

OneVISION

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Sensory Inclusion Service | Floor 2A, Darby House, Telford & Wrekin Council, Lawn Central, Telford, TF3 4JA

Goodbye to Maureen and Welcome to Jo

Many of you will know Maureen Roberts who worked for the service as an Access Support Assistant for nearly 20 years.

Maureen was highly skilled and experienced and was a greatly respected and very much liked member of the team. Sadly for us, Maureen retired at the end of the Summer term.

However we were extremely fortunate in being able to appoint Jo Ward to Maureen's post. Jo worked with us as an Access Support Assistant until three years ago when she left to have a baby.

We are delighted to have her back now and she is a tremendous asset to the team.



Visual Impairment course 2016 record numbers attend!

Providing empowerment through knowledge and support to families of children and young people (CYP) with visual impairment is a vital INSET role for the Sensory Inclusion Service. This begins at referral and is then a continuous and ongoing process. When working in settings or homes, QTVIs provide continual advice and support to enable all children with visual impairment to develop to their full potential, as they would have done if they did not have a visual impairment.

All pre-school settings, schools and colleges are offered in-situ INSET in a wide variety of tailored packages. In cases where CYP have a profound or severe impairment, INSET is offered to all teachers and teaching assistants. In less severe cases, INSET is offered to staff working directly with the CYP. In addition, a one day course is delivered annually.

Forty-five delegates attended on 12th October 2016 from early years, primary, secondary and FE settings. The course included



information on curriculum access issues, the importance of vision, eye conditions, social and emotional issues, mobility, low vision aids, practical simulation exercises, modification techniques and the role of the Sensory Inclusion Service.

Evaluation from delegates was very positive. 100% of delegates thought that the structure of the day, the content of the course, the quality of the presentations and the workshops was highly relevant or very relevant.

"I found the day fascinating and learned a great deal."

Primary Teacher

"Fantastic day, lots of useful information."

Teaching Assistant

"Great information with many tips and strategies which can be taken forward"

Teaching Assistant



Shropshire
Council



Telford & Wrekin
COUNCIL

Little Stars

We asked one of our families to write something about their experience of Little Stars. We are pleased to be able to share this in this newsletter below

We were invited to Little Stars shortly after our son was diagnosed with a visual impairment. At first our whole world was turned upside down. There was questions unanswered, feelings of doubt, worry, guilt, grievance and uncertainty all rolled into one.

Attending Little Stars was absolutely the right thing to do not only for our son but for us as a family. The support, guidance and advice we have received is outstanding and to think this is offered for many years to come is very reassuring.

The group itself are a lovely bunch, they are down to earth, kind and caring people. We talk about everything from NHS appointments to how to boil an egg. We have laughed and even cried. We all get along and so do the children. Little Stars allow siblings to attend and join in which I think is critical for them to understand that people may need help and extra support.

Little Stars reassure you that even though your child has a vision impairment they are still perfect.

Here is a poem to sum up of what I think of Little Stars.....

**A place that is warm and inviting.
A place that is fun and exciting.
People who help, people who care.
People who lend an ear to share.
Families who go there are different but the same.
They go to have fun and to play games.
The light room is a special place.
The children discover different sounds, colours and shapes.
We play music, we paint, we draw.
We make things, we sing and a whole lot more.
The children have a snack and juice half way through.
The adults have tea or coffee and a biscuit or two!
Little Stars truly make your little ones shine.
We love going there all of the time.**

Rachel Swift

Electronic Version

The Sensory Inclusion Service has been given consent by Telford & Wrekin to send out the newsletter by email rather than through the post.

We are therefore updating our database with current contact details.

Could you please send an email to matt.kelsall@taw.org.uk to confirm your current email address and that you are happy to receive correspondence electronically in the future from The Sensory Inclusion Service.

OneVISION

Registered charity
no: 1043696

For children with a
visual impairment
and their families
in Shropshire and
Telford & Wrekin



We are a Shropshire support group for children and young people with visual impairment and their families within Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.

OneVISION is very well supported by the Sensory Inclusion Service (SIS-VI) and VISTA (committee with representations from both Education and Health with reference to paediatric low vision). We are a small, dedicated group of families who ourselves have children with a visual impairment. We are a friendly group dedicated to the needs of the children but also aware that parents/carers need support too.

We would welcome contacting parents by email and if you are happy for us to do this, please contact us direct by email to provide your details. Also, we are always looking for new committee members, please contact us if you would like to join us. You can also watch out for opportunities to share your views and ideas with the group by adding them as a friend on Facebook or following them on Twitter.

You can contact oneVISION by emailing onevisionshropshire@yahoo.co.uk



SIS-VI and Further Education

The Sensory Inclusion Service (VI) continue to support young people post 16 when they make their choices to enter the further education colleges in Telford and in Shropshire. This is done by contracting with the local colleges to ensure continuity of provision post 16.

This year, contracts have been successfully negotiated with TCAT, SCAT, Shrewsbury Sixth Form College, North Shropshire College, New College Telford, County Training Shrewsbury and we are also hoping to have Derwen College on board in the very near future.

This means effectively that young people's vision needs can continue to be assessed post 16, with a report being provided for the setting and the families.

Qualified Teachers of the Visually Impaired (QTVIs) can continue to work directly with the young person's tutors in college, providing any training that is necessary in the setting to ensure that young people's vision needs can be fully understood and met as inclusively as possible.

University Life

By Chris Styles

I am currently studying counselling psychology at the University of Worcester, and so far it has been really good.

When I first started everything felt a little unstructured. Having to plan when I was having dinner, when I was going to do my washing, when I could do assignments and when I could fit in doing sport. But after a couple of weeks everything has become organised and I have all the things I need to do in place.



In terms of support I get at university, I am able to access presentation slides before the lecture, as well as any other resources I may need for a lecture.

Outside of lecture, people are very supportive if I need any help, especially my flat mates and the university rowing club (which I am a member of), are willing to make adaptations to training sessions so I can access them as much as everyone else.

I think the most important thing to do before starting university is to learn and practise all the tasks that you will have to do for yourself. I spent the summer learning how to cook, iron, do washing and all the other things that my parents did for me. Being able to be independent at university has been the best feeling and it shows me that I can still be independent even with my visual impairment.

My move to Idsall school

By Paige Evans

I went to Albrighton Primary School for two years before moving to Idsall.

At the thought of moving to Idsall I was scared, nervous and excited. Getting around the school particularly worried me but I was excited about meeting new friends.

I had regular visits to Idsall with Maggie Edmunds (Habilitation Specialist) which helped me get used to what the school was like and I met some lovely teachers.

My first day at Idsall was nerve racking as it was the first day I was an actual student there. I had very helpful TAs and some of my old school friends around. I love it at Idsall because everybody is very kind and helpful.

I was given a laptop to help me in my lessons and it is connected to the interactive whiteboard so I always know what's going on.

I enjoy all of my lessons but my favourite is maths! I have a great maths teacher!

I love the break-times and lunchtimes because I spend them with my friends.



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gov.uk