

# Gateshead SEND Network Newsletter

## October 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](http://www.gateshead-localoffer.org), follow the Gateshead SEND Local Offer Facebook page or visit the [Gateshead Local Offer YouTube channel](#).

### Gateshead SEND Careers and Transitions Event 2022



Gateshead Council will host its second Careers and Transitions fair for SEND young people and their parents/carers on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

The event will take place at the Dryden Centre SOTA building between 10am-5pm and aims to help young people and their families start to think about their next course and the job opportunities that follow

“Last year’s event was tremendously successful with over 200 attendees and representation from 20 organisations,” says Gateshead Council Chief Executive Sheena Ramsey. “This year we want the event to reach even more of our young people and to provide them with an even greater insight into the world of work, their next steps, and the support that is available to enable them to take those steps with confidence.”

Refreshments will be available throughout the day, which will be prepared by students from Gateshead Council’s Learning and Skills learning disabilities provision.

For further information please contact [NicholasDoherty@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:NicholasDoherty@Gateshead.Gov.UK) 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>.



## Gateshead SEND Youth Forum

The Gateshead SEND Youth Forum meets monthly and is open to all local children and young people with SEND. They have had a great year so far, getting involved in many valuable and interesting projects at a local and a national level:

- **‘My Voice Counts’ Children and Young People’s SEND Conference:**  
Members of the 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.
- **National SEND Review Consultation:**  
The Forum discussed the government SEND Review Green Paper and gave feedback about their experiences of education. This was sent to the government’s SEND Review team and will be used to inform changes to the national SEND system.
- **Gateshead SEND Participation Strategy:**  
The Forum is currently co-producing Gateshead Council’s Participation Strategy which aims to improve participation of children and young people with SEND in Gateshead.

The Gateshead SEND Youth Forum are always looking for new members. For more information about the Forum and how to join visit <https://gateshead-localoffer.org/gateshead-send-young-peoples-forum/> or email [alexthompson@gateshead.org.uk](mailto:alexthompson@gateshead.org.uk). Accessible minutes from all this year’s meetings can be found at <https://gateshead-localoffer.org/gateshead-send-youth-forum-accessible-minutes-2022/>



## NeuroBears

A local family has set up a new course for autistic young people. NeuroBears is aimed at children 8-14 in mainstream education but is accessible to anyone new to understanding their autism. It consists of 12 videos which

explain sensory systems, neurodiversity, disability, communication, meltdowns, shutdowns, masking, and much more.

Zoe King of Gateshead helped to design the course. Zoe started their own autistic advocacy project in 2020 and has spoken at international conferences around making public spaces sensory friendly to autistic people. They are involved in the Gateshead SEND Youth Forum and other national political change meetings.

Feedback on the course has been positive, with one young person saying “NeuroBears was fun, engaging and I would definitely recommend it to people struggling with their autism or just autistic people in general.”

**To find out more visit [www.pandasonline.org](http://www.pandasonline.org) or click [The Neuro Bears - YouTube](#)**



### **Learning Disability Annual Health Check**

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.

An annual health check can help you stay well by talking to a doctor or nurse about your health and finding any problems early, so they can be sorted out. You do not have to be ill to have a health check – in fact, most people have their annual health check when they are feeling well.

The local NHS Integrated Care Board has put together a promotional video giving an overview of what it is like to attend an annual health check from a young person's perspective.

**Find out more by watching [Learning Disability Annual Health checks in Gateshead - YouTube](#) or going to the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/learning-disabilities/annual-health-checks/>**



**Contact us**

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