

Gateshead SEND Network News

Gateshead
**LOCAL
OFFER**

Issue 3 | June 2021

Hello!

Welcome to the summer issue of Gateshead's SEND Network Newsletter. This has been a challenging year for everybody but, as COVID restrictions ease and the summer is upon us, we can be hopeful of a bright and positive future.

The SEND team at Gateshead Council strives to continually improve the services available to children, young people, and families of those with additional needs. In accordance with this, we have worked in consultation with young people and families across the local area to upgrade and improve Gateshead's Local Offer website to make it more user friendly, accessible and easier to navigate.

For more information, go to www.gateshead-localoffer.org or follow the Gateshead SEND Local Offer Facebook page.

New Gibside School Opens

The new Gibside School opened its doors in February this year following its move from the previous premises in Whickham and Blaydon. The school - built on Shipcote Lane next to Shipley Art Gallery - accommodates 170 pupils.

The bespoke one-storey building includes a hydrotherapy pool with hoists, two halls, an internal sheltered courtyard so children can play outdoors in all weather, a multi-use games area with accessible gym equipment, sensory and soft-play rooms, specialist changing facilities and offices for physiotherapy.



Working hard in our new classrooms!

'We are delighted with our new school', says headteacher Judith Donovan.

'Our pupils have settled in very well and are enjoying lots of indoor and outdoor space and fabulous facilities including a fantastic Hydrotherapy Pool. Gateshead Council should be really proud of what they have achieved for the children in Gateshead with SEND. It is truly a flagship facility which I hope will be enjoyed by an even larger community across Gateshead.'

Gibside is a primary school for pupils with a range of special needs - moderate learning disabilities (MLD), severe learning disabilities (SLD), profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) and autism spectrum condition (ASC). Email gibsideschool@gateshead.gov.uk, phone 0191 433 6900, or visit their website www.gibsideschool.org for more information.

Gateshead Athlete Wins Bronze



Emily Stewart, medal winner

Gateshead Council learningSkills student Emily Stewart has won a bronze medal at the 2021 European Para Championships in Bydgoszcz, Poland. 22 year-old Gateshead resident Emily – a former pupil at Cedars Academy – was selected to represent Great Britain in the T38 discus event between the 1st and 6th June 2021.

Emily has Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy and Asthma – conditions which affect her muscle control and movement. She has taken part in para-athletics since the age of 10 winning a total of 12 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze medals across the UK and Europe.

‘I’m really proud to be representing GB for the first time,’ says Emily. ‘When I had the phone call, I was pretty shocked – my face said it all! The fact I have won something, and I get to take a medal home is very overwhelming to say the least.’

[Click here](#) to find out more about Emily’s story, and [here](#) to watch an interview with her. Gateshead Council learningSkills provide a wide range of courses, including specialist provision for young people and adults with SEND. Contact 0191 433 8646 or email learningskills@gateshead.gov.uk for more details.

Health information



Newcastle Gateshead
Clinical Commissioning Group

Introducing the SPECIAL SCHOOL EYE CARE SERVICE

A new, fully-funded NHS service delivering sight tests and glasses dispensing in all Special Schools is launching in the North East and Yorkshire region in September 2021. The service, delivered by an Eye Care Team, will enable every child and young person to get the most from their vision, including sight tests, and the dispensing and fitting of glasses – all completed on the school premises.

Children and young people with learning disabilities and/or autism often have difficulty ‘seeing the world’ in the same way as other children/young people. This service helps to identify these issues and supports teachers, parents, and children/young people to use their vision in the best way to help them with communication skills, mobility and independence.

For more information on the in-school Eye Care Service for special schools, [see this short information film](#).

Year 9 GP Awareness Programme

The Year 9 GP Awareness Programme was initiated in order to improve young people’s knowledge and access to local GPs. The presentation aims to educate our young people about the local services a GP offers in order to help ensure they are mentally, emotionally and physically healthy.

Previously this has involved a GP attending school assemblies, delivering a short presentation to year 9 pupils and offering the chance for Q&As. COVID restrictions have meant that we can no longer attend schools in person, so we are looking at delivering the 15 minute presentation to schools virtually.

If you are interested, please contact Lauren Graves at lauren.graves@nhs.net or 07748 333676 for further information.

If you have any questions related to any of the above health information, please email ngccg.cypfgh@nhs.net



Time Out Parent Carer Support Group

Time Out is a new group for parent carers living in the Newcastle/Gateshead area who are supporting a child or young person with emotional or mental health issues. Time Out is a safe, welcoming space where parent carers can get together, share experiences and support each other.

They say: 'Our group is about sharing our strength and promoting awareness, resilience and wellbeing. We do this by allowing space to share; providing opportunities to learn about specific conditions or issues, and an opportunity to celebrate our achievements and have fun.'

The group currently hold monthly meetings via Zoom on Wednesday evenings. To find out more or to be added to the mailing list, please contact timeoutnetwork@hotmail.com or visit their [Facebook](#) page.



TIME OUT
Parent / Carer
Support Group

Useful Information:

Gateshead SEND Information and Support Service can help you with a range of SEND-related issues. For more information, visit their website or email daiss@barnardos.org.uk. Service users at Gateshead SENDiass have made a [YouTube video](#) explaining what the service offers and how they can help you.

Gateshead Children's Centres and Gateshead Play Services have planned a range of groups and activities for children, young people, and families for the upcoming summer holiday. Membership of Gateshead Children's Centres is free and enables families with children under 5 years to access a wide range of free activities and services. The Play Service provide activities and services for families with children and young people aged 5 years and over. For more information and details on how to join, visit the [Gateshead Children's Centres](#) website or their [Facebook](#) page.

North East Family Fun is a blog which publicises events and things to do for all ages and abilities across the North East, providing ideas for making the most of family life. Find out more at www.northeastfamilyfun.co.uk or visit their [Facebook](#) page.

The **'Supporting Parents New to Hearing Loss' online events** are an ideal opportunity for families to get the information they need after diagnosis. With support from experts, advice and guidance teams, and friendly hosts this is a great starting point for families new to the world of childhood deafness. The full range of events for families and deaf children/young people can be found [here](#).

Contact us: Special Educational Needs and Disability Team, Gateshead Council.
senteam@gateshead.gov.uk 0191 433 3626 [Follow us on Facebook](#)

We value your feedback and to help us improve our newsletter we have created a short survey which you can access by [clicking here](#).

