

Gateshead SEND Network News

Gateshead
**LOCAL
OFFER**

Issue 19 | July 2025

Hello!

Welcome to Gateshead's Summer 2025 SEND Network Newsletter.

In Gateshead we believe that the voice, opinions and experiences of children and young people with SEND and their families should be at the heart of everything we do. For more information go to www.gateshead.gov.uk/local-offer, follow the Gateshead SEND Local Offer [Facebook page](#) or visit the [Gateshead Local Offer YouTube channel](#).

A simplified version of this newsletter can be found at <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/32479/Gateshead-SEND-Network-newsletter>

Gateshead's New Local Offer Website Launches!

Gateshead's new Local Offer is now live! Friday 13 June 2025 saw children and young people with SEND, their families, and the professionals that support them come together at Gateshead Civic Centre for the Local Offer 'Live 25!' event. The event brought together information, guidance and support about navigating futures with help and advice around health, social care, transport and much more.

The highlights of the day included the launch of two exciting new resources - the newly redesigned Gateshead Local Offer website and 'Stepping Up', a new digital guide and app designed to support young people and their families as they move through key stages of life.

"Whether you're a parent, carer, young person, or SEND professional, the new Local Offer website and Stepping Up guide and app will be fantastic resources for information on services and support for children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND", says Suzanne Dunn, Director of Education, Schools and Inclusion at Gateshead Council. "They will also be so much help with the transition from early years through to adulthood.

The Live 25 event was a brilliant opportunity to showcase these new resources and talk to people from across the community that will find them a huge benefit."



Councillor Catherine Donovan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People at Gateshead Council, said: "The Live 25 event was an amazing day, a truly fantastic opportunity for all the SEND community to come together and share vital information and support with each other. Events like this really show that all the borough are working together for a brighter future for Gateshead and to give all residents the opportunity to live healthy and fulfilled lives. I was delighted to be part of it and talk to a wide range of people helping our children and young people to thrive."

You can visit the new Local Offer website at <http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/local-offer>. To access and download the Stepping Up guide, visit <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/32662/Stepping-Up>

Congratulations Dryden School!

Huge congratulations to Dryden School, who were awarded the Gold Standard Rights Respecting Schools Award by UNICEF UK in May. This is the highest level of the Rights Respecting Schools Award and is granted to schools that have fully embedded children's rights throughout their policies, practice and ethos.

To achieve this, the school demonstrated that they had adopted a child rights approach based on [The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child - UNICEF UK](#). Evidence and inspection showed that students and staff in the school have a thorough understanding of child rights, exercising a rights respecting attitude and embed rights-based language across the school.

They proved that RRSA has had a positive impact on students' learning and wellbeing and that students see themselves as rights respecting global citizens who can advocate for social justice, fairness and children's rights at home and abroad.



'The best interests of the child and an equitable approach are at the heart of Dryden School...

Throughout the curriculum children learn about being a good friend, helping others, and treating people with respect.' – RRSA Accreditation Report

Congratulations also to Dryden School post-16 pupil Chloe Proctor and her bowling team who recently played for Durham in the '[Amy Rose](#)' national competition in York.



The competition brought together the most promising young bowlers under 24 years of age. Chloe's team – who play at [Lyndhurst Bowling Club](#) in

Gateshead - won the North area competition, qualifying for the final stages at the Aviva National Bowls Finals at Leamington Spa in August!

Well done, Chloe!

Dryden School is a specialist school for students aged between 11-18 who have Severe or Profound and Multiple learning difficulties. For more information, visit <https://www.drydenschool.co.uk/>. For information about UNICEF's 'Rights Respecting Schools' Awards, visit <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/>.

North East and North Cumbria NHS

The North East and North Cumbria NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB) have a YouTube channel to keep you informed, engaged, and connected with the latest health initiatives, services, and stories from across our region. Here, you'll find a diverse range of content including health campaigns, service updates, community stories, and educational content. Whether you're a patient, caregiver, healthcare professional, or simply interested in the health landscape of North East and North Cumbria, the channel offers valuable insights and information.

Click [North East and North Cumbria NHS - YouTube](#) to visit their channel, or <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/> for more information about the service.



North East and North Cumbria

Improving support for autistic people



Autistic people, their families, friends and caregivers make an important contribution to Gateshead. Gateshead Council have published their new partnership Autism Strategy, which aims to improve support for autistic people across the borough.

Gateshead Council aims to support autistic people throughout life whilst also recognising the enormous contribution that caregivers of autistic children, young people and adults make. The Autism Strategy (2025-2030) sets out what Gateshead residents say are the key priorities, based on local engagement. It brings together the views of autistic people, families and caregivers, key partners across health, social care, education, voluntary sector and community services, criminal and youth justice services and other key stakeholders.

For more information and to download the strategy, visit <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/32056/Foreword>

Nexus Bridge Card

If you have difficulty using public transport because of age, disability, illness, or you simply lack confidence, you can carry a Bridge Card. It shows transport staff that you might need additional support when you use public transport. You don't have to register for the scheme, you just have to carry a card and show it to transport staff if you need help.

The Bridge Card is supported by Nexus, the five local authorities in Tyne and Wear, Go North East, Stagecoach and Arriva North East. For more information, visit <https://www.nexus.org.uk/bridge-card> Email customerrelations@nexus.org.uk or call 0191 20 20 747.



Kids' Young People's Hub



Kids are a national charity providing a wide range of support services to disabled children, young people and their families.

The 'Young People's Hub' from Kids is an online platform created by young disabled people. It provides an online space for young people to get information and advice, support services, and opportunities to tell their stories and get their voices heard.

The Hub offers:

- GUIDES: video guides presented by young disabled people with information and advice on topics including independent travel, healthcare, employment, and living with a hidden disability
- WELLBEING SERVICES: virtual groups sessions with fun activities
- SPEAK UP: share your stories, opinions and ideas, and connect with other young people to make the world a better place.
- NEAR ME: a simple way to find local SEND services in your area

Access the hub at <https://hub.kids.org.uk/>.

To find out more about the Kids charity, visit <https://www.kids.org.uk/>



Summer Holiday Ideas

Brighten the Day Summer 2025



Brighten the Day is Gateshead Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. The HAF programme provides food and fun things to do for children who usually get a free school meal. As well as getting a meal, Brighten the Day is a great way for children to have fun and make new friends. Our exciting programme takes place in venues across Gateshead and has something for everyone no matter what their age.

For more information visit

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/23978/What-is-Brightenthe-Day>.

#BRIGHTENTHEDAY

For SEND-specific information, visit

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/28369/Brighten-the-Day-holiday-clubs-SEND-provision>

Gateshead Parent Carer Forum have planned their annual family summer party for August 6th. Tickets will be available soon to those on their mailing list.

Visit <https://www.gatesheadparentcarerforum.co.uk/>

or email info@gatesheadparentcarerforum.co.uk for more information.



Gateshead Libraries have a packed timetable of free and low-cost family activities – Rhyme times, Storytimes, Minecraft Club, Art Club, Tie Dye T shirts, themed craft sessions including Taylor Swift and Pokemon, reading groups and more.

Visit <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/9646/What-s-on> to see what's on!

Gateshead
Libraries



The Gateshead SEND Activities Directory has been developed to provide free and impartial information to families about activities suitable for those with SEND within the local and surrounding area and offered online.

Access the Directory at <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/28686/SEND-activities-directory>

Contact us:

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We value your feedback and to help us improve our newsletter we have created a short survey which you can access by clicking <https://forms.office.com/e/iGHp2bGaSq>

