

Gateshead SEND Network Newsletter

March 2022



Hello! Welcome to the Gateshead SEND Network Newsletter.

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](#).

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**.

On stage, Lewis wears a full LED mask which covers his face. “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' 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 is organised by the Council for Disabled Children and has been developed by children and young people with additional needs, aiming to **promote participation and encourage youth voice**.

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

SEND Youth Forum member Danny said: "The most useful workshop was the *SEND Review: Have Your Say* delivered by The Send Review Team. 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**.

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 with Gateshead Council in producing 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 opinion please click here: [Gateshead - Participation Collaboration \(office.com\)](#). More information about KIDS can be found at www.kids.org.uk

Health Advice

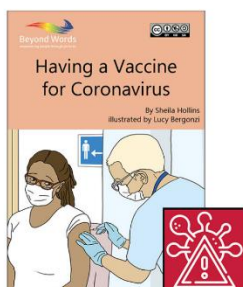


Hi, my name is Erin Harvey and I work for the Gateshead Children, Young People and Families team as the Designated Clinical Officer for SEND.

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

Books Beyond Words



[Beyond Words \(booksbeyondwords.co.uk\)](http://booksbeyondwords.co.uk) is a UK charity publishing picture stories for people with learning disabilities, supporters, family and professionals.

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 \(squarespace.com\)](https://www.squarespace.com)

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 at 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 **01914338420** 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 - Gateshead Local Offer](#)**



Contact us

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