

Shropshire SEND Newsletter - June 2024

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Welcome to the latest edition of Shropshire's SEND newsletter, co-produced by Shropshire Council's SEND Local Offer, PACC (Parent Carer Council) and NHS Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin.

The newsletter aims to provide easy access to key information for SEND families.

Please do continue to provide feedback on this newsletter, we want this to work for you and we are keen to hear what you think of it, and what articles you'd like to see in future editions. You can email us your thoughts at Local.Offer@Shropshire.gov.uk



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Short Breaks Recommissioning – UPDATE

The survey for parent carers, children and young people, and professional colleagues across the council and health working with and for children and young people with a disability closed on 12th June 2024.



The survey, which has been designed to find out the views and experiences of families who have a child with a disability and will provide us with feedback enabling us to understand:

- whether parent carers and children and young people feel that the right types of short breaks are on offer,
- what impact short breaks have on the lives and experiences of children and young people with a disability,
- What sort of short breaks do parent carers and children and young people want to see in the future

Your survey responses have been collated and key themes identified. The council together with parent carers and colleagues from health and PACC (Parent & Carer Council – Shropshire) then held a short breaks recommissioning engagement workshop, which provided an opportunity to talk about the key themes from the feedback and inform the plans for providing short breaks from April 2025.

Everything that you tell us will be considered when we plan the way the council provides short breaks from April 2025, and we will continue to update you through this newsletter and social media.

Things to do and places to go in the school holidays

There's another school holiday just round the corner, and we know how some families can find the holidays a challenge with the juggle of work and keeping the children entertained.

If parent carers are looking for things to do and places to go, then the Shropshire Family Information Service Directory is the place to visit. Click [here](#) for fun during the school holidays.



There's also the [Actio activity offer](#) for those children and young people who are registered for [All In Programme](#) and Autism West Midlands have events for teens and the whole family, you can find out more about and book on [Autism West Midlands events page](#).

Shropshire Summer HAF (Holiday Activities & Food) Programme 2024 - OPEN FOR BOOKINGS!

We are delighted to announce that bookings for the Shropshire Summer HAF (Holiday Activities & Food) Programme are now open. Shropshire Council are working in partnership with local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to run exciting holiday clubs this summer. During 22nd July to 30th August 2024, eligible children and young people are invited to take part in



eligible children and young people are invited to take part in a range of fun free activities, happening at over 40 holiday clubs from across the county.

All the bookings are being made direct with the organisations running the clubs.

A list of clubs and timetable is available in the **Summer what's on guide and online [here](#)**.



Each eligible child and young person is able to attend 16 x sessions over the Summer holidays. A typical session tends to be 4 x hours in length, which is funded by the department for education. Some organisations run longer sessions which they subsidise.

Lots more information about the programme is available on the Shropshire HAF webpages [Holiday Activities and Food Programme \(HAF\)](#), any questions please email HAF.programme@shropshire.gov.uk

Kieran Jones - My Supported Internship Journey

Kieran Jones from Shropshire was diagnosed with Autism and had an education health and care plan (EHCP) throughout school and college. Kieran has done incredibly well to progress onto a Supported Internship and to then pass his apprenticeship to now working fulltime for Shropshire Council. [Read more of Kieran's story.](#)



Open up – loneliness among children



NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin has launched a new initiative aimed at addressing the issue of loneliness among children in the region.

The 'Open Up' campaign aims to raise awareness about the signs of loneliness and provide practical guidance and support to parents, carers, and children on how to prevent and combat loneliness.