

Shropshire Council
The Guildhall
Frankwell Quay
Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY3 8HQ

Date: 15 September 2026

My Ref:

Your Ref

FAO: Headteachers and school leaders, all Shropshire schools

Dear Colleague,

As we begin a new academic year, I wanted to write to welcome you and your colleagues back to the new year. I hope that the summer holiday provided an opportunity for a restorative rest in preparation for the year ahead. I recognise the important role that schools play within our wider local partnership, and I am grateful for the work you do every day to support pupils to achieve, belong and thrive.

I am also very sad to share the news that our colleague Sam Bradley, Performance and Integration Manager, died towards the end of the summer holiday after a long illness. Sam's work supported schools in many important ways behind the scenes, and we are grateful for the contribution Sam made to children, families, schools and colleagues across Shropshire. Our thoughts and sincere condolences are with Sam's husband, Mark, and with all those who knew and worked with her.

This year will be a significant one for children's services and education, both nationally and locally. Shropshire Council is continuing to respond to the substantial national reform agenda across Children's Services and SEND to take forward our own programme of improvement and reform in response. I recognise that change on this scale can sometimes bring uncertainty for schools and settings. I want to reassure you that we are committed to working in partnership with schools as these changes develop, and to ensuring that the needs of children and young people remain at the centre of our collective work.

We fully recognise that school leaders need clear, timely and consistent information about the direction of travel, key priorities and next steps. We have therefore committed to keeping schools informed as this work progresses. Updates, briefing information and related materials will be shared through the Children's Transformation Autumn Term 2026 briefings information for school leaders page on the Shropshire Learning Gateway. [Children's Transformation - Autumn term 2026 briefings/info for school leaders | Shropshire Learning Gateway](#)

I would encourage headteachers, principals, CEOs, senior leaders, safeguarding leads and SEND leads to engage with these updates. These sessions will provide an important opportunity to understand the reforms in more detail, consider the implications for schools and settings, and continue to shape how we work together as a local education system.



I also wanted to recognise that following strong co-production together, we have also published our Family Help Together – framework for action. This is the first important step in our delivery of the national reforms for Children's services to enable greater clarity on what each partner can and should do to prevent or reduce the risk of harm to children and young people in Shropshire. Further details on the framework and training opportunities are outlined in the links below.

[Family Help Together - A Framework for Action — Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership](#)

[Using the Family Help Together Framework in Everyday Practice — Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership](#)

I am pleased to share with you that this year also sees the launch of the first Shropshire Achieving and Thriving in Education Strategy, which will be the first Education Strategy to be approved by Shropshire Council and is recommended to be adopted by Full Council in September. The strategy sets out a clear and shared direction for education across the county and reflects our commitment to building strong, constructive and purposeful relationships with all schools, whether maintained schools or academies. It provides an important framework for how we will work together to improve outcomes, strengthen inclusion, support effective safeguarding and ensure that children and young people are able to achieve and thrive.

The recruitment process for the Director of Inclusive Education, Early Help and Skills has now concluded. We look forward to sharing the outcome of this process in due course.

Thank you again for your ongoing commitment and partnership. I wish you and your teams every success for the year ahead, and please do not hesitate to contact local authority colleagues if there is anything we can do to support you. I look forward to continuing to work with you during the year ahead as we take forward these important reforms and continue our shared work to improve outcomes for children and young people across Shropshire.

Yours sincerely,



David Shaw
Director of Children's Services

