

Gateshead SEND Network News

Gateshead
LOCAL OFFER

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Hello!

Welcome to the Gateshead SEND Network Newsletter.

Gateshead Council's SEND team strives to continually improve the services available to children, young people, and families of those with additional needs. For more information go to www.gateshead-localoffer.org, follow the Gateshead SEND Local Offer [Facebook page](#) or visit the [Gateshead Local Offer YouTube channel](#).

An easy read version of this newsletter can be found [here](#).

DJ Lewis is Aiming High

Seventeen-year-old Lewis Proud is working hard to secure a bright future in the music industry. Lewis – who performs under the name LewPro – has a diagnosis of autism, but has never seen this as a barrier to success. "It didn't really affect me to be quite honest with you," he says. "If I didn't tell you I was autistic you wouldn't really know."

Gateshead resident Lewis – a former pupil at Whickham School – is currently studying a Level 3 course in Music Production and DJ at Newcastle College and has big ambitions. "My aspiration is to be able to DJ at some of the big festivals in the UK or abroad," he says. "I'd like to get into the charts and be able to make a living off my music and DJing. I've signed to a record label called Open House Records and have a track hopefully coming out around July/August time."



Lewis' stage show is brought to life by a full LED mask which covers his face. "I basically wear it for all of my performances. Once I put it on I'm in the zone. I've always wanted to be a masked DJ – I'm not naturally comfortable on stage so it definitely helps out with that. It just adds to my persona and makes me stand out a bit more."

Lewis has this advice for others who may have additional needs: "Don't let it hold you back from anything."

At the end of the day, you're just like everybody else. You've got a special gift - if you've got any sort of special need it's a gift."

Check out LewPro's music by clicking on [LewPro - YouTube](#), <https://www.facebook.com/LewProMusic>, or search for LewPro on Spotify.

'Youth Voice Matters'

Children and Young People's SEND Conference



On Wednesday 23rd February, four members of the Gateshead SEND Youth Forum joined the national 'Youth Voice Matters' SEND Children and Young People's Conference. The conference was organised by the Council for Disabled Children and developed by children and young people with additional needs, aiming to promote participation and encourage youth voice. The keynote speech was given by Will Quince MP – Secretary of State for Children and Families – who talked to the young people about the importance of their voice "being heard right at the heart of government – all the way up to the Prime Minister."

The group attended two workshops during the day: one around getting the right support in school and college, and one focussing on the ongoing government SEND Review. This workshop gave

the group a chance to express their opinions around the services they use and how these can be improved, with feedback being used to directly inform the national SEND Review.

"It was good to hear from Will Quince", says SEND Youth Forum member Danny. "The most useful workshop was SEND Review: Have Your Say. If I was to attend next year's conference I would like to do a workshop on the changes made in 2014, and the rights I have concerning my EHCP."

For more information about the conference, visit [Youth Voice Matters Children and Young People's SEND Conference](#).

Find out about the [Council for Disabled Children](#) here.

Gateshead's Vision for SEND Participation

Gateshead Council's SEND Team are working with Gateshead SEND Youth Forum and Gateshead Parent Carer Forum to co-produce a new SEND Children and Young People's Participation Strategy for the borough. We believe that the voices and opinions of children and young people with SEND deserve to be recognised at the highest levels, and the development of the new strategy is vital to this.

Participation has long-term benefits in helping to develop skills and confidence in children and young people, giving them a voice in issues that really affect their lives. Aisia Howard is the Young People's Participation Manager at national charity KIDS and is working alongside Gateshead Council to produce the strategy.

'Gateshead's engagement and responsiveness is making the development process swift and effective', says Aisia. 'If the area continues



to work in this way, the success and impact achieved through the strategy will have a lasting legacy for participation and SEND voice.'

To add your voice and ideas to the participation strategy, please click here: [Gateshead - Participation Collaboration \(office.com\)](#). More information about KIDS can be found at www.kids.org.uk

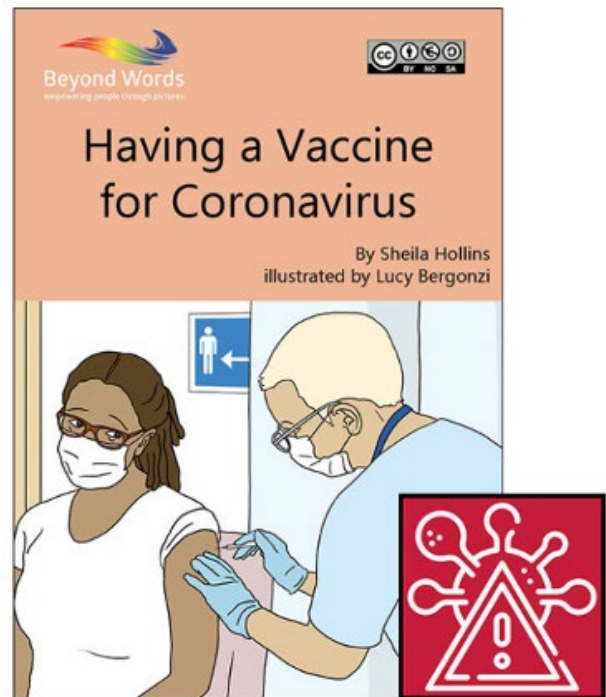
Books Beyond Words

Beyond Words (booksbeyondwords.co.uk) is a UK charity publishing picture stories for people with learning disabilities, supporters, families and professionals. Their stories cover topics including physical and mental health, lifestyle and relationships, abuse and trauma, grief and bereavement, employment, and criminal justice.

Each story is co-created with and for people who find pictures easier to understand than words. This includes people with learning disabilities, autism and people with cognitive or communication difficulties.


'Having a Vaccine for Coronavirus' is a short wordless story designed to help people think about the coronavirus vaccine and what having the vaccine will mean.

The pictures can help people to ask questions and talk through their feelings and concerns with a supporter so that they feel prepared when they receive their invitation.



To access the resource, click here:

[Having+a+Vaccine+for+Coronavirus.pdf](https://www.squarespace.com/Having+a+Vaccine+for+Coronavirus.pdf)
(squarespace.com)



Hi, my name is Erin Harvey and I work for the Gateshead Children, Young People and Families team as the Designated Clinical Officer for SEND.

My job is to provide health advice to Local Authorities, schools and colleges about children and young people with SEND. I am the key point of contact when talking to parent carers and the Local Authority about children and young people, offering advice on SEN or disabilities.

To contact me, please email ngccg.cypfgh@nhs.net

Activities, Information and Resources

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

Gateshead libraries have a full programme of events taking place across Gateshead this spring.

Visit [Gateshead Libraries Events | Eventbrite](#) or call **0191 433 8420** for details of events taking place near you.



The Charlie Waller organisation is a mental health charity which aims to help young people understand their own mental health, to equip them to support themselves and those around them, and to empower them to talk more openly about the subject. Visit www.charliewaller.org for more details.

The 0-19 Growing Healthy team have launched an app to support children, young people and their families across the borough. The app is available to everyone and includes information on local services available to you. **Download for free via the App store, Google Play or visit [Growing Healthy 0-19 New app](#)**



Contact us: Special Educational Needs and Disability Team, Gateshead Council.
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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 here](#).