



The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Change Programme is a national programme designed to test policy changes to systems and processes for children and young people with SEND, and those accessing alternative provision in the UK.

It is being delivered by Change Programme Partnerships (CPP) in each of the nine regions of England. Each partnership consists of selected local authorities (LA) and integrated care systems (ICC) working alongside families, led by at least one named local authority.

The initiatives being piloted and trialled have been grant-funded by the Department for Education (DfE) for three years.

Shropshire Council continues to work closely with West Midlands Change Programme Partnership, including Telford and Wrekin Herefordshire and Worcestershire, to implement, test and refine the changes recommended in the SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan.

In 2025/2026 the programme moves into Phase 3 and will be working to deliver projects in the following areas:

1. Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision (OAIP)
2. Assistive Technology Lending Library (ATLL) pilot
3. Three-tier model for alternative provision
4. Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce (APST)
5. Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC)
6. Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS).
7. Local Specialist Support Offer (LSSO)

Local Specialist Support Offer

3 functions: training, advice, direct delivery of support

Cognition and learning

- Specialist Outreach
- QA process for existing providers to create a directory

Physical and Sensory

- SIS
- Outshine – OT offer

SEMH

- Outshine
- Early Intervention Outreach
- AP Directory
- Reintegration support
- Pupil Support Meetings and Reviews
- Exclusion Prevention Meetings

Communication and Interaction

- SALT – SSLIC Team
- Neurodiversity Practitioners
- AET training and Neuroinclusive networks

APST

CPD Offer

Specialist Outreach

Early Help

SEND Reviews

Early Years SEND Support Officers

Integration Practitioner Panels

New LSSO Platform

GSP and EYIAG

New SharePoint being developed to support navigation of the offer – Spring 2026

Please have your say...

- LSSO focus group, please sign up:
<https://forms.office.com/e/JHbtGhVJfa>

Local Specialist Support Offer



Available from Autumn 2 – please monitor Education Update for MS request form (will also go on SLG).

Specialist Outreach

- Funded through the SEND and AP Change Programme and is free for schools for the duration of the pilot.
- The overall aim of the pilot is to build capacity of schools to meet the needs of children with complex SEND needs within their mainstream setting. For this pilot year, the Specialist Outreach offer is open to pupils from Reception to Y11.
- Outreach Specialists can work with up to 6 pupils where there are similar presenting needs and the children are within the same class/cohort/provision. Outreach will be delivered as a block of up to 8 sessions (or up to 12 for a group) over an extended period of time (at least 2 terms).
- Outreach specialists are staff from Severndale, Keystone, NDPs and MATi.
- Outreach is intended to build capacity of schools to meet need and therefore there is the expectation that Headteachers will be fully involved in the outreach and commit to embedding the learning across the school.
- While we hope to offer Specialist Outreach to as many schools as possible, there is limited capacity and therefore your request may not be successful.

Assistive Technology Lending Library

- The Assistive Technology Lending Library Pilot is part of the SEND and AP Change Programme
- The Local Authority will receive grant funding to purchase devices and software to loan to schools
- Schools can borrow a specific device and/or software to '*try before they buy*'
- The ATLL aims to support the inclusion of children and young people with SEND in the classroom
- The ATLL pilot will run until the Summer term, 2026

ATLL Survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/r6A6kVXqJG>

Slides and further details on the SLG:

[Change Programme Information Sessions | Shropshire Learning Gateway](#)

Supporting the Enhancement of Neuroinclusion in SEcondary Schools (SENSES)

Background:

Research suggests that:

- Approximately 1/7 of our learners in schools are neurodivergent.
- Rates of emotional based school avoidance (EBSA) is generally higher among neurodiverse pupils.
- 7/10 autistic children and young people said school would be better if more teachers understood autism.
- Neurodivergent learners are more likely to be excluded.
- There are challenges and opportunities that are / can be available within secondary schools.

Aims of the Project:

Following on from the successful NDP Pilot, and as secondaries cannot access PINS, we want to offer continued support to our secondary schools and have secured funding to enable us to offer this for free.

We want to support our secondary schools to build on the neuroinclusive practice already happening to further enable all our learners to thrive throughout their educational journey.

What does it involve:

We are offering to provide each of our 20 secondary schools with six sessions with an NDP over the 2025-2026 academic year (one per half-term) for coaching and CPD. The direction of the support will be dependent upon the aspirations and priorities of the school.

How to be involved:

The project can only start once schools respond initially to accept this pre-commissioned offer of support.

Please contact

kathryn.morgan@shropshire.gov.uk to express your interest in being involved in this Project and/or to ask any questions.

Once you have requested to be involved, an NDP will be in contact with you to arrange a visit.

Primary Inclusion Development Grant

During 2024/25 there were a total of 507 days of education lost due to suspensions across Shropshire Primary Schools. Building on the success of the Inclusion Development Fund in Secondary Schools (permanent exclusions have been reduced by nearly 50 % in 2024/25 compared with the previous year), the Primary AP Development Fund has been introduced with the following objectives:

- To reduce the number of permanent exclusions and suspensions in Shropshire Primary Schools
- To reduce the number of pupils in receipt of reduced timetables
- To improve attendance
- To create inclusive learning environments that support the diverse needs of all pupils
- To build capacity and expertise in schools
- To promote collaboration and sharing of best practice among schools, trusts and federations

- Schools, trusts, federations and networks of schools are invited to submit proposals for funding. Funding will be provided from SEND and AP Change Programme (supplemented by the High Needs Block) and will be provided for two years. You must include a business case in your application to cover revenue costs. You may also request additional funding from the High Needs Capital Allocation to create inclusive spaces that support students with additional needs.
- The proposal must be for a new project rather than an initiative which is already in place and will focus on the development of in-school alternative provision to provide early intervention and targeted support for pupils. This could be used as a shared resource for other schools.
- As an example, this could involve the creation of new spaces (e.g. sensory rooms) through the repurposing of areas in school, increasing hours for members of staff to provide specific programmes or the purchase of additional resources.
- The proposals will be assessed, monitored and evaluated by Education Quality Advisors (EQA).
- Schools are encouraged to draw on good practice from other successful schools and implement evidence-based solutions.

To apply, please complete a request form (look out in the weekly Education Update).