

Gateshead SEND Network News

Gateshead
**LOCAL
OFFER**

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Hello!

Welcome to Gateshead's Spring 2025 SEND Network Newsletter.

In Gateshead we believe that the voice, opinions and experiences of children and young people with SEND and their families should be at the heart of everything we do. 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](#).

A simplified version of this newsletter can be found at <https://gateshead-localoffer.org/gateshead-send-network-newsletter/>

National Supported Internship Day

Interns, families and friends, and employees from across Gateshead Council came together to celebrate this year's National Supported Internship Day on 27th March. The day celebrated the amazing achievements of our interns and shone a spotlight on how the internships are empowering young people with disabilities to pursue their career aspirations.

Gateshead Learning and Skills' Supported Internship programme is a full-time supportive programme designed for 16-24-year-olds with SEND to gain valuable workplace skills through meaningful work experience placements within Gateshead Council. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my work placement at Gateshead Family Hubs," says Kye. "I feel like I am making a positive difference in the lives of children and families. I have also enjoyed the digital skills sessions, which have helped me to improve my technical capabilities and feel more confident in the workplace. I am also delighted to have been successfully hired as a casual playworker with Gateshead Family Hubs following my internship. This new role is a significant step in my career journey and provides a solid foundation for my future employment."

Councillor Gary Haley, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People at Gateshead Council, said:

"The National Supported Internship Day event was a fantastic occasion where we really got to celebrate



our amazing interns. Supported Internships empower those who undertake them, enriching workplaces and embedding inclusivity. The interns carry out such a wide range of work at Gateshead Council from working in our family hubs to our neighbourhood housing team and many others too; services which are pivotal to our communities. I am delighted to see our interns thrive here and look forward to hearing about their future careers, which I am sure will see them all excel in their chosen roles."

If you would like to find out more about Gateshead Council's Supported Internship Programme, visit <https://mylearningskills.co.uk/supported-internships>. You can also watch a video of Adam Flowdy, another of our Supported Interns, discussing his internship on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcS2tvFNU7w>

Gateshead Local Offer – Live 25!



Gateshead Council are hosting the Gateshead Local Offer – Live 25! Event at the Civic Centre on Friday 13 June 2025 from 9:30am – 5pm. This will be an in-person, Local Offer event for SEND young people and adults, parents, carers and the professionals that support them to access services offering information, advice and support, and navigating the future.

The Gateshead Local Offer brings together information for children and young people aged 0-25 years with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families. This includes information about services and support, and advice and guidance on education, health, social care and transport.

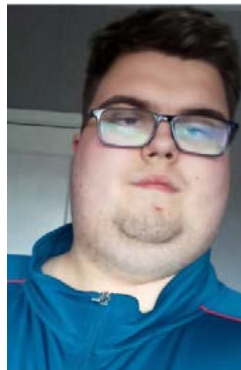
Attendance to the event is FREE for everyone. If you have any questions, or require further information, please email: SEnDFutures@gateshead.gov.uk. Please use this link for directions and parking information: <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/7157/Civic-Centre-NE8-1HH>.

Brad's Footy Podcast

Hi, I'm Brad. I'm 22 years of age and I've created my own podcast.

My podcast is about all North East football teams. I'm a massive Sunderland fan, but the podcast covers Newcastle United, Middlesbrough as well as Sunderland, South Shields and Gateshead – getting various views from different football fans. My channel used to just focus on Sunderland, but in order to grow the subscribers I decided to change it to more of a broader audience. Now we've got 454 subscribers – it's gone up by about 40 in the last month!

There's me and a small team who run the podcast. I used to record it at Gateshead College where I was



a student at Project Choice. I'm not a student there anymore so I do it from home virtually on Zoom or Stream Yard – I tend to stream now and it connects onto YouTube.

If I had any advice for people it would be don't give up in life and keep going. Practise makes perfect and even if you have special needs and disabilities it still makes you a normal person, you can do anything and achieve anything! If you want to go down the media route I would recommend doing some sort of media course at college. I used to do that at Gateshead College where I did a lot of podcasting, I made and edited a lot of films and edited my own podcasts. It gave me good experience to do podcasts professionally.

To listen and a subscribe to Brad's podcast, go to <https://www.youtube.com/@SportCastNE>

Lucy's Story

9-year-old Lucy loves sports and playing outside but because of her Vision Impairment she wasn't allowed to play outside or do any sports for fear of her retinas detaching. When her Qualified Teacher of Vision Impairment (QTVI) Carrie-Anne Brooke Lovell from Gateshead's Low Incidence Needs Team (LINT) found out about Lucy's passion for sports, she set about trying to help.

To read more about Lucy's story and find out how Carrie-Anne used the Curriculum Framework for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment (CFVI) to develop

inclusive VI sports provision for children and young people in the northeast, visit <https://www.pocklington.org.uk/education/education-policy/cfvi/cfvi-in-action-gatesheads-vision-for-inclusive-sport/>



For more information on Gateshead's LINT Team, visit <https://educationgateshead.org/lint/>

Dryden School 'Vision Friendly School' Award

Dryden school recently achieved Vision Friendly School Award – the first school in Gateshead to do so. This underlies our ethos of being totally inclusive and promoting our pupils' independence, learning and communication regardless of their need.

Over a third of our students have some form of VI (Visual Impairment) need which can range from having some impact to students having very little vision and using a cane, and learning braille in school or another form of communication such as Moon symbols. The school environment was recognised as being well adapted to accommodate VI learners and the curriculum as being appropriately differentiated for their needs to a good standard. We promote communication, for example through



specialist equipment such as Eyegaze where a student can make choices by looking towards the preferred symbol or picture when they cannot tell us verbally and through a multi-sensory approach which benefits not only these learners but every pupil. We have introduced tangible symbols, on body signing and book bags for multi-sensory impairment.



VI teachers and specialist support assistants from LINT work collaboratively with staff at Dryden as well as outside agencies to promote the best life chances for our pupils with VI needs. Ofsted recently also judged our school to continue to be outstanding, including provision for our VI learners - Elizabeth Johnson (Headteacher)

Dryden School is a specialist school for students aged between 11-18 who have Severe or Profound and Multiple learning difficulties. For more information, visit <https://www.drydenschool.co.uk/>

Eslington School Marathon Day

Eslington Primary School held their annual charity fundraising day in March. This year, the pupils have chosen to raise money for two local charities – Bryson's Animal Shelter and the Gateshead Foodbank. The first event – planned and organised by the school's Student Council – was for a sponsored 'Run a Marathon' day in support of Bryson's. The aim was for the whole school, over their two sites, to run the equivalent of a marathon with each class running for half an hour each in the hope of reaching their 26 mile target.

The children smashed their target, eventually running a combined total 182,670 metres – which is the equivalent of 113.5 miles – raising £94.11 for their chosen charity. Student Council facilitator Ms Richter was delighted with everybody's efforts: "This year, the children wanted to raise money for some good causes which are close to home," she said. "Our target was



to run 42,200m for a marathon and the children ran just under five marathons! It has been an amazing day and I am so proud of the children for their efforts!"

The children are equally as happy, with one saying: "I ran this for my dog who passed away at Christmas. I'm proud as a peacock!" "I feel happy," said a Class 8 pupil. "I could run another one!"

Eslington Primary School is a special school for children between 5-11 years of age with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. For more information visit <https://eslingtonschool.uk/> or email eslingtonprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk

For information Bryson's Animal Shelter, visit <https://brysons.org.uk/>

Activities, Information and Resources



The Gateshead SEND Activities Directory has been developed to provide free and impartial information to families about activities suitable for those with SEND within the local and surrounding area and offered online.

Access the Directory at <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/28686/SEND-activities-directory>



Gateshead Family Hubs are running their popular SEND Lego sessions at many of their hubs across Gateshead. Sessions are aimed at children under 12 with additional needs and are free to access. Parents, carers, and siblings are also welcome to attend, with free build and structured build activities available. Let your imagination go wild!

Contact familyhubs@gateshead.gov.uk or phone 0191 433 5052 for details of dates and locations.



Useful Vision provides positive opportunities and free events for visually impaired children around the North East. They work with children and their families to give them the support they need to learn new skills and make new friends – reducing social isolation through increased confidence and self-esteem. See their April-June activity booklet at <https://www.healthworksne.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Final-Useful-vision-activities-leaflet-5-March-2025-2-compressed.pdf>

Families can register online and see an online calendar here <https://www.usefulvision.org.uk/events/>

For further information please email usefulvision@hwn.org.uk

Contact us:

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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 <https://forms.office.com/e/iGHp2bGaSq>

