

**For families who have a child with a disability or additional need
aged 0-25 years**

Autumn 2017

Participate

Find out what's going on, Have a say, Make a difference



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2017**

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**SHROPSHIRE
Parent
And
Carer
Council**

Welcome from PACC



What about the Good News?

SEND has been in the news a lot recently and it definitely hasn't always been good.

Ofsted and CQC have published a report sharing the findings of the first year of SEND Local Area inspections and it doesn't make for easy reading. The main findings include;

- Children and young people identified as needing SEND support had not benefited from the implementation of the Code of Practice well enough.
- Children and young people who have SEND were found to be excluded, absent or missing from school much more frequently than other pupils nationally.
- Access to therapy services was a weakness in half of the local areas inspected.
- There had not been enough progress in implementing a coordinated 0–25 service for children and young people who have SEND.

This was closely followed by the Local Government Ombudsman publishing their focus report on Education, Health and Care Plans, where they found that

'Families of children with special educational needs are sometimes facing a "disproportionate burden" to ensure they get the support they need'. While the Ombudsman has seen a relatively small number of complaints so far, investigators have upheld nearly 80% of those it has received. This is far in excess of the Ombudsman's average of 53%. One of the overriding features highlighted by the report is a significant delay in the process. Other issues include: failing to involve parents and young people properly in the decision-making process, not gathering sufficient evidence to inform decisions, and a lack of proper forward planning when young people move between key educational stages.

These are some strong messages, but do they reflect what is happening in Shropshire? We know that some of the situations highlighted are definitely issues for Shropshire parent carers, for example, PACC frequently hears about families struggling to access CAMHS. At the same time however, we know from the SEN Team that the majority of EHCP's are now being issued within the 20-week timescale (just under 80% in fact) and the number of cases going to tribunal has significantly reduced in Shropshire over the last two years, unlike in other areas.

It is important that we do recognise when and where there has been progress, even when most of the news is negative and there rarely seems to be the same level of interest for 'good news'. In Shropshire, PACC is lucky to work with some very committed SEND practitioners, who have grasped the SEND Reforms as an opportunity to deliver real change for families. PACC believes it is our place to celebrate the good news, as well as challenging where improvements still need to be made. Recently Sarah and Natalie attended an IPSEA training sessions held in Birmingham. The sessions included parent carers from across the country and we heard some terrible stories about families being failed in a way that we were grateful to know would not happen in Shropshire.

Please continue to share with us your feedback about your experiences as a parent carer in Shropshire, together we can celebrate good practice and continue to make improvements where they are needed.

Information

Support

Influence

Change

Update from Action For Children

Community Short Breaks Contract

As from 1st January 2018 Shropshire Activity Support will continue to provide outreach, afterschool clubs, holiday clubs and Saturday clubs. There will be some developments of these services as they evolve throughout 2018. In addition to these services we will also be looking to enhance our support to children and families with disabilities in the following ways:

- **Supporting parents/ carers to manage issues which are preventing young people accessing short breaks**
- **Providing short breaks for 0-5 year olds in the home if required.**
- **Short breaks during holidays in different locations around Shropshire**
- **Working towards ASDAN qualifications during activities**
- **Independence skills workshops (we are currently planning some independence workshops during our Saturday afternoon youth club for 12+ year olds which will include money skills, road safety, travelling on public transport which are due to start in November 2017).**



We are currently liaising with PACC, activity providers and child minders to ascertain firstly what the need and preferences of parents carers are with regards to their short break and also locating organisations who would be willing to support families with a child with disabilities throughout the county.

We would be grateful if you could take part in a brief survey by following this link

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=IS0vR6kA4k-LFFHiHX5vn6uA-Zh3IEVFNnWFK98QTLBIUQkNEWFdPR1o3TkpmUIA4N0pBRERVMEkyUi4u>

We would like to stress that our current services will continue to run and changes made will be in full consultation with you and to better meet the needs and preferences of children, young people and families.

We will keep you informed through PACC and "All in" and encourage you to attend any meetings which we offer in order for you to access accurate information.

We are always looking for new staff to work with us. This could be a few hours after school, at weekends or in holidays and will fit alongside other commitments.

We have a parent of a child with disabilities who has recently taken up a casual Young Person's Worker position within our service. He is able to use his skills and the hours of work fit to with his home commitments.

He commented that even though he was aware that Action for Children was a leading children's charity and that the health, safety and well-being of the children and young people whom we support would be paramount in our day to day work

"that having first-hand knowledge of how well organised, professional and observing people in such a caring environment meant that both himself and his wife, who had been very anxious about leaving their son, were 100% happy leaving him with AFC workers".

If you know anyone who is interested in pursuing a job please contact us.

Should you wish to know more information on any aspect of this please do not hesitate to contact us on:

Tel: 01743 285765

Email: katri-na.edge@actionforchildren.org.uk



We're letting our old logo go, so we can better explain...

HOW

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

WORKS

Developing Education Provision for Children and Young People with SEND in Shropshire.

Duty;

All Local Authorities must ensure that there are sufficient good school places for all pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in their area.

High Needs Strategic Planning Fund;

Local authorities can use this fund to carry out a strategic review of their high needs provision. This is provision for children and young people whose needs are such that they can't be met by settings without additional resources.

Local authorities have been asked by the Department For Education to prioritise this review and planning activity, working with schools, colleges and other providers, and with parents and young people. It is anticipated that local authorities will use the funding provided to increase their capacity so that their review and planning of special provision is high-quality and collaborative, where appropriate undertaken jointly with neighbouring authorities.

Where such review and planning work has already been undertaken along the lines envisaged, this fund can be used to help implement the outcomes of the reviews. Local authorities should publish the outcomes of these reviews in the form of strategic plans to demonstrate transparency and accountability.



Shropshire Local Authority has been awarded £118,887 for this work and has contracted an external organisation to carry out this review.

SEND Provision Capital Funding;

Central Government has also recently made some funding available to Local Authorities to create new school places and improve existing facilities for children with SEND and in particular those who have Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Shropshire Local Authority has been awarded £500,000 of capital funding.

This funding can be used in either mainstream or specialist settings, across the full 0-25 years age range. The funding must be used in such a way that it improves the quality and range of SEND provision available and can be used outside of the Local Authority boundaries if it delivers this outcome.

What Capital Funding can be Spent on;

The funding can be used to create new or additional places for SEND pupils at an existing provision or can be used to improve or develop existing SEND facilities to improve outcomes.

For example, the funding could be used to create a learning kitchen at an existing setting to enable young people to develop independent living skills.

Local Authorities can also pool budgets and work together to improve SEND provision.

The funding cannot be used to improve 'Higher Education' provision or any provision used by young people over the age of 25 years.

The additional places or improved provision must be used by children and young people with EHCP's.

The funding also **cannot** be used to do work that would be considered a reasonable adjustment, to provide individual mobility equipment, to do maintenance work or on revenue expenditure such as furniture (chairs, desks), teaching apparatus such as white boards, training or staff costs.

Planning and Consultation;

The plan of how the funding will be spent locally must be produced in partnership with families. This includes consultation with;

- parent carers to ensure that the work will meet the needs of children and young people and their families.
- And with schools and Colleges

The resulting plan should be part of a wider strategic plan regarding local education provision.

Requirement's to Access Funding;

- **Local Authorities must produce a short plan outlining how the funding will be used.**
- **The plan should be made visible to families; for example,**

Developing Education Provision for Children and Young People with SEND in Shropshire.

through publication on the Local Offer

- The plan should link to other strategic plans
- The plan should state how families, education settings and other groups have contributed to its development

Timeline for the work to be completed;

March 2018 - Publish plan

Summer 2018 - First element of funding received

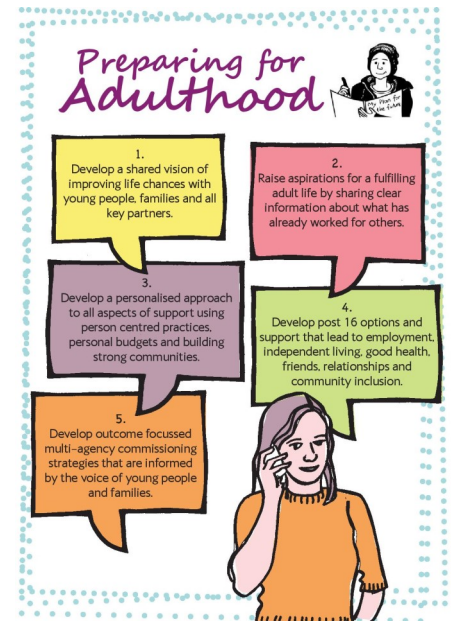
March 2019 - LA to review plan and publish what has been delivered / spent to date

Summer 19 - Second element of funding received

March 2020 - review plan and publish what has been delivered / spent to date

Summer 2020 - Third element of funding received

March 21 - review plan and publish details of delivery



PACC Autumn Conference – 10th November 2017

The PACC Autumn Conference 2017 will provide an opportunity for Shropshire parent carers to contribute to the process outlined above and to work in partnership with Shropshire Council to improve and develop local education provision for children and young people with SEND.

The conference will open with a presentation from 'Enable Supported Employment Services', looking at how young people with SEND can be effectively prepared for employment and other aspects of adult life. The conference will then provide an overview of the existing education provision for children and young people with SEND in Shropshire, along with details of the local SEND population.

This will be followed by discussions about what improvements are need to local SEND education provision to improve outcomes for young people with SEND.

This might include;

- Identifying gaps in SEND education provision locally
- Identifying what improvements are needed to existing SEND provision locally and where

Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to improving education provision in Shropshire for children and young people with SEND. Book your place today

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pacc-agm-autumn-conference-2017-developing-send-provision-in-shropshire-tickets-38886963956>

Enable Supported Employment Services

'Helping you to Unlock your Potential'



Enable Supported Employment Services – Helping you to Unlock your Potential

Employment is key to building our confidence and self-worth as well as acting as a core element of social inclusion – something that can have a direct impact on a person's health and wellbeing.



There are many people with disabilities who are keen to work but find the process challenging and disheartening. Shropshire Council's supported employment service, Enable, works directly with both jobseekers and employers to find the right job for the right person.

Enable provides employment services for all disability groups within Shropshire and across the wider West Midlands. With over 20 years of experience, the organisation has a proven track record of ensuring that clients find the career path that suits their interests and skills and through this are able to provide employers with suitable candidates for the job. With the help of innovative employment schemes and approaches, Enable constantly strive to perform above the national average.

By using Enable's services, clients can gain help with career advice, CV writing, preparation for work including a practical skills assessment, appropriate work experience to develop their skills, job searching, applications and interviews as well as the provision of a Job Coach, when starting a new job, who works on site to assist with training and communications between the client and employer.

Independent Travel Training



As well as finding employment, Enable works with Shropshire Council's specialist Transport Team to help young people with special educational needs gain independence through travel training.



By the end of the course, students are able to travel to school or college confidently and independently, using public transport.

The service opens up new opportunities to the individual and helps to prepare them for the next stage of adulthood.

Supported Internships – For young people with Education Health & Care Plans



For many students, the transition of leaving college and entering the world of work can be daunting, particularly for those with a disability. Enable works with local colleges to provide Supported Internships for students with special educational needs.

The Internship is a year-long course, in which the individual is selected by the college to take part in a work placement that is in line with their interests – giving them the opportunity to take the first step into the life of employment.

Supported Internships Focus Groups

Enable are currently holding a series of focus groups to gain first hand feedback from

Enable Supported Employment Services

'Helping you to Unlock your Potential'



service users, potential clients and their support networks. If you are a student with special educational needs, or if you are a parent or carer of someone and you would like to take part in a focus group, please contact:

Tracey Newell:
Phone: 01743 276 900
Email:
tracey.newell@shropshire.gov.uk

Client Success Story – James Supported Internships

James started his supported internship at Shrewsbury Museum in 2015, which he carried out alongside his time at Shrewsbury Sixth Form College. His responsibilities at the museum include greeting the customers, showing tours



around, working with the art gallery and cathedral. Initially James did have some confidence issues but he managed to build up some good friendships with the other volunteers.

His employer described him as very reliable with excellent timekeeping. He was able to learn about all of the areas of the museum and built on his knowledge over time.

James has developed his skills in customer service on meet and greet where he is polite and engages in conversation. This was achieved through a lot of one to one work with his Job Coach. James also leads tour groups of children and has worked well on this. James helps to set up meeting rooms, prepares displays as well as covering for volunteers at the cathedral. James said that he enjoys working at the museum and feels that he is learning a lot from it.

Now that his internship has finished, James will continue to work at Shrewsbury Museum for one day a week and has also joined Severn Valley Railway. He is studying privately to complete his A-level Maths and will enrol as an external student to take the exam at Shrewsbury Sixth Form College.

Enable will continue to support James as needed and are currently looking into an additional placement at Cosford which would be a dream placement for James. Employment Officers, Brendan and Tracey had a final meeting with James and his family which was very positive; Tracey noticed a change in James' confidence and he was much more focused during the meeting.

James now has a respectable CV with recent work experience and references and he is very positive about his future.

Enable has supported James to start an additional voluntary placement at The Archives which he is enjoying. He is also taking part in a Focus Group to help Enable raise awareness of supported



internships.



James is interested in starting University but this may be in a couple of years. He is also going to write about his experience on the supported internship and has agreed to give a short presentation at any future Enable events.

You can find out more about Enables work on their website

[http://
www.enableservices.co.uk/](http://www.enableservices.co.uk/)

Introducing - Kelly Kubilius

Transition Senior Practitioner For Adult Social Care



I'm Kelly Kubilius and I am the newly appointed Transition Senior Practitioner for Adult Social Care.

As adult social care, our aim is to plan and deliver a smooth transition from children's to adult services which promotes young people achieving their potential and realising their ambitions.

In order to achieve this I will be working in partnership with young people and their families and carers, children's services and other partner agencies. We recognise that transition can be a time of anxiety for young people and their families but by working

alongside partner agencies and keeping the young person as our focus, we can achieve a successful transition.

What does this mean in practice?

I will become aware of young people who are likely to need support from adult services in the future when they reach 14 years old. This will allow me to get to know the needs of each young person much sooner, to be involved in EHCP reviews and to begin to form a picture of what adult services may need to provide in the future, to allow us to plan and develop services to meet these needs in the best way possible.

I will work alongside colleagues in children's services to support them in planning and delivering services that effectively prepare young people for adulthood and support their families and carers in their own preparations for their child becoming an adult.

Once young people reach transition, I will be available to support practitioners in adult social care to develop bespoke plans for young

people that promote independence, achievement, good health and involvement in local communities.

Since starting this role in early July 2017, I have spent my time meeting and building partnerships with a huge range of people who provide services to children and young adults in Shropshire. This has included the children and adult's social care teams, the SEND team, schools and colleges, housing, care and respite providers and many more.

By developing a comprehensive knowledge of services available to our children and young people, I will be able to support, young people, their families and social care to work effectively together to create smooth transitions, promote independence and raise aspirations.

I hope to meet many of you in the near future, I will be attending the Carers Rights Day Event in November hosted by Carers Trust 4all and PACC and look forward to seeing you there.

Home Ownership for Clients with a Long term Disability (HOLD)

Shropshire Council was awarded over £2.4m to help people with disabilities live independently in their own homes, through the Government's HOLD programme. The shared ownership scheme enables individuals with enduring physical and/or learning disabilities – this includes those with challenging behaviour, sensory impairment and complex needs – to buy a home of their own. Shropshire's project will help assist at least 30 adults with learning disabilities to purchase properties. For further information contact William.Worthing@shropshire.gov.uk or ring 01743 258986



Carers Rights Day 2017

Carers Trust 4 All together with Parent and Carer Council and Shropshire Council invite you to join us for Carers Rights Day 2017 on Friday 24th November. Carers Rights Day is a chance to bring organisations together to help carers in the local community know their rights and find out how to get the help and support they are entitled to. Carers can be any age ranging from children as young as 5 years up to adults in their 90's.

If you are caring for someone at the moment, who cannot manage without your help, or know someone who is a carer, and would like to find out more about your rights and how to get help, come along to this event in Shrewsbury.

The day is free to attend and will include;

- Welcome and overview from the Directors of Adult Social Services (Andy Begley) and the Director of Children's Services (Karen Bradshaw) with a chance to ask questions
- Workshop sessions covering; Managing change and planning for the future, Self-Advocacy, Stress to Strength, and Staying Active.
- Light refreshments
- An information market place.



Carers Rights Day Event

If you look after a relative or friend, who cannot manage without that help, you are a carer. Come and meet us at our

Information and advice event

FRIDAY 24th NOVEMBER

9.45am–1 pm

Shrewsbury Baptist Church, Crowmere Road, SY2 5JJ

Introduction by Directors of Adult and Children's Services

Workshops on stress management, managing change & future planning, self advocacy, staying active

Information stands including pharmacy, legal advice, aids & equipment

Free admission and light refreshments

For more information contact 01743 341995



Carers Trust 4all



@carerstrust4all



www.carerstrust4all.org.uk

Carers Trust 4all is a Registered Charity No. 1075208. Registered office: Overton House, West Street, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 3JY. A company limited by guarantee registered in England No. 3554462.

Be Kind To Your Mind - BEAM Service

A new drop in for children and young people who have any mental health concerns has been launched in Shrewsbury. Run by The Children's Society, BEAM is a new mental and emotional health service running every Thursday 1pm-6pm at Palmers Coffee Shop, Belmont Church, Claremont St, Shrewsbury SY1 1QG.

A variety of qualified staff will be on hand to offer advice and guidance on low level emotional health and wellbeing needs. Staff include Mental Health Nurses, OTs and other Psychological Well-being practitioners and Youth Workers. There will also be a team of trained volunteers with special skillsets, to engage effectively with children and young people.

The drop in is for children and young people aged 0-25, parents are required to remain with young children where as young people can drop in by themselves. Teachers and other professionals can also bring children and young people. For further info email AskBeam@childrenssociety.org.uk

Final Year - The Road To Graduation

This article was provided for PACC by a young disabled person from Shropshire, who has just started her third year at university. They asked to not have their name printed.

I am beginning my third and final year (for now) of university. I have Cerebral Palsy, which in my case means that I use a wheelchair, have slurred speech and I find some fine motor skills difficult, so I use a laptop because writing is not easy.

Despite this, I am going to become a qualified Occupational Therapist, regardless of any challenges sent my way! Challenges!! – Yes, I am not going to lie, there have been many along the way and I envisage more to come! However, which “chapter” of my life (so far) has not been made more interesting/complicated (depending on your perspective) due to challenges?

For me, going to university meant moving away from home and ultimately removing “the safety blanket”. I have encountered logistical challenges (for example finding and organising carers; cooking for myself; operating the washing machine; and trying to sleep when my flatmates decide to play loud music on a “school night”) much of which applies to most students though!

I do not want to paint my flatmates in a bad light. I have had two sets of flatmates (one for each academic year). That is sixteen new faces! We have had lots of fun together and they have helped me out when I have needed

help, which I am very grateful for. (Although at the start of each academic year I was a bit embarrassed to ask, as I did not want to be a pain and was not sure how they would react)! This year, I am sharing the same accessible flat with another eight new faces. In addition to my flatmates, the on-site staff at my accommodation have been very helpful, although I felt it took them time to be comfortable with my disability requirements.

The cause of my reduced independence was the new accommodation building itself, (in particular heavy fire doors, which were not automated). During the two years I have been there, I have been “fighting” for automated doors. My university disability adviser, personal tutor, general practitioner and local Member of Parliament also helped in putting pressure on the accommodation provider. Replacement automated doors were installed before the start of the 2017/18 year, and while there are some niggles, the two-year wait has been worth it!

Once I reach university, I meet my scribe and make my way to the lecture room. The majority of the time, the rooms I am in are more like classrooms (all the chairs and tables on one level) in comparison to lecture theatres. I prefer this layout. I sit at the front of the room for easy access; meaning I sit at the same level as my peers.

For my course, a normal day is 9 am until 4pm (with a one-hour lunch break). On average, I am in university three/four days a week. As part of my course, I have to complete five block practice

placements. I have really enjoyed the placements I have had so far; one in my first year (four weeks) and two last year (both six weeks long). Placements have enabled me to demonstrate my understanding, skill, knowledge, commitment and understanding of my own limitations. (This is very important when considering service user/patient safety). At the start of every placement, people are hesitant but soon realise I am capable, with some lenience (for example, extra time to complete tasks and a tweaked timescale).

I am very proud of my progress on my last placement, where I was given a lot of responsibility. I was given a merit (students can achieve a merit, pass or fail in relation to each placement). I am looking forward to my last two placements.

As I reflect on my last two years of university I wonder where the time has gone! I have had lots of positive moments! Made so many friends (in and outside of university). The idea of being a third-year student is daunting! On the other hand, I very much look forward to finishing my last year and becoming a qualified Occupational Therapist!



'Working Together' in Ludlow

Providing support, training, work opportunities and leisure activities for people with learning disabilities in and around Ludlow, Working Together is a small registered charity and company based in Ludlow, that has been running since 2002.

It offers a range of support for people with learning disabilities and promotes inclusion of people with learning disabilities in all aspects of community life.



The group offers opportunities to learn new skills and to experience a work place environment at their small café, which is in the centre of Ludlow.

They also run regular social groups so that young people and adults with learning disabilities have a chance to spend time with their friends and experience new activities.

The youth club meets weekly, 6 to 8pm on Tuesday evenings at Ludlow Youth Centre, Lower Galdeford, Ludlow. The evening is shared between a Junior Group 11 - 18 years and Junior Diversity for 18 - 25 age group.

The group splits for age related activities. Older members of the Diversity Group also are offered activities and on occasions join the youth group programme.

If you would like to know more about the work of Working Together you can contact them at; Working Together Cafe 3 Fish Street, Ludlow SY8 1TY

Tel 01584 318 925

Or visit their website at <http://www.workingtogetherludlow.btck.co.uk/>



Congratulations!!

DRIVING TEST PASS

As part of our 'Joy of Project' celebrating the achievements of children and young people with SEND we want to say congratulations to Alistair, who has recently passed his driving test.

Alistair's Mom shared this news with us on the PACC Forum Facebook page, saying;

"My son Alistair who has Aspergers Syndrome passed his driving test on Tuesday very proud but at times it's not an easy road to travel with his condition."

Please continue to share your successes with us so we can celebrate the achievements of our children together.



News From the Shropshire SEN Team



All children and young people will be happy, healthy, safe and reach their full potential, supported by their families, friends and the wider community

Welcome to Shropshire SEN News

Update

The SEN Team has grown considerably since 2014. This has enabled us to develop greater specialist knowledge and skills in specific areas and has supported the writing of Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) that are appropriate to a particular phase of education.

The team is divided across the age groups and covers 0 to 6, 6 to 16 and post 16. You can find out more about the SEN Team by looking at the [SEN Team page on the Local Offer](#). The post 16 Team has seen recently seen big changes with the addition of four new team members to permanent posts. These transition officers will support young people with complex needs to prepare for adulthood. They will attend annual reviews to support transition and can provide advice and guidance about the provision that is available locally for young people with SEND. Their work will support that of the transition social worker.

We have been seeking the views of parents and young people to find out about their experiences of the EHC needs assessment. Your feedback has helped us to improve the service that we offer. We recognise that the assessment process can be a difficult time for families and young people who are awaiting the outcome of the assessment or who are trying ensure that the EHCP accurately describes need and identifies appropriate outcomes and provision. In order to help provide a more personalised experiences we will be offering more opportunities to meet with the case manager who will be using all of the information available to write the EHCP. We are also producing a series of information leaflets to support families and young people better understand the system.

We are pleased to share with you our success in increasing the number of new EHCPs that are produced within 20 weeks. You will be aware that this is a something that the Department for Education have been monitoring closely. So far in 2017 we have issued 77.5% of EHCPs on time, this compares with 69% in 2016 and 33% in 2015.

Shropshire's Graduated Support Pathway

The majority of children and young people in Shropshire are able to access their education within a mainstream provision. Schools and colleges must use the resources that are available to them to ensure the necessary provision is made to support children and young people to overcome their barriers to learning. Occasionally the levels of provision required will exceed

those which will normally be available to schools. Settings are now able to request additional funding for children at SEN Support, through the 'Graduated Support Pathway'.

This will ensure the delivery of timely, efficient and effective intervention for children identified as requiring additional targeted provision, but where an EHCP might not be appropriate.

Since the introduction of the GSP in September 2017 we have received 8 requests for

additional funding through this pathway. The panel meets every week to consider the requests and is therefore able to respond promptly with a decision.



News From the Shropshire SEN Team



Autism Education Trust Training - Update

Shropshire is committed to improving the outcomes for children, young people with an Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).

Having purchased the license to deliver the Autism Education Trust modular programme towards the end of the summer term we are now busy rolling out the training to schools. The local authority is funding the Tier 1 training; 'Making Sense of Autism' so that it is free to schools. We would like all schools to access this training, delivered by Woodlands Outreach team, by the end of academic year 2018-2019. A number of schools have already received their training and feedback has been very positive.

The Tier 1 training is aimed at all staff who work in schools; including administration staff, lunchtime supervisors, site services staff etc. By increasing awareness and understanding around the needs of children with autism, staff will be better equipped to meet their needs and adapt their practice. 50 schools have already booked their training.

Tiers 2 and 3 training provide schools with a range of strategies, resources and ideas that can be implemented to support children with autism. In addition, there are a range of very good resources available **free** on the Autism Education Trust website including information guides for **parents** and professionals.

For further information on any of the Autism Education resources or training packages visit:

www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk



Shropshire's 1st Annual Inclusion Conference – Report

In July, the SEN Team arranged the first annual Inclusion Conference for school leaders, governors and practitioners. This turned out to be a very successful event with around 200 delegates attending. Those who attended were fortunate to hear presentations from the Department for Education as well as nationally acclaimed speakers on subjects around the topic of, 'Improving whole school performance through effective inclusion'. We would also like to thank representatives from Community College Bishops Castle who shared their own experiences and provided a Shropshire perspective on good inclusive practice and illustrated how, with the right ethos, adjustments can be made to ensure all individuals are able to engage positively in their learning.

The conference was concluded with an enlightening and inspirational presentation from Dean Beadle. Dean recounted his experiences of education as an individual with Aspergers Syndrome and provided some thought provoking, and often humorous, anecdotes about his own journey through the education system.

Feedback from those that attended was overwhelmingly positive:

**"All Speakers were
inspirational"
(Governor)**

**"I have learned
loads"
(Post 16)**

**"I have attended many
many conferences &
today has been the
most inspiring ever.
Thank You"
(Governor)**

News from the SEN Team Continued.....

SEND Advisory Visit

The local authority has recently hosted a visit from Steve Huggett; SEN and Disability Professional Advisor for the Department for Education. His visit was to enable him to gain a greater understanding of the progress that Shropshire has made since 2014, in the implementation of the SEND reforms, and to offer support and advice around the joint Ofsted/CQC local area inspections.



There was an opportunity to provide contextual information around the data for Shropshire and to highlight some of the unique challenges we face in delivering high quality services and provision across such a large rural county.

Representatives from Education, Health, Social Care, PACC and IASS, were able to share their experiences and discuss the progress that has been made so far within the local authority and also to consider the areas that require further development and the steps needed to ensure continued improvement.

Following the discussions and questioning from Steve he concluded;

"Shropshire has made creditable progress in implementing the SEND reforms across a number of key areas. Its transfer of statements to EHCPs has been well managed and the LA is moving assuredly to the completion of this process. The wide ranging and active participation of parents/carers in operations and developments is impressive and will be of interest to other LAs.

There are major challenges ahead particularly in terms of funding and the needs of a rapidly emerging post 16 sector. Meeting these will be helped by officers and partners measured, constructive and practical approach to the implementation of the reforms."
Steve Huggett (DfE SEND advisor)

SEND Activity Sessions

Little Rascals will be holding their Kids+ Santa event again this year with all the same Christmas fun.

This exciting and festive event is exclusively for children with disabilities and their families.

The event will include a mini disco playing Christmas songs, festive fun and games, a visit from Santa himself and a small gift for each child.

All this for the regular Kids+ admission price of £3 per child. To be held on Monday 18th December from 9am-11am.

There will also be breakfast baps on sale during the event, as well as our normal selection of drinks and snacks.

This is a bookable event, to book your place please call us on 01743 240258.



Climbing The Walls offer autism friendly sessions. Available every Thursday from 4 pm till 5 pm. The session will allow full access to our Action Walls. All music and light will be turned off, our party room will be available for children to relax in during the session. This is a fantastic way for families to meet other families who also have children on the autistic spectrum. For maximum enjoyment please note one parent /carer will be expected to escort their child during each session. Complimentary juice will be available for the children during the session. £10 per session - run term times only.

SEND Community Games & Local Offer Event

The second PACC SEND Community Games and Local Offer Live Event was held on the 24th September, at North Shropshire College's Walford Campus. The aim of this event is to provide an opportunity for families to meet representatives from SEND services and activity providers, in a fun and supportive environment. We hope that by doing this;

- Families will increase their knowledge of what help is available to them
- Families who are less confident about using digital resources or contacting services by phone will be able to have face to face contact with team members
- Young people with SEND will be able to try out activities that are on offer in Shropshire and build their confidence about future participation
- Families will meet with other families who have shared experiences and can offer them positive support, building a sense of community and increasing resilience
- Families will be able to see what is possible by listening to 'experts by experience' in the Inspire Zone
- Services and providers will have an opportunity to raise awareness of the support they offer through direct contact with families. The event also provides an opportunity to collect feedback from families that can be used to shape services

We had 43 families join us on the day and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. We would like to say a big thank you to all the services and providers who supported the event and a special thank you to our inspirational speakers Tim Tuff and David Yarnell-Davies, who spoke about living and working with a disability. It was also great to have 'Mobiloo' on site, with their mobile 'Changing Places Toilet', making the event accessible for everyone.



"Lots of information available. Activities and equipment to try out. Everyone was very friendly, helpful and informative."

"It was great to keep in touch with everything on offer for Special Needs Children in Shropshire."

PACC AGM 2017 - 10th November

The PACC AGM takes place each November as part of our Autumn Conference. The AGM includes the presentation of the PACC Annual Report including the accounts, discussions about our plans for the future and the election of Board members.

This year we will also be saying goodbye to our Chair, Anne Lanham, as she steps down to focus on other activities. Anne was a founder member of PACC and has made a significant contribution to developing parent carer participation in Shropshire since 2008. We would like to say a huge thank you to Anne for all her support and work over the years and wish her all the best in the future.

Currently we have received the following nominations for election to the PACC Board;

Existing board members standing for re election (see <http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/about-us/details-board> for biographies)

Sarah Thomas
Julie Davenport
Zara Bowden
Mike Thomas
Christine Thomas
Natalie Hughes

New nominations

Angela Price - Angela has been a PACC member for a number of years and a parent rep for the last 12 months. She has an 18 year old son, who has Autism and moderate learning disabilities and attends Derwen College as a day student.

We would welcome further nominations. If you are interested in becoming a PACC Board Member and working with us to ensure that the design and delivery of Shropshire service are informed by the experiences and knowledge of parent carers, please do get in touch on enquiries@paccshropshire.org.uk

As an organisation we work flexibly, taking account of Board Members commitments as carers. Currently the Board meets 10 times a year (excluding August and April), during the daytime at the Central Baptist Church in Shrewsbury town centre. Training will be offered to new Board members and there will be a chance to initially shadow more experienced Board members when first attending meetings. Travel and child care expenses are available.

Being a PACC Board member is a great opportunity to develop your understanding of how local and national SEND systems work, to develop your confidence and to learn new skills. It is also incredibly rewarding to use your experience as a parent carer to help others.

Information, Support, Influence & Change

