SEND **PARENT/CARER**

NEWSLETTER

May 2020

What's Included?

In this edition you will find information about:

- An update from SEND 0-25
- Temporary changes to SEND Legislation
- Useful links & contacts
- PODs Helpline
- IASS Service

Coming soon… look out for some FAQ's that will be pubished shortly.

Welcome!

Welcome to this SEND Parent/Carer Briefing.

We want to keep you updated about what has been happening.

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 Briefing**

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An update from SEND 0-25 following the Government announcement on Monday 11th May 2020

As you may be aware new guidance is being released from the DfE with regard to announcements made by the Prime Minister was released on the 10 and 11th May 2020 and educational settings are beginning preparations for children in particular year groups to return to their mainstream schools and settings, from the 1st June 2020. This is only provisional however and conditional on the basis that the rate of infection remains below 1. Special schools and colleges are not being asked to admit particular year groups from the 1st June, but rather increase pupil numbers over a phased period of time in line with risk assessments that have been completed.

We are currently working with POD's and IASS to create some FAQ's that we hope will help moving forward, in the interim please see the link below to the Government's guidance for parents and carers which was updated.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june

Children and young people who are vulnerable and / or are children of critical workers who have been eligible to attend throughout the school closure period, should continue to be able to attend their school, college or early years settings as they are currently.

More updates soon

SEND **PARENT/CARER Briefing**

Temporary Changes to legislation due to Coronavirus (Covid 19)
Education Health and Care Plans

Over the last few weeks some changes have been made to the 'SEND duties', these have been deemed necessary to help protect the needs of children and young people with SEND and manage the demands on local authorities and health bodies to respond to the Coronavirus outbreak. We would like to share with you a brief explanation about the changes and the link to the Department for Education guidance that the local authority has been following.

Change Number 1

A new exemption to the 20 week Education Health and Care timescale will be permitted due to issues relating to Coronavirus.

This will mean some Education Health and Care assessment requests will not be completed within 20 weeks at this time. This might, for example, be due to professionals being unable to complete their assessment. Where this is the case we will write to parents and settings to let them know. Where it has been necessary to apply an exemption we will also try and catch up as quickly as possible so that the assessment process does not drift.

As far as possible we will still attempt to deliver all assessments within the 20 week timescale. All professionals who give advice have been asked by the Department for Education to use creative ways in which to provide their information so that assessments continue to be made and Education Health and Care plans issued in a timely manner. Determining which EHC assessments will be exempt from the 20 week timescale will be made on a case by case basis.

This change came into effect from the 1st May 2020 and will be in place until the 25th September 2020 in the first instance.

Temporary changes to legislation continued...

Change Number 2

The duty to secure or arrange special education provision and health care provision in Education Health and Care plans is temporarily modified to a duty to use 'reasonable endeavours' to do so.

Decisions regarding 'reasonable endeavours' must consider what needs to be delivered for a child with an Education Health and Care plan during this period. For the majority this is likely to mean that provision will be different to that which is set out in their Education Health and Care plan for some, or all of the time that the legislative notice is in.

Reasonable endeavour must consider what is necessary for each child. Alternative provision arrangements that are put in place will need to consider local circumstances, this is likely to include discussion with schools, guidance on measures to reduce the transmission of coronavirus, the extent home learning programmes can be made available and the availability of suitable IT equipment in the home.

Example of alternative arrangements may include

- Alterations to the frequency and timing of delivery of provision in school.
- Video class sessions for children to keep in touch with classmates and teaching staff.
- Home learning reading programme, provided by SENCo, reviewed weekly.
- EPs providing therapy interventions.
- SALT/OT input via video link.

(All of these suggestions are taken from the Department for Education guidance).

This change came into effect from the 1st May 2020 and will be in revised on a monthly basis by the Secretary of State.

The majority of provision in children's EHC plans are delivered through educational settings. In Telford and Wrekin we know, because parents have told us, that early years providers, schools and colleges are supporting families to deliver home learning programmes and are 'checking in' with families.

We are aware that SENCos are keeping oversight of children both with an Education Health and Care plan and at SEN support to make sure home learning is accessible. We have heard about virtual interventions (reading and phonic based programmes) that are taking place. We know that some part time provision has been deemed appropriate. All of these activities help us to deliver on the 'reasonable endeavour' duty. In Telford we also have a range of educational support services including Portage, Sensory Inclusion, Learning Support Advisory Teachers, Behaviour Support and Educational Psychology that support settings.

Temporary changes to legislation continued...

All other duties within SEND legislation remain in place namely:

Annual reviews of children's EHC plans require completion—there is acknowledgement that reviews may be briefer and held in a different form such as a virtual meeting.

Educational settings must continue to admit children once they are named on an EHC plan—this means a setting must put the child on roll and treat the child in the same way as all other children are being treated at the setting at this time.

Settings must respond within 15 days of the LA consulting with them regarding proposals to name them in a plan.

The SEND appeal system remains in place. There are no new complaints processes for the temporary legislative duties and where disagreements arise local dispute processes should be follow.

Duties in law over EHC needs assessments and plans have not been 'turned off'. In Telford and Wrekin where new requests are being considered, either by an educational setting or parent, please discuss these first with the SEND team before starting an application. They will work with you and your child's setting to discuss how best to get support and provision in place for children which might involve the use of more flexible release of funding through the Early Years Inclusion Funding or Inclusive School Forum!

How to contact the SEND Team:

By phone: 01952 381045

Or by email: SENDandinclusion@telford.gov.uk

More information on SEND services can be found on the Local Offer website: www.telfordsend.org.uk

The full report can be found: **HERE**. A brief summary is provided overleaf of the main changes and how we will work with our educational settings and parents/carers to implement the duties.

A joint letter was also published by the Department of Health and Social Care and Department for Education to outline the changes which can be found **HERE**.

Useful links & where to find more information

Telford & Wrekin Coronavirus Information

View the latest advice, guidance and information bout the support available as a result of the Coronavirus (Covid 19) outbreak. This includes changes to council services.

Local Offer: Resources to support learning and wellbeing for all children, including those with SEND.

The resources on this page have been collated together to support children and young people's mental health, wellbeing and education. There are activities that can be used by children, young people, families and professionals.

Personal Assistants (PAs) - Direct Payments

Advice and guidance about Direct Payments and Personal Assistants.

Council for Disabled Children Coronavirus Advice

The situation with COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is rapidly changing. We are following government advice on how to stay healthy and safe during this time. We have gathered a list of resources and guidance about coronavirus to share with parent carers, children & young people and education, health and social care practitioners

COVID-19 guidance on vulnerable children and young people

Coronavirus (COVID-19): SEND risk assessment guidance

Guidance published on 22 March, which explains the practicalities for local authorities and other providers in undertaking risk assessments for vulnerable children and young people with education, health and care plans, in light of school and college closures. It asks local authorities to work with educational providers, families and the child or young person to carry out a risk assessment to judge whether the child or young person's needs cannot be met safely at home.

Coronavirus (COVID 19): list of online education resources for home education

Includes SEND-specific home learning resources to help support parents, teachers and schools, during this period. These have been developed in collaboration with SEND organisations, charities, special school head teachers and multi-academy trusts.

SEND **PARENT/CARER Briefing**

Resources for Parent/Carers looking after a child with SEND

Online education resources for children with SEND

List of websites/resources that have been identified by some of the country's leading educational experts and offer a wide range of support and resources for pupils of all ages.

SEND - specific resources for learning from home by Tech Ability

Coronavirus educational resources from The Sensory Projects

Advice on supporting children with a learning disability or autistic spectrum disorder (ASD)
Information pack available to download by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.

Recommendations on special educational needs
From the Education Endowment Foundation

Resources for under 5s
From the Early Years Alliance

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.

COMMUNITY FUND
PARENTS OPENING DOORS
PODS BEFRIENDING SCHEME

Telford & Wrekin SENDIASS

Offering support to Parents/Carers, children and Young People with Special Educational Needs or Disability,

To help them make decisions about their future.

Young people monthly drop in sessions

- Either a telephone meeting
- A face to face meeting on an online platform.
- Discuss any concerns that you may have in relation to your education, health and social care needs.
- If you have recently had a draft EHCP ready for post 16, we can go through it with you.
- Signpost you to any appropriate services.

For further details please contact SENDIASS to speak to our dedicated young person case worker.

SEN Information Sessions enable parents/carers and young people to access impartial and independent information in relation to any aspect of Special Educational Needs and Disability

- Either a scheduled phone meeting
- Alternatively a face to face meeting on an online platform
- Discuss your concerns and inform you of the support we provide
- Signpost you to any appropriate services
- Support to read reports/assessments

SEND Workshops

The Service is providing online workshop sessions on a wide range of SEND related topics. We will be shortly running a Transition Workshop to provide support and information for parents/ carers whose child will be either going into school for the first time or moving through a different transition phase of education. Further information on this workshop to follow.

Coffee Morning Sessions

The Service is offering parents an opportunity to meet up through virtual platforms to share regular coffee morning sessions. We will be running a session in the near future on 5 steps to wellbeing.

Look out for regular updated posts on Telford and Wrekin SENDIASS Facebook page

To find out any further information contact SENDIASS.

01952 457176 or Email: info@iass.org.uk

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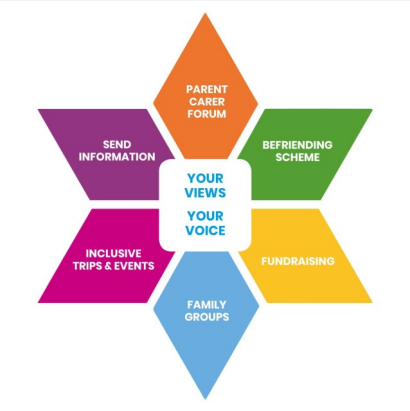

01952 458047

0777 534 2092

info@podstelford.org

www.podstelford.org

PODSForumTelford

PODSTelford

PODS (Parents Opening Doors)

The Glebe Centre, Glebe Street,
Wellington, Telford, TF1 1JP

Information Advice and Support Service

SENDIASS
TELFORD & WREKIN

01952 457176

info@iass.org.uk

IASS Telford & Wrekin

The Glebe Centre, Glebe Street,
Wellington, Telford
TF1 1JP

Family Connect

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

0779 787 5385

familyconnect@telford.gov.uk

Looking forward with future focus

01952 388988

future.focus@telford.gov.uk

Southwater 1, Southwater Square,
Southwater Way, Telford
TF3 4JG

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.

a co-operative council

Telford & Wrekin COUNCIL