Severn
Training & Schools Alliance

STSA Update – Summer 2026

As the end of the school year approaches we would like to take this opportunity to update you on all the STSA activity that has taken place across the year, and what we have coming up in 2026/27.

Sincere thanks to all our subscriber schools for your patience during what has been a year of transition for STSA following retirement of key personnel. From 1st September the STSA structure is as follows:

STSA—Key Areas of Responsibility

Sue Stoddart—STSA Office Manager. Full time and your first port of call for any queries if you are unsure who to contact.

sue.stoddart2@taw.org.uk







Emily Tracey & Nicola Davis

Bridge Co-Heads with Overall Responsibility for STSA

Nicola Davis—Strategic Lead for SEND—0.5 days per week (commissioned consultancy).

Key Areas of Responsibility:

Leading SEND reforms – liaising with the LA.

nicola.davis@taw.org.uk



Sarah Roberts—Strategic Lead—STSA Core Offer—3 days per week (employed by STSA)

Key Areas of Responsibility:

ITT
STEP (Core Partner & ITT Lead)
Future in Mind
Children's Safeguarding Boards
PSHEE
Attached Adviser for 4 schools

sarah.roberts1@taw.org.uk



Harv Kumar—Strategic Lead for School Improvement—2 days per week (commissioned from Holmer Lake)

Key Areas of Responsibility:

Adviser Team Lead
HT & DHT CPD
Ofsted Updates
Research, Policy Monitoring and Dissemination
Attached adviser for 3 schools

harv.kumar@taw.org.uk



Julie Marriott—Strategic Lead for Projects and Partnerships—2 days per week (commissioned from Four Hills)

Key Areas of Responsibility:

Maths Hub
English Hub
SLE Team
Seeking new projects
Attached adviser for 6 schools

julie.marriott1@taw.org.uk

STSA Primary Management Board

STSA constantly strives to respond to school need and provides a vehicle for other relationships to be forged to ensure that opportunities for local schools are facilitated in an efficient way. To further support this we reintroduced the Primary Management Board in April 2026. STSA and Head Teacher representatives from all clusters meet half termly, to ensure schools are aware of the STSA work that is taking place, and for schools to feed back on areas where additional support may be useful. Your cluster reps are *Nicola Moody*, *Lydia Cartwright, Jen Thomas, Sarah Passey*, and *Emma Heeley* (EY). There is a **vacancy** for a South Cluster rep – if anyone is interested in this role please contact us.

01952 387237
stsa@taw.org.uk
www.stsa.uk

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Advisory Service

Subscription levels for 2026/27 remain strong, and on the whole adviser allocations remain unchanged – thank you very much to those few schools who have had to have a change of adviser for your understanding. The adviser team remains stable although we will say goodbye to Anne Potter at the end of the summer term, Anne is taking a well earned retirement. STSA are privileged to have had Anne as part of the team for the past four years.

ITT

The ITT programme has gone well this year, with 13 Associate Teachers gaining QTS. Many of the cohort have already been successful in securing jobs in Telford and Wrekin schools for September. We have recruited 10 candidates for 2026/27, this is lower than usual but above average in terms of national figures.

During 2025/26 the STSA ITT programme was supported by:

17 Placement Schools

6 ITaP Schools

6 Head Teacher QA Leads

6 Head Teacher Interviewers

5 Alternative Key Stage Experience Settings

There are always opportunities for schools to get involved in the STSA ITT programme, whether that is by hosting placements, including the ITaP weeks, supporting with interviews or committing to undertake the QA role – if you are interested in finding out more, please do get in touch.





Shropshire & Telford Education Partnership (STEP Teaching School Hub)

Our work as a core partner of the Shropshire and Telford Education Partnership teaching school hub and as the STEP Strategic Lead for ITT, continues.

As well as ITT, STEP work includes ECF/AB, and the NPQ offer. You can find out more about STEP here.

STSA have supported STEP with the writing of an Equality, Diversity and Equity policy as well as an action plan, code of conduct and questionnaire that all partners will adopt and use across all programmes. With the four core partners all offering ITT, STEP continues to drive change and support the University of Chester, our accredited provider.

STSA CPD Offer

New network meetings were established in 25/26 for Science Subject Leaders, Governors, and EYFS Leads. Attendance and feedback for all three have been excellent, and they will continue in 2026/27 alongside all our other long established networks. Also really successful this year was our Reading Workshop, and especially well received were the Complex Needs TA Training sessions. Finally we were pleased to add Makaton Level 1 and 2 workshops to our regular CPD programme. There are plans for another run of the Complex Needs training sessions next year, and we have also arranged a full day workshop for Head teachers and appropriate school staff on SEMH, to be followed by a series of workshops – these will be delivered in partnership with Four Hills MAT. The MFL Subject Leader Network will run face to face in 2026/27 which we hope schools will feel is a positive change, and we are delighted to be offering an EAL Co-ordinator Network from Summer 2027. All STSA CPD will be available to book through the website from 1st September 2026.

Future in Mind

The Future in Mind programme for 25/26 is complete and as ever was extremely well received. Sessions were held on drug and alcohol abuse, modern addictions and then a summer term session with Frazzled, the Ruby Wax foundation based around well-being and burnout.

In 2026/27 focus areas will be 'supporting staff working with pupils with complex needs, to prevent burnout', 'supporting staff in the classroom and pastoral teams to meet the increasing SEMH needs, in Early Years, Primary and KS3+'; and 'supporting loss and bereavement for children, young people and adults'. Buyback is almost complete and dates will be shared with subscribers very soon.

Joined Up Working

As you will know, since the teaching school began STSA have worked closely with the LA to ensure a complimentary offer ensuring schools have access to a broad range of CPD and wider support without confusion. As more local MATs begin to grow and provide external opportunities we remain committed to this and are working closely with the LA, LCT and Four Hills to try to ensure the provision locally is clear and equitable for all.

Goodbye to Sian!

The end of 2025/26 brings an end to Sian's career, as she retires from STSA after 7 years as our Project Manager and ITT lead. Before she came across full time Sian managed the SLE team for several years and was already our attached MH and PSHEE expert as well as an adviser whilst still head teacher at Holmer Lake Primary School. She has spent the last 26 years of her career in Telford and Wrekin. We know you will all join us in wishing Sian all the very best for a well deserved happy retirement. We will miss you Sian.

Finally, we would like you to wish you and your staff all the very best for a safe and relaxing Summer break. Enjoy!

From the STSA Team 😊

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