

SHROPSHIRE FOCUS ON SEND

Issue 8 Summer 2020

News, Views and Information from the SEN Team

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to our Summer 2020 edition of Shropshire's Focus on SEND newsletter. We want to apologise that it has been a while (over a year!) since we have had the resources to publish a newsletter as Gemma Breckell, our SEN & Local Offer Development Officer took some time off to have a baby! Gemma returned to work at the beginning of May and our newsletters will now be published on a termly basis again to keep you updated on all SEND related news. Don't forget to also keep your eye on the [Local Offer News](#) and [Senco Spotlight](#) as this is where we post regular updates between newsletters.



Gemma Breckell
& Millie Mae

So far 2020 has been a difficult year for Shropshire as we saw the worst flood levels in over 20 years and now we are all dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. The past few weeks have been a very busy time for everyone involved in working with vulnerable children and young people as we work together to ensure that appropriate provision is put in place to keep our children and young people as safe as we possibly can. For our vulnerable groups this means keeping them safe from Coronavirus whilst also ensuring their continued health and well-being by implementing a range of safeguarding checks during the time that they are not in school. In addition, for those with an education, health and care plan (EHCP), we need to consider how we fulfil our statutory responsibility towards delivering elements of the provision identified within their EHCP.

It is a challenging time for all schools, school staff, pupils and parents. As you will all be busy preparing for increasing numbers of pupils to return to school we want to say thank you for your hard work and dedication during these unprecedented times. Thank you to all the schools that have remained open during the lockdown to look after our vulnerable children and young people. Karen Bradshaw, Executive Director of Children's Services & Acting Interim Chief Executive and Councillor Ed Potter, Cabinet Member for Children's Services gave their thanks in an [open letter](#).

In this edition you will find information and updates on:

- The SEN Team
- Local Area SEND Inspection
- Relaxation of Statutory Duties
- Coronavirus Guidance & Resources
- Transition Resources
- Service Updates
- Shropshire Local Offer and much more!



Please be aware that things are developing quickly and Steve Compton, Principle Education Advisor, is sending out regular updates to Headteachers to keep schools informed on the latest situation in relation to schools beginning the transition of welcoming some pupils back to school.

Julia Dean, SEND Service Manager, [The SEN Team](#), senteam@shropshire.gov.uk

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SEN Team Update

It has been a very busy period for the SEN Team as four members of our team took maternity leave to welcome 4 new babies (Freya, Jacob, Millie & Jude) to the world. In January Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) undertook a joint inspection of Shropshire's special educational needs and disability (SEND) provision, more information to follow. We have also had the unpredictable flood levels which saw many of our schools close and now the coronavirus pandemic to work around.

During this difficult time, the [SEN Team](#) continue to offer advice and support to all of our settings, families and partner agencies 0-25. All members of the team continue to work remotely from home to comply with Government Guidance to limit the potential spread of coronavirus. The current situation has positively forced us to make use of the virtual technology available to us and we are finding Microsoft Teams essential to catch up with colleagues and to continue to have meetings and annual reviews. We are all working the same hours however these may temporarily be more flexible and at different times of the day due to some staff having children at home. Even though we are working remotely at home, there will always be somebody available between normal office hours (Monday to Friday, 8.45am – 5pm) to support you and answer your queries so please don't hesitate to email or call us.

I am pleased to confirm that Sam Edwards, SEN Case Manager, has been appointed as SEN Team Manager and will take on the additional responsibilities from 1st June 2020. Sam will support Julia Dean, SEND Service Manager and will oversee the day to day management of the SEN Team. The role will include oversight of processes to ensure statutory responsibilities are met in a timely way.



Samantha Edwards
SEN Team Manager

Gemma Breckell, SEN & Local Offer Development Officer, has returned from maternity leave and works fulltime, 2.5 days on development projects with the SEN team and 2.5 days on the Local Offer. If you have any queries in relation to the [Local Offer](#) please email local.offer@shropshire.gov.uk

The SEN Team will shortly welcome two Annual Review Officers, Tracey Newell and Kay Wilson. The recruitment process is nearly complete and it is anticipated that they will be in post prior to the end of the academic year. These two appointments are new roles within team and they will enable the Local Authority (LA) to attend an increasing number of Annual Reviews and complete the process by amending the Education, Health and Care plans where appropriate.

Arrangements are also underway for two Education Health and Care Needs Assessment Co-ordinators to be appointed to the Team. These posts will be responsible for co-ordinating the GSP and EHCP assessments and the current Case Co-ordinator roles will be focussing on and helping to manage the more complex casework.

Julia Dean, SEN Service Manager, senteam@shropshire.gov.uk

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Local Area SEND Inspection

In January this year (2020), Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) undertook a joint inspection of Shropshire's special educational needs and disability (SEND) provision to find out how effective the local area's arrangements are in implementing the reforms set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.



The Act requires professionals from across education, health and social care to work together to effectively identify children and young people with SEND (0 to 25) and provide the support that they need to prepare them for their life as an adult.

In Shropshire, professionals have been working in partnership with children, young people and their families to co-produce the education health and care (EHC) assessment pathway and develop effective services and provision. We are pleased that the inspectors recognised some of the many strengths that Shropshire can be proud of. In particular, the report recognises the achievements of our most vulnerable children and young people with SEND. However, the inspectors also identified that there are a number of challenges that must be overcome in order to secure the improvements that will enable the local area to achieve its aspiration that all children and young people with SEND have and expect the same opportunities in life as other children and young people. The areas of concern highlighted are:

The inspection raises significant concerns about the effectiveness of the local area.

The area is required to produce and submit a Written Statement of Action to Ofsted that explains how the area will tackle the following areas of significant weakness:

- Inconsistent strategic leadership and weak strategic planning across the area, most notably in the CCG, including the ineffective use of data to accurately commission and plan services
- The lack of inclusion of health services' input into the area's SEND action plan
- Significant waiting times for large numbers of children and young people on the ASD and ADHD diagnostic pathways
- Significant waiting times for those needing assessment and treatment from the speech and language therapy service
- Inconsistency in the quality of input from education, health and care into EHC assessment and planning
- The high rate of exclusions for children and young people with an EHC plan and the high rate of repeat fixed-term exclusions for those receiving SEND support.



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What happens next?

Following the outcome of the inspection we will work with professionals from across education, health and social care, as well as parent carers and young people, to develop a joint statement of action that we will submit to Ofsted in September 2020. This statement of action will address all six of the points identified by the inspectors as being of significant concern and will enable the local area to further build on the work that has already secured positive outcomes for many of our children and young people with SEND.

We will share the Joint Statement of Action on our [Local Offer Inspection page](#) and progress against the Statement will be monitored by the 0-25 Strategic SEND Board. Regular updates on this work will be shared with the inspection team and a return visit to Shropshire by inspectors will be carried out in 12 months time to review activity and the outcomes achieved.

The full report is [now available to view](#), as is the reaction to it from Karen Bradshaw (Acting Interim Chief Executive of Shropshire Council and Executive Director of Children's Services), and Claire Parker (Director of Partnerships (Shropshire CCG)):

"We have carefully considered the inspectors' report and welcome the fact that it identifies a number of strengths and good work that Shropshire Council, the CCG, education settings and other partners are doing to help and support children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) in Shropshire.

However, we recognise that we haven't yet got everything right and acknowledge that there are some SEND services and support that require development, and we want to assure parents that professionals across Shropshire are committed to providing the best possible support for our children and young people.

As requested, we will now be providing a written statement of action. This enables us to reflect on the reported areas for development and compile an action plan detailing how we intend to address the weaknesses identified in the report.

We want to reassure all parents and carers of children and young people with SEND that we are committed to providing the best possible education and care for their children and will continue to do so."

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Specialist Resourced Provisions – ‘SEN Hubs’

The SEN hubs that we have established across Shropshire were recognised within the SEND Local Area Inspection as a ‘strength’.

- The development of the hub model to provide specialist support for mainstream schools is having a positive impact on the lives of children and young people with SEND. Parents we spoke to whose children have a place in a hub told us that it had helped to improve their child’s attendance and enjoyment of school.



They are doing a great job of meeting the needs of children who require more specialist support.

You will be aware that we currently have 6 hubs up and running:

- Kettlemere (Lakelands - Ellesmere) - Secondary
- Sir John Talbot, Whitchurch - Secondary
- Whittington - Primary
- St Andrews, Nesscliffe - Primary
- Shrewsbury Catholic Cathedral School - Primary
- St Mary’s Bluecoat, Bridgnorth - Primary



Our aim has always been to develop further hubs to ensure that we have primary and secondary provisions that can be accessed by children across various localities in Shropshire.

There are a number of proposed provisions which we were hoping to open in the Autumn term with a few others opening later in the 2020/2021 academic year. The interruptions imposed by the current measures to contain the Coronavirus pandemic have delayed progress and it is therefore difficult to say exactly what the opening timescales will now be. Some settings are at a more advanced stage than others and I can therefore share the names of these with you. These are:

- St Lawrence’s Primary School, Church Stretton.
- Kinnerley Primary School

We are also in advanced discussions with two further primary schools and a secondary school in South Shropshire who are waiting to return to the ‘new normal’ before undertaking their consultation process. We will update you again soon!

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Relaxation of Statutory Duties

To support LA's and partner agencies with this difficult task and to provide children and young people with SEND and their families greater clarity about what they can expect, the government announced a relaxation of some of the statutory duties of the LA under the Children and Families Act. This change included confirmation that '**reasonable endeavours**' should be used to deliver the provision within the EHCP. It is expected that all children with an EHCP will continue to receive education arranged by their school/education setting. Whilst we acknowledge that it is unlikely that this will be delivered as described in the EHCP and that this will look different across settings and for individual children and young people, schools must use *reasonable endeavours* to ensure that suitable provision is put in place. This could be in school or at home using online learning platforms, video/audio links or printed materials or could be a combination of both. Some children will continue to access additional services such as speech and language therapy and SSLIC or support from the sensory inclusion service (SIS) using on-line platforms and video calls. **Please keep a record what provision you have put in place for all children with an EHCP.**

This relaxation in the law could be confusing for both professionals and parents and we have therefore been working with parent carers and IASS to clarify what this is likely to mean for Shropshire children and young people with an EHCP.

On Friday 1st May 2020, temporary legislation came into effect surrounding SEND duties. [Education, health and care needs assessments and plans: Guidance on temporary legislative changes relating to coronavirus](#). The announcement coincided with a joint [letter](#) which was published by the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Education to be shared with all families of children and young people with SEND. There are 2 main changes to 'SEND' duties:

Change 1 - a new exemption to the 20 week Education Health and Care Needs Assessment timescale will be permitted due to issues relating to Coronavirus.

The Shropshire [SEN Team](#) continue to accept and process requests for an Education Health and Care Needs Assessment and endeavour to complete these within the usual, 20 week, timeframe. However, the new exemption acknowledges that in a small number of circumstances it may not be possible to complete some assessments or collect required evidence, due to the impact of Coronavirus on the availability of staff and advice givers. This will mean some EHC assessment requests will not be completed within 20 weeks. 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 try and complete the process as quickly as possible.

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

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Change 2 - the duty to secure or arrange special educational provision and health care provision in EHC plans is temporarily modified to a duty to use 'reasonable endeavours' to do so.

Children with an EHCP have been recognised as requiring additional provision and intervention to support them with their learning. During the current situation, education and learning looks very different from what we would normally expect. The guidance acknowledges that the provision identified in an EHCP is likely to be different and will need to consider individual circumstances. The expectation is that education settings must use '**reasonable endeavours**' to consider what needs to be delivered for a child with an EHC 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 EHC plan because of the impact of Coronavirus restrictions. Reasonable endeavours will need to consider individual circumstances, this is likely to include availability of staff and skills, temporary closures of education settings, 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.

Examples 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 the school SENCo or class teacher, reviewed weekly.
- EPs providing therapy interventions, this may be online, via a video link or using pre-prepared materials/worksheets.
- SALT/OT input via video link
- Specialist teacher input e.g. visual/hearing impaired (SIS) or specific language impairment (SSLIC) through online or pre-prepared materials or via a video/audio link
- 1:1 'on-line' learning sessions.
- Differentiated worksheets with access to 'personal support'

The majority of provision in children's EHC plans is delivered through educational settings. In Shropshire we know that many 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 EHC plan and at SEN support to make sure home learning is accessible.

Children with an EHCP have been identified as one of the key groups who should have priority to places in school during COVID19. The local authority will support parents in accessing this entitlement. We will be contacting all parents of children with an EHCP to identify if we can support further with provision their child is receiving and transition back into school.

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Annual Reviews

There is an expectation that annual reviews will continue to take place when due so please continue to set up annual reviews. There have been many positive reports of annual reviews that have been undertaken over recent weeks using a range of 'on-line' platforms and conference calls. Please continue to invite SEN Case Managers to the annual reviews that you feel you need an officer to attend and we will do our best to attend the meeting virtually.

For children at SEN support we expect schools to work alongside parents/carers and use reasonable endeavours to deliver an education provision that is supportive and appropriate to the individual circumstances. Settings continue to receive Graduated Support Pathway 'top-up' funding for all identified children. All GSP allocations which were due for review/evaluation during the 'lockdown' period have been continued until the end of June. However, for these to continue beyond the end of June we will now require an evaluation/new request to be submitted. We are now accepting new GSP requests and will endeavour to process these ready for a September start.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding the EHCP or annual review processes, please contact the [SEN Team](#).

[IASS](#) continue to be available to support parents between 10am and 4pm, Monday – Friday. They can be contacted for further independent information, advice and support, you can email them on; iass@cabshropshire.org.uk Alternatively, a message can be left on 01743 280019. They aim to respond within 3 working days. Website <https://www.cabshropshire.org.uk/shropshire-iass/>

Return to school

New guidance on how this applies to children and young people with SEND has been published and can be found at: [Supporting children and young people with SEND as schools and colleges prepare for wider opening](#)

Children and young people with SEND in mainstream and Alternative Provision settings who have not been attending and are in eligible year groups should experience the same return to their settings as their peers, informed by their individual circumstances and risk assessments.

Special schools, special post-16 institutions and hospital schools should work towards welcoming back as many children and young people as can be safely catered for in their setting, based on the child or young person's risk assessment but not using their year group as a primary deciding factor. In both mainstream and special settings:

Children and young people with EHC plans who are already attending their education setting, because they have been risk assessed as safe or safer in school/college, should continue to attend after 1 June, whatever year group they are in.

Educational settings and local authorities should keep risk assessments up to date, to ensure they are able to offer places to pupils and students, whatever year group they are in, where appropriate. Children and young people who are clinically extremely vulnerable and shielding, or who live in a household with somebody this applies to, will not be expected to attend in person.

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The guidance should be read alongside:

- [Actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020](#) and [actions for FE colleges and providers during the coronavirus outbreak](#), which sets out the overarching aims and principles of wider opening and the next steps for education and childcare providers.
- Guidance on [implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#).
- [Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care](#) – guidance about preventing and controlling infection, including the use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings during the coronavirus outbreak.
- Guidance on [isolation in residential educational settings](#).
- Guidance on [supporting vulnerable children and young people during the coronavirus outbreak](#).
- Guidance on the [changes to the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans due to coronavirus](#)

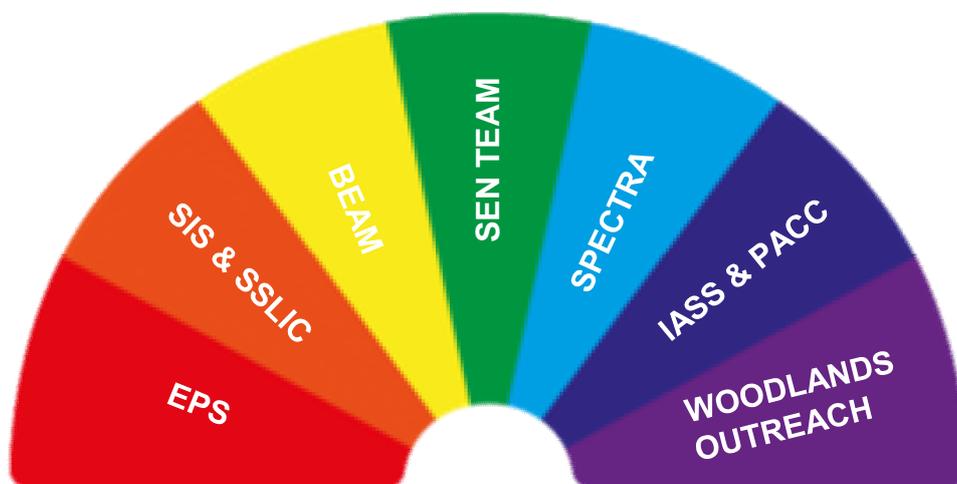
Transition

Research suggests that many children and young people can find the transition between schools unsettling and stressful. Following the current Public Health Crisis (Covid-19) it is likely that many children and young people will experience higher levels of anxiety and similar feelings when they return to school once social isolation ends, especially those who are vulnerable, have special educational needs, or are moving to a new school.

The [SEN Team](#) has been working alongside education providers to identify children and young people who are due to change settings at the end of this academic year and who will need additional support to make a carefully planned positive transition. We ask that settings work together to co-ordinate effective transition programmes for those children who may require something additional.

Resources & Support

The following [Resources & Support](#) are available on the [Local Offer](#) to support settings, children and families in Shropshire through the unexpected times of rapid and unpredictable change in light of Coronavirus. We will continue to add useful information and updates to the [Coronavirus section](#).



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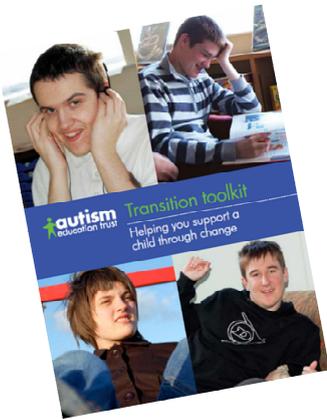
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Autism Education Trust – Transition Toolkit

‘Helping you support a child through change’



[The Transition Toolkit](#) from [Autism Education Trust](#) is a summary of the common issues surrounding transition for young people on the autism spectrum, as well as a guide to the considerations that should be taken by those supporting them. It offers some practical strategies to support transition periods as well as provide a list of useful links to other organisations and support materials.

Transition is not just about major changes that occur in phases throughout life. There are many transitions that occur during a typical day. For example, from one task to another; moving from one room to another; from home to school/ college; inside to outside; class time to break time. As life moves from babyhood to childhood to adolescence to adulthood, so are there many transitions: from home to nursery, to school, to secondary school, to college, to life beyond. Many people find changes difficult, even more so those on the autism spectrum.

Home Schooling Resources – Educating at Home

With the current Covid19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, many of us are juggling the new responsibility of home schooling alongside our normal day to day duties. This can feel overwhelming; therefore we have compiled a vast list of educational resources and activities for families, children and young people and teaching staff to use during these unprecedented times. [Educating pupils at home](#) on the Local Offer will give you lots of useful resources. We are constantly updating this section as we find or hear about new things to do and learning resources. If you know of any good resources that we could add please email local.offer@shropshire.gov.uk



The Government have published the following:

1. [Help children with SEND continue their education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) which is guidance for parents and carers to help children with SEND continue their education during Coronavirus (COVID-19).
2. [Coronavirus \(COVID 19\): list of online education resources for home education for Special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\)](#) some online educational resources which are being made available for free. They are not designed to replace a school's properly planned curriculum but may be useful for parents of children with SEND in considering how they could support their children's education.

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**Shropshire Telford &
Wrekin Beam**

Ludlow Beam



Beam is an emotional wellbeing service for children and young people under 25. Talking about how you're feeling isn't always easy, but Beam are here to help.

Our sessions give young people the opportunity to talk with trained practitioners who can give practical support, advice and suggestions as to how they can manage their thoughts and feelings.

We can support various emotional wellbeing issues – here are a few:

- Feeling anxious or having a low mood;
- Stress and worry;
- Issues with sleeping;
- Managing feelings of anger and frustration;
- Struggling with self-esteem.

If we can, we will signpost you to other services or organisations who can support you as well.

Parent and carer support can be given in conjunction with a young person.

How can a young person access support from Beam?

Support can be requested by email to AskBeam@childrenssociety.org.uk

- Young people aged 14+ can email and request support themselves.
- Young people aged 13 and under will need a parent or carer to email on their behalf.

A follow-up email will ask for a few details about the young person, and ask them to follow the links to register and consent for the service if they have not been to Beam before. Once this has been done, a member of the team will make contact and offer a time where one of the practitioners will call.

The call itself is completely led by the young person, and there will be no pressure to talk about anything unless the young person wants to.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If there is any immediate risk to life please contact Emergency services, this is not an emergency response email.

This email is not monitored outside of 10am-6pm Monday to Friday.

If you have any questions, please get in touch via:

AskBeam@childrenssociety.org.uk

More information about The Children's Society and Beam can be found via:

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/beam/shropshire>

Proud to be part of Bee U: <https://camhs.mpft.nhs.uk/beeU>



Woodlands School Outreach Transition Support Offer

Woodlands School Outreach is committed to supporting transition back to school following Lockdown and onto secondary schools in any way we can so we can help our schools, parents and pupils. We offer a number of free and purchased options schools can choose from to suit their own setting and to support individuals within their setting.

Free Resources

These resources have been designed so they can be downloaded and used by teachers, support staff or parents.

Social Stories

We have created a **social story** for secondary and upper KS2 to help young people return to school. You will also find a selection of pictured based, primary friendly social stories.

Transition Schemes of Work

We have created transitional schemes of work to support children and young people as they return to school. The schemes of work are based on both attachment friendly approaches and Recovery Curriculum principles with outcomes, activities and resources for each session. They are designed to support mental health and wellbeing and aid a smooth transition back to school and into the Autumn Term. We currently have schemes of work for **Year 6** and **EYFS/Year 1**.

To access these resources please visit our website <http://www.woodlandscentre.org/covid19/>

Purchased Support

Virtual Training Sessions

We are offering virtual training sessions to support school staff to deliver transition schemes of work and support in school. Cost per delegate is £35. These will be run virtually on the following dates as twilights from 4:00 until 5:00pm:

Year 6: 03 June 2020 or 10 June 2020

EYFS/Year 1: 04 June 2020 or 11 June 2020

Bespoke training

We are offering virtual training sessions to support school staff to deliver transition schemes of work and support in school. Training sessions can be for up to 6 members of staff. The cost of the session is at a reduced twilight rate of £270 per session.

To book either training: Email Zoe Williams at outreach@woodlandscentre.org

Return to School Package

Consultation with staff and parents via telephone or virtual meeting as appropriate to plan support and transition back to school for children with SEMH and ASC needs. A concise record of the discussion, summary and transition plan is included – 1 session (£270)

Follow up plan do review consultation if needed when pupil is back in school. This includes discussion with parents/carers and school staff, meeting with child/young person to gain their views, short observation and analysis of information provided by school as appropriate. A short consultancy record, SMART outcomes and strategies to support these is included – 1 session (£270).

Parent/Carer Support

Consultation via telephone call with parent/carers to offer advice and guidance for how to support children at home with their learning, SEMH, Sensory or ASC needs. A concise record of the discussion, summary and next steps is included - 1 session (£270).

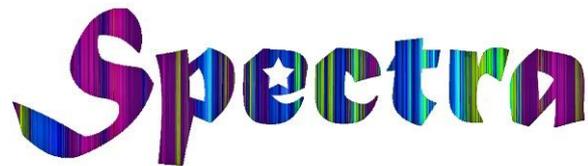
To book either **Return to School Package** or **Parent/Carer Support**: Complete a Referral form (<http://www.woodlandscentre.org/covid19/>) and return to Zoe Williams at outreach@woodlandscentre.org.

Tel: 01939 232372 Option 2

Email: outreach@woodlandscentre.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WoodlandsOutreach/>

Twitter: Woodlands Outreach Service - @Advisory_Team



Spectra Inclusion Support Team

Specialist Reintegration Support

Enabling Children, Families and Schools to Reconnect

The impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and lockdown on the lives of children cannot be underestimated. Anxiety, feelings of loss and the subsequent changes to lives may have significantly impacted the mental health of children and young people and potentially increased the needs of those with pre-existing conditions and SEND. The sense of uncertainty and transition to a new and insecure way of living will continue to impact all of us. Children and young people have experienced unexpected changes, including

- Routines in the home and home-schooling
- Changes in the school setting if they did continue to attend school
- Examination cancellation or other assessment changes
- Possible trauma, including loss of connection with friends and family and other significant adults, and possible bereavement from the death of a family member or someone close to them
- Many may be concerned about going back to school, their health and the health of others, and have concerns for their future, their family's future and wider concerns about the future of humanity.

As schools begin to invite more children back into schools, Spectra can provide additional nurturing and therapeutic support for children and families to help guide them through this process. Our support during this period of reconnection and recovery, can be offered to any child, young person, family, carers, and school who may benefit from some additional specifically tailored support.

Support options include:

- Individually tailored support to ease the transition back into school
- Helping children to process feelings about what has happened and develop resilience to manage change
- Rebuilding relationships, social interaction and group cohesion
- Coping with trauma, loss, and bereavement including therapeutic support for vulnerable children and families
- The possibility of a block of FREE Y6 transition support
- Remote Y6 transition support for individuals and groups
- Remote support for children and young people not attending school
- Advice and resources for families and carers
- Home intervention and parental support to aid reintegration

In trying to keep everyone safe, Spectra will be following team protocols for safety from HSE advice, and will be adapting to protocols and risk assessments within each setting.

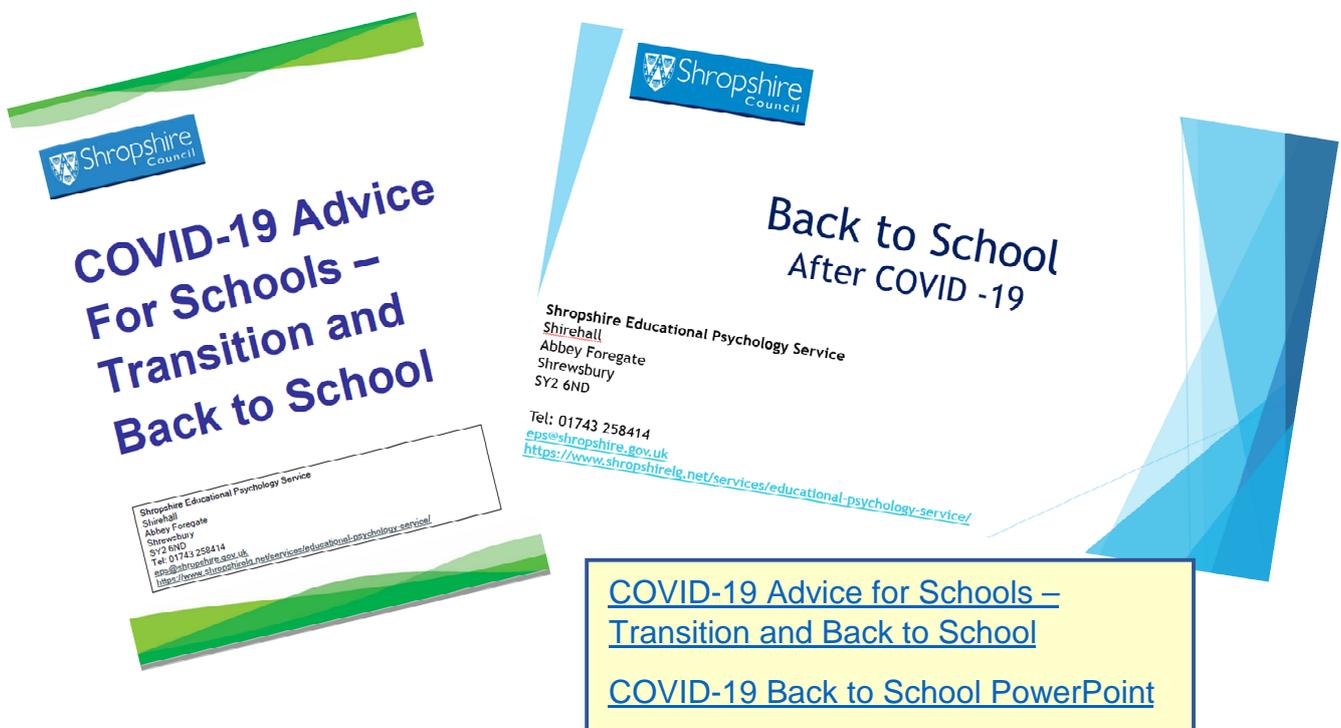
To find out more about Spectra reintegration support, please contact Val Jones, Director of Spectra, on 07717575362 or vj@spectraautism.com

Educational Psychology Service (EPS) Update

The Shropshire [Educational Psychology Service](#) are continuing to offer the following Coronavirus support to school and families:

1. The EPS continue to offer assessments via consultation with key SENCOs and teaching staff and of course parents and the pupil. We will encourage EPs to access information already held on the system specifically for statutory work. We are exploring a safe virtual link to gather the voice of the child or young person. The final report will contain a caveat "this assessment report has been completed using information reported by key teachers and support staff as well as parents and pupil voice. It does not include observations of the child or 1:1 assessment".
2. The EPS continue to support [Annual Reviews](#) if requested via consultation.
3. Critical Incident Support will be available to schools and families in the event of a death. This will be delivered via telephone.
4. The EPS can also offer advice to teaching staff and parents if they feel anxious. Advice for parents and teaching staff is also available to help support our children and young people. The EPS will continue to offer consultation advice to the LA as we progress through this difficult time.
5. We will offer updates as required and inform schools and parent advice [IASS](#) and [PACC](#).

You can find many useful resources on the [Local Offer](#) here: [Coronavirus Resources & Support](#)



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Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSA) Training

What is an ELSA?

- An ELSA is a teaching assistant within a primary, secondary or specialist school who has received training in psychological theory and intervention by qualified psychologists to enable them to plan, deliver and evaluate individual and small group support programmes in schools to children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs.
- ELSAs are trained and regularly supervised by Educational Psychologists.
- ELSA training enables schools to have a 'go-to' person in school for providing mental health provision, working towards the Government agenda set out in the 2017 Green Paper on 'Transforming Young People's Mental Health Provision'.
- ELSA training can reduce the need to refer for specialist support.



What does the training involve?

- *Initial training:* ELSAs will be provided with five full days of training which cover the following: developing emotional literacy, building self-esteem and resiliency, managing emotions including anger and anxiety, developing social skills and supporting loss and bereavement. Some interventions covered include: Lego Therapy, Social Stories, Therapeutic Stories, Circle of Friends, Motivational Interviewing approaches, Mindfulness and relaxation techniques, CBT model, use of puppets, attuned interactions and play skills as well as developing active listening and reflective conversation skills.
- *Supervision:* ELSAs are line managed in school and receive clinical supervision from a qualified educational psychologist. This happens in groups once per half term. Upon successful completion of the ELSA course, ELSAs are placed on the ELSA register and access group supervision every half term to ensure their work is competent and effective.
- *Resources:* ELSAs will be provided with a copy of the ELSA handbook (normally £29.99), resources during training and access to free downloadable resources via the ELSA network.

ELSAs can help with:

- Emotional literacy
- Self-esteem/Resiliency
- Social skills
- Friendships/Inclusion
- Bullying/Conflict
- Anger management
- Anxiety
- Low mood
- Attachment
- Loss and bereavement
- Family break-up
- Growth mindset and behaviour for learning
- Independence

What should I do if I am interested?

- *Choose an ELSA:* ELSAs need to be able to build a good rapport with vulnerable pupils and need to be willing to learn as well as to plan and evaluate programmes of support.
- *When does it start?* The next course will begin in the September 2020 and one training day will be delivered each week for 5 weeks. Group supervision will follow once every half-term until the end of the academic year and each session lasts 2 hours. Location: The Lantern, Shrewsbury.
- *Booking and further information:* Places are limited and provided on a first come first served basis. Please contact Donna, Senior Administrator (contact details below) for information and to book.
- *Cost:* To train an ELSA costs £835 and this includes supervision sessions until the end of the academic year. This is excellent value for money as it's cheaper than the cost of 1 child being seen by an EP but ELSAs get 7½ days of EP time, and through ELSAs EPs can impact a far greater number of young people. On-going supervision each year thereafter is required to maintain accreditation and ensure ELSA work is competent and effective. It includes 6 x 2 hour supervision sessions per academic year at a cost of £280.

For more information about ELSA including impact evaluations visit: <http://www.elsanetwork.org/>

Shropshire Educational Psychology Service

Dr Chantal Goss, Educational Psychologist (ELSA Lead)
Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 6ND
Tel: 01743 258414 E-mail: eps@shropshire.gov.uk



Sensory Inclusion Service (SIS) Update

As you will be aware pupils are beginning to transition back to school from 1st June. If any of your pupils are returning to school, it would be useful if you could contact your Teacher of the Deaf (ToD) or Qualified Teacher of the Visually Impaired (QTVI) to let us know so we can see how we can support school in that process. At the moment it is not clear what access SIS staff will have to homes/ schools and settings. It is a developing situation and we will give you updates when it is clearer. We will continue however to support pupils and settings in the way we have been doing during this time to offer support and guidance. We will also continue our ongoing contact with homes as well.

As you are aware we are trying to keep in contact with families as well as schools. This is through a variety of methods such as phone calls, texts and emails. We are also using Microsoft Teams to allow a more interactive way of supporting children and families.

If you have any particular issues regarding your child's hearing or vision including equipment issues the first point of contact is your ToD or QTVI who may be able to signpost you in terms of actions to take.

**If you have an
emergency
please call the
central number
01952 385269**

Read the full update on the Local Offer here: [Sensory Inclusion Service - Information for Families](#)

Severe Speech & Language (SSLIC) Update

When the country went into lockdown at the end of March the speech and language therapists were told that they would no longer be providing speech and language support as they would be redeployed into other areas of the NHS. However, the education stance was that continuing to provide support in some way to the children on the caseload was the priority for the specialist language teachers.

Alison, Sarah and Fiona contacted all the families during the first week of lockdown, initially to provide advice and guidance via phone or email, then to send out activities, games and resources for each child, relevant to their individual targets, and finally by offering virtual lessons via Microsoft Teams. Although there was some anxiety to begin with by the teachers and the parents about the use of technology it has proved to be a highly effective way of supporting the children over the last 8 weeks and the team have received a lot of positive feedback from the parents. Additionally, the teachers have also participated in and contributed to annual reviews.

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Going forward the teachers will continue to support the children via Teams and will be contacting schools to discuss the possibility of offering this support directly into schools if they have the staff to support this. Or to continue supporting the children at home.

In addition, the SSLIC teachers will be offering training online, via Teams during the summer term to all schools who will be receiving children into their reception classes who have an already diagnosed speech, language and communication disorder. This training will be free of charge and will be open to all reception class staff and SENDCos.

Fiona Widger, Specialist Language Teacher

[SSLIC Team](#)

01743 282371

Specialist Equipment – Regular Servicing

During the period that schools are only open to vulnerable pupils or those with EHCP's – it is important that the regular servicing of equipment is maintained. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has indicated that all servicing should be adhered to even in the current times. Please can I ask that if you have any equipment that is close to reaching the service date you ensure that this is followed up as appropriate. I understand that the pupil who is supported by the equipment may not currently be accessing school, but by the service taking place when due it will ensure that the equipment is safe to be used on their return.

Shropshire Young Carers

The Shropshire Young Carers service is continuing to provide much valued support to Shropshire's young carers. The service is continuing to monitor and support our young carers and are providing virtual groups via Zoom.

If you know of a young carer who would benefit for support the best way to contact the young carers service is via phone on 07801 576326 or email simon.jones@crossroadstogether.org.uk

The Children's Society have also developed some resources, advice and information for young carers during Covid-19 [which is available on this website.](#)

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Emergency Financial Support through the Family Fund

The [Family Fund](https://www.familyfund.org.uk/) provides grants to families on low incomes who have disabilities or severe medical conditions. You can find out more about the Family Fund here:

<https://www.familyfund.org.uk/>

We are very pleased to confirm that the Department for Education has committed an additional £10 million in emergency funding for Family Fund, in response to the Coronavirus outbreak. This will make an incredible difference and help support thousands more families in England during this crisis.

Find out more, including how parents can apply:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/37-million-to-support-children-with-complex-needs>

You can watch a video here:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2612672368834797>



Family Fund
Helping disabled children

Autism West Midlands

[Autism West Midlands](https://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/) continue to offer advice appointments and support over the phone and via email. Parents and carers can contact the small team directly as follows:

Mon, Tue, Weds **Wendy Cowton** **07900 784186**

Weds, Thu, Fri **Emma Hegenbarth** **07881 109480**

Email shropshire@autismwestmidlands.org.uk

autism
west midlands

With some pupils not able to attend school and people feeling isolated this support will be essential for families during this unpredictable and unsettling period, they are offering guidance around:

- Supporting children who are anxious and upset about the virus
- Coping with change and uncertainty
- Suggestions to keep them active and engaged

They are also holding virtual fun sessions and support groups – click on '[upcoming events](#)' for more information!



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autism
west midlands

Weekly Webinars

for Parents, Carers & Professionals

4th June

Autism & Spoon Theory

11th June

Autism & Social Interaction

18th June

Autism & Sleep

25th June

Autism & Behaviour

2nd July

Autism & Girls

9th July

Preparing for a Return to School

16th July

Autism & Communication

23rd July

Talking About Autism

with Your Child

Everyone who registers will be sent a link to view the live show and afterwards a link to a recording of the session.

You don't need to have watched live to watch the recording.

The webinars can be accessed on computers, laptops, tablets and phones and smart tvs

For more information and times visit our events page on our website:
<https://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/events/>

FREE

for West
Midlands
Residents

autism

west midlands

29th July

Feeling Good
(Self Esteem)
+ Fun Activities

31st July

Anxiety
+ Fun Activities

5th August

Autism and Me
+ Fun Activities

12th August

Anger Management
+ Fun Activities

19th August

Happiness
+ Fun Activities

2pm to 4pm



SHROPSHIRE

One goody bag per person including activity booklet!

Cost: £3.00 per Workshop (these can be booked individually)

These workshops are only for young people living in the Shropshire Council Area

You will need to have been notified that your young person has a place on the workshops you have applied for before purchasing these workshops through the eShop.

For further information and an application form contact Wendy:

Email: wendyc@autismwestmidlands.org.uk



Kooth.com

Ages 11-25

Online support for young people

We would like to remind you of the availability of our online service to support the **wellbeing** and **resilience** of your students.

Kooth is a web based confidential support service available to young people. Kooth provides a safe and secure means of accessing mental health and wellbeing support designed specifically for young people.

Kooth offers young people the opportunity to have a text-based conversation with a qualified counsellor. Counsellors are available from 12noon to 10pm on weekdays and 6pm to 10 pm at weekends, every day of the year on a drop-in basis. Young people can access regular booked online counselling sessions as needed. Outside counselling hours' young people can message our team and get support by the next day.

When students register with Kooth they will have support available to them now and in the future. Support can be gained not only through counselling but articles, forums and discussion boards. All content is age appropriate, clinically approved and fully moderated.

To find out more visit [kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com) where young people can register and others can find out more about the service.

kooth



Free course – Understanding Trauma

Shropshire has free and unlimited access to the online ‘**Understanding Trauma**’ course until March 2021 (usually £45 each learner) for all professionals with a work-based postcode in Shropshire or Telford and Wrekin.

This is a 13 module course which could take up to 3.75 hours to complete, however it is not necessary to complete it in one sitting and is available from the [Solihull Approach Parenting website](https://www.solihullapproachparenting.com).



To access the course for free please add in the code **DARWINPRF**

For any queries or difficulties accessing the course please contact Solihull Approach Technical Support, available Mon-Fri 9-5, solihull.approach@heartofengland.nhs.uk or call 0121 296 4448

Online course ‘Understanding trauma’ **FREE** for professionals across Shropshire

Type 1 and Type 2 trauma. The window of tolerance.
Stages of going through a traumatic experience.
Neurology and trauma. Recognising trauma.
Recovery from trauma. SELF model.
Trauma, attachment and epigenetics.
Community trauma. Organisational trauma. Trauma aware community.

13 Modules, 3.75 hrs CPD



go to www.inourplace.co.uk
sign in and click ‘unlock professional courses’
OR

go to www.solihullapproachparenting.com
Select ‘Online courses for professionals’

Once registered as a professional, enter access code

Access Code:
DARWINPRF



To return to the course go to
<https://solihullapproachparenting.com/online-trauma/>
or visit www.inourplace.co.uk and click on
‘Already have an account? Sign in’

For technical support contact
solihull.approach-parenting@heartofengland.nhs.uk
or 0121 296 4448 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

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Shropshire Local Offer

The Local Offer has a new look homepage since our last newsletter. The feedback has all been positive and we love the icons which were designed by young people from Disability Arts Group (DASH). The Local Offer content and information continues to be updated and improved.

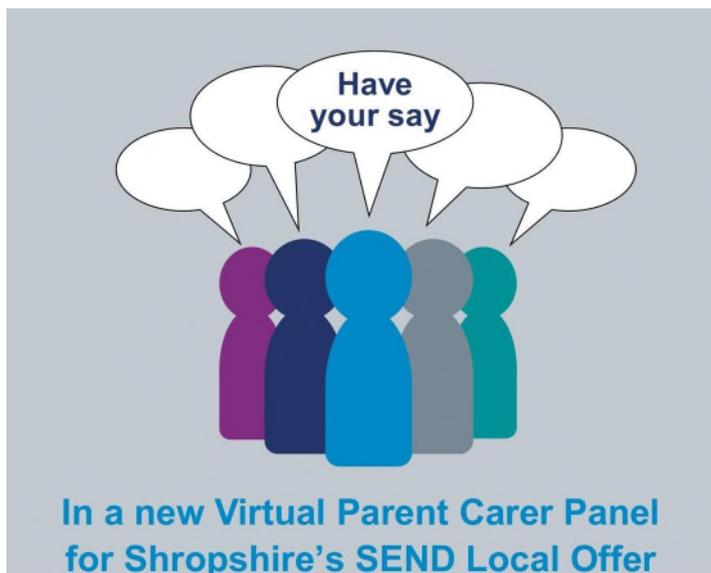


The Local Offer [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) social media accounts are updated daily with news and local send [events/activities](#). Please like/follow us and let us know if you have any information that you would like us to share.

Feedback

Gemma Breckell, SEN & Local Offer Development Officer has returned from maternity leave this month and she has updated the [Home Schooling Resources](#) section and added a [Coronavirus](#) section which is full of useful [resources & support](#). We welcome your feedback on all areas of the Local Offer. Please email all feedback, comments and suggestions (negative and positive) and Gemma will review every comment to see if any improvements can be made and if we can do anything better.

Please email feedback to: local.offer@shropshire.gov.uk



Virtual Parent/Carer Panel

Join our Virtual Parent Carer Panel to help shape the Local Offer to be the best it can be.

No need to attend meetings, all can be done virtually from the comfort of your own home.

If you are interested, please send an email to local.offer@shropshire.gov.uk to let us know that you would like to join the group!

Thank you for supporting your Local Offer! 😊

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The SEND Local Offer



A single place for information and services for children and young people with special education needs and/or disabilities, their families and the practitioners who support them.

www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/



The SEND Local Offer



Lots of information and support for children and young people with SEND and their families, including:

- Education
- Health and wellbeing
- Family support
- Social care
- Preparing for adulthood
- Early help
- Things to do
- Education, health and care plan (EHCP)
- Travel and transport
- Financial support

local.offer@shropshire.gov.uk 0345 678 9063
www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/



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Early Years SENCo Forum

These virtual meetings will be an opportunity for the Shropshire Council Early Years Team to update providers on the current policy and guidance in relation to provision during the Covid 19 pandemic and respond to any questions that providers may have.

Date	Time	Venue
8 June 2020	1.00pm - 2.30pm	Online Event
10 June 2020	1.00pm - 2.30pm	Online Event

There is also a FREE Webinar

Supporting Emotional Well-being for Children who are ‘Vulnerable’ and/or with SEND in Early Years and Childcare Settings: Post COVID-19 Lockdown

Microsoft TEAMS - Tuesday 16th June 2020, 18:30pm – 19:30pm

In light of the COVID - 19 Lockdown, an on-line training session to highlight the importance of supporting the emotional well-being of children who are identified ‘Vulnerable’ and/or with SEND following the post COVID-19 lockdown period, explore the use of the Leuven Scales to assess children’s well-being and highlight the ‘Nurturing Principles’ and the importance of creating a safe physical and emotional environment to support children’s wellbeing.

Please book onto the Early Years SENCo Forum or FREE Webinar online here:

https://cpd.ucshrewsbury.ac.uk/catalogue/#!eventinstancesearch*/31/6/2020

All enquiries please contact University Centre, Shrewsbury

01743 297168 or email cpd@chester.ac.uk



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SENCo Network Meetings (Primary/Secondary)

An opportunity to share the latest guidance regarding the phased re-opening of settings following school 'closures' and to consider the Shropshire response.

There will be a focus on transition and the potential demands of re-integrating children following 'lockdown' and a chance to share ideas, strategies and resources. The three regional, cross-phase, meetings will enable colleagues to network with feeder schools and consider preparation for primary/secondary transition. We will also share updates from the SEN team and other relevant services.

Area	Date	Time	Venue
North Shropshire	9 June 2020	9.30am - 11.00am	Online Event
South Shropshire	10 June 2020	2.00pm - 3.30pm	Online Event
Central Shropshire	11 June 2020	3.00pm - 4.30pm	Online Event
North Shropshire	23 June 2020	9.30am - 11.00am	Online Event
South Shropshire	24 June 2020	12.30am - 2.00pm	Online Event
Central Shropshire	25 June 2020	3.00pm - 4.30pm	Online Event

The SENCo network events are free of charge for the summer term 2020 regardless of subscription.

Please book online to an appropriate session for your school:

https://cpd.ucshrewsbury.ac.uk/catalogue/#!eventinstancesearch/*/31/6/2020

All enquiries please contact University Centre, Shrewsbury
01743 297168 or email cpd@chester.ac.uk



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