

Gateshead SEND Network Newsletter

September 2021

Hello! Welcome to the Gateshead SEND Network Newsletter.



Gateshead Council's SEND team would like to congratulate everyone for their fantastic efforts during the COVID pandemic.

For more information about the SEND services available to you, go to www.gateshead-localoffer.org, follow the Gateshead SEND Local Offer Facebook page or visit the [Gateshead Local Offer YouTube channel](#).

Gateshead PCF Family Fun Day



Gateshead's Parent Carer Forum organised their first **Family Fun Day** at Dunston Activity Centre in August. There were lots of fun things to do. Representatives from the NHS, Gateshead Council's SEND Team and the Chronicle Sunshine Fund were present to answer enquiries from parent carers.

The group plan to hold another event at Christmas.

For information about future events or to register interest in joining the Forum, please contact info@gatesheadparentcarerforum.co.uk. Click on the [Gateshead PCF](#) Local Offer page for more information.

SEND Careers Event

Gateshead Council have organised a Preparing for Adulthood careers event. The event will be held at the **Dryden Centre SOTA building on October 20th 2021, 1:30pm-6:00pm.**



The event is aimed at **anyone with an EHCP from Year 10 – Year 13** from any specialist school, college or educational placement.

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Parent carers are welcome to attend, which aims to help young people and their families understand what support is available to them.

For further information please contact Lee Peacock (Careers IAG Lead) leepeacock@gateshead.gov.uk, phone 0191 4333856, or speak to your school, college or educational placement about it.

To register your interest and book your place please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/p46m27xhUt>

Learning Disability Annual Health Checks



People with a learning disability often have poorer physical and mental health than other people. This does not need to be the case.

Annual health checks are for **adults and young people aged 14 or over with a learning disability**. Anyone aged 14 or over who's on their GP's learning disability register can have a **free annual health check once a year**. If your GP surgery hasn't offered you an annual health check, you can ask them to give you one.

Find out more by watching the [Health Is Everybody's Responsibility video](#) or going to the NHS website [Learning disabilities - Annual health checks](#).

Keiron's Success Story



Kieron is 19 years old; he has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and struggled at school.

Gateshead Council's SEND Team helped Kieron find a place at Trinity Academy, which helped him **prepare for the world of work**. "I passed my Maths with a 6 and passed English with a 4, and I passed my personal training course and Mechanics. At college I did work related things – I did a Personal Trainer course, I tried construction then got into

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mechanics. I completed a two year course in about 8 months.”

Kieron has successfully completed his studies and now has a full-time job which he independently travels to and from. “My dream job is to be a firefighter”, says Kieron.

Keiron has this advice for other young people: “**Stick in. You don’t realise how many opportunities you have until they’re gone.**”

Independent Travel Training



Independent Travel Training is about giving young people the **skills and confidence to travel safely on public transport**. It can open up lots of new opportunities for young people.

Luke Birkbeck is the lead travel trainer for Gateshead Council’s Travel Care team. “To be an independent traveller is a **huge life skill** for a young person and can open a plethora of **new opportunities**,” says Luke.



Feedback from the programme has been overwhelmingly positive. “I think it is a good experience,” says one graduate of the programme. “I went from someone who could barely leave the house himself to someone who could show a bus pass and go anywhere I wanted.”

For more information on the Independent Travel Training programme, please email Gateshead’s Travel Care team via lukebirkbeck@gateshead.gov.uk

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.

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Gateshead's Children with Disabilities Team (CWDT)

provides social care support to meet the needs of children who have substantial, long-term disabilities which have a profound impact on their lives. For more information, please see the [CWDT web page](#) or visit the [Gateshead Local Offer](#) website.



Gateshead Autism Information Hub is now back up and running following the easing of COVID restrictions. Drop in sessions are held at the Elgin Children's Centre on the second Monday of each month 09:30-11:30am. Phone 01914336300 or message the Gateshead Autism Information Hub Facebook page for more details.



The NHS Little Orange Book contains advice and tips on how to manage common illnesses and problems that babies and young children often experience in the first 5 years of their lives. It also has information on more serious conditions, what to look out for and how to get help. Please contact your health visitor, GP or the Gateshead Children, Young People & Families team at nqccg.cypfgh@nhs.net to get your copy.



Contact us

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