

Sensory Inclusion Service

Visual Impairment newsletter

Issue

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Sensory Inclusion Service, Floor 7A, Darby House, Lawn central, Telford. TF3 4JA



Fun Music Session with Sally Tonge at Little Stars

We'd like to thank Lucy Yorke, a parent of a child supported by SIS, who kindly donated a sum of money to the Little Stars pre-school group, which is attended by children with visual impairments and their siblings.

Some of this money was used to fund a fun story-telling music session led by Sally Tonge on 5th February 2019, which was enjoyed by all.

Sally adapted her session to suit the children who attended the group on that day. It was a relaxed and informal interactive session. The children were encouraged to use props and percussion instruments to join in with popular songs e.g. 'Heads, shoulders, knees and toes', whilst Sally strummed on her guitar.

One activity the children particularly enjoyed was pretending to be pirates.

Little Stars runs on Tuesday mornings term time 9:30 am – 11:30 am. Families can drop it at any time during those two hours or stay the whole time. It is held at Stepping Stones, Brunel Road, Malinslee. If you are interested in attending with your child please speak to the Qualified Teacher of children with Visual impairments (QTVI) who supports your child.

Gill (QTVI) Jo (SIF)



SIS Habilitation Work

SIS is very excited to be working with Guide Dogs to provide specialist Habilitation services for children with visual impairments who will benefit from this service. Katharine Stinton a Qualified Habilitation Specialist from Guide Dogs has met with the SIS VI team. She is working closely with Qualified Teachers of Children and Young People with a Visual Impairment and has already been in touch with many of the children/young people and their families. Parents of all the other children and young people on Katharine's caseload have been informed.

My Singing Exam

Hi, my name is Kyle and I am 10 years old. I like singing so much and I have done it for over four years. I recently accomplished a distinction in my grade 3 singing exam, I also sang one of my songs in Italian.

I'm inspired by Andrea Bocelli, he is blind and I like his songs. I really like his music and I want to be like him.

At the beginning of the year I will be taking part in a music festival, I will be singing a solo and the song is Moon river.

Kyle Thomas

Service Review

As you are all aware the final report from SEND4CHANGE has been delivered to the two local authorities. This is available through the 2 respective local offers.

The two Local authorities are working alongside SIS to develop an action plan in order to address the recommendations in the report and the priorities of the local authorities. Once this has been developed it will be shared with all stakeholders. Until that point the service is continuing on an 'as is' basis.



Sign up for the experience of a lifetime with Vision England!

Build your confidence and independence, learn new skills, have fun and make new friends - what are you waiting for?

Vision England is an exciting residential programme for young people aged 12 - 17 years with vision impairment, in partnership with the Field Studies Council (FSC). Young people are supported to play a leading role in changing their communities and the environment for the better.

Why sign up?

- . Two fun-filled residential over a year.
- . Supported by an amazing team of staff experienced in working with young people with vision impairment.
- . You shape the activities you do, which may include conservation activities like coppicing and tree planting, and other activities like wildlife walks, bush craft, hiking and camping.
- . Opportunity to gain a John Muir Award certificate (environmental award scheme).

Who can apply?

You must be:

- . Able to attend both residential dates for your chosen venue.
- . Blind or partially sighted.
- . At least 12 years old on 31 July 2019.
- . Aged 17 or under on 1 November 2019.

Unfortunately you can only attend the Vision England programme once, to allow more young people to benefit from the programme.

What does it cost?

£25 for an Engagement day, Introduction day and two 3 night residential.

Dates and venues for 2019

Engagement Days at the centres are family fun days where you will get a taster of some of the activities you will take part in on the project (11am-3pm).

Introduction Days, also at the centres, are for you to find out more about the project, learn more about the John Muir Award, meet staff and other young people, plus a tour of the centre (11am-3pm).

FSC Juniper Hall, Dorking Surrey

FSC Castle Head, Grange-Over-Sands
Lake District

SC Preston Montford, Shrewsbury
Shropshire

Engagement Day: Saturday 9 March
Introduction Day: Saturday 22 June
Residential One: Wednesday 31 July to
Saturday 3 August
Residential Two: Sunday 27 October
to Wednesday 30 October

Engagement Day: Saturday 16 March
Introduction Day: Saturday 13 July
Residential One: Wednesday 28 August
to Saturday 31 August
Residential Two: Friday 18 October to
Monday 21 October

Engagement Day: Saturday 30 March
Introduction Day: Saturday 8 June
Residential One: Tuesday 20 August to
Friday 23 August
Residential Two: Friday 25 October to
Monday 28 October

SAVE THE DATES



Family trip – Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk

(with an opportunity to meet and greet the cast before the show)
Saturday 4th January 2020,
Oakengates Theatre, Telford
Further details will be sent out during the summer term.

Jointly arranged by OneVISION, a charity for children and young people with visual impairment and their families within Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin and the Sensory Inclusion Service (VI).



JCA Let the adventure begin...

An adventure day at Condover Hall, Shrewsbury has been booked for young people with visual impairment on Saturday 27th July at Condover Hall, Condover Shrewsbury.

Further details along with registration forms to secure places will be sent out shortly.



Shout Out for Send (SOS) forum for young people

We are looking for new members to join the SOS forum. The forum not only is an opportunity to make friends and have some fun (the last session involved some pizza making) but provides a platform for young people with differing abilities living within Telford and Wrekin to share their views about issues affecting them and other young people within the community.

The next SOS forum will be held on **Thursday 30th May**, time and venue to be confirmed, if your child would like to attend please contact Jo Adcock on jo.adcock@telford.gov.uk

WATCH THIS SPACE...



The cookery club will be returning! Arrangements are currently being made with regards to holding two venues; one in Telford and one in Shrewsbury and it is hoped that this will be set up by the beginning of the Autumn term. Further details will follow.

Details of other activities and events in the pipeline will be sent out soon

Please note we are no longer able to send information out by post so to enable us to keep you up to date with details of activities and events, please let us have your up to date email address. Please email jo.adcock@telford.gov.uk



A new Sensory Inclusion Service resources library for parents and carers with children with visual impairment will soon be up and running. This will enable parents/carers to 'try before they buy' toys and resources. A catalogue will be made available and toys and resources can be borrowed on a 3 week period.

P.s thanks to one of the young people known to our service for the ace logo!



Tour of Specsavers opticians, Telford Town Centre

Specsavers Optician, Telford Town Centre have kindly offered to give young people with visual impairment a tour of their centre. This will include the opportunity to visit the shop floor to look at different types of glasses, visit an opticians room and look at the equipment used to test sight, see how lenses are made, and visit the spectacles laboratory to see how lenses are made.

If you feel this would be of interest, please let Jo Adcock, Social Inclusion Facilitator know by emailing her at jo.adcock@telford.gov.uk or telephoning 01952 382314 so that arrangements can be made.

Sight Loss Shropshire

Your Chairman and I went to Princess Royal Hospital last Friday, 14th December, to present a cheque to Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust (SaTH) for £1,226.39. This money will enable the Hospital's Paediatric Ophthalmology Department to replace 2 ageing retinoscopes. These instruments are needed to test and diagnose children's sight loss problems on referral to the Paediatric Ophthalmology Clinic.

Currently SaTH has 4 retinoscopes, but 2 require replacement as they are worn out. The 2 new instruments are expected to have a working life of around 10 years. Over the anticipated life-expectancy of the new instruments thousands of Shropshire children will benefit from the new retinoscopes the SLS money has enabled SaTH to buy.

Robin Durham



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



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/>

Email: local.offer@shropshire.gov.uk

Call: 0345 678 9063 asking for 'SEND Local Offer'

