

# Sensory Inclusion Service

## Visual Impairment newsletter

Issue

# 13

DECEMBER 2018

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



### Residential visit to The Pioneer Centre October, 2018

Activities I took part in were—Rope climbing, Abseiling, Low ropes challenge, Trek course, Raft building, Caving, Disco.

My favourite activities were the trek course and the raft building, the raft building was fun as I got to jump in the muddy water, the water was not too deep, and I grazed my knee and hands, but it didn't hurt. I also got to fall backwards into the water which was fun. The trek course, I felt scared the first time I did it but then I realised the harness was going to keep me safe, so I did it about four times and it was great fun. I enjoyed the challenge of being up in the air about 50ft, each time I reached a post I hugged it happy I had made it to the post.

I felt very independent, I did not need much help only on the high ropes when my eyes were hurting from the

reflection of the sun. I felt the support was there if I needed it but I wanted to do as much on my own as I could.

One of the funny parts was when the teachers took part because of their reactions to the activities such as one being scared and another questioning why they were doing it!!

I enjoyed being away from home with my mates we had a great time especially at night when we were in bed chatting away! The food was brilliant and there was plenty of it, my favourite was the spaghetti bolognaise, I even tried the vegetarian food as my mate is vegetarian, it was quite nice but I'm going to keep eating meat.

Ashton Hurdley

### Arthog Visit 2018

My name is Sarah and I went to Arthog in July 2018. I was a bit nervous at first but I actually really enjoyed it.

One activity was the night line. In the night line you had to wear a pillow case on your head and a helmet. You did it with your friends, in a group, and helped one another. We had a rope to guide us.

We also went gorge walking where

there were two waterfalls that we could slide down. After that we went rock-climbing and I was really scared but I did it after everyone was encouraging me. After that we abseiled down a 40 foot cliff! That was the most exciting thing I did at Arthog.

Sarah – year 7.

### Amazing Arthog

Before I left school I felt excited but a little bit nervous. On the train to Arthog I played games with my friends. I was looking forward to the gorge walk and wanted to know what it was like walking through water.

Arthog is very big and I had a nice room with my 3 friends. The food was good we had toast, eggs & sometimes waffles for breakfast. At night time we ate crisps and Oreos in our room.

The instructor Stuart was kind, funny and helpful. We went canoeing, rock climbing and went on a beach walk. We visited a lifeboat station and soaked our teacher with water!

I wish I could have stayed another week.

Hafsa Aged 11

## **Joint statement from Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire Councils regarding the review of the Sensory Inclusion Service (SIS) undertaken by SEND4Change**

During the summer of 2018, Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire carried out a review of the Sensory Inclusion Service (SIS) that provides provision across both local areas for children and young people with hearing and visual impairment. The review was facilitated by SEND4Change, an external company with experience in SEN arrangements and a particular interest and knowledge of sensory services.

The review involved a detailed analysis of the service offer, its affordability, the views of service users and its effectiveness. Whilst recognising that the service is held in high regard, the review has suggested recommendations for a programme of change surrounding areas in need of improvement. Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire Councils have welcomed the insight provided and will, in the coming months, consider next steps to take, including implementation of any key recommendations.

Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire Councils are committed to working with all stakeholders, including children, young people and parents/carers in developing a future change management programme to deliver a service model that demonstrates:

- Children and young people's needs continue to be identified appropriately
- Children and young people's needs are met now and in the foreseeable future
- Interventions are carried out efficiently, effectively and by the right staff
- The service supports children and young people to prepare for their life as an adult
- The service has sufficient resources, is sustainable and represents value for money
- The service can build capacity in educational settings and the family home

Our immediate priorities are to:

- Improve the range of online resources and information available to children, young people families and education settings
- Build the capacity of our education settings to meet the needs of children and young people with sensory impairment by developing a traded offer of service delivery
- Deliver efficiencies through low risk change activities that have been identified by the service itself.

Where any changes are proposed in the future we will ensure to communicate our intentions with parents and families.

For further information, you can download the full [SEND4Change report](#) available on the SEND local offers of both Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire at

[Sensory Inclusion Service \(SIS\) – Telford and Wrekin Council](#)

[Sensory Inclusion Service \(SIS\) Review | Shropshire Council](#)

Please note that the report constitutes the findings of work completed by SEND4Change. Careful consideration will be given regarding the implementation of recommendations that have been made.

Should you require further information please contact either Simon Wellman ([Simon.Wellman@telford.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.Wellman@telford.gov.uk)) or Julia Dean ([Julia.Dean@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Julia.Dean@shropshire.gov.uk)), SEND leads for Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire Councils.

Exciting news: coming soon  
an **Employability Workshop**  
for **Young People, Years 10**  
**- 13.**

SIS staff are in the process of organising this 3 hour workshop in conjunction with the charity LOOK-UK, during the school day in the second half of the Spring Term, 2019.

It will cover:

Potential barriers to employment and how to find solutions (including introducing students to Access to Work)

Interview techniques

Reasonable adjustments in the workplace

How, why and when to disclose VI to employers and colleagues

It will involve games, group work and discussions with VI adults already in employment. Watch out for updates!



**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 me know by emailing me on [jo.adcock@telford.gov.uk](mailto:jo.adcock@telford.gov.uk) or telephoning 01952 382314 so that I can make arrangements.

**WATCH THIS SPACE.....**

We recently invited 11-18 year olds with visual impairment across Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire to attend a social evening at The Lantern Centre, Shrewsbury. The aim being to gain their ideas on the sorts of activities/events that they would like to see arranged in the future and their list was extensive including; a disco, arts and crafts,

Severn Valley Railway trip, theatre trips, quadbiking, zip wire, and attending the Teen Award show at Wembley.

The young people asked that the first activity to be arranged is to go for a meal to give them the opportunity to get to know each other better. This will be arranged for some time in January 2019. Further details will be sent early in the New Year.

Watch out for further activities and events in 2019 which are 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).

**Disability Ski Week 2019**

The Ski Company has over 25 years experience of organising successful ski trips for the able-bodied student and those that require assistance.

Last year in conjunction with the Jubilee Sailing Trust it ran its first fully adaptive ski week dedicated to young people with special needs and requirements.

This year they will be running the trip again but would like to encourage many more young people with visual impairments to take part.

The trip will take place between the 16th to 23rd March 2019 in the beautiful village of Crans Montana in Switzerland. It is open to anyone who has a visual impairment along with their friends, family members or carers.

The full details of the trip can be found on their website, at the link below:

<http://www.disabilityskiing.com/>

For more information please contact Matt Smith at [mattsmith@skicompany.net](mailto:mattsmith@skicompany.net) or +44 20 8858 9535



Goalball sessions for anyone, VI or sighted, who wants to learn more about the sport

No previous experience is required - just some energy and enthusiasm!

All ages are welcome.

West Midlands

Wednesdays

8.30pm to 9.30pm

Jubilee 2, Brunswick Street, Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 1HG

For more information please contact Nicola Robinson: T. 07946 339287 or E. [Nicky.Robinson@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:Nicky.Robinson@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk)

The Outlook Trust's outdoor adventure experiences

The Outlook Trust for the Visually Impaired provide outdoor adventure experiences for children and young people with visual impairments. Activities include six residential weekends in the Lake District, involving sailing, kayaking and canoeing, tandem cycling, climbing, high-ropes courses, gorge scrambling, etc. They also run a 1 week residential sailing and a 1 week ski trip during the year. If you are interested in their activities, please look at [www.outlooktrust.org](http://www.outlooktrust.org) or contact John Lee on 07767455534 or Jeff Davies 07929466707 for further details, or Jeff if you wish to book places. The dates of the visits are now on the website, weekends are filling up fast!



**The Outlook Trust**

**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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:local.offer@shropshire.gov.uk)  
Call: 0345 678 9063 asking for 'SEND Local Offer'

