mail sarah.court@shropshire.gov.uk



Shropshire
Council

INCLUSIVE PRACTICE CONFERENCE

Friday 11th July 2025



Headteachers, SLT and SENCOs - join us at Shropshire Council's Inclusive Practice Conference to celebrate and share examples of inclusion that will support you meet the needs of CYP with SEND in your schools and settings.



Key Note Speaker: Gary Aubin

Gary leads on a SEND School Improvement programme with Whole Education, supporting schools and Trusts to drive a whole-school approach to supporting pupils with SEND. He also sits on the Government's Curriculum and Assessment Review panel.



Workshops

Choose from a selection of workshops on topics such as EBSA, supporting pupils with neurodiversity, early language development, alternative provision, adaptive teaching and much more.



For more details and to reserve your place:

<https://forms.office.com/e/k4jOa7f0E0>



Shrewsbury Town Football Club

Montgomery Waters Meadow, Otley Road. SY2 6ST



We are delighted that Gary Aubin will be joining us at our conference and delivering our keynote speech.

Gary leads on a SEND School Improvement programme with Whole Education, supporting schools and Trusts to drive a whole-school approach to supporting pupils with SEND. Gary sits on the Government's Curriculum and Assessment Review panel.

Gary is the Education Endowment Foundation's SEND Associate. In this role, he has worked extensively on sharing the evidence base behind high-quality teaching for SEND, as well as advised on the development of the SENCO NPQ.

As a Consultant, Gary has spoken internationally, advised the BBC, written content for the National Institute of Teaching and given talks to hundreds of Trust, Local Authority and school audiences.

Gary Aubin is the author of The Lone SENDCO, a handbook of 300 questions and answers for busy SENDCOs, and The Parent's Guide to SEND. Gary led on SEND provision for a Multi Academy Trust of 10 primary and secondary schools for several years. He is a secondary teacher, former primary and secondary SENDCO and former secondary Head of Year. Gary also authors the SENDMattersUK blog.

And that's not all...

In addition to Gary's keynote address, there will be a number of **workshops** running throughout the day, covering a wide range of topics such as Emotionally Based School Avoidance, supporting early language development, curriculum design to support SEND with **Diane Pye**, strategies for supporting neurodivergent learners, working with parent carers and much, much more.

The conference is aimed at Headteachers, Senior Leaders, SENCOs and Inclusion Leads and will focus on developing whole school approaches to inclusion that benefit all.

Further details to follow as workshops and guest speakers are finalised but you can book your place NOW by registering here: <https://forms.office.com/e/k4jQa7f0F0>



DPSI
DIVERSITY PROMOTES
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

£35

*for Shropshire schools
and settings*

£45

*for non-Shropshire
schools and settings*

Shropshire's Educational Psychology Service

No Worries Training which took place in February 2025 at the Barnabas Centre

"I attended the "No Worries" training and found it very insightful and impactful. The training is designed to support children who are struggling with anxiety by providing them with practical tools and coping strategies. Sheri Wright and Kim Jeffries, Educational Psychologists from Shropshire Council's Educational Psychology Service, thoroughly explained each step of the intervention and walked through how we would implement this with the children. Sheri and Kim also explained the underlying psychology (Cognitive Behaviour Therapy) behind the approach which was both interesting and relevant. The training was engaging and interactive as we practised the strategies, we shall be using with the children to help them manage their worries and build their resilience. Following this training, I now feel confident and equipped to support children in overcoming their anxieties and fostering a positive mindset. I am really looking forward to delivering the "No Worries" programme."

Ellen Parsons, Graduate Psychologist



If a member of your school staff is interested in receiving the No Worries' training, please register an expression of interest with Donna Price or Jeanette Vivers at eps@shropshire.org.uk

SHROPSHIRE EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

NEURODIVERSITY PRACTITIONERS

APRIL 2025

Our New Brochure

Now that we are a permanent service, we are pleased to announce that our brochure is live on Shropshire Learning Gateway. Find out more about us and how we can help your school: [NDP Brochure](#)

From April 1st, we are offering a range of affordable packages, supporting settings across the age range (0-25) to embed neuroaffirmative inclusive practice and to enhance staff knowledge and confidence. We can also work directly with pupils and can offer CPD opportunities.



Success Stories

So far, we have worked with over 1/3 of all Shropshire schools through the NDP pilot project and/or Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) programme. There are some amazing things happening in these settings and we are so pleased to have been a part of their exciting journey.

At Clive Primary School, Years 5 and 6 have been taking part in sessions to learn more about what it means to be a neurodivergent learner and to understand more about different sensory preferences and the importance of equity and inclusion. Staff and pupil feedback from these sessions has been very positive!



Coming Soon

The NDPs are delighted to be involved in the delivery of Autism Education Trust (AET) training and supporting schools to implement strategies for best practice. GAP (*Good Autism Practice in Schools*) training is now available - schools and early years settings can contact Dr Kathryn Morgan at kathryn.morgan@shropshire.gov.uk to arrange dates. Dates for *Inclusive Leadership to Support Neurodiverse Students in Schools* training will be released soon.



The NDP team are hoping to deliver the neuroinclusive module, *Transition in Schools*, in the summer term. Date and venue to be confirmed shortly.

APRIL 2025

CHANGE ATTITUDES TOWARDS AUTISM



It is estimated that only 1 out of 4 autistic pupils feel happy at school. World Autism Awareness Month aims to raise awareness and acceptance of autism and to empower individuals.

A free resource pack for primary and secondary schools can be found on the AET website, helping you to deliver assemblies, lessons or activities to promote greater understanding. [World Autism Acceptance Month 2025](#) | [Autism Education Trust](#)

Top Tip for Supporting Neurodivergent Learners

REDUCING OVERWHELM

Multi-faith celebrations such as Easter or Eid al-Fitr can be lots of fun, but they can also be challenging for neurodivergent individuals as changes to predictable routines and activities can result in sensory and social overload.

Designate a quiet area for the learner to use for a break from interaction and provide them with a toolbox of familiar objects and activities that provide comfort and security.



Neurodiversity Practitioners (NDPs) Post Support Survey

Has your school been part of the NDP pilot project? The NDPs are in the process of gathering data from schools to measure the impact of their involvement, asking key staff members the same questions asked at the beginning of the project. If you are a SEND-Co or headteacher who has not yet responded to these questions, you can do so by clicking on this link:

[NDP post-project questions](#)

The NDPs also have an evaluation form which will help to gather more detailed feedback from school staff, pupils and parents/carers following the involvement of the NDPs. We would love to hear your thoughts! Please feel free to share this link, or complete this survey, with the young person, family members and colleagues who have been supported through the NDP pilot project:

[NDP feedback survey](#)

Updates from the Education Access Service

Education Access Service

We are really pleased to see reductions in exclusions and suspensions for young people with identified SEND and EHCP.

A huge thank you to all schools/settings and partners to help make this happen.

Exclusions:

Permanent exclusions in Shropshire	22-23	23-24	24-25
EHCP	8	9	5
GSP	1	0	0
K	24	12	10

(From 1st September to 28 March for each academic year)

Suspensions:

- A reduction for young people with an EHCP from 507 periods (22-23) to 383 this year
- For young people with identified SEN a reduction of lost days to suspension from 1955 (22-23) to 1591 this year

(From 1st September to 28 March for each academic year)

In EAS there are Inclusion Support Officers who can assist with advice and support:

[Adriana Coupe: Lead Education officer](#)

[Katy Hughes : Senior Inclusion Support Officer](#)

[Inclusion Support Officers](#)

[Hazel Griffiths](#)

[Jason Millington](#)

[Joanna Biggs](#)

[Karen Hopkins](#)

The inclusion Support Officers support with Pupil Planning Meetings, Children Missing Education and Elective Home Education.

Pupil Planning meetings are available for all students, including those with EHCPs.

Contact details are here: [Exclusion | Shropshire Learning Gateway](#)

Please do also see our new section on EHE with policy, flowcharts and resources

[Elective Home Education | Shropshire Learning Gateway](#)

[Elective home education | Shropshire Council](#)

Updates from the Sensory inclusion Service (SIS)

A message from the Sensory Inclusion Service about

Deaf Awareness Week: 5th - 11th May 2025

Did you know that there are over 45,000 deaf children in the UK? Hearing loss can be in one or both ears and can range from mild to profound. There are lots of different types of hearing devices, from conventional hearing aids to cochlear implants/processors to support children with hearing loss.

Why not take this opportunity to share the Sensory Inclusion Service's Top Tips for deaf awareness during an assembly for Deaf Awareness Week:

Deaf awareness Top Tips:

Make sure you are inclusive – if a deaf child hasn't heard what you have said, don't say it doesn't matter, make sure you take the time to repeat clearly what has been said so that they can join in with the conversation.

Talk at normal speed with normal lip-patterns. Did you know that lots of people with hearing loss rely on lip-reading to support their listening? Make sure that when you are talking, the person with a hearing loss can see your face clearly.

Try not to stand in front of a light source, like a window, as this can obscure your face and mean that the deaf person cannot read your facial expressions or lip-read effectively.

Try not to make unnecessary noise as this can be very distracting for someone who wears hearing aids. Think, are you tapping a pen? Shuffling in your chair? Talking when you shouldn't be? This can all make it harder for the deaf person to hear.

Suggested Activities for the week:

Why not have a bake sale to raise money during the week for the local Shropshire Deaf Children's Society?

Why not find a story book that includes a deaf character for a literacy focus, or re-search famous deaf people.

Why not try a lip-reading challenge.

Perhaps you could learn to finger spell the alphabet.

You may be able to organise a visit from the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

Needs some inspiration - there are more ideas on the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) website here:

[Deaf awareness games and activities | National Deaf Children's Society](#)

If you want more ideas or information, please contact your school's Teacher of the Deaf or the Sensory Inclusion Service on 01952 385269 or SENDandInclusion@telford.gov.uk. We'd love to hear about your events.

Updates from the Autism Commissioning Officer

Shropshire Autism Strategy Employment Survey

Commissioning officer autism Pip Long is working closely with stakeholders and autistic people to identify priorities for an all-age autism strategy through collaborative and integrated working. One of these areas is employment.

We know that the national employment level for autistic adults is reported as 21.7%, a figure influencing independence and inclusion together with wider economic impact.

Improving sustainable employment opportunities for autistic people requires an improved understanding of the needs of those with lived experience which is why a survey is so important.

Our strategy development work includes both an overview of national guidance and current local level work to determine clear priority areas and short, medium and long-term goals.

Employment strategy work covers a review of recruitment practice including applications, interview and support in the workplace and how to encourage a wider understanding of autism in our employers across Shropshire to ensure our approach is inclusive and effective.

We're keen to understand what is working well, the gaps in support and how well young people feel prepared for work. The survey is available to those 16+ to capture the voices of young adults as they consider employment.

Please use the link below to complete the survey:

[Neurodiversity Employment Survey – Focus on Autism | Shropshire Council](#)



Information for Parent Carers



KIDS SHROPSHIRE

Kids are delighted to have been commissioned to deliver the **Universal Autism Service across Shropshire.**

What will the Universal Autism Service offer look like?

Kids have been commissioned to deliver the Universal Autism Support Service across Shropshire.

Kids will be offering the following support to families:

- The 'Healthy Parent Carer' programme, designed to reinforce parent carers' resilience
- Riding the Rapids programme to support parent carers' understanding of behaviour and implement support strategies
- Coffee mornings and drop-in sessions
- One-to-one support
- Child/young person Understanding me group sessions.

Bespoke workshops that cover:

- ASD Vs ADHD (3 hours)
- Neurodiversity (Specifically Autism, ADHD and Demand Avoidance)
- Girls and the Autistic Spectrum
- Demand Avoidance
- Sleep
- EBSA

What happens next?

Kids will be delivering the Universal Autism Service from the 1st of April. Please have a look on our web site for further details and how to refer into our service:

<https://www.kids.org.uk/services/shropshire-universal-autism-support-service/>



Shropshire Universal Autism Support Service

Kids will be offering the following support to families:

- The 'Healthy Parent Carer' programme, designed to reinforce parent carers' resilience. This programme aims to improve health and wellbeing among parents of children with additional needs and disabilities through:
 - Promoting greater empowerment, resilience and confidence of parent carers;
 - Taking small steps that are associated with better health and wellbeing;
 - Encouraging setting achievable goals and taking a problem-solving approach.
- 'Riding the Rapids' programme to support parent carers' understanding of behaviour and implement support strategies. The course enables parents to understand their child's behaviour in the context of their additional needs, and apply strategies to support positive behaviours. It also helps parents to develop stress management strategies and confidence in managing their child's behaviour. The course is collaborative, so that parents develop tools they can take with them and continue to apply once the intervention is complete. Riding the Rapids differs from other parenting groups as it is applicable to children with a range of disabilities, and has been adapted to meet the needs of particular groups of children with additional needs.
- Coffee mornings and drop-in sessions
- One-to-one support
- Child/young person 'Understanding me' group sessions.

Bespoke workshops that cover:

- ASD Vs ADHD (3 hours)
- Neurodiversity (Specifically Autism, ADHD and Demand Avoidance)
- Girls and the Autistic Spectrum
- Demand Avoidance
- Sleep
- EBSA





Information for Parent Carers



SENDIASS

Hello!

We at Shropshire SENDIASS are excited to invite families and young people to our Stay, Play & Chat event on Monday, 15th April, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at Palmers of Shrewsbury, Baptist Church.

This is a free, drop-in event designed for parents, carers, children and young people with SEND to enjoy a friendly, welcoming space to play, chat, and connect with others.

Looking for a friendly, welcoming space where your child can play, chat, and meet others? Join us for a relaxed

STAY, PLAY & CHAT

hosted by SHROPSHIRE
SENDiass

Date: 15th April Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Location: Palmers of Shrewsbury, Baptist Church

MEET OUR FRIENDLY YOUTH WORKER LYNNE



board games &
fun activities



biscuits and
refreshments



a chance to
meet the team

This is a free, drop-in event for parents, carers and young people with SEND to enjoy a safe and welcoming space. Whether your child prefers to join in the games or just relax and chat, they're very welcome!

BOOK IN ADVANCE OR JUST SHOW UP



text 07706 069 739



Lynnetaylor@cabshropshire.org.uk



SHROPSHIRE
SENDiass
Information, Advice and Support Service

JOIN US

COME AND HANG OUT WITH US!

Date: 15th April Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Location: Palmers of Shrewsbury, Baptist Church

MEET OUR FRIENDLY YOUTH WORKER LYNNE



play games



enjoy biscuits



have a chat

BOOK IN ADVANCE OR JUST SHOW UP



text 07706 069 739



email Lynnetaylor@cabshropshire.org.uk



**SHROPSHIRE
SENDiass**

Information, Advice and Support Service





SEND MEET & CHAT FAMILY DROP-IN

Hosted by Shropshire Early Help



Are you a parent or carer of a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)? Join us for an informal drop-in session where you can ask questions, get advice, and explore the support available to you within Shropshire.

Speak to a range of professionals who can help with:

- Education, health, and Care Plans (EHCPs)
- School support and advocacy
- Health and Wellbeing for children with SEND
- Social care and family support
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Advice for navigating SEND challenges.

Each session will have different professionals available, so come along, have a chat, and find the help you need!

SUNFLOWER HOUSE

Monday 12th May 2025

12:30pm-2:30pm

Sunflower house,
Kendal Road,
Shrewsbury, SY1 4ES

RAVEN HOUSE

Thursday 19th June 2025

2:00pm-4:00pm

Raven House,
129 Cheshire Street,
Market Drayton TF9 3AH

LUDLOW YOUTH CENTRE

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

1:30pm-3:30pm

Ludlow Youth Centre,
65 Galdeford Road,
Ludlow SY8 1RT



HAVE YOUR SAY!

Scan the QR code to suggest topics and activities for future drop-in sessions.



Shropshire, Telford
and Wrekin



Shropshire
Supporting
Families
through Early Help





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

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 SLG after the final meeting and will be found on the Inclusive Practice pages: [Inclusive practice | Shropshire Learning Gateway](#)