

# Gateshead Autism Services Directory 2018

for Children and Families

# Introduction

This directory provides useful information about services within Gateshead and the surrounding areas for people with Autism Spectrum Condition and their families.

A range of services are included, some of which are autism specific, while others cater for a wider group of people.

For those services which are autism specific, we've indicated this alongside the service information. Due to the nature of autism as a spectrum condition, the services listed in this directory will not be relevant for everyone. Therefore, eligibility criteria and referral details have been included where appropriate as well as contact details in order for you to seek further information.

We recognise that individuals will have personal preferences with regards to the terminology used for example; person with autism, autistic, autism spectrum disorder, autism spectrum condition etc. We have used the terminology as used by specific services when referencing them and elsewhere use person with autism and autism spectrum condition.

## Gateshead Autism Steering Group

The Gateshead Autism Steering group is working to implement an Autism Strategy. Consultation with parents and families has told us that they want clearer information about the services and support that might be available to them. Part of the response to this feedback has been to create this directory. Another important aspect has been the development of the Autism Information Hub.

## Autism Information Hub

The Autism Information Hub is located at Gateshead Central Library and offers resources about autism and a monthly face-to-face information and signposting service to people with autism, their families/carers and practitioners. A diagnosis of autism is not a requirement for accessing the Information Hub or seeking further advice.

<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/Health-and-Social-Care/Autism/Autism-Information-Hub.aspx>

# We're here to help

We hope you find this directory a helpful starting point and link to the services available. We've listed the services in each section alphabetically to make it easier to find what you need. To find out more about the Local Offer in Gateshead and the services available to children/young people with SEN and their families a good place to start is to check out our Local Offer: [www.gateshead.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/localoffer)

## Have we missed anything?

If you feel that any information is inaccurate, or there is anything you think we have not featured that would be useful in future issues please let us know.

## Prefer a hard copy of this information?

That's no problem, just contact us at the address below and we'll put one in the post to you. And if you'd like one in a different format – large print/Braille/on CD/MP3 we can do that too.

Tel: 0191 433 3619

Email: [senteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@gateshead.gov.uk)

SEN Team

Gateshead Council, Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead NE8 1HH

This directory will be reviewed periodically in order to reflect available services and to meet the needs of families for accurate and up to date information and advice. We do not have direct knowledge of all the services listed and therefore inclusion does not imply recommendation.

# A-Z Directory of Services

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## Social Activities

Accessible Music Projects - Sage Gateshead  
Active Access  
Children's Centres  
FACETS Specialist Play Scheme  
Friends Action North East  
Gateshead Kestrels Disability Sports Club  
Phab Club  
Play Development Service  
Quiet Room  
Sensory Rooms  
SNAP! Special Needs Accessible Play  
St Chad's Community Project  
The Avenues Youth and Community Education Project  
The Funky Club  
The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company  
The Twisting Ducks Theatre Company  
Toy Library  
Voiceworks Project

## Social Care

Gateshead Council's Special Educational Needs and Disability Team  
Personal Budgets  
Short Breaks for disabled children & young people

## Support and Advice

Autism Information Hub  
Autism Parenting Programmes  
Autism Support Service  
Autism Supporters  
Citizens Advice Bureau  
Gateshead Access Panel  
Gateshead Autism Group  
Gateshead Carers Association  
Gateshead Family Information Service  
Gateshead Network of Children with Disabilities  
Local Offer  
NEAS Parent Support Group  
Parenting Courses  
Parents In Power  
Young Carers Service

## Regional Resources

Accessible Music Projects - Sage Gateshead  
Ace Playce Soft Play  
Autism Friendly Cinema Screenings  
Alan Shearer Centre  
Autism in Mind Sunderland  
Autism North East  
Calvert Trust Kielder  
CEA Card  
Cerebra  
Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorders Service  
Contact A Family North East  
Daslne

Friends Action North East  
Icebox  
Inspired Support  
Lucky Stars Sports Session  
National Autistic Society  
Nexus Concessionary Travel Pass  
North East Autism Society  
Northeast Special Needs Network  
Pathways4All  
Special Friends  
Sepctrum  
Sports North Tyneside  
The Twisting Ducks Theatre Company  
Toby Henderson Trust  
Tyneside Cinema  
Washington Riding Centre

## National online resources

Ambitious About Autism  
Autism Connect  
Autism West Midlands  
Autistic UK  
Autistica  
Babble (Young Carers)  
Challenging Behaviour Foundation  
Council for Disabled Children  
Early Support Information on Autistic Spectrum Disorders  
Enuresis Resource and Information Centre  
Epilepsy Advisory Service  
Government Links  
IPSEA  
PDA Society  
Research Autism  
The Communication Trust  
The Money Advice Service  
The National Autistic Society

# Education

## Additionally Resourced Mainstream Schools (ARMS)

### WHAT ARE THEY?

ARMS are schools which specialise in a particular area of learning need. Children in ARMS usually have an Education, Health and Care Plan and are generally taught in smaller classes with a higher level of support than a normal mainstream school but will have opportunities to mix with children in the mainstream school.

### WHO ARE THEY FOR?

Children and young people requiring additional support at school.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Special Educational Needs and Disability Team  
Gateshead Council, Regent Street, Gateshead NE8 1HH  
Tel: 0191 433 3619  
Email: [senteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@gateshead.gov.uk)  
Web: [Specialist Educational Provision](#)

## Connexions Tyne and Wear

### WHAT IS IT?

Connexions is a confidential advice and support service which works with young people. Personal Advisors offer one to one advice and support on a wide range of lifestyle issues including careers, education, training, employment, health and personal development opportunities

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Young people aged 13-19 and young people with special needs up to the age of 25.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Tel: 0191 433 6800  
Text: 07736 497 700  
Web: [www.connexions-tw.co.uk/gateshead](http://www.connexions-tw.co.uk/gateshead)

## Early Years Assessment and Intervention Team (EYAIT)

### WHAT IS IT?

This is a team working in early year's settings like nurseries to ensure children with additional needs from birth to 4 years are given the right support to enable their development and learning. The team is made up of specialist teachers, portage workers, and teaching assistants managed by an Educational Psychologist.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

This team offers assessments, interventions, support and reviews for children who are experiencing significant barriers to their development and learning and for whom specialist intervention is needed. They also support staff working in early year's settings.

Referrals can be made by parents, health visitors, settings or any other involved professional. A referral is initially made to the Gateshead Pre School Education Health and Care (EHC) Referral Panel. This panel is a single point of referral into services for children and their families.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Educational Psychologist  
Gateshead Council, Dryden Centre, Gateshead NE9 5UA  
Tel: 0191 433 8561  
Web: [Referral and parental consent form](#)

## Education, Health and Care Plans – OR single plans

### WHAT IS IT?

Education, Health and Care Plans (sometimes referred to as a Single Plan in Gateshead) replaced statutory statements of SEN from 1 September 2014. The main difference between an EHC Plan and a statement is that an EHC Plan covers the age range 0-25 years and includes health and social care support that is required as well as education.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children and young people aged 0-25 for whom special educational provision may need to be provided.

In most cases, children and young people identified as having complex SEN will be referred for an EHC (Single) Plan assessment by a relevant professional such as a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO), teacher, educational psychologist, health worker, etc. However, parents and carers can also request that the local authority carry out an EHC assessment.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Special Educational Needs and Disability Team  
Gateshead Council, Regent Street, Gateshead NE8 1HH  
Tel: 0191 433 3619

Email: [senteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@gateshead.gov.uk)

Web: [Education, Health and Care \(EHC\) Plans Single Plan Process Guidance for Families](#)



## Independent Support - Core Assets Children's Services

### WHAT IS IT?

This service offers free, independent help and support to families and young people finding their way through the changes to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system.

This applies particularly to children and young people who currently have a Statement for Special Educational Needs or Learning Difficulties Assessment that will be converting to Education, Health, Care (EHC) plans, or anyone due to go through the assessment process for a brand new EHC plan.

Independent supporters work with the child/young person and their families so they understand the local referral process and local offer.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children and young people with autism and their families/carers who have or are going through the assessment process for a EHC plan.

### HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

For further information or to request an Independent Supporter:

Tel: 0800 028 8455

Email: [ISreferrals@coreassets.com](mailto:ISreferrals@coreassets.com)

Web: [www.coreassets.com/what-we-do/independent-support-service](http://www.coreassets.com/what-we-do/independent-support-service)

## Gateshead Pre-School Learning Alliance Inclusion Project

### WHAT IS IT?

The Project offers support to pre-school disabled children and their parents to attend their local pre-school group, parent and toddler group, playgroup or the day nursery.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Pre-school disabled children and their parents.

### HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

St James St Bede, Wordsworth Street, Gateshead NE8 3HE

Tel: 0191 477 1254

## Gateshead Psychological Service

### WHAT IS IT?

The Psychological Service consists of highly qualified and skilled child-focused practitioners. They use their skills and knowledge to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people across the age range 0-25 years. It is a targeted and specialist service for children with special educational needs and disabilities, those at risk of exclusion and those whose life chances are impaired as a result of challenging circumstances.

The Team offers a range of support for schools, settings and colleges including consultation, individual assessment, group work, interventions and training. In addition, they provide support and advice to parents regarding child development, parenting issues and children's progress in school.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

The service supports children and young people up to the age of 25 (and their families) living in Gateshead, who have been referred through school, early years setting or college.

### HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

Speak to your school/early years setting/college

## Independent Supporter

### WHAT ARE THEY?

Independent Supporters are employed through voluntary, community or private organisations. Their role is to support children, young people and parents/carers through the Education, Health and Care Plan assessment process. Independent Supporters can also help families to challenge the Council's decision making if there is a disagreement.

### WHO ARE THEY FOR?

Children, young people and parents/carers going through the education, health and care plan assessment process.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Special Educational Needs and Disability Team  
Gateshead Council, Regent Street, Gateshead NE8 1HH  
Tel: 0191 433 3619 Email: [senteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@gateshead.gov.uk)

## Key Supporters

### WHAT ARE THEY?

Key supporters are trained volunteers or workers who have experience of children with additional needs and could be a parent themselves. They help ensure children with additional needs get the right level of support from services.

### WHO ARE THEY FOR?

Usually only children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (sometimes called a Single Plan) will have a key supporter.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Special Educational Needs and Disability Team  
Gateshead Council, Regent Street, Gateshead NE8 1HH  
Tel: 0191 433 3619  
Email: [senteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@gateshead.gov.uk)

## Nurseries and Early Years' Providers

### WHAT SUPPORT SHOULD I EXPECT MY CHILD TO RECEIVE FROM NURSERIES AND EARLY YEARS' PROVIDERS?

Nurseries and early years' providers in Gateshead must have arrangements in place in order to identify as early as possible if a child has additional needs and to provide relevant support for them using the setting's resources. You can ask a nursery/early years provider to provide you with information about how they do this or look for it on their website.

In Gateshead, a team of two SEN and Inclusion consultants support all early years' settings (local, private, voluntary and independent sector, childminders, maintained nurseries and schools) in order to identify SEN and put in place suitable interventions for children.

If a child is not making the expected progress, despite support and intervention from the setting, the child can be referred to the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) panel. If deemed appropriate, support can then be provided by the Early Years Assessment and Intervention Team (EYAIT). Children with more complex developmental needs may also be signposted to appropriate services at this stage.

## Portage Service

### WHAT IS IT?

A home-visiting educational service certified and registered with the National Portage Association. The service works with parents and other services to support and encourage the development of young children's play, communication, independence and social skills.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

The service works with children with 'significant developmental impairment or delays in more than one area of cognitive development, sensory or physical development, communication development, social, behavioural or emotional development' or those that 'have a condition which has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay'. It also works with pre-school children who are experiencing difficulty with social communication and interaction.

Referrals accepted from Community Paediatricians, Child Development Team, Health Visitors, Physiotherapists, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Team, pre-school setting and parents and carers.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Portage Service

Dryden Centre, Gateshead NE9 5UA

Tel: 0191 433 8542 or 0191 433 8543

Web: [Portage Service](#)

## Schools and Academies

Funding is available to schools and academies to support pupils with special educational needs and disability. This can range from the employment of a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) to one-to-one support.

Schools and colleges receive an allocation of funding to meet the needs of students with lower level needs, below £6,000. For students with high needs the Local Authority is responsible for providing additional funding.

### HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

To find out more about how an education provider supports and makes provision for children and young people with SEN and disabilities you should contact them directly or visit their website.

An online information sheet by Independent Parent Special Education Advice (IPSEA) is also a useful source of information about this issue. Click on the link below.

[IPSEA Factsheet on SEN Funding](#)

## Special Educational Needs Improvement Team (SENIT)

### WHAT IS IT?

Gateshead Council's Special Educational Needs Improvement Team (SENIT) consists of two teams: the Low Incidence Needs Team (LINT) and the High Incidence Needs Team (HINT).

HINT consists of teachers who are specialists in a number of areas including Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC). The team provide assessment, advice, recommendations and support to schools and settings providing for children and young people aged 4-25 years with High Incidence Needs.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children and young people aged 4-25 with a range of needs including ASC. Referrals to HINT are usually made by schools/settings, with parent permission.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

SENIT Business Support Team

Gateshead Council, Dryden Centre, Evistones Road, Gateshead NE9 5UR

Tel: 0191 433 8513

Email: [SENITsupportteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:SENITsupportteam@gateshead.gov.uk)

## Special Schools

### WHAT ARE THEY?

There are six special schools in Gateshead, each one specialising in a particular learning need.

SCHOOL	LEARNING NEED	AGE RANGE
<b>Eslington Primary School</b> Hazel Road Gateshead NE8 2EP	Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMH)	Early Years, Key stages 1 & 2 (2-11 years)
<b>Furrowfield School</b> Whitehill Drive Gateshead NE10 9RZ	Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMH)	Key Stages 3 & 4 (11-16 years)
<b>Gibside School</b> Burnthouse Lane Whickham NE16 5AT	General Learning Difficulties, including Autism Spectrum Disorder	Key Stages 1 & 2 (5-11 years)
<b>The Cedars Academy</b> Ivy Lane, Low Fell Gateshead NE9 6QD	Physical Disabilities and/or Communication Difficulties	Early Years & Key Stages 1-4 (2/3 to 16 years)
<b>Dryden School</b> Shotley Gardens Low Fell, Gateshead NE9 5UR	Severe and Profound Learning Difficulties	Key Stages 3 and 4 and post-16 (11-19 years)
<b>Hill Top School</b> Wealcroft, Leam Lane Estate Gateshead NE10 8LT	Moderate Learning Difficulties, including Autism Spectrum Disorder	Key Stages 3 & 4 (11-16 years)

### WHO ARE THEY FOR?

Special schools are for Children and young people requiring a higher level of support at school and who may be eligible to access specialist educational provision in Gateshead.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Special Educational Needs and Disability Team  
Gateshead Council, Regent Street, Gateshead NE8 1HH  
Tel: 0191 433 3619  
Email: [senteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@gateshead.gov.uk)  
Web: [Specialist Educational Provision](#)

# Financial Advice

## Carer's Allowance

### WHAT IS IT?

Carer's Allowance helps you to look after someone with substantial caring needs. Carer's Allowance is taxable and it can also affect your other benefits.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

You don't have to be related to, or live with the person you care for, but you must be 16 or over and spend at least 35 hours a week caring for them.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Carers' Allowance Unit  
Mail Handling Site A, Wolverhampton WV98 2AB  
Tel: 0345 608 4321  
Textphone: 0345 604 5312  
Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm  
Friday, 8.30am-4.30pm  
Web: [www.gov.uk/carers-allowance](http://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance)

## Carer's Assessment

### WHAT IS IT?

A carer's assessment is free and will look at what things could make your role as a carer easier. This includes making sure you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to, as well as information on short breaks, and practical and emotional support available to you in the borough.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

A carer is a person who provides help and support, whether of a practical or emotional nature to someone in ill health or with a disability. Carer's by law have a right to request a carer's assessment.

## HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

For more details and to request a carer's assessment contact Adult Social Care Direct.

Tel: 0191 433 7033

Email: [adultsocialcaredirect@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:adultsocialcaredirect@gateshead.gov.uk)

Web: [Online enquiry form](#)

## Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

### WHAT IS IT?

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children may help with the extra costs of looking after a child.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Families where the child or young person is under 16 and where a disability or health condition means that one or both of the following apply:

- they need more looking after than a child of the same age who doesn't have a disability
- they have difficulty getting about

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Tel: 0345 712 3456

Textphone: 0345 722 4433 Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm

Web: [Disability Living Allowance \(DLA\) Claim form](#)

## Family Fund

### WHAT IS IT?

Family Fund is the UK's largest grant-giving charity for families raising disabled or seriously ill children.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Families across the UK who are raising a disabled or seriously ill child or young person aged 17 or under

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

4 Alpha Court, Monks Cross Drive, York YO32 9WN

Tel: 01904 621 115

Web: [www.familyfund.org.uk](http://www.familyfund.org.uk)



## Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

### WHAT IS IT?

A government benefit to help with some of the extra costs caused by long term ill health or disability.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

People aged 16 to 64 with long term health conditions or disability and difficulties with activities related to 'daily living' or mobility. PIP replaces Disability Living Allowance for this age group.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Tel: 0800 917 2222 (Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm)

Web: <https://www.gov.uk/pip/overview>

## Health

### WHAT SUPPORT SHOULD I EXPECT MY CHILD TO RECEIVE FROM HEALTH SERVICES?

If your child has health or medical needs, you should speak to your GP in the first instance, who will assess your child's needs and refer or signpost you to the right health service for appropriate support/treatment.

If your child is under 5 years, a Health Visitor can also provide advice, information and support and signpost you to appropriate health services and organisations. School nurses are also a good point of contact; their role is to improve and oversee children's health in school - they can provide care and support for children with disabilities or complex emotional needs and can also signpost children to relevant health services.

A school SENCO may also identify needs and refer your child to health services such as a speech therapist, physiotherapist or occupational therapist. Health/medical needs could include problems with speech, language or communication, sensory problems e.g. sight or hearing, mobility issues, specific conditions and mental health and emotional issues like self-esteem, anxiety, depression and stress.

## Adult Autism Diagnostic Service

### WHAT IS IT?

This is an autism diagnosis service for adults (aged 18 and over).

### WHO IS IT FOR?

The service considers referral for assessment for possible autism when a person has one of the following:

- Persistent difficulties in social interaction
- Persistent difficulties in social communication
- Stereotypic (rigid and repetitive behaviours, resistance to change or restricted interests and

One or more of the following:

- Problems in obtaining or sustaining employment or education
- Difficulties in initiating or sustaining social relationships
- Previous or current contact with mental health or learning disability services
- A history of Neurodevelopmental condition (including learning disabilities and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) or mental disorder

A referral to the service can be made by:

- Any person over the age of 18 years who thinks they may have autism and are not currently involved with secondary care services or still in assessment stage
- A carer
- A GP
- A member of the Community Mental Health Team
- A member of an education team at school or college, including teachers and lecturers.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Adult Autism Diagnostic Service  
Grassbanks Health Centre  
Keegan Court, Leam Lane, Felling,  
Gateshead NE10 8DX

Telephone Tel: 0191 287 6250 Fax 0191 287 6251

## Bladder and Bowel Service

### WHAT IS IT?

Continence nurses advise on all aspects of continence promotion, assessment, treatment and management of continence related to both bladder and bowel conditions, incorporating all aspects of treatments appropriate to individual need. Following assessment by community nursing services the continence nurse is able to advise on the use of continence products.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Anyone affected by continence issues.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Clarendon, Windmill Way, Hebburn NE31 1AT

Tel: 0191 283 4754

Web: [Bladder and Bowel service](#)

## Children's Occupational Therapy

### WHAT IS IT?

Occupational Therapists work with children to help them achieve their maximum level of function in all aspects of their daily life and help to promote health and well-being.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

- Children and young people aged 0-18 years (if attending school)
- Registered with a GP in Gateshead
- Children experiencing difficulties with self-care skills e.g. drinking, feeding, washing/ bathing and toileting or gross/fine motor skills which are impacting on the child's ability to learn or play
- Children who have a physical disability/illness, developmental disorder/difficulty and/or learning disability

Gateshead team accepts referrals from health care, social care (e.g. Social Worker) or educational professionals (e.g. school teachers)

## HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Chowdene Children's Centre, Waverley Road, Gateshead NE9 7TU

Tel: 0191 433 5058 Monday - Friday 8.30am-5pm (answer phone after 5pm)

Or: Contact your GP/social worker /school teacher about making a referral

Web: [Children's occupational therapy](#)

## Children's Speech and Language Therapy Services

### WHAT IS IT?

This team provides comprehensive services to support children, young people and their families to adapt and manage changes, in all areas of their lives relating to communication and/or feeding/swallowing difficulties.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children and young people in Gateshead, who have difficulties with speech, language and communication (SLC) and/or eating, drinking or swallowing (EDS) difficulties. They operate an open referral system. Referral forms can be obtained by contacting the service on the number below.

## HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

The Children's SLT Service

Bensham Hospital, Saltwell Road, Gateshead NE8 4YL

Tel: 0191 445 6667 Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm. (Answer phone after 5pm)

Web: [Childrens Speech & Language Therapy Services](#)

## Community Dental Service

### WHAT IS IT?

A service providing a full range of dental treatment for patients of all ages who have difficulty accessing general dental services (high street / family practice)

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Patients with a wide range of special needs, including children with severe learning disabilities or physical disabilities and children with behavioural management issues

The service will accept appropriate referrals for any person living Gateshead South Tyneside or Sunderland, or under the care of a doctor or dentist within the area. A self-referral from the parent/carer directly is also welcomed.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Referrals Coordinator

The Galleries Health Centre, Washington Way, Washington, NE38 7NQ

Tel: 0191 502 6754

Web: [Community dental service](#)

## Community Paediatrician Service

### WHAT IS IT?

Community Paediatricians are specialist children's doctors. They carry out regular health checks and provide support to children and their families to ensure their needs are being met, working closely with other professionals and providing reports for children undergoing the statutory statementing process.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children with long-term health problems which may impact on other areas of their life e.g. delayed milestones, learning difficulty or disability, autism, ADHD. Referrals are usually through another health professional such as a GP or health visitor

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Web: [www.qegateshead.nhs.uk/childrensoutpatients](http://www.qegateshead.nhs.uk/childrensoutpatients)

## Newcastle and Gateshead Children and Young People's Service (CYPS)

### WHAT IS IT?

The Children and Young People's Service provides a single service for children and young people who present with mental health difficulties. This includes children and young people who may have learning disabilities and those living in a range of difficult and challenging circumstances.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children and young people aged 0-18 living in Gateshead. See 'information for referrers' for further details of eligibility criteria.

Referrals will be accepted from any professional working with child, young person or their family and self-referrals can also be made. Referrals are accepted in written form by letter or fax or can also be made on the telephone. If you are unsure whether this is the most appropriate service, you should ring and speak to a member of the duty team who will be able to advise you.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Benton House, 136 Sandyford Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1QE

Tel: 0191 246 6913

Mob: 07904 619 889

Email: [NTAWNT.NoTCYPS@nhs.net](mailto:NTAWNT.NoTCYPS@nhs.net)

Web: [Children and Young People's Service](#)

Standard opening hours: 8am-8pm Monday to Friday

Click below for further help/resources:

[CYPS Service Leaflet](#)

[Information for referrers](#)

[Referral form](#)

## Specialist Health Practitioner Service

### WHAT IS IT?

This practitioner works with other colleagues to support families of children and young people with additional support needs, provides information and liaises with local agencies and services.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children (0-19) with Additional Support Needs and their Families

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Low Fell Clinic, Beacon Lough Road, Gateshead NE9 6TD

Tel: 0191 283 4660

Web: [Health Visitors - Specialist](#)

# Social Activities

## Accessible Music Projects - Sage Gateshead

### WHAT IS IT?

Sage Gateshead is part of Autism Alliance and offers a range of accessible music projects including:

- Relaxed performances and events, plus carers/support workers receive complimentary tickets to events and activities.
- Community Music Spark – a training programme for people with additional needs who have an interest in music leadership in the community, with the aim of providing a viable pathway to employment.
- Work Experience programme – placements are available in all departments at the Sage, including customer service, house-keeping and catering.
- Music Connect – part of Newcastle Council’s ‘Get Connected’ project, this is an arts brokerage service for children and young people with additional needs.
- Music Therapy – two qualified music therapists deliver a full programme of music activity.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children and young people with additional needs, including Autism and parents/carers.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Sage Gateshead, St Mary’s Square, Gateshead Quays, Gateshead, NE8 2JR

Tel: 0191 443 4605

Email: [matt.soker@sagegateshead.gov.uk](mailto:matt.soker@sagegateshead.gov.uk)

Web: [www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)

Facebook: The Sage Gateshead

Twitter: @Sage\_Gateshead



## Active Access

### WHAT IS IT?

A discount scheme that saves you up to 70% on a wide range of sport and leisure activities in Gateshead.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Available to Gateshead residents (and their dependents), who are in receipt of a range of benefits including carer's allowance.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

For full details of discounts ask at your nearest Gateshead Council Sport & Leisure facility.

Tel: 0191 433 5733

Web: [Active Card and Active Access Application Form](#)  
[Active Card and Active Access Conditions of Use](#)

## Children's Centres

### WHAT ARE THEY?

There are a number of children's centres around Gateshead which offer integrated services for families who have children under 5 years. These include a range of fun activities and services, support, advice and information and a range of health services.

### WHO ARE THEY FOR?

Families in Gateshead who have a child/children under 5.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Deckham Children's Centre, Elgin Road, Gateshead NE95PA

Tel: 0191 433 6300

Email: [gatesheadchildrenscentre@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:gatesheadchildrenscentre@gateshead.gov.uk)

Web: [Children's centres](#)

Facebook: Gateshead Children's Centres and Families Information Service

## **FACETS Specialist Play Scheme (autism specific)**

### **WHAT IS IT?**

A specialist school holiday scheme delivered by the Play Development Service.

### **WHO IS IT FOR?**

Children and young people with autism and associated learning disabilities/challenging behaviours aged 5-17, where their Child In Need (social care) assessment has indicated they require specialist service provision.

### **HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?**

Contact your social worker

## **Friends Action North East (FANE)**

### **WHAT IS IT?**

FANE is a project that helps adults (aged 16+) with learning disabilities in the North East, make and keep friends. They help arrange social get-togethers and publicise regular upcoming events like sporting activities, discos and nightclubs as well as employment and volunteering opportunities. They also publicise local events and activities for parents and carers.

### **WHO IS IT FOR?**

People aged 16+ with a learning disability, parents and carers.

### **HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?**

FANE, C/O Ouseburn Farm, Ouseburn Road (off Lime Street), Newcastle, NE1 2PA

Tel: 0191 231 4327

Email: [info@friendsaction.co.uk](mailto:info@friendsaction.co.uk)

Website: [www.friendsaction.co.uk](http://www.friendsaction.co.uk)

Facebook: Friends Action North East

Twitter: @FriendsAction

## Gateshead Kestrels Disability Sports Club

### WHAT IS IT?

Gateshead Kestrels Disability Sports Club caters for those with physical and/or sensory disabilities, allowing access to mainstream sports through specialist teaching and coaching.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children and young people with physical and/or sensory disabilities

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Phone: 0191 433 4046

Email: [l.neale@gateshead.org](mailto:l.neale@gateshead.org)

Web: [www.cedarstrust.co.uk/kestrels](http://www.cedarstrust.co.uk/kestrels)

## Phab Club

### WHAT IS IT?

A youth club which runs on Tuesday evenings at Pelaw Youth Centre.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Young people with or without disabilities aged 11-25.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Pelaw Youth Centre, Shields Road, Pelaw, Gateshead NE10 0QD

Tel: 0191 438 6636

Email: [pelawyouth@gmail.com](mailto:pelawyouth@gmail.com)

## Play Development Service

### WHAT IS IT?

The Play Service provide a wide range of play activities across Gateshead to encourage children and young people of all age, ability and circumstances to experience the countless benefits of play. A skilled and qualified team are committed to and experienced in working with children and young people. The Play Service believe that all children and young people should have access to play opportunities as an essential part of learning and development.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

Children and young people in Gateshead.

Activities include: Active Kidz for children and young people aged 5-14, Active Teenz for young people with disabilities aged 14-17 and TOPS, a specialist play and sport session for children and young people with disabilities aged 5-15.

## HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Tel: 0191 433 5080

Web: [www.gateshead.gov.uk/Leisure%20and%20Culture/play/home.aspx](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/Leisure%20and%20Culture/play/home.aspx)

Or, contact your social worker

## Quiet Room (autism specific)

### WHAT IS IT?

An autism-friendly space located in the main reception area, on the ground floor of Gateshead Civic Centre. It offers people with autism a quiet and private room when they are visiting the council, or are in the town centre and need to take time out to be away from people in a place specially designed to meet their needs. Simply furnished and decorated in soothing colours, with a TV screen showing calm and reflective images, it is a space where people can relax and be calm.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

People with autism. It is also available for other users who need a quiet space, such as older people or more vulnerable people. You don't need to book the room, just request its use at the council's main reception desk. It is available from 9am-5pm.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Gateshead Council, Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead NE8 1HH

Tel: 0191 433 3000

Email: [customerservices@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@gateshead.gov.uk)

## Sensory Rooms

### WHAT ARE THEY?

Some of the children's centres in Gateshead include bookable multi-sensory rooms.

### WHO ARE THEY FOR?

Children and families in Gateshead. Rooms are available to book but an induction is required first.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Elgin Centre, Elgin Road, Gateshead NE9 5PA  
Tel: 0191 433 6300  
Email: [gatesheadchildrenscentre@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:gatesheadchildrenscentre@gateshead.gov.uk)

## SNAP! Special Needs Accessible Play

### WHAT IS IT?

Accessible sessions held on alternate Thursday evenings (4.30-6pm) at the Ark in Crawcrook, when the play center is closed to the general public. Children are welcome to play on the play frame, the sensory room and sensory or craft activities. The sensory room is also available for private hire from 3.15-4.15pm, Monday to Friday.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

SNAP! sessions are for children (and their siblings) with special needs and/or disabilities. Parents/carers are responsible for their children at all times.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

The Ark, Main Road, Crawcrook, Ryton, NE40 3UG  
Tel: 0191 413 1339  
Web: [www.crawcrook.org.uk](http://www.crawcrook.org.uk)

## St Chad's Community Project

### WHAT IS IT?

St Chad's is a community project which provides a range of services including after school and holiday care for children and young people and a range of family support services. They also run a weekly youth club for young people aged 14-17 with disabilities.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Families and children in Gateshead.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

21 Liddell Terrace, Bensham, Gateshead NE8 1YN

Tel: 0191 490 1032

Email: [LTReception@stchadscommunityproject.org](mailto:LTReception@stchadscommunityproject.org)

Web: [www.stchadscommunityproject.co.uk](http://www.stchadscommunityproject.co.uk)

Facebook: St Chad's Community Project

Twitter: @familiesbensham

## The Avenues Youth and Community Education Project

### WHAT IS IT?

A youth project which operates five days a week.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Young people aged 11-19 (up to 25 for those with learning difficulties and disabilities) in Bensham and Saltwell, Gateshead.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

109 Coatsworth Road, Gateshead NE8 1SQ

Tel: 0191 478 6983

Email: [lucyrouse@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:lucyrouse@gateshead.gov.uk)

## **The Funky Club**

### **WHAT IS IT?**

A youth club on Thursday evenings

### **WHO IS IT FOR?**

Young people with disabilities aged 13-25.

### **HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?**

Chowdene Children's Centre, Waverley Road, Gateshead NE9 7TU

Tel: 0191 433 5050

Email: [lauriebrook@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:lauriebrook@gateshead.gov.uk)

## **The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**

### **WHAT IS IT?**

Lawnmowers is a registered charity in Gateshead and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. It provides arts based services for people with learning difficulties.

### **WHO IS IT FOR?**

People with learning difficulties.

### **HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?**

The Lawnmower Independent Theatre Company, Swinburne House, Swinburne Street, Gateshead NE8 1AX

Tel: 0191 478 9200

Email: [info@thelawnmowers.co.uk](mailto:info@thelawnmowers.co.uk)

Web: [www.thelawnmowers.co.uk](http://www.thelawnmowers.co.uk)

# The Twisting Ducks Theatre Company

## WHAT IS IT?

The Twisting Ducks Theatre Company makes entertaining, accessible and informative drama about issues that are important to the company and to people with learning disabilities. They offer a range of arts projects that are accessible to people with learning disabilities and autism including:

Spectrum - an autism theatre group based at Northern Stage for adults with autism spectrum disorders who live or work in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Fee-based academies for people aged 16+ with learning disabilities and/or autism, including:

- The Band Academy – Tuesdays, Westgate Community College, 10-4pm
- Dance Academy - Friday 10-1pm and 1-4pm
- Performing Arts Academies - Newcastle - Saturday 10-4pm Morpeth - Friday 10-4pm
- DJ Academy (3 hour sessions)

There is also a bi-monthly Theatre night and Film night and a monthly Gig night and live karaoke at Dance city 3rd Tuesday of each month. A club night called 'Fresh' also runs at World Headquarters on the 1st Tuesday every month.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

People over 16 years with a learning disability or autism spectrum disorder.

## HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

The Twisting Ducks Theatre Company, TD Studio, Westgate Community College, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 9LU

Tel: 07925 167775

Email: [thetwistingducks@gmail.com](mailto:thetwistingducks@gmail.com)

Web: [www.thetwistingducks.co.uk](http://www.thetwistingducks.co.uk)

Facebook: Thetwistingducks

Twitter: @TwistingDucks



## Toy Library

### WHAT IS IT?

Gateshead's Toy Library is a community resource based at Chowdene Children's Centre. It provides a loaning service of toys and equipment. It can also provide a dedicated space for children and families with skilled staff on hand for information and advice.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children and families in Gateshead. You need to become a member in order to loan items. Catalogues of items are available at all children's centres and online.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Chowdene Children's Centre, Waverley Road, Gateshead NE9 7TU

Tel: 0191 433 6300

Email: [gatesheadchildrenscentre@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:gatesheadchildrenscentre@gateshead.gov.uk)

Web: [Gateshead Toy Library](#)

Opening hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9.30am-2pm at Chowdene Children's Centre.

## Voiceworks Project

### WHAT IS IT?

Gateshead Council's Voiceworks Project offers flexible work placements to young people. Placements can last for various periods of time and are designed to meet the individual needs of the student.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Young people 14-19 years who have a statement of SEN, learning or physical disability or autism and who live in Gateshead.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Tel: 0191 433 8658

Email: [paulswales@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:paulswales@gateshead.gov.uk)

# Social Care

## Gateshead Council's Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Team

### WHAT IS IT?

Children with a disability classed as a 'Child In Need' under Section 17 of the Children's Act 1989, are eligible to receive support via the Council's Special Educational Needs and Disability Team. This team includes social workers who provide emotional and practical support to children and families. This includes short breaks, support to enable a disabled child to access leisure activities, support in the home with the care of a disabled child and support to access adaptations and special equipment.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children aged 0-17 with substantial, long-term disabilities which have a profound impact on their lives. A referral to the team can be made by anyone, including the families, a GP or a Health Visitor. All initial enquiries and referrals should be made to the duty worker in the Referral and Assessment Team.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Referral and Assessment Team

Tel: 0191 433 2653

Special Educational Needs and Disability Team

Gateshead Council, Regent Street, Gateshead NE8 1HH

Tel: 0191 433 3619

Email: [senteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@gateshead.gov.uk)

## Personal Budgets

### WHAT ARE THEY?

A personal budget (previously known as an individual budget) is an amount of money that the Local Authority thinks is needed to deliver the additional support needed by a young person with an Education, Health and Care Plan. The aim of Personal Budgets is to give greater choice and control over the support that they receive.

## WHO ARE THEY FOR?

A personal budget is available for those children and young people who require specialist services. Specialist support is determined by a needs assessment.

## HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Special Educational Needs and Disability Team, Gateshead Council, Regent Street,  
Gateshead NE8 1HH

Tel: 0191 433 3619

Email: [senteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@gateshead.gov.uk)

Web: [Personal Budgets](#)

## Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People

### WHAT ARE THEY?

Short breaks come in all shapes and sizes. They can be a break for a child away from their family or can involve supporting families to take a short break together, away from routine of daily life. Short breaks could last a few hours, a day, evening, overnight or longer. They could take place in or away from the family home.

### WHO ARE THEY FOR?

The type of short break service you may receive will depend on your child and family's assessed needs and referral processes and eligibility criteria apply.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Referral and Assessment Team

Tel: 0191 433 2653

Special Educational Needs and Disability Team

Gateshead Council, Regent Street, Gateshead NE8 1HH

Tel: 0191 433 3619

Email: [senteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@gateshead.gov.uk)

Web: [Short Breaks](#)

See: Family Information Service, Social Care (Including Short Breaks) for up to date detailed information about the short breaks on offer in Gateshead, including eligibility criteria.

# Support and Advice

## Autism Information Hub (autism specific)

### WHAT IS IT?

The Autism Information Hub at Gateshead Central Library aims to raise the awareness and understanding of autism. As well as providing a range of resources about autism, it also offers face-to-face sessions and signposting service to people with autism, their families/carers. A quiet space is also available.

The face-to-face sessions take place on the 2nd Monday of every month, 9.30am - 12noon, where you can speak with a professionally trained autism specialist about any concerns or queries you may have. There is also a café at the library where parents and carers of children and young people with autism can drop in and meet informally to relax and share experiences.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

People with autism, parents, carers and professionals.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

The Autism Information Hub is based in Gateshead Central Library, Prince Consort Rd, Gateshead, NE8 4LN. Contact Joanna Haslam or Elaine Brownless for more information about the face to face information sessions.

Tel: 0191 433 8725 or 0191 433 8730

Email: [joannahaslam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:joannahaslam@gateshead.gov.uk)

[elainebrownless@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:elainebrownless@gateshead.gov.uk)

Web: [Autism Information Hub](#)

## Autism Parenting Programmes (autism specific)

### WHAT IS IT?

Gateshead Council's Special Educational Needs Improvement Team (SENIT) provides free training on parenting for families of children with a diagnosis of an autistic spectrum disorder between the ages of 4-8 (Early Bird Plus) and 5-11 years (PALS).

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Families of children between 4 and 11 years with a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder. Two places are allocated to each family on each course. On the Early Bird Plus course, a place is also allocated to a professional working with your child.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

ASC Parent Courses, SENIT, Dryden Centre, Gateshead NE9 5UR  
Joanna Haslam/ Elaine Brownless/ Lesley Newton  
Tel: 0191 433 8725 (answer phone service)  
Email: [Joannahaslam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:Joannahaslam@gateshead.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.gateshead.gov.uk/Education](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/Education)

[Autism Information Hub](#)

## Autism Support Service (autism specific)

### WHAT IS IT?

Autism Support Service has been set up to provide support to families with autism. It acknowledges that it is the whole family that lives with autism not just the child. They aim to provide support, practical advice and help.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Parents and carers of children and adults.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Autism Support Service, Crawcrook, Ryton NE40 4PL  
Karen Horner - Family Support Manager  
Autism Support Service  
Tel: 07895 035 891  
Email: [autismsupportservice@outlook.com](mailto:autismsupportservice@outlook.com)  
Web: [www.autismsupportservice.org](http://www.autismsupportservice.org)

## Autism Supporters (autism specific)

### WHAT IS IT?

Autism supporters have been trained to support people with autism on a visit to the civic centre. They are able to act as a first point on contact, help coordinate the visit. For example, providing advance information in an appropriate format, arranging to meet beforehand and providing practical support during the visit such as taking them to the meeting room/area.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

People with autism who would like additional support with their visit to Gateshead Civic Centre.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Gateshead Council, Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH

Tel: 0191 433 3000

Email: [customerservices@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@gateshead.gov.uk)

## Citizen Advice Bureau Gateshead

### WHAT IS IT?

CAB Gateshead provides free independent, impartial, confidential advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities. It can support you with a range of areas including benefits, finance and housing.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Everyone.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Davidson Building, Swan Street, Gateshead NE8 1BG

Tel: 0191 478 5100

Web: [www.gatesheadcab.org.uk](http://www.gatesheadcab.org.uk)

Advice Line: 0844 245 1288

Text: 0778 620 6006 (you'll get a response within 24 hours to see how they can help you)

Call in person: 10am-4pm Monday to Friday

## Gateshead Access Panel

### WHAT IS IT?

Gateshead Access Panel is a charity and social enterprise which includes an advocacy service and advice and information.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Disabled people and parents/carers. They are happy to take referrals from anybody who wants to use the service, professionals, friends or family members and other voluntary organisations.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Unit K38, 11th Avenue North, Team Valley, Gateshead, NE11 0NJ

Tel: 0191 443 0058

Email: [admin@access-gateshead.org.uk](mailto:admin@access-gateshead.org.uk)

Web: [www.access-gateshead.org.uk](http://www.access-gateshead.org.uk)

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

## Gateshead Autism Group (GAG) (autism specific)

### WHAT IS IT?

This group is a one stop shop for Autism offering a range of services including a support group, telephone support, information/advice. They also run a variety of activities throughout the year.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Aimed at people of all ages, on the autistic spectrum, as well as families/carers.

### HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

Cedars School House, Cedars Academy Trust, Ivy Lane, Low Fell NE9 6QD

Tel: 0191 4872609

Mob: 07340 279 202

Web: [www.gatesheadautismgroup.co.uk](http://www.gatesheadautismgroup.co.uk)

Facebook: Gateshead Autism Group

Opening hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-2pm

## Gateshead Carers Association

### WHAT IS IT?

It supports, advises, represents, advocates and campaigns for carers living or working in Gateshead. Whether you need advice from housing to care packages or just want someone to listen to your concerns, they are there to help.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

All carers living or working in Gateshead regardless of the disability or illness of the cared for person.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Gateshead Carers Association, 11 Regent Terrace, Gateshead NE8 1LU

Tel: 0191 490 0121

Email: [enquiries@gatesheadcarers.com](mailto:enquiries@gatesheadcarers.com)

Web: [www.gatesheadcarers.com](http://www.gatesheadcarers.com)

## Gateshead Family Information Service (FIS)

### WHAT IS IT?

Gateshead's Family Information Service (FIS) offers free, confidential and impartial advice and guidance to parents, carers and childcare providers on: Childcare (registered and un-registered), Early Years Services, and childcare settings that have experience in offering services to children with disabilities and special educational needs.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Families and children in Gateshead.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Gateshead Family Information Service, Civic Centre, Regent Street Gateshead NE8 1HH

Tel: 0191 433 5118

Email: [fis@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:fis@gateshead.gov.uk)

Web: [www.gateshead.gov.uk/familyinfoOnlineDirectory](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/familyinfoOnlineDirectory)

Opening hours: Monday-Thursday, 8.30am-5pm. Friday, 8.30am-4.30pm



## Gateshead Network of Children with Disabilities

### WHAT IS IT?

A register of children with disabilities in Gateshead maintained and held by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Team. Members receive free leisure passes (Active Cards) and Max cards, which can be used at lots of leisure attractions across the North East.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

All children and young people with disabilities living in Gateshead, aged 0-18 years. You don't need to be receiving services or benefits relating to a disability to join the Network. Your child can be removed from the Network at your request, and you can see the information held about your child at any time. All details will be removed when your child reaches the age of 18.

You will need to provide some evidence of your child's needs. However if your child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Single Plan you don't need to provide any evidence.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Network Coordinator

SEND Team, Gateshead Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead NE8 1HH

Tel: 0191 433 3619 Email: [senteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@gateshead.gov.uk)

Web: [Gateshead Network of Children with Disabilities](#)

To become a member, please contact the team by phone or email, or download the [Network Registration Form](#) and send it to them.

## Local Offer

### WHAT IS IT?

A Local Offer is simply a round-up of the support services information available in the local area. Every local authority is required to have a 'local offer' and make it available for everyone to see.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities and their families

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Tel: 0191 433 3619 Email: [senteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@gateshead.gov.uk)

Web: [Gateshead's Local Offer](#)

Government Information about what a local offer is.

## Parenting courses

### WHAT ARE THEY?

A wide range of free parenting courses are offered by The Family Intervention Team to help parents and carers build effective relationships with children of all ages and with a variety of needs. These include: 123 Magic, Strengthening Families and Parenting Factor in ADHD.

### WHO ARE THEY FOR?

Families in Gateshead with children aged 2-16. The courses are suitable for various age groups.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Family Intervention Team

Children & Families Support Service, Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead NE8 1HH

Tel: 0191 433 3426

Email: [familyinterventionteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:familyinterventionteam@gateshead.gov.uk)

Web: [www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk)

## NEAS Parent Support Group (autism specific)

### WHAT IS IT?

A support group that meets at Heworth Grange School fortnightly on Thursdays from 6-7pm.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

For all families who have someone with autism in their lives, children also welcome.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Contact Kerrie Highcock at the North East Autism Society for more information.

Tel: 07825 585 313

Email: [Kerrie.Highcock@ne-as.org.uk](mailto:Kerrie.Highcock@ne-as.org.uk)

## Parents In Power

### WHAT IS IT?

Your local Parent Carer Forum. It supports parents/carers by ensuring they have a voice in how services in Gateshead are developed to give the best possible services for disabled children and their families. It also helps you gain the right support from the right organisations.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Parents/carers of a child, young person or adult (up to the age of 25), with additional support needs, learning difficulties or disability. Membership of Parents In Power is free - to become a member contact them and request a membership form.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Parents In Power

21 Liddell Terrace, Bensham, Newcastle NE8 1YN

Tel: 0191 490 1032

Textphone: 07724 849 017 (Text your name to this number and someone will call you back. Include an alternative telephone number in your text if you prefer to be called back on a different number.)

Email: [enquiries@parentsinpower.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@parentsinpower.co.uk)

Web: [www.parentsinpower.btck.co.uk](http://www.parentsinpower.btck.co.uk)

Facebook: Parents in Power

Twitter: @parentsinpower

Opening hours: Monday-Friday 10am-4pm (Term time only)

## Young Carers Service

### WHAT IS IT?

The Young Carers service offers days out and social opportunities as well as a range of advice and information. The services offered will depend on the age and individual needs of each young carer.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children and young people aged between 5 and 17, living in Gateshead who provide care, assistance or support to another family member.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Gateshead Crossroads

The Old School, Smailes Lane Highfield, Rowlands Gill NE39 2DB

Tel: 01207 549 780

Fax: 01207 549 794

Email: [enquiries@gatesheadcrossroads.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gatesheadcrossroads.org.uk)

Web: [Young Carers](#)

[www.carerstrusttw.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Young-Carers-Referral-Form.pdf](http://www.carerstrusttw.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Young-Carers-Referral-Form.pdf)

# Regional resources

## Accessible Music Projects - Sage Gateshead

### WHAT IS IT?

Sage Gateshead is part of Autism Alliance and offers a range of accessible music projects including:

- Relaxed performances and events, plus carers/support workers receive complimentary tickets to events and activities.
- Community Music Spark – a training programme for people with additional needs who have an interest in music leadership in the community, with the aim of providing a viable pathway to employment.
- Work Experience programme – placements are available in all departments at the Sage, including customer service, house-keeping and catering.
- Music Connect – part of Newcastle Council’s ‘Get Connected’ project, this is an arts brokerage service for children and young people with additional needs.
- Music Therapy – two qualified music therapists deliver a full programme of music activity.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children and young people with additional needs, including Autism and parents/carers.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Sage Gateshead, St Mary’s Square, Gateshead Quays, Gateshead, NE8 2JR

Tel: 0191 443 4605

Email: [matt.soker@sagegateshead.gov.uk](mailto:matt.soker@sagegateshead.gov.uk)

Web: [www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)

Facebook: The Sage Gateshead

Twitter: @Sage\_Gateshead

## Ace Playce Soft Play

### WHAT IS IT?

Ace Playce run monthly soft play sessions for children with disabilities and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children with disabilities and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder, siblings are also welcome.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

The Killingworth Centre, Killingworth NE12 6YT

Tel: 0191 268 2388

Email: [fun@aceplayce.co.uk](mailto:fun@aceplayce.co.uk)

Web: [www.aceplayce.co.uk](http://www.aceplayce.co.uk)

Facebook: aceplayce

## Alan Shearer Centre

### WHAT IS IT?

A specialist recreational, sensory and social resource. Facilities at the centre include a hydrotherapy pool, sensory rooms and playground.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Disabled children and adults, their families, friends, schools and groups. To use the facilities you must become a member and book sessions in advance. Becoming a member is free. Activities are all free of charge.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

The Alan Shearer Centre, West Denton Close, Newcastle NE15 7LU

Tel: 0191 267 8118

Email: [enquiries@alanshearercentre.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@alanshearercentre.org.uk)

Web: [www.alanshearercentre.org.uk/activitycentre](http://www.alanshearercentre.org.uk/activitycentre)

Facebook: Alan Shearer Centre, Membership Application Form

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday 9am-5pm, including Bank Holidays.  
Thursdays until 8pm.

## AutismAble (autism specific)

### WHAT IS IT?

AutismAble is an education and service provision for people on the Autistic Spectrum living in South Tyneside.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Students with autism and/or a learning disability and employers

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

AutismAble CIC

The Customs Space ,Captains Row

South Shields, NE33 5AS

Tel: 0191 456 0894

Email: [info@autismable.com](mailto:info@autismable.com)

Web: [www.autismable.com](http://www.autismable.com)

## Autism Friendly Cinema Screenings (autism specific)

### WHAT IS IT?

Not for profit organisation Dimensions, work with cinemas around the country to host Autism friendly screenings. On Sunday mornings throughout the month, films suitable for all audiences are screened in a sensory friendly and inclusive environment. Adjustments at the cinema reduce over-stimulation.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

People with autism to enjoy with their family, friends or carers. The films shown are suitable for all ages.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Tel: 0300 303 9062 Email: [autismfilms@dimensions-uk.org](mailto:autismfilms@dimensions-uk.org)

Web: [Autism Friendly Screenings](#)

Facebook: Dimensions

Twitter: @DimensionsUK

## Autism-in-Mind (AIM) Sunderland (autism specific)

### WHAT IS IT?

AIM is run solely by a core group of volunteers all of whom are living with autism and other special needs. They provide support and advocacy for parents, carers and adults with autism as well as supporting adults with AS/HFA who are undergoing benefit assessments and reassessments. It offers a listening ear to parents who are seeking, or who are in the process of obtaining, a diagnosis for their child. They hold regular parents meetings, and regular meetings for adults who have Asperger Syndrome and High Functioning Autism.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Autism-in-Mind supports anyone who is living with autism in Sunderland.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Fulwell Community Resource Centre  
Fulwell Road, Sunderland SR6 9QW  
Tel: 07557 374 206  
Email: [aim.sunderland@btinternet.com](mailto:aim.sunderland@btinternet.com)  
Web: [www.autism-in-mind.co.uk](http://www.autism-in-mind.co.uk)

## Autism North East (autism specific)

### WHAT IS IT?

Autism North East is a social enterprise (non-profit making organisation) offering assessment and intervention services to both families and professionals in the North East of England, working in partnership with community groups.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children and young people with Autism Spectrum conditions, their families and professionals. Referrals accepted from family and professionals.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

17A Bell Villas, Ponteland NE20 9BD  
Tel: 07957 755 746  
Email: [info@autismnortheast.org.uk](mailto:info@autismnortheast.org.uk)  
Web: [www.autismnortheast.org.uk](http://www.autismnortheast.org.uk)  
Opening hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm



## Calvert Trust Kielder

### WHAT IS IT?

The Calvert Trust enables people with disabilities, together with their families and friends, to achieve their potential through the challenge of outdoor adventure in the countryside. They have a centre in Northumberland at Kielder which welcomes families, groups and individuals on a residential and day visit basis.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

People with disabilities, their families and friends.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Calvert Trust Kielder  
Kielder Water and Forest Park, Hexham NE48 1BS  
Tel: 01434 250 232  
Email: [enquiries@calvert-kielder.com](mailto:enquiries@calvert-kielder.com)  
Web: [www.calvert-trust.org.uk/kielder](http://www.calvert-trust.org.uk/kielder)

## CEA Card

### WHAT IS IT?

The holder of a Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card (CEA) is able to obtain one free ticket for the person accompanying them to visit the cinema. Approximately 90% of cinemas accept the card. The card is also accepted at Newcastle Theatre Royal.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

The eligibility criteria are kept under review and may be updated from time to time. Currently if you receive one of the following benefits you are eligible: Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Attendance Allowance (AA), Blind Persons Registration, Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP). Applications for cards are only considered for people aged 8+.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

CEA Card, PO Box 212, Waterlooville PO7 6ZN  
Tel: 023 9224 8545  
Textphone: 18001 023 9224 8545  
Web: [www.ceacard.co.uk](http://www.ceacard.co.uk)

## Cerebra – Regional Services

### WHAT IS IT?

Cerebra is a national charity set up to help improve the lives of children with brain related conditions through research, education and directly supporting the children and their carers.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children 16 and under with a wide range of neurodevelopmental disorders and conditions including Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

2nd Floor Offices, The Lyric Buildings, King St, Carmarthen SA31 1BD

Tel: 01267 244 200

Email: [enquiries@cerebra.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cerebra.org.uk)

Web: [www.cerebra.org.uk](http://www.cerebra.org.uk)

Regional Officer, Shona Chambers: [ShonaC@cerebra.org.uk](mailto:ShonaC@cerebra.org.uk)

## Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorders Service for Children and Young People (CDNS)

### WHAT IS IT?

The Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorders Service (CNDS) is a specialist tertiary service working in collaboration with local multi-agency services to provide second opinions for children and young people who may have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other complex mental health or neurodevelopmental problems. CNDS provides outpatient, day patient and outreach services.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children and young people who may have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other complex mental health or neurodevelopmental problems. Referrals are accepted through a single point of access from specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Community Child Health and Paediatric Teams or from any member of the multi-agency ASD care pathway.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorders Service (CNDS)

Walkergate Park, Benfield Road, Newcastle NE6 4QD

Tel: 0191 287 5260

Email: [CNDS@ntw.nhs.uk](mailto:CNDS@ntw.nhs.uk)

Web: [www.ntw.nhs.uk](http://www.ntw.nhs.uk)

## Contact a Family North East

### WHAT IS IT?

Contact a Family North East provides support, advice and information from its regional office in Newcastle and home-based workers. The services offered include: workshops and events, regular newsletters and ebulletins.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Families with disabled children, no matter what their condition or disability.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Contact a Family North East

The Dene Centre, Castle Farm Road, Newcastle NE3 1PH

Tel: 0191 213 6300 Email: [northeast@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:northeast@cafamily.org.uk)

Web: [www.cafamily.org.uk/northeast](http://www.cafamily.org.uk/northeast)

For parent carer participation and help for forums contact Sarah Lee:

Tel: 07905 722 005 Email: [sarah.lee@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:sarah.lee@cafamily.org.uk).

Alternatively, contact the national helpline, Monday-Friday, 9.30am-5pm. Advisers can arrange an interpreter over the telephone if needed:

Tel: 0808 808 3555 Email: [helpline@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:helpline@cafamily.org.uk)

## Daisy Chain

### WHAT IS IT?

Advice, support, training, activities and respite.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Caters for adults and children with autism and their parents.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Daisy Chain

Calf Fallow Farm, Calf Fallow Lane

Norton, Stockton-on-Tees, TS20 1PF

Tel: 01642 531 248

Email: [info@daisychainproject.co.uk](mailto:info@daisychainproject.co.uk)

Web: [www.daisychainproject.co.uk](http://www.daisychainproject.co.uk)

## Daslne (autism specific)

### WHAT IS IT?

This is a research database of children with ASD living in the North East. Its aim is to provide accurate information about the numbers of children with autism spectrum disorder living in the North East. It provides information and advice on a range of problem topics such as sleep, eating, sensory issues, anxiety and temper.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Families with a child/children with ASD in the North East.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Daslne, Institute of Health and Society, Newcastle University, Sir James Spence Institute, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, NE1 4LP

Tel: 0191 282 1400 Email: [daslne@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:daslne@ncl.ac.uk)

Web: [www.daslne.org](http://www.daslne.org)

Facebook: Daslne

## Friends Action North East (FANE)

### WHAT IS IT?

FANE is a project that helps adults (aged 16+) with learning disabilities in the North East, make and keep friends. They help arrange social get-togethers and publicise regular upcoming events like sporting activities, discos and nightclubs as well as employment and volunteering opportunities. They also publicise local events and activities for parents and carers.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

People aged 16+ with a learning disability, parents and carers.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

FANE, C/O Ouseburn Farm, Ouseburn Road (off Lime Street), Newcastle, NE1 2PA

Tel: 0191 231 4327

Email: [info@friendsaction.co.uk](mailto:info@friendsaction.co.uk)

Website: [www.friendsaction.co.uk](http://www.friendsaction.co.uk)

Facebook: Friends Action North East

Twitter: @FriendsAction

## Icebox

### WHAT IS IT?

A creative youth style club hosted by the disability arts organisation Arcadea.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Disabled young people aged 13-19.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

The HUB Studies, 2nd Floor, Commercial Union House, 39 Pilgrim St, Newcastle NE1 6QE

Tel: 0800 1455 345

Email: [geof.armstrong@arcadea.org](mailto:geof.armstrong@arcadea.org)

Web: [www.arcadea.org](http://www.arcadea.org)

## Inspired Support

### WHAT IS IT?

Inspired Support Ltd is an organisation that supports people with a learning disability or autism spectrum condition, to change their lives. It designs person-centred packages that work towards and meet the outcomes identified in the person's care and support plan.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

People with a learning disability or autism spectrum condition.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Inspired Support Ltd

53 Fellside, Portmeads, Birtley DH3 2N

Tel: Richard Lamb: 07825 958 024

David Winship: 07881 958 054

Email: [info@inspiredsupport.co.uk](mailto:info@inspiredsupport.co.uk)

Web: [www.inspiredsupport.co.uk](http://www.inspiredsupport.co.uk)

## Lucky Stars Sports Sessions

### WHAT IS IT?

A weekly accessible drop in sports session for people with disabilities at Benfield Sports Centre. A variety of activities are available each session.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

People with disabilities. Carers and parents are actively encouraged to join in the activities.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Benfield Rd, Newcastle NE6 4NU

Tel: 0191 275 9009

Email: [enquiries@benfieldsportscentre.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@benfieldsportscentre.co.uk)

Web: [Accessible sports](#)

## National Autistic Society (autism specific)

### WHAT IS IT?

The leading UK charity for people on the autism spectrum and their families. It provides information, support and campaigns for a better world for people with autism, offering a range of additional services across the North East including outreach support, student support and a social inclusion project. They also have a North East Resource centre which includes services such as a lending library, advice and a parent group.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Anyone in the North East affected by autism.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

For impartial, confidential advice on autism for those affected by, or researching autism:

Tel: 0808 800 4104 (Monday-Thursday, 10am-4pm and Friday, 9am-3pm)

For any enquiries about fundraising, membership, publications or other supporter-focused enquiries or feedback: Tel: 0808 800 1050 (Monday-Thursday, 10am-4pm & Friday, 9am-3pm)

Web: [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

North East Resource Centre, Linhope Road, Newcastle NE5 2LW

Tel: 07884 117 741 Email: [deborah.garland@nas.org.uk](mailto:deborah.garland@nas.org.uk)

For details of services in the North East: Tel: 01254 888 535 Email: [north.services@nas.org.uk](mailto:north.services@nas.org.uk)

## Nexus Concessionary Travel Pass

### WHAT IS IT?

An all day concessionary travel pass that allows free bus travel. If you have a Concessionary Travel Pass (CT Pass), you can buy a Metro Gold Card which gives you a year's travel on Metro, the Shields Ferry and on Northern Rail services between Newcastle and Sunderland. Nexus also has a companion card for people with certain allowances who are unable to travel without a companion.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Disabled children aged five to 16 who live in Tyne and Wear.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Tel: 0191 202 0747 Email: [customerservice@nexus.org.uk](mailto:customerservice@nexus.org.uk)

Web: [www.nexus.org.uk/concessions/disabled-children](http://www.nexus.org.uk/concessions/disabled-children)  
[www.nexus.org.uk/companion-card](http://www.nexus.org.uk/companion-card)

## North East Autism Society (autism specific)

### WHAT IS IT?

A charity that provides a range of services for children and adults with autism and their families/carers. Services include education for children, social/vocational training and residential placements. It also has a range of family support services including short breaks, toddler groups and an online family networking group. They also run regular six-week free training workshops for families.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

People with autism of all ages and their families/carers.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

North East Autism Society

Unit 15 Lumley Court, Drum Industrial Estate, Chester-Le-Street DH2 1AN

Tel: 0191 410 9974

Email: [info@ne-as.org.uk](mailto:info@ne-as.org.uk)

Web: [www.ne-as.org.uk](http://www.ne-as.org.uk)

Facebook: North East Autism Society

Twitter: @NEAutismSociety

## Northeast Special Needs Network (NSNN)

### WHAT IS IT?

A parent-led charity to help families with disabled children make the best choices. It provides a range of services which include an information enquiry service, one to one family support, training, supporting with transition and monthly newsletters.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Families with disabled children/young people from birth to 25 years.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Northeast Special Needs Network, Key House, 11 Tankerville Place, Jesmond, Newcastle NE2 3AT

Tel: 0191 281 2485 (Admin) 0191 281 2255 (Family Advice Workers)

Email: [admin@nsnn.org.uk](mailto:admin@nsnn.org.uk)

Web: [www.nsn.org.uk](http://www.nsn.org.uk)

Facebook: Northeast Special Needs Network (NSNN)

Twitter: @nsnnUK

## Pathways4All

### WHAT IS IT?

Pathways4All is a parent-led charity serving Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, County Durham and beyond. They provide activities for children and young people aged 0-25 with disabilities/additional needs and complex health issues. It also offers social opportunities for their families and siblings at its base at the Tim Lamb Children's Centre.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children and young people 0-25 with disabilities/additional needs and complex health issues and their families.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Pathways4All

Tim Lamb Centre, Rising Sun Country Park, Whitley Road, Benton NE12 9SS

Tel: 0191 266 5233

Email: [lynn4pathways@gmail.com](mailto:lynn4pathways@gmail.com)

Web: [www.pathways4all.co.uk](http://www.pathways4all.co.uk)

Facebook: pathways4all

Twitter: @pathways4all



## Special Friends

This is a Wacky Warehouse soft play session for children with disabilities. It's held every Monday 6-8pm at Boldon Leisure Park.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children with disabilities aged 2+.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

The Storybook

Boldon Leisure Park, Abingdon Way, Boldon Colliery NE35 9PB

Tel: 0191 536 9408

Web: [www.wackywarehouse.co.uk/story-book/your-wacky](http://www.wackywarehouse.co.uk/story-book/your-wacky)

## Spectrum - theatre group (autism specific)

### WHAT IS IT?

Spectrum is a theatre group currently based at Northern Stage in Newcastle.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Adults with autism spectrum disorders who live or work in Newcastle Upon Tyne.

### HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

Tel: 07925 167 775

Email: [thetwistingducks@googlemail.com](mailto:thetwistingducks@googlemail.com)

Web: [www.thetwistingducks.co.uk](http://www.thetwistingducks.co.uk)

## Sports North Tyneside

### WHAT IS IT?

Sports North Tyneside offer accessible sports and swimming sessions in North Tyneside.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Disabled people and their families/carers. Some sessions are for families, others for people aged 14 or 16 and over.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Tel: 0191 643 7445

Email: [sport@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:sport@northtyneside.gov.uk)

Web: [Disability sport](#)

# The Twisting Ducks Theatre Company

## WHAT IS IT?

The Twisting Ducks Theatre Company makes entertaining, accessible and informative drama about issues that are important to the company and to people with learning disabilities. They offer a range of arts projects that are accessible to people with learning disabilities and autism including:

Spectrum - an autism theatre group based at Northern Stage for adults with autism spectrum disorders who live or work in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Fee-based academies for people aged 16+ with learning disabilities and/or autism, including:

- The Band Academy – Tuesdays, Westgate Community College, 10-4pm
- Dance Academy - Friday 10-1pm and 1-4pm
- Performing Arts Academies - Newcastle - Saturday 10-4pm Morpeth - Friday 10-4pm
- DJ Academy (3 hour sessions)

There is also a bi-monthly Theatre night and Film night and a monthly Gig night and live karaoke at Dance city 3rd Tuesday of each month. A club night called 'Fresh' also runs at World Headquarters on the 1st Tuesday every month.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

People over 16 years with a learning disability or autism spectrum disorder.

## HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

The Twisting Ducks Theatre Company, TD Studio, Westgate Community College, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 9LU

Tel: 07925 167775

Email: [thetwistingducks@gmail.com](mailto:thetwistingducks@gmail.com)

Web: [www.thetwistingducks.co.uk](http://www.thetwistingducks.co.uk)

Facebook: Thetwistingducks

Twitter: @TwistingDucks

## Tim Lamb Centre/Pathways 4 All

### WHAT IS IT?

Pathways 4 All is a registered charity which provides social and recreational activities for children with disabilities and additional needs within North Tyneside and the surrounding areas. It offers a range of support services and social networks.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children with disabilities or additional needs, and their families.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Tim Lamb Centre  
Rising Sun Country Park  
Whitley Road  
Benton NE12 9SS  
Tel: 0191 266 5233  
Email: [lynn4pathways@gmail.com](mailto:lynn4pathways@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.pathways4all.co.uk](http://www.pathways4all.co.uk)

## Toby Henderson Trust (autism specific)

### WHAT IS IT?

An independently funded charity based in Northumberland that supports autistic children, their families and carers. The charity's focus is early pre-school intervention (age 2-7) to improve the long-term quality of life for both the autistic child and their family and carers. It also offers advice, information and signposting.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Children with autism and their families/carers. Anyone can self-refer into the service.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

The Toby Henderson Trust  
Earth Balance, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 7AD  
Tel: 0300 365 3055  
Email: [support@ttht.co.uk](mailto:support@ttht.co.uk)  
Web: [www.ttht.co.uk](http://www.ttht.co.uk)  
Facebook: The Toby Henderson Trust  
Twitter: @AutismTTHT

## Tyneside Cinema

### WHAT IS IT?

Tyneside Cinema hosts sensory friendly screenings fortnightly on Sundays at 10.30am. The sound is turned down a touch and the lights up a little. There are no adverts or trailers and the team is on hand if you need any help. There is a chill-out space available if anyone needs to take a break. Tickets are £4, carers with a carer's pass, or someone accompanying the holder of a Max Card, HUB Card or CEA pass will be admitted for FREE (one companion per party).

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Families with children who have learning disabilities and/or additional needs.

### HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

Tyneside Cinema, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle NE1 6QG

Tel: 0191 227 5500 Email: [box.office@tynesidecinema.co.uk](mailto:box.office@tynesidecinema.co.uk)

Web: [Tyneside Cinema Access Cinema](#)

Facebook: Tyneside Cinema

Twitter: @tynesidecinema

## Washington Riding Centre

### WHAT IS IT?

A riding school specifically for people with disabilities. It currently provides riding lessons every week for approximately 130 children and adults with a range of disabilities and learning difficulties.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Originally built for the exclusive use of disabled riders, they are now increasing participation so everyone has the opportunity to benefit from the unique enjoyment and learning experience that contact with horses can bring - whatever their ability. There is a maximum weight limit of 12 stone.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Washington Riding Centre, Stephenson, District 12, Washington NE37 3HR

Tel: 0191 416 2745

Web: [www.washingtonridingcentre.co.uk](http://www.washingtonridingcentre.co.uk)

# National online resources

AMBITIOUS ABOUT AUTISM (autism specific)

[www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk](http://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk)

Ambitious about Autism is a national charity for children and young people with autism. It provides services, raises awareness and understanding and campaigns for change.

AUTISM CONNECT (autism specific)

[www.autism-connect.org.uk](http://www.autism-connect.org.uk)

Autism Connect is the UK's first free social network for people with autism and their relatives. It allows users to connect with like-minded people, share their experiences and find local service providers.

AUTISM EDUCATION TRUST (autism specific)

[www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk](http://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk)

The purpose of the Autism Education Trust is to improve the education of children and young people with autism. Kids Zone and the Den pages for interactive development and teaching tools for children and teenagers with autism.

AUTISM WEST MIDLANDS (autism specific)

[www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk](http://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk)

The leading charity in the West Midlands for people with autism. Its website has a range of downloadable information sheets on specific areas.

AUTISTIC UK (autism specific)

[www.autisticuk.org](http://www.autisticuk.org)

Autistic UK is an Autistic People's Organisation (APO) - an organisation run by autistic people. It campaigns throughout the UK and elsewhere to advance the interests of all autistic people and those with 'related conditions'.

AUTISTICA (autism specific)

[www.autistica.org.uk](http://www.autistica.org.uk)

The largest UK charity raising funds for medical research that will improve diagnosis, devise new treatments and discover the causes of autism.

#### ASPERGER'S AND ASD UK ONLINE FORUM

[www.asd-forum.org.uk/forum](http://www.asd-forum.org.uk/forum)

An online discussion group for people with Asperger's and ASD.

#### BABBLE (YOUNG CARERS)

[www.babble.carers.org](http://www.babble.carers.org)

Babble has been created by Carers Trust as an online space where those aged under 18 who are caring for a family member or friend can chat, share their experiences and access information and advice.

#### CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR FOUNDATION

[www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk](http://www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk)

A charity for people with severe learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges.

#### COUNCIL FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

[www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk](http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk)

The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) is the umbrella body for the disabled children's sector in England, with links to other UK nations. It brings together the diverse range of organisations that work with, and for, disabled children to support the development and implementation of policy and practice. [Education, Health and Care Plans: examples of good practice.](#)

#### EARLY SUPPORT INFORMATION ON AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDERS

(autism specific)

[www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/early-support-information-on-autistic-spectrum-disorders](http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/early-support-information-on-autistic-spectrum-disorders)

This is an Early Support information resource on autism spectrum disorder and looks at getting a diagnosis, what happens after diagnosis, the effect of autism spectrum disorder on the family and where to go for further support and information. This publication also gives guidance on the signs and characteristics of autism spectrum, understanding your child's behaviour, interacting and communication, the early years, school years and developing independence.

#### ENURESIS RESOURCE AND INFORMATION CENTRE

[www.eric.org.uk](http://www.eric.org.uk)

The children's continence charity

## EPILEPSY ADVISORY SERVICE

[www.epilepsysociety.org.uk](http://www.epilepsysociety.org.uk)

Epilepsy Society is the UK's leading provider of epilepsy services.

## GOVERNMENT LINKS

[Department for Education](#)

[Benefits](#)

[Social Care](#)

[Disabled people](#)

[Help if you have a disabled child](#)

## MUMSNET

[www.mumsnet.com/talk](http://www.mumsnet.com/talk)

Online discussion forum for parents

## IPSEA

[www.ipsea.org.uk/about](http://www.ipsea.org.uk/about)

Independent Parental Special Education Advice (known as IPSEA) is a registered charity (number 327691). IPSEA offers free and independent legally based information, advice and support to help get the right education for children and young people with all kinds of special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities.

## PDA SOCIETY (PATHOLOGICAL DEMAND AVOIDANCE SYNDROME)

[www.pdasociety.org.uk](http://www.pdasociety.org.uk)

The PDA Society aims to offer support, advice and information to anyone involved with an individual with PDA, whether suspected or diagnosed, child or adult.

## RESEARCH AUTISM (autism specific)

[www.researchautism.net](http://www.researchautism.net)

Research Autism is the only UK charity dedicated to the promotion of high-quality research into autism treatments, therapies and other approaches.

## SOSSEN

[www.sossen.org.uk](http://www.sossen.org.uk)

A free, friendly, independent and confidential telephone helpline.

## SPECIAL NEEDS JUNGLE

[www.specialneedsjungle.com](http://www.specialneedsjungle.com)

Special Needs Jungle creates easy to understand resources, articles and information about the SEN system.

## THE COMMUNICATION TRUST

[www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk](http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk)

The Communication Trust is a coalition of over 50 not-for-profit organisations. Working together, it helps everyone who works with children and young people in England to support their speech, language and communication.

## THE MONEY ADVICE SERVICE

[www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk](http://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk)

Free and impartial money advice.

## THE NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY (AUTISM SPECIFIC)

[www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

The leading UK charity for people with autism, their families and carers.



