

SPECIAL HELP FOR YOUR CHILD - A GUIDE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

We hope you will find the information contained in this guide helpful. It is designed to support you through the statutory assessment process and explain the provision available for children with Special Educational Needs in Telford & Wrekin. There are sections which you may wish to use to record details such as key names and dates. The plastic wallet is available in case you wish to store letters or other documents. At the back of the file you will find a list of voluntary organisations which may give you further information and support.

If there is anything that you do not understand or if you need further information, your child's teacher, Headteacher, a [Parent Partnership Officer](#) or a member of staff from the [Parent Student and Pupil Services](#) will be happy to help you.

SPECIAL HELP FOR YOUR CHILD

CONTENTS

	Page
Useful Definitions	3
Useful Contacts	4
Telford & Wrekin's Policy for Special Educational Needs	5
How to contact the Local Education Authority	6
Special Help In Primary, Secondary & Special Schools	7
Special Help for Children in the Early Years	9
Stages of Assessment	10
The Statutory Assessment Procedure	11
Writing the Parents Report for an Assessment	14
A Statement of Special Educational Needs	15
Note in Lieu of a Statement	17
The Special Educational Needs Tribunal	18
Annual Review of the Statement	19
Beyond 16 Years	20
Voluntary Organisations & Support Groups	21

Useful Definitions

Agencies: BST EP ESHIC ESVIC EWO LSAT TMBSS	Professionals who work with children with SEN eg Behaviour Support Team/Teacher Educational Psychologist Educational Service for Hearing Impaired Children Educational Service for Visually Impaired Children Education Welfare Officer Learning Support Advisory Teacher Tuition, Medical and Behaviour Support Service
Annual Review	The review of a child's statement which must take place at least once a year to see if the child's needs have changed
Assessment	Finding out what a child can and can't do
CIS	Children's Information Service – provides advice about child care and Early Years provision
DfEE	Department for Education and Employment
IEP	Individual Education programme which sets out targets and the strategies to meet them
Inclusion	An approach which seeks to enable all children to have their needs met in their local school
LEA	Local Education Authority
Learning difficulty	A child has a learning difficulty if he or she finds it much harder to learn than most children of the same age.
Mainstream school	An ordinary, local school
Named officer	An officer in the LEA who will deal with your child's case
Named person	A person you chose to give you advice and support
Note in lieu	A note to describe the child's needs with recommendations for the school to make provision
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEN Tribunal	An independent panel who considers parents' appeals against LEA decisions
SENCO	Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator – the teacher who arranges the SEN provision in school
Statement	A legal document that sets out a child's special educational needs and the provision that is required
Special school	A school with specialist teacher which is organised to teach pupils with particular SEN
SSA	Special support assistant
Statutory Assessment	A detailed assessment , conducted by the LEA to determine the nature of a child's SEN and the provision needed
TCC	Telford Children's Centre at the Princess Royal Hospital

Useful Contacts

People	Name and telephone number
Named officer	
Parent Partnership Officer	01952 291350 or 01952 617758
School – Head <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - teacher - SENCO - SSA 	
Learning Support Advisory Teacher	
Educational Psychologist	
Education Welfare Officer	
Careers Officer	
Specialist Teacher	
Doctor (GP)	
Paediatrician	
Health visitor	
School nurse	
Occupational therapist	
Physiotherapist	
Speech and language therapist	
Social worker	

TELFORD & WREKIN'S POLICY FOR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Under the 1996 Education Act, the Secretary of State issued a Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs. It gives practical guidance to Schools, Local Education Authorities and other professionals about their responsibilities towards all children with special educational needs (SEN).

WHAT THE CODE SAYS:

"A child has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her."

The code places an emphasis on early recognition of SEN. It explains how schools should identify targets for the child and take action to help the child make progress. There should be regular reviews and other professionals should be consulted if more help is needed. For a small number of children the LEA will need to be involved and consider whether to carry out a statutory assessment. At all stages parents will be informed and are encouraged to take an active part in the procedures.

TELFORD & WREKIN LEA's POLICY

Telford & Wrekin's Local Education Authority (LEA's) policy on special educational needs reflects the principles and practice of the Code.

We aim to ensure that children with special educational needs:

- should have those needs identified as early as possible
- should receive education appropriate to those needs to enable them to maximise their potential and take their place in the community
- are educated wherever possible in their local mainstream schools. Special school places, however, are provided for those pupils whose needs cannot be met in mainstream schools
- have decisions made about their education which fully involve their parent(s) or carers and where appropriate, their own views

As parents, you can expect to have close involvement in all decisions about your child's education and about the type of help your child receives. You have an important part to play as your child is likely to make most progress when everyone works together in partnership.

HOW TO CONTACT THE LEA

This guidance is to help you when you need to contact us.

Whenever you write to us:

- a) always put a date on your letters and mark them for the attention of Pupil, Student & Parent Services (PSPS);
- b) Keep a copy of all letters which you send;
- c) Ensure that your child's name, date of birth, address and school are written clearly

If you telephone us, write down afterwards:

- a) the date
- b) the name of the person you spoke to you
- c) the reason for the telephone call
- d) what they said
- e) what you said

Keep all letters that you receive from your child's school and write down when you receive them. If you are concerned or unsure about anything, please contact the LEA. At the top of the letter there will be a telephone number and the name of the Officer dealing with it. Ask to speak to that person.

The address of the LEA is:

**Education & Training Service
Pupil, Student & Parent Services
Civic Offices
PO Box 440
Telford
TF3 4WF
Tel (01952) 202091/2**

SPECIAL HELP - IN PRIMARY, SECONDARY & SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Many children will experience learning difficulties at some stage during their school career and **all** our schools provide help for children with special educational needs. The ways in which each school arranges its SEN provision is explained in the school's Special Educational Needs Policy. This policy also includes the name of the Special Educational needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). If you would like a copy please contact the school.

The Learning Support Advisory Teachers (LSATs) visit primary schools. They give advice to teachers, support assistants and sometimes to parents. They help plan programmes of work, suggest appropriate materials or teaching techniques and help train staff in special educational needs issues. They are experienced in working with children who have learning difficulties, including children with specific learning difficulties.

Every school has the support of an educational psychologist who assesses children who are experiencing difficulties and gives further advice to the school and parents about how to meet the child's needs.

We also have specialist teachers who work with children who have particular difficulties. For example there are teachers who work with children who are visually impaired, hearing-impaired or who experience emotional and behavioural difficulties.

PROVISION IN PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Some of our primary schools and all of our secondary schools have group learning support provision for **children with a range of learning difficulties**. This means the school has extra staff to enable them to meet the children's needs.

Primary schools with Group Learning Support Provision:

CAPTAIN WEBB PRIMARY SCHOOL	Webb Crescent, Pool Hill, Dawley, Telford, TF4 3DU
DONNINGTON WOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL	Leonards Close, off Winifreds Drive, Donnington, Telford, TF2 8BH
DOTHILL JUNIOR SCHOOL	Severn Drive, Wellington, Telford, TF1 3JB
ERCALL JUNIOR SCHOOL	Churchill Road, Wellington, Telford, TF1 2JB
LANGLEY JUNIOR SCHOOL	Off Alma Avenue, Dawley, Telford, TF4 2ED
MALINSLEE PRIMARY SCHOOL	Malinslee, Telford, TF4 2JF
QUEENSWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL	Yates Way, Ketley Bank, Telford, TF2 0BA
ST LEONARD'S INFANT SCHOOL	Off Alma Avenue, Dawley, Telford, TF4 2ED

STIRCHLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL	District Centre, Stirchley, Telford, TF3 1FD
WILLIAM REYNOLDS JUNIOR SCHOOL	Westbourne, Woodside, Telford, TF& 5QT
WOMBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL	Hartshill, Oakengates, Telford, TF2 6AN

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES:

There is a specialist language unit for a small number of pupils at these schools:

MADELEY INFANT SCHOOL	Upper Road, Madeley, Telford, TF7 5DL
ORLETON LANE INFANT SCHOOL	Wellington, Telford, TF1 2AA

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN WITH PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES:

A growing number of schools now have adaptations to enable all pupils to have physical access. There are two schools which have additional specialist provision:

HOLMER LAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL	Brookside, Telford, TF3 1LD
LORD SILKIN SECONDARY SCHOOL	District Centre, Stirchley, Telford, TF3 1FA

PROVISION IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Our special schools provide specialist teaching and support for a small number of pupils who may have more than one learning difficulty or disability.

For pupils with Severe or Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties

THE BRIDGE SCHOOL	District Centre, Stirchley, Telford, TF3 1UP	Age range 3 - 19
--------------------------	--	------------------

For pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties:

HAUGHTON SCHOOL	Queen Street, Madeley, Telford, TF7 4DR	Age range 5 - 16
SOUTHALL SCHOOL	Off Rowan Avenue, Dawley, Telford, TF4 3PN	Age range 5 - 16

For pupils with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties:

MOUNT GILBERT SCHOOL	North Road, Wellington, Telford, TF1 3ET	Age range 11 - 16
-----------------------------	--	-------------------

SPECIAL HELP FOR CHILDREN IN THE EARLY YEARS

Many children experience learning difficulties in their early years. These may range from a general developmental delay to severe and complex needs. For many children the provision they receive at an early years setting will enable them to make progress and resolve their needs. Some children, however, will need the support of other professionals.

PROVISION IN EARLY YEARS SETTINGS

A child with SEN can attend an early years setting from the term following their third birthday. All settings, whether in the LEA, private or voluntary sector, are required to follow the SEN Code of Practice and have trained staff. The Telford & Wrekin Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership funds additional support for children who are at stage 3. (see 'Stages of Assessment')

You can find out more about Early Years settings and the support they can provide by contacting:

- **Children's Information Service (CIS) 01952 202088**
- **Health visitors/social workers**
- **Individual nurseries or pre-school groups**

SPECIALIST SUPPORT STAFF

The Portage early educational programme is a home based learning scheme to help young children with developmental difficulties.

Advice and support is offered to parents and Early Years settings from the following professionals:

- Learning Support Advisory Teachers
- Educational Psychologists
- Educational Services for Hearing Impaired Children
- Educational Services for Visually Impaired Children
- Behaviour Support Team

THE BRIDGE ASSESSMENT NURSERY

This is for children with more complex difficulties and provides an opportunity for multi-agency assessment. Staff have specialist knowledge and work closely with educational and health professionals and parents.

TELFORD CHILDREN'S CENTRE, The Princess Royal Hospital, Telford

The Telford Children's Centre (TCC) is a development centre in which multi-disciplinary services are available for assessment, diagnosis, treatment and support of children with special needs. Children are referred to the TCC by Consultants and following assessment, recommendations are made about further support or provision.

STAGES OF ASSESSMENT

The Code of Practice recommends that schools should deal with children's needs in progressive stages, matching the help to the child's needs.

In Telford & Wrekin, the schools use three stages of assessment.

STAGE 1

At stage 1 your child's teacher will talk to you about any difficulties and record their concerns. Any information you can give about your child's health, behaviour at home, possible causes of difficulty will be valuable. Also, your views on what may help your child will be useful. Your views and support are very important. Working together with the school will help your child. If your child makes good progress, it may mean that no further help is needed. But sometimes it is and your child may move to Stage 2.

STAGE 2

At Stage 2, the SENCO will talk to you and your child's other teachers. Targets will be set for your child and they will decide on action to be taken to help him or her achieve these targets. This is written down and forms an **Individual Education Plan (IEP)** which will be discussed with you. A date will be given for a review to see what progress your child has made. The school may ask you to work at home with your child. Your support and encouragement are very important.

Usually children will make progress and will continue with a new IEP at stage 2. Some children will have improved and no longer need any extra help; they may move to Stage 1. But sometimes children need more specialist help so they will move to Stage 3.

STAGE 3

At Stage 3, the SENCO will ask for further advice from external support services. Your child's needs and progress will be assessed and a new IEP will be drawn up with new targets and teaching strategies. You will be kept informed and invited to review meetings to discuss your child's progress. It may be that your child does not make the progress you had hoped and that you and the school are still concerned. In this case the LEA may be asked to consider making a statutory assessment.

(See 'THE STATUTORY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE').

THE STATUTORY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

Step A: The LEA is asked to consider making a statutory assessment.

A Named Officer from the LEA will write to tell you that they are considering making an assessment of your child's needs.

Date received: Name of Officer:.....

You have 30 days in which to send your views and comments. Your consent for medical and psychological assessment will also be requested at this time.

Date views sent:.....

Step B: The LEA decides whether or not to make a statutory assessment.

Either (a) Your named officer sends you a letter to say that an assessment is to go ahead.
Or (b) Your named officer sends a letter to say that an assessment is not necessary.

Date received:.....

Step C: If the assessment goes ahead the LEA notifies other agencies and seeks advice towards the assessment.

Advice which is requested:

- Parental (**see 'Writing the parents report for an assessment'**)
- Educational (from the school)
- Psychological (from the Educational Psychologist)
- Medical (from the Health Authority, usually requiring a medical examination)
- Social Services
- Other (Please let us know if there is anyone else you feel could offer advice)

Date parental advice sent:

Step D The LEA decides whether or not to issue a statement.

When all the advice has been considered the LEA decides whether or not to issue a statement. Your named officer writes to you to tell you the decision.

Date received:.....

Step E: The LEA prepares a Statement or a Note in Lieu

Either (a) A proposed statement is written and sent to you (**see ‘A statement of SEN’**)

Date received:.....

Or (b) The LEA decide that a statement is not necessary but issues a Note in Lieu of a statement (**see ‘A note in lieu’**)

Date received:.....

You may wish to let the LEA know your views regarding the proposed statement or the decision not to issue a statement.

Date sent:.....

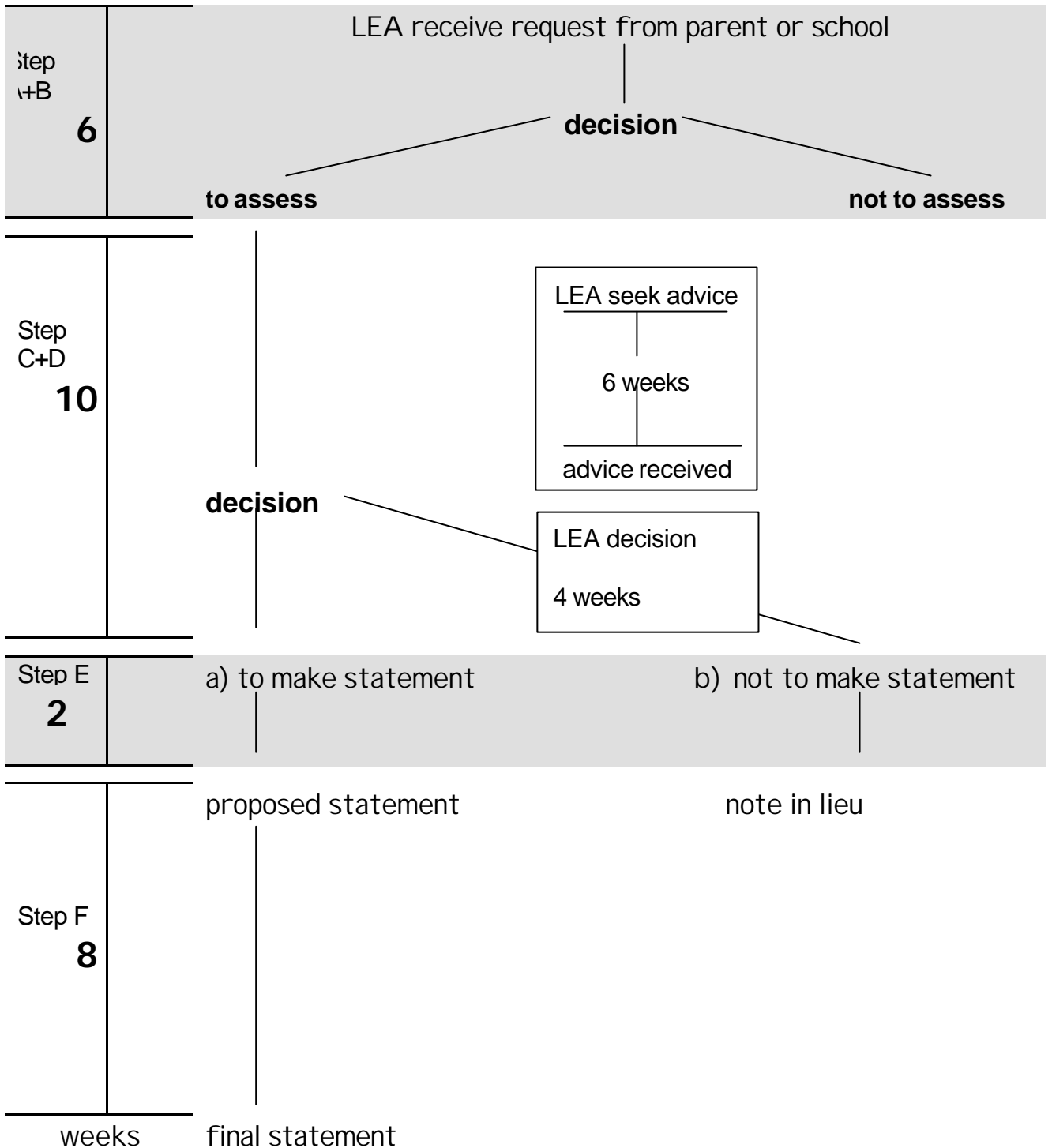
Step F: The LEA issue the final statement

Date received:.....

The statement will be reviewed approximately one year after it is issued.

Approximate date of annual review:.....

The time limits for making assessments and statements are as follows:



Note: In some circumstances the advice from professionals is not received within the 6 week timescale so the assessment takes longer.

WRITING THE PARENTS' REPORT FOR AN ASSESSMENT

Your views are important and your report will be a valuable contribution to the assessment. You may write your report in whatever way you choose and write as much or as little as you like. You may wish a member of your family or a friend to help you. If you prefer, they can write down your views for you. Please sign the letter yourself and keep a copy. Or, you can telephone your Named Officer and give your views over the telephone. They will write down what you have to say, and send you a copy to sign.

Write down anything **you** feel is important for us to know. Your views may include information about some or all of the following points:

- ◆ Your main worries about your child
- ◆ What do you think are your child's main difficulties?
- ◆ Information about things that have happened in your child's life that you feel we should know.
- ◆ Your child's general health – eating, sleeping, general fitness, illness, sight or hearing problems
- ◆ Your child's physical skills – walking, running, playing games, drawing, writing, doing jigsaws, using tools etc.
- ◆ How your child communicates at home – chats, explains, describes things, gives messages, joins in conversations.
- ◆ Things your child is best at
- ◆ Your child's interests and hobbies
- ◆ Things your child finds difficult or dislikes
- ◆ Your child's behaviour at home
- ◆ Things that may be worrying your child
- ◆ How your child gets on with family and friends
- ◆ What kind of help you feel your child needs in school
- ◆ What help your child thinks he or she needs
- ◆ Your hopes for your child's future, both in school and after he or she has left school

If you would like help writing your report you may wish to contact the Parent Partnership Officer on 01952 291350 or 01952 617758.

A STATEMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

A Statement is a legal document which sets out your child's needs and all the special help he or she should have. It has 6 parts.

- Part 1 Introduction: Your own and your child's name and address and other details.
- Part 2 Special Educational Needs: This states your child's learning difficulties and disabilities.
- Part 3 Special Educational Provision: This describes all the special help we think your child should have, the long term objectives to aim for and how progress will be reviewed.
- Part 4 Placement: This tells you about the school where your child will go to get the special help needed or the arrangements for education other than at school. This is usually the school your child currently attends.
- Part 5 Non-educational Needs: This describes any relevant non-educational needs your child has, such as physiotherapy
- Part 6 Non-educational Provision: This states how your child will get the help for these non-educational needs.

The proposed statement

First we will send you the draft statement and copies of all the advice that has been received during the statutory assessment. At this stage the statement can still be changed if necessary. It will include all the parts of the statement except the name of the school.

Most of what is written you will probably know already from your meetings and discussions with the people concerned. However if you would like to make any comments we will welcome your views.

You have 15 days from when we send the proposed statement to give your views and to say which school you prefer for your child. If you would like to meet with us, this can be arranged. If you do have any concerns, please let us know within 15 days.

Choosing a School

You have a right to say which school you would prefer for your child so we will send you details of the schools in the area. We will be pleased to give you information and advice to help you decide which school you would like your child to go to. We will support your preference as long as we feel it is suitable for your child's age, ability and needs and that your child's presence will not affect the effective education of others already at the school. We must also ensure that resources are being efficiently used.

In Telford & Wrekin we hope that children will be able to go to their local school but there is a range of provision available.

1. Most children get extra help at their own local school from teachers and special support assistants. Advice and support may also be provided by specialist teachers and/or health professionals.
2. A few children go to another mainstream school which is specially staffed and resourced to provide the help they need.
3. Some children go to day special schools dealing with other children with similar learning difficulties or disabilities.
4. Very occasionally a child may go to a residential special school outside Telford & Wrekin.

(For 2, 3, and 4 transport is usually provided).

The Final Statement

We will issue the final statement within 8 weeks of the proposed statement unless you have any concerns and wish to meet with an officer from the LEA. If after meeting with an officer you still feel unhappy with the contents of the statement you can appeal to the Special Educational Needs Tribunal.

(See 'THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TRIBUNAL').

Once we have signed the statement, we must continue to provide the help stated. If you move to another Authority's area, we will send your child's statement to your new LEA. They must either continue with the same help or carry out a re- assessment. This is to protect your child and make sure his or her special educational needs continue to be met.

NOTE IN LIEU OF A STATEMENT

After the assessment we may decide that the school can provide the help for your child's special educational needs without the need for a statement. Sometimes we may also draw up a **“note in lieu of a statement”**. This will explain about your child's needs and the provision which the school should make to help your child. It will also explain why we have decided not to make a statement. We will send you copies of all the advice we have received during the statutory assessment. We will send the note and information to the school to help your child's teachers decide how to help him or her in the future.

If you feel that our decision is wrong and that a statement should be issued for your child, you can arrange to meet with one of the Authority's officers to discuss your concerns. If after this meeting, you still feel that the Authority's decision is wrong and that a statement should be made for your child, you can appeal to the Special Educational Needs Tribunal.

(See 'THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TRIBUNAL').

THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TRIBUNAL

The LEA aims to work in partnership with you as parents, for the benefit of your child. As parents you will be closely involved in all decisions about the help your child receives and about which school is right for your child. If at any stage you are not happy with a decision, talk to your child's teacher, Headteacher or our Named Officer. Feel free at any time to ask questions, give us information and let us know your views. It is in your child's best interests that we try to reach agreement wherever possible. However, if after meeting with an LEA Officer and sharing your concerns you feel that you cannot agree with us, you have the right to appeal to the Special Educational Needs Tribunal.

The Special Educational Needs Tribunal is independent of the LEA and hears parents' appeals against LEA decisions on statutory assessments and statements. The Tribunal will be made up of three people who will look at all the evidence and make a final decision.

You can appeal to the Tribunal if:

1. You ask us to make a statutory assessment of your child and we decide not to;
2. We decide not to make a statement for your child after an assessment;
3. You disagree with part 2,3 or 4 of your child's statement;
4. Your child has a statement and we decide not to assess your child again or change the name of the school in the statement;
5. We decide to stop maintaining your child's statement.

You must appeal within 2 months of our decision. You can find out more about the Tribunal in a special booklet, Special Educational Needs Tribunal, How to Appeal. You can get a copy of this by writing to:

DFEE Publications Centre
PO Box 5050
Sherwood Park
Annesley
Nottingham
NG17 9UJ

Or by ringing 0845 602 2260

Copies are also available from the LEA.

(See 'HOW TO CONTACT THE LEA')

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE STATEMENT

Once a year your child's statement will be formally reviewed. The school will organise an annual review meeting and invite you and anyone else who will be able to comment on your child's progress during the year.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss your child's progress towards the long term objectives in the statement and the targets set at the last review meeting. Sometimes professionals will have written reports which will be available for discussion. You may be asked to fill in a comments sheet or your opinions may be recorded during the meeting. Targets for the next year will be agreed.

Since the purpose of the annual review is to consider the statement there can be three outcomes;

- the statement should continue as it is
- the statement should be amended to reflect a change (eg change of school)
- the statement is no longer needed because your child has met all the long term objectives.

After the meeting the review report will be copied to the LEA and any recommendations will be considered. We will write to you formally to say if the LEA is proposing to change the statement in any way. You will have 15 days to let us know your opinions.

REASSESSMENT

You have the right to ask for a reassessment of your child's special educational needs. This is not common because usually parents are happy with the chance to discuss and suggest changes offered at the annual review. But if you are unhappy for any reason, and have discussed the problem with the school, you can write to us asking for a reassessment. If we agree that another statutory assessment is needed and your child has not been assessed in the last 6 months, we will reassess your child.

THE ANNUAL REVIEW DURING YEAR 9

The annual review when your child is in year 9 is particularly important. This is the time to start preparing for the transition to Key Stage 4 and to look ahead to the time when your child either leaves school at 16 or continues with education at school or college. The review will involve the careers service and, if appropriate, local social services. Together with you and your child, a Transition Plan will be drawn up for your child's future life beyond 16.

BEYOND 16 YEARS OLD

Many children with special educational needs stay on at school or college to continue their education. If a statement is still needed it will be maintained for those continuing their education at school up to the age of 19. One special school – The Bridge, provides for pupils up to the age of 19, linking with neighbouring colleges.

There are courses specifically for students with learning difficulties in Telford & Wrekin's Further Education Colleges (TCAT and New College). The colleges also provide additional support to students with special educational needs on mainstream courses. Parents and students are encouraged to participate fully in any decisions made regarding further education.

All pupils have access to a Careers Adviser who will provide advice and support regarding the range of options open to school and college leavers.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS & SUPPORT GROUPS

There are many voluntary organisations which help children with disabilities or learning difficulties, and their parents. The following pages provide you with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of some national and local voluntary organisations and support groups. They may give you support and information to help you and your child.

N.B The groups listed are independent voluntary groups and are intended for your information. They are not associated with the LEA.

You may also contact the local Parent Partnership Scheme:

Wendy Harris (South Telford & Wrekin)

01952 291350

Lesley Diss (North Telford & Wrekin)

01952 617758

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS & SUPPORT GROUPS

ACTION FOR SICK CHILDREN

National Association for the welfare of sick children in hospital. Tel: 0181 542 4848.

ADD

Attention Deficit Disorder. Contact Andrea Bilbow – Tel: 0208 906 9068.

A.D.I.S.S.

Attention Deficit Information Support Services. PO Box 340, Edgware, Middlesex. HA8 9HL.

A.D.H.D.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Family Support Groups.
Helpline 01373 826045. 1A The High Street, Dolton, Westbury, Wiltshire. BA13 4DL.
Contact Jill Walker – 0121 352 1632.

ADVISORY CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

Unit 1B, Aberdeen Studios, 22 Highbury Grove, London. N5 2EA.
Tel: 0207 354 8321. (Advice line 2.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.)

AFASIC

Association for all Speech Impaired Children.
Angela Lea, Regional Development Officer, West Midlands, 5 Westhead Road, Cookley, Kidderminster. DY10 3TG. Tel: 01562 852702.
AFASIC, 69/85 Old Street, London. EC1V 9HX. Helpline – 08453 555577

ASIAN PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ALLIANCE

Disability Alliance Centre, The Old Refectory, Central Middlesex Hospital, Acton Lane, Park Royal, London. NW10 7NS. Tel: 0208 961 6773.

AUTISM

National Autistic Society, West Midlands Information Officer, 17b Fellows Lane, Harborne, Birmingham. B17 9TS. Tel: 0121 426 4225.
Shropshire autism supporters – Contact: Linda Crane Tel: 01743 356298.

BRITISH STAMMERING ASSOCIATION

15 Old Ford Road, London. E2 9PJ. Tel: 0845 603 2001 (Helpline).

BULLYING

Anti-Bullying Campaign, 10 Borough High Street, London. SE1 9QQ.
Tel: 0207 378 1448.

CARERS' CONTACT LINE

Tel: 01952 201091. 01743 341995. (for parents/carers of a child with a disability).

CENTRE FOR FUN AND FAMILIES

Assists families who are experiencing behaviour problems. Provides parent training packs. 25 Shanklin Drive, Knighton, Leicester. LE2 3RH. Tel: 0116 270 7198.

THE CHILDREN'S LEGAL CENTRE

University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex. CO4 3SQ. Tel: 01206 873820 or 872466. Provides free advice by telephone. Mon – Fri 2-5 p.m.. Mon/Wed/Fri 10 a.m.-12 noon,. Tues/Thurs 2-7 p.m.,,or by letter.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (In Shropshire).

65 Withywood Drive, Malinslee, Telford, Shropshire. TF3 2HU. Tel: 01952 502393.

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAUX

Tel: 01952 291101. 01743 357855. 01584 876933.

CLEFT LIP & PALATE ASSOCIATION

Lorraine Edgerton, 9 Herbert Avenue, Wellington, Telford,. Tel: 01952 254589

CEREBRAL PALSY

Shropshire Scope – Tel: 01742 850055. Area office for Scope – Tel: 01743 236150.

CONFIDE

Counselling service. Tel: 01743 351319.

CONGENITAL C.M.V. ASSOCIATION

Tel: 01743 850055

CONTACT A FAMILY

West Midlands Region, The Princess Royal Centre, 4 Church Road, Edgbaston. B15 3TD. Tel: 0121 455 0655. www.cafamily.org.uk

COUNCIL FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

8 Wakeley Street, London. EC1V 7QE. Tel: 0207 843 6000.

CROSSLINE

Christian based counselling & telephone service. Tel: 01743 236424.

CROSSROADS CARE (Countywide)

Offers support to carers. Contact – Mrs. J. Greaves, Leegomery Community Centre, Leegomery, Telford, Shropshire. TF1 4QX. Tel: 01952 260288.

CYSTIC FIBROSIS TRUST

Shropshire Branch – Mrs. R. Golightly, 29 Church Street, Broseley, Shropshire. TF12 5BX.
Tel: 01952 884152.

DELTA (Formerly The National Aural Group)

A regional group of parents and teachers of deaf children.
Contact: Sue Lewis, Management Committee, 2 Osprey Grove, Leegomery, Telford,
Shropshire. TF1 4ND. Tel: 01952 223545

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

DfEE. Publications Centre, P.O. Box 6927, London. E3 3NZ. Tel: 0207 510 0150
Free publications eg Special Educational Needs – Parents Guide.

SHROPSHIRE DEAF CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Contact: Mr. Wayne Faulkner, Chairman, 29 Round Hill Green, Coton Hill, Shrewsbury,
Shropshire. Tel: 01743 355130.

BRITISH DIABETIC ASSOCIATION (Telford Branch)

Mrs. M. Stobbs, 14 Barnfield Crescent, Wellington, Telford, Tel: 01952 254494

DIABETES PARENTS' SUPPORT GROUP

Telford and Wrekin – 01952 417424

DIAL SHROPSHIRE (Disability Advice Line)

01743 240404 (10 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.)

01952 292268 (Tues & Thurs 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.)

DIAL UK

Nationwide telephone information and advice service. Park Lodge, St. Catherine's
Hospital, Tickhill Road, Balby, Doncaster. DN4 8QN. Tel: 01302 310123.

DOWN'S SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

Telford and Wrekin Contact: Judy Dawson – 01952 293457 OR ring: 0208 682 4001

Parents and Carers of Children with DOWN'S SYNDROME (support group)

01952 291350

DYSLEXIA

Shropshire Dyslexia Association, The Roy Fletcher Centre, 12-17 Cross Hill, Shrewsbury,
Tel: 01743 340878 (Helpline).

BRITISH DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION

98 London Road, Reading, Berkshire. RG1 5AU. Tel: 01734 668271.

DYSPRAXIA FOUNDATION

8 West Alley, Hitchin, Herts. SG5 1UU. Tel: 01462 455016. Helpline: 01462 454986

Telford & Wrekin – Contact: Vicky Tomlinson. Tel: 01952 416639.

EPILEPSY

British Epilepsy Association – 0113 243 9393

National Society for Epilepsy – Helpline 01494 601400 (Mon – Fri 10.00am - 4.00pm).

ETHNIC MINORITIES (Advice and Information)

D.D. Ahir: 01952 222334; Terry Patterson: 01952 245513 or Ashgair Sattar: 01952 222333.

FAMILIES NEED FRIENDS

Support and information to families with children under six with special needs in Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire.

Support group in Shrewsbury: Tel: 01743 231963. Contact: Jill Cleveley, 12 Havelock Road, Belle Vue, Shrewsbury. SY3 7NE.

THE FAMILY FUND TRUST

Help families financially who are caring for a severely disabled child under sixteen at home. Grants and information. Tel: 01904 621115.

FAMILY MEDIATION SERVICE

Contact: Maggie Stelmach. Tel: 01952 502447.

HEADWAY SHROPSHIRE

A support group for people with head injuries and their families – lower age limit 16yrs. Headway House, The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Mytton Oak Road, Shrewsbury. SY3 8BR. Tel: 01743 261457

HOMESTART

Befriending service to families with under school age children (or pregnant) who are experiencing stress.

Telford and Wrekin – 01952 201330. Contact: Caia Bryant or Jane Bowyer.

HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE ASSOCIATION

Tel: 0207 223 7000. Regional adviser: 01952 606155.

HYPERACTIVE CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

71 Whyke Lane, Chichester, West Sussex. PO19 2LD. Tel: 01903 725182.

10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

I CAN

Information service on speech and communication disorders, asthma and eczema.

Barbican City Gate, 1-3 Dufferin Street, London. EC1Y 8NA. Tel: 0207374 4422.

IN TOUCH

Information service – particularly useful for rare disorders.

10 Norman Road, Sale, Cheshire. M33 3DF. Tel: 0161 905 2440.

INDEPENDENT PANEL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVICE (I.P.S.E.A.)

4 Ancient House Mews, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 1DH. Tel: 01394 382814.
Freephone advice line – 0800 018 4016. www.ipsea.org.uk

MENCAP

Royal Mencap Support Service, 5 Barker Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. SY1 1QJ.
Tel: 01743 233311.

Telford Branch – Mrs. Jean Lucas, 13 Herbert Avenue, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire.
TF1 2BT. Tel: 01952 641448.

MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION

Helpline: 08457 626262.

MULTICULTURAL RESOURCE CENTRE

Tel: 01952 291293.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS (MS)

Tel: 08457 626262.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BUREAU

Library Information Service. Mon-Fri 10.00 am - noon , 2.00 -4.00 pm. 0207 8436008.

NETWORK 81

Gives advice, support and independent representation to parents.

1-7 Woodfield Terrace, Stansted, Essex. CM24 8AJ.

Helpline: Tel: 01279 647415 (Monday – Friday 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.).

P.A.C.T. (Parents and Children Together)

Dyspraxia support group. Offers support and social events for parents and the whole family. Linda Shaw. Tel: 01746 762381. Liz Forrester. Tel: 01746 767866. Vicky Tomlinson. Tel: 01952 416639.

PARENTLINE

Confidential telephone helpline for anyone in the parenting role. Tel: 0808 800 2222.

PARENTS FOR INCLUSION

Unit 2, Ground Floor, 70 South Lambeth Road, London. SW8 1RL. Tel: 0207 582 5008.

PHAB

Clubs for physically handicapped and able-bodied children. Contact: Sue Burlingham, Development Officer, P.O. Box 41, Pershore. WR10 2ZG. Tel: 01386 861124.

RATHBONE SOCIETY

Helping people with learning difficulties.

1st Floor, The Excalibur Building, 77 Whitworth Street, Manchester. M1 6EZ.

Information line: 0161 236 1877. Helpline: 0800 917 6790 (Mon-Fri 10.00am.-4.00pm).

REACH

National advice centre for children with reading difficulties. California Country Park, Nine Mile Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire. RG40 4HT. Tel: 0118 973 7575. Helpline: 0845 604 0414.

RELATE

Family relationship counselling. Tel: 01743 344010.

ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND (RNIB)

224 Great Portland Street, London. W1N 6AA. Tel: 0207 388 1266.

ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEAF PEOPLE (RNID)

19-23 Featherstone Street, London. EC1Y 8SL. Tel: 0207 296 8000.

SAMARITANS

Confidential helpline – 24 hours a day. 01952 256161, 01743 369696, 0345 909090.

SENSE

The National Deaf/Blind/Rubella Association. Tel: 0121 687 1564

SEVERN SPECIAL NEEDS GROUP

Support group for parents of children of all ages with special needs in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. Contact: Pauline Cheney. Tel: 01743 369810. (support, social events). Saturday afternoon youth group (8 years upwards) – Mencap Centre, Shrewsbury.

SHREWSBURY OPPORTUNITY GROUP

Integration through play of handicapped and non-handicapped children. There is a playgroup and parent and toddler group.
Playleader: Gina Gibbons. Tel: 01743 2363089. Chairperson: Shona Tennyson-Collins.
Tel: 01743 360040.

SPINA BIFIDA & HYDROCEPHALUS ASSOCIATION (ASBAH)

Contact: Mrs. Elizabeth Miers (Area Manager), Pentre Isaf, Bryneglewys, Corwen, Denbighshire. LL21 9NA. Tel: 01490 450360.

STEPS (Shropshire Group)

Support group for children with artificial and abnormalities of lower limbs.
Contact: Ella Reynolds. Tel: 01743 355363.

SPORT FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

Contact: Phil Ramsbotham – 01743 255754 (work) 01743 240465 (home).

SUPPORT GROUP

For parents who have children with SEN in mainstream schools. Meets at R.N.I.B. School, Condoover, the last Friday of each half term. Julie Duncan. Tel: 01743 246457.

SWIMMING CLUBS (for people with disabilities)

Club 2000, Madeley Court Leisure Centre, Court Street, Madeley, Telford, Shropshire.
Contact: Sheila Cooper. Tel: 01952 405169 (evenings & weekends) or 07932 566010

Newport Dolphins, Newport Pool, Victoria Avenue, Newport, Shropshire.
Contact: Joy Warrilow. Tel: 01785 284396.

Wrekin Special Swimming Club, Wellington Swimming Leisure Centre, Wrekin Road, Wellington, Telford, Contact: Terry Lawlor. Tel: 01952 617002. (For children and adults in Telford and Wrekin area – transport can be provided.

TOY LIBRARIES

National Association of Toy and Leisure Libraries. Tel: 0207 387 9592.

There are a number of toy libraries catering for children with special needs. Contact your local library if details are not here.

Mencap for Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire, Mrs. Barbara Dorricott, Mencap Building, Dale Acre Way, Hollinswood, Telford, Shropshire. TF3 2EU. Tel: 01952 200410.

Toy Lending Library for Blind and Partially Sighted Children, Research Centre for Education of the Visually Impaired, School of Education, Edgbaston, Birmingham. B15 2TT. Tel: 0121 414 6733.

TRIBUNALS

Special Educational Needs Tribunal, 71 Victoria Street, London. SW1H 0HW.
Tel: 0207 925 6925.

LOOK (National Federation of Families with VISUALLY IMPAIRED children)

Contact: Kerry Joyce, Family Support Worker. Tel: 01926 512664.
National Office, Queen Alexandra College, 49 Court Road, Harborne, Birmingham. B17 9TG. Tel: 0121 428 5038 or 0121 427 9800.

SHROPSHIRE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Children's support group. Contact: Wendy Sainsbury, 185 Birches Road, Codsall, Wolverhampton. WV8 2JW. Tel: 01902 847951. Secretary: Susan Holbrook. Tel: 01584 875439.

YOUTH CLUB AND SUMMER SCHEME PROVISION

For all young people aged 9-18 – support for families. Tudor Humphries/Lyn Berman, Kingswell Centre, Arthur Street, Oswestry, Shropshire. SY11 1JN. Tel: 01691 655126.