

## 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](http://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 [Issue-8-Easy-Read.docx \(live.com\)](#)

## Connor's Pathway to Employment

A young Gateshead resident is about to take the next step on his journey into employment. Seventeen-year-old Connor Mudie, who attends Dryden School's Sixth Form, has been offered a job with the NHS following a successful work experience placement organised by the school and Health Education England.

"I'm starting as soon as we get the paperwork sorted," says Connor. "I've been doing work experience there for the past three months. I wash the ambulances and buses for other people to drive them. My job will be 20 hours a week over four days."

Connor has secured his role through determination and a strong work ethic. "I like to work," he says. "I wash cars, I work for the school café making the food - I've been making sausage sandwiches! I like doing gardening - cutting grass - or working on the farm. I love doing these type of things. I'm just waiting for my wages to come through. I'd like more hours cos you get paid more!"

Connor is rightfully proud of his achievements and also has praise for the way Dryden School have helped him achieve his ambitions. "I get loads of



help when I'm at school. I talk to staff a lot about things that's been happening. I'm definitely proud of myself. My mam and dad's proud. Work experience has helped me. When I work problems go away - it makes me feel good about myself."

More information about Gateshead's Careers Information, Advice and Guidance team can be found at [Careers Information, Advice and Guidance \(IAG\) - Gateshead Council](#).

For more information about Dryden School, [visit their website](#) or phone 0191 420 3812.

# SEND Swimming Sessions



Go Gateshead are offering weekly SEND-specific swimming sessions at Dunston and Blaydon Leisure Centres. The sessions are intended to be quieter and aimed at families who have children with special educational needs and disabilities. Although SEND swimmers are welcome at all swimming sessions, this dedicated session will give an opportunity for the whole family to swim in a friendly and relaxed environment.

## Session times are:

**Dunston Leisure Centre:** Saturday 10am-11am

**Blaydon Leisure Centre:** Sunday 3pm-4pm

Proof of disability status is not required to attend these sessions.

For more information visit [Swim session types - GO Gateshead](#).

## Gateshead Independent Travel Training

Hello, my name is Nicola. I have recently joined the Travel Care Team as the new Travel Trainer.



The travel team provide assisted transport to vulnerable people whose additional needs mean that they are unable to independently travel. My role is to liaise with schools, parents and other multidisciplinary teams to identify young people and adults who may safely undertake independent travel training and become able to use public transport. Young people tell us that being an independent traveler increases their confidence and self-esteem, reduces the reliance on parents/family members, supports friendships and gives them a greater choice of post-16 curriculum options. I am a strong advocate for giving people the opportunity to have more choice, control and independence and I find the role deeply rewarding.

If you would like to contact me you can email [nicolacharlton@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:nicolacharlton@gateshead.gov.uk) or ring the Travel Care Team on 0191 4337484.

# Gateshead SENDIAS Service

The SENDIAS (Special Educational Needs & Disability Information Advice and Support) Service provides independent impartial advice to parents/carers about their child's special educational needs and advice to children and young people about their SEN.

Gateshead's SENDIAS Service is provided by Barnardo's Disability and Inclusion Support Service on behalf of Gateshead Council. They are open Monday - Thursday, 09:00-17:00 and Friday, 09:00-16:30.

For more information, visit [Gateshead SENDIASS | Barnardo's \(barnardossendiass.org.uk\)](#) email [daiss@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:daiss@barnardos.org.uk) or phone 0191 478 4667. Service users at Gateshead SENDIass have made a [YouTube video](#) explaining what the service offers and how they can help you.



# British Sign Language 999 App

A new service has launched to allow people to make 999 calls using British Sign Language (BSL). The new service - 999 BSL - allows deaf people to make emergency calls using an app or website, connecting callers with a BSL interpreter.



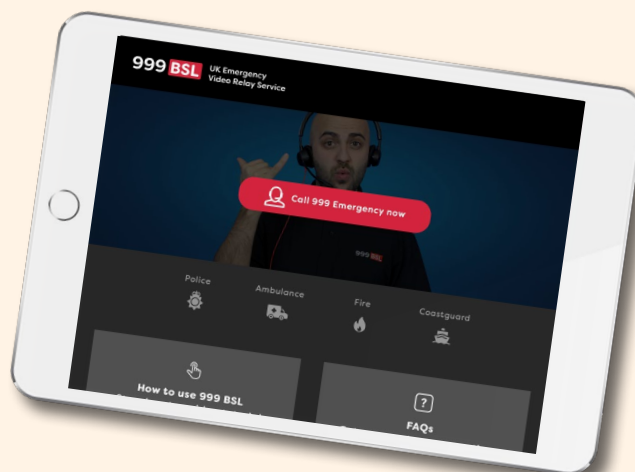
The system, which launched in June, is the first time a 999 emergency service has been available in British Sign Language, though a similar process exists for the NHS 111 number.

People who use the service will be put through to a BSL interpreter, who will then relay the conversation to a 999 operator.

The service is free to use and operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is available to download as a [Download : 999 BSL](#) and access as a [web-based platform at 999bsl.co.uk](#).

Visit [999 BSL](#) for more details and instructions on how to download the app.

You can watch an introductory video at [999 BSL - YouTube](#).



# Gateshead SEND Local Offer

In Gateshead, we want to make sure that children and young people (from birth to 25 years) with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND) and their families get the best possible support and help when they need it.

Gateshead  
**LOCAL  
OFFER**



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# Summer Holiday Ideas

**#BRIGHTENTHEDAY**

Gateshead Council's 'Brighten the Day' programme is again providing free activities for children and families during the school holidays, thanks to government funding from the Department for Education's Holiday Activities and Food Programme. The programme provides healthy food and fun activities for school aged children across Gateshead.

Contact [brightentheday@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:brightentheday@gateshead.gov.uk) or visit [Family activities and food 2022 - Gateshead Council](#) for details.



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 - Gateshead Council](#) website or their [Facebook page](#).

**Seven Stories** – The National Centre for Children's Books in Newcastle – is open every day except Wednesdays in term time, and seven days a week in the school holidays.

To see what's on and plan a visit, click [Seven Stories | The National Centre for Children's Books](#).

**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](http://www.northeastfamilyfun.co.uk) or visit their [Facebook page](#).

**Contact us:** Special Educational Needs and Disability Team, Gateshead Council.  
[senteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto: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](#).