

Sensory Inclusion Service | Floor 7A, Darby House, Telford & Wrekin Council, Lawn Central, Telford, TF3 4JA

Staffing Changes

Many parents, children and young people will know Angela Bale, Access Support Assistant for SIS-VI, who has worked for the service for in excess of 15 years. Angela retires at Easter and we will all miss her very much indeed.

She has worked tirelessly over the years, providing some wonderful large print, Braille and tactile modification. She has also been an excellent touch typing tutor in various schools and settings. A great many children and young people have benefited from her expertise.

On behalf of SIS-VI, I would like to wish her every happiness for the future. Good luck, Angie, onto exciting new ventures!!

Jayne Bowen,
VI Team Leader,
Sensory Inclusion Service.



Volunteers needed for Sight Loss Shropshire

The See & Hear Van is a purpose built vehicle that visits locations across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin to provide information and advice about services and support for anyone with a visual impairment.

To complement this, the charity is now planning to provide a Help Desk, to be manned weekly, in the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital Eye Clinic.

If you are interested in supporting people with sight impairments, have good listening & communication skills and time to spare, why not volunteer with us?

We are also looking for people who would be interested in driving the Van to visits.

For more information, please contact: Sight Loss Shropshire, The Lantern, Meadow Farm Drive, Shrewsbury, SY1 4NG.
tel: **01743 250808**
email: **sightlossshropshire@shropshire.gov.uk**



Glasses Hints and Tips

A useful suggestion from some parents whose 3 year old frequently breaks her glasses but they now always have spares:

“She has two prescriptions, one for tinted and one for clear glasses.

Specsavers have buy one get one free on the frames we chose so that’s how we ended up with four pairs.”

My Buddy Dog

About 18 months ago Maggie (Qualified Habilitation Specialist) spoke to my family and I about applying for a Buddy Dog. We had to act quickly as the application deadline was only a short time ahead.

The reason that Maggie mentioned getting a Buddy Dog was because in the future I am hoping to get a Guide Dog. Getting a Buddy Dog would help to prepare me for a Guide Dog. The commands that I use with my Buddy Dog are the same as you would have for a Guide Dog.

A year ago I found out that my application had been accepted, therefore I was allowed a Buddy Dog. It was then time to wait for a suitable dog to come along. In the mean time I met with somebody else's dog from the Guide Dog Team. The dog was called Ella. She was a black, long haired Labrador. That visit helped me to get more confident with dogs as before I got my dog (Jamie) I didn't really like dogs.

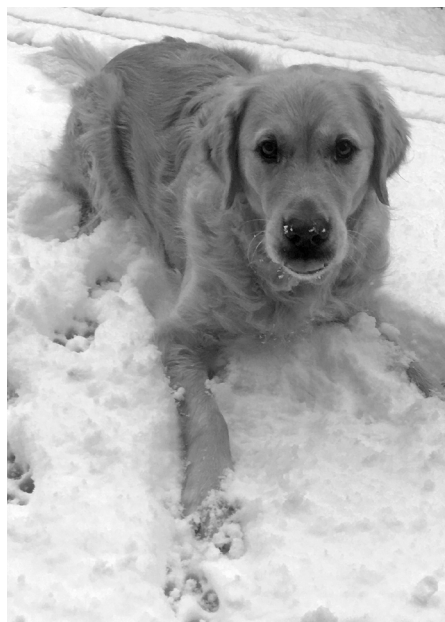
During February half term, Jamie came for a short visit to find out if we were a good match. We were all asked to avoid interacting with him when he first arrived. This was so he knew who was in charge of him. When he came in he was on a lead to keep him in control. He is a highly trained dog, however, he would have still got excited about meeting new people. He was left to calm down for a while then the Guide Dog trainer let him off. As soon as he got let off the lead he came straight over to me and sat on my foot. They were going to go away and consider if he was suitable for me and would give my mum a call to let us know the news.

About a week later the Guide Dog organisation called my mum to arrange a date that they could come and do some training with

my family and I as they thought Jamie was a suitable dog for me. That weekend we went out to buy all the essentials for Jamie. They came on the Monday after and did some training with all of us. They showed us how to feed him correctly, take him out to the toilet and we did a short walk with him as well. When walking Jamie he has to be on my left side with my mum walking on his other side using another lead as he is quite strong. When walking him we have to take a whistle to call him back with.

When Jamie arrived to stay for good we all had some sleepless nights. He used to sleep in my room, however, we had to move him downstairs because he kept getting up at night and snoring!! Almost one year on, Jamie is now part of the family. He can be hard work sometimes but it has helped me to understand how hard it can be to look after a dog. Looking to the future, I am not sure whether I will choose to have a Guide Dog as I think it would be too much responsibility. As I approach adulthood my views might change because I will become more independent. It may make me realise that the hard work will be worthwhile to help me lead an independent life.

Written by Deja McGowan,
aged 13 years.



Luke Westcar

'The Sensory Inclusion Service received some very positive news about one of our former students, Luke Westcar, aged 19, years, who used to be supported by Fiona Davidson, Qualified Teacher of the Visually Impaired (QTVI) throughout his time at Shrewsbury Sixth Form College. Read on:'

Luke began his apprenticeship with Edinburgh Woollen Mill in September 2017. He was offered this position after a six week work experience placement which was organised by Enable following the completion of his Supported Internship.

Anne, Luke's manager said: "He has made a lot of progress, he has lots more confidence and has changed so much since he started. Luke wouldn't look us in the eye when he first came but is now a very vocal member of the team and happy to engage in banter."

Luke has had some lovely customer feedback from customers who have taken part in a customer service survey and an email was sent to Head Office commenting on the excellent customer service received at the shop from Luke.

Luke said, "I am much more confident now and love being part of the team, I would definitely recommend the supported internship/apprenticeship route to others. I have gained so many skills both from my supported internship and now whilst doing my apprenticeship."

Little Stars

Little Stars is a friendly support group for pre-school children with a visual impairment and their parents/carers. Siblings are welcome although we cannot cater for too many siblings at a time.

The group is run by staff from the Sensory Inclusion Service. Each session consists of fun with arts, craft or cookery. Most weeks, there is a musical activity or a parachute game to end the session. Activities are planned around the age and ability of the children.

There are activities in the well-equipped sensory room with the Qualified Teacher of the Visually Impaired (QTVI), using torches and lights and well as relaxing sensory equipment such as bubble tubes and fibre optics. These can be enjoyed by the child with a visual impairment and their siblings.

Parents find that the sessions are a great opportunity for their children to mix with other children with visual impairment and a chance for them to talk to other parents in similar situation.

The families that currently attend are a lovely group of people. They make everyone feel welcome. Here are some quotes:

Parent 1. ***We love Little Stars, we've made friends for life.***

Parent 2. ***When I go to Little Stars it makes me feel normal with my child and that the people around me understand and don't judge. The staff and parents are like a family and give great support. The staff are friendly and you can ask questions.***

Parent 3. ***Little Stars has not only helped build my son's confidence but also mine. I am so grateful for the support that we receive.***

This is the Little Stars sessions programme for the Summer Term although it is flexible and we are open to suggestions from the parents and children that attend.

Little Stars meet at The Stepping Stones Centre, Brunel Road, Malinslee, Telford, TF3 2BF on Tuesdays in term-time from 9.30 to 11.30.

If you are interested and feel that these sessions may benefit you and your child please speak to your child's Qualified Teacher of the Visually Impaired (QTVI).

We look forward to seeing some of you in future, Gill and Jo.

Electronic Version by email

The Sensory Inclusion Service has been given consent by Telford & Wrekin to send out the newsletter by email rather than through the post.

We are therefore updating our database with current contact details.

Could you please send an email to matt.kelsall@taw.org.uk to confirm your current email address and that you are happy to receive correspondence electronically in the future from The Sensory Inclusion Service.

Little Stars Summer Term 2018 Programme

1st half term	Theme	Activity
17th April		Free play
24th April	How does your garden grow	Painting flowers
1st May	SIS VI PD DAY - NO LITTLE STARS SESSION	
8th May		Free play
15th May	Cookery	Muffin pizzas
22nd May	Sensory session	Sensory play/music/parachute games
2nd half term		
5th June		Free play
12th June	Special Days	Make Father's Day cards
19th June		Free play
26th June	Garden party	Making rice crispy cakes
3rd July	The beach	Sand pictures
10th July	End of term trip	A Summer Trip
17th July	End of Term – celebration	Goodbye for the Summer party.

Card Scheme for Disabled/Visually Impaired

The CEA Card is a national card scheme developed by the UK Cinema Association for UK cinemas and allows one free complimentary ticket for a person to provide assistance to the cardholder, provided that a full price ticket is purchased by the card holder. The cost of the card is £6 per year to cover admin costs.

The scheme was introduced in 2004 and is one of the ways for participating cinemas to ensure they provide a consistent, voluntary approach to making reasonable adjustments for disabled guests when they go to the cinema. Around 90 per cent of UK cinemas are supporting the scheme from



the large national chains to smaller independent operators.

Under the disability provisions of the Equality Act 2010, cinema operators have obligations to make reasonable adjustments in order to facilitate disabled people going to the cinema. For disabled people, this may mean a carer might be needed to assist them.

The CEA Card is administered and run by The Card Network. For further information on the scheme, including a list of participating cinemas, go to the website.

www.ceacard.co.uk

To apply for the Card, you will need to meet one or both of the following criteria:

1. Be in receipt of the disability living allowance, attendance allowance or Personal Independence Payment;
2. Be a registered blind person
The following cinemas accept the card:

Odeon Telford
Cineworld Telford
Reel Bridgnorth
Cineworld Shrewsbury
The Old Market Hall
Festival Drayton Centre
Wem Town Hall
Light House Media Centre
Curzon Stafford
Cineworld Wolverhampton

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



Contact us:

 oneVISION Shropshire

 @onevisionshrops

onevisionshropshire@yahoo.co.uk



Need this in large print or Braille?

If you would like to receive this newsletter in Large Print or Braille, please email sendandinclusion@telford.gov.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.



www.telfordsend.org.uk

Search **Local Offer Shropshire**



Your one Stop Shop for services and information relating to special Educational Needs and Disability.

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/local-offer/>
 Call: **0345 678 9063**
 asking for *SEND Local Offer*



Text relay



Telephone interpretation