



Northumberland Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS) Information Newsletter July 2021 - Issue 5

Welcome to our newsletter sharing information with you on local events, services and news in Northumberland and the North East for children and young people with SEND (special educational needs and/or disabilities) and their families.

Coronavirus/Covid19

We are continuing to provide a service during Covid-19. If you have any queries, please contact the service at iass@northumberland.gov.uk or 01670 623555 / 01670 620350.



SPOTLIGHT ON:

Northumberland SEND Local Offer

The SEND Local Offer supports children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aged 0 - 25

- **What is Northumberland's Local Offer?**

The Local Offer aims to set out in one place information about provision expected to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people who have SEN or are disabled. This includes those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.

The local offer not only has useful information about education, health and social care processes relating to SEND, but also links to the current Northumberland SEND strategy, and organisations and agencies that can offer additional support and advice about growing up and leaving school.

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Child-Families/SEND/Have%20Your%20Say/SEND-Strategy-2021-2024.pdf>.

The Local Offer also provides the opportunity for you to give feedback or take part in regular consultations. This is where the results of feedback and consultations are presented too.

Recent feedback about the Local Offer, from parents, carers and young people, told us that while there was good information available on the Local Offer website, this was often difficult to find and navigate to. Working in partnership with the Northumberland Parent Carer Forum and key practitioners, the Local Offer website has been updated and re-developed. Keeping the Local Offer up-to-date with the latest information remains a priority.

- **The Northumberland SEND Local Offer is available to view on the Northumberland County Council website:**

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Northumberland-Local-Offer-SEND-0-to-25-years.aspx>

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Council for Disabled Children

Lessons Learnt from Lockdown: The highs and lows of the pandemic's impact on disabled children and young people

Over 600 children and young people, 128 parents and 110 professionals contributed their views and experiences to this report.

[Findings and consultation report](#)

Housing options for 16+

Northumberland's Adolescent Service has produced a guide to help young people aged 16+ and their parents or carers find appropriate accommodation for them as they prepare to leave home and move into adulthood. The guide has been designed with young people in mind, encouraging them to get involved in the process of deciding what type of accommodation suits them best.

[Housing Options for 16+](#)

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Young/Accommodation-Team.aspx>

Carers Northumberland

The Young Carers Service supports all carers under the age of 18 across Northumberland. This service ensures that children and young people have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive, to enjoy positive childhoods and to achieve their full potential.

[Young Carers Northumberland](#)

[Young Carers Project](#)

MIND YOUR WORDS - Children and Young People's Mental Health

FREE e-learning for parents and practitioners

This e-learning from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists aims to improve understanding of children and young people who have both mental health needs (or social emotional and mental health needs - SEMH) and speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN).

<https://www.rcslt.org/learning/mind-your-words/>

Special Making it REAL

Special Making it REAL was delivered across the North West, as part of the [Early Years SEND partnership](#) led by the Council for Disabled Children, during 2020/21.

Free activities and vodcasts for parents carers are available below:

<https://www.ncb.org.uk/what-we-do/improving-practice/focusing-early-years/early-childhood-unit/our-programmes/special>

Museums Northumberland

One of the darkest days of Hexham's history – the 1761 Hexham Riot - has been brought to life in a new experience at Hexham Old Gaol.

Museums Northumberland has worked in partnership with young people from the Queen's Hall Arts' Projectors Theatre Group (a drama-based initiative for young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or communication difficulties) to develop the new resource which visitors to the Gaol can access for free via their smartphone.

The experience is included in the standard admission price at Hexham Old Gaol and was developed with funding from The Wellesley Trust through the Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear and Northumberland.

www.museumsnorthumberland.org.uk/hexham-old-gaol/

Contact (for families with disabled children)

Including: latest Covid information and listening ear helpline service. [Family workshops and events](#)

Contact supports families, bring families together and help families take action for others.

<https://contact.org.uk/>

IPSEA

Including: Covid and SEN provision.

Independent Provider of Special Education Advice (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 and disabilities (SEND). They also provide [training](#) on the SEND legal framework to parents and carers, professionals and other organisations.

<https://www.ipsea.org.uk/>

Northumberland County Council

[Coronavirus - latest information](#)

Northumberland SEND Local Offer

The SEND Local Offer supports children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aged 0 - 25

Information is available on the Northumberland County Council website:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Northumberland-Local-Offer-SEND-0-to-25-years.aspx>

Be You

The aim of Be You Northumberland is to ensure that all children, young people and the adults who support them, have easy access to a range of information and support services for emotional wellbeing and mental health support.

<https://www.beyounorthumberland.nhs.uk/>

Kooth

Kooth is a safe, free and anonymous online mental health platform available to all 11-25 year olds in Northumberland

<https://www.kooth.com/>

Stormbreak

Take a step to better mental and physical health. Stormbreak aims to improve children's mental health through movement, equipping them with sustainable, transferrable skills and coping strategies to thrive during the complex demands of growth into adult life.

Stormbreak.org.uk

Northumberland Youth Service - Virtual LGBTQ+ group

Online virtual group for young people age 13 - 19 years

For more information contact natalie.richards@northumberland.gov.uk / Mobile: 07989 169201

Action for Children

Parenting advice. Action for Children protects and supports children and young people, providing practical and emotional care and support, ensuring their voices are heard, and campaigning to bring lasting improvements to their lives.

parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/

Boccia England

Virtually Boccia has now started. Boccia (pronounced bot-cha) is a Paralympic sport with no Olympic equivalent and is similar to bowls. It is a target ball sport which tests both muscle control and accuracy.

[Boccia England](https://www.bocciaengland.org/)

Para Dance UK

Fun-filled dance videos for wheelchair users and the wider disability community. Whether you have never danced before or have been enjoying dance for years, the sessions are inclusive for everyone.

[Para Dance UK](https://www.paradanceuk.com/)

Hungry Little Minds

Simple fun activities for newborn to five years

hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/

NSPCC - Look, Say, Sing, Play

Fun and easy tips to help you bring even more **Look, Say, Sing** and **Play** into your daily routine with your baby.

[nspcc.org.uk/look-say-sing-play/](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/look-say-sing-play/)

BBC Tiny Happy People

Explore simple activities and play ideas to help you develop your child's communication skills.

[BBC Tiny Happy People](https://www.bbc.com/parenting/tiny-happy-people)

I CAN

Supporting children and young people's speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) to ensure they get the help they need.

[ican.org.uk/](https://www.ican.org.uk/)

National Literacy Trust - Bilingual quick tips

A series of bilingual quick tips, in 19 different languages, for parents and early years practitioners to help children develop good talking and listening skills.

[literacytrust.org.uk/early-years/bilingual-quick-tips/](https://www.literacytrust.org.uk/early-years/bilingual-quick-tips/)

BBC Bitesize Support

Bitesize Support is a hub with advice, tips and resources for children and young people around school and mental health.

[BBC Bitesize Support](https://www.bbc.com/parenting/bitesize-support)

Organisation

Active Northumberland - Ability 2 Play is a leisure inclusive programme and adapts sessions to include everyone regardless of ability. Users range from people with mild learning difficulties to Autism and ADHD, as well as people with anxiety disorders and physical disabilities.

Email: rscheu@activenorthumberland.org.uk

Website: <http://www.activenorthumberland.org.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Ability2Play>

Information/Events

Active Northumberland School Games

Facebook: [Active Northumberland School Games](#)

Go Smarter Go Active cycling roadshows/workshops

<https://www.facebook.com/Gosmartergoactive/>

Active Northumberland will be hosting the Go Smarter Go Active 'Active Travel' campaign being delivered across the North East by Transport North East. The events will be managed by Beacon House Events Ltd and the organisation responsible for delivering the cycling programme is Sunderland Young Peoples Bike Project. The Go Smarter Go Active Cycling Roadshows will be held across Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Sunderland, Northumberland, County Durham and Gateshead.

The roadshows will help families who would benefit from support in teaching their children to ride a bike. It will also help adults who wish to boost their cycling confidence/ability or are unable to ride a bike and wish to learn.

The roadshows will be at 10.00 am and 3.00 pm at the following venues:

19 - 21 July 2021: Willowburn Leisure Centre Alnwick, NE66 2JH

22 - 25 July 2021: Ponteland Leisure Centre, NE20 9EG

26 July - 1 August 2021: Exhibition Park Newcastle

2 - 4 August 2021: Chester le Street Riverside Park

5 - 8 August 2021: Hardwick Country Park Sedgefield

9 - 15 August 2021: Herrington Country Park Sunderland (NB moves to Mowbray Park 10th only)

16 - 22 August 2021: Richardson Dees Park Wallsend

23 - 29 August 2021: Saltwell Park Gateshead

30 August - 5 September 2021: South Marine Park South Shields

BOOKING ESSENTIAL - www.gosmartergoactive.co.uk/events/

ACTIVE AT HOME!

Active Northumberland Youtube channel has lots of videos that are accessible and adaptable for all including dance, personal challenges, fitness and PE lessons.

YouTube: [Active Northumberland](#)

Fitness Fun for 8 - 12's with Andrew - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGF-ahJ11oA>

Dance Fitness for all ages with Molly - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihghJ-e4k9Y>

Please visit website, Facebook or Twitter for further details regarding all activities.

Organisation

Beacon Films is based in West Jesmond, Newcastle and supports young people and adults with learning disabilities, autism and additional needs to make films. These films are screened all over the world, challenging audiences and receiving praise from across the creative sectors.

Email: info@beaconfilms.org.uk

Website: www.beaconfilms.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BeaconFilmsUK

Information/Events

For further information contact: michelle@beaconfilms.org.uk / 0191 580 7000.

Stuff to do online

Click on this link for ideas for free activities to do online [Stuff to do online](#)

Please visit website or Facebook for further details regarding all activities.

Organisation

Blyth Valley Disabled Forum provides home care within the community and runs the young people's project, which enables children and adults to access various activities, i.e swimming and a youth club environment to socialise.

Email: trishfleming@bvdfhomecare.co.uk

Website: www.bvdfhomecare.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BVDFHomecare

Information/Events

Please contact Blyth Valley Disabled Forum for up-to-date information.

Organisation

Border Links Ltd is a community enterprise based in Berwick, covering north Northumberland/Scottish Borders, and also based in Amble. They develop new and exciting opportunities to support social and economic inclusion for people with learning disabilities - enabling them to play a part, gain in confidence and get the most out of life in their own community.

Email: Borderlinks@btconnect.com

Website: www.borderlinks.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/borderlinkscommunity

Information/Events

All activities are via Zoom invitation

Tuesday 6 July 2021

Zoom catchup - 10.45 am

Zoom Bingo - 7.00 pm

Wednesday 7 July 2021

Smile Through Sport - 2.00 pm

Border Links Disco - 7.00 pm

Thursday 8 July 2021

Music with Carole - 10.30 am

NEW - Afternoon chat - 4.00 pm

Tuesday 13 July 2021

Zoom catchup - 10.45 am

Zoom Bingo - 7.00 pm

Wednesday 14 July 2021

Smile Through Sport - 2.00 pm

Thursday 15 July 2021

Music with Carole - 10.30 am

NEW - Afternoon chat - 4.00 pm

Tuesday 20 July 2021

Zoom catchup - 10.45 am

Zoom Bingo - 7.00 pm

Wednesday 21 July 2021

Smile Through Sport - 2.00 pm

Thursday 22 July 2021

Music with Carole - 10.30 am

NEW - Afternoon chat - 4.00 pm

Tuesday 27 July 2021

Music with Carole - 10.30 am

NEW - Afternoon chat - 4.00 pm

Wednesday 28 July 2021

Smile Through Sport - 2.00 pm

Thursday 29 July 2021

Music with Carole - 10.30 am

NEW - Afternoon chat - 4.00 pm

Organisation

Calmer Therapy is based in Guidepost and supports children, young people and adults who have additional needs, disabilities and mental health needs. They offer support, training, advice and activities. Diagnosis isn't required. They also offer support to the whole family. Siblings and friends/ family members are welcome to all their sessions.

Email: calmertherapy@mail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/calmertherapy

Information/Events

Whole Family

Weekly zoom activities.

Parents and carers

Weekly zoom meetings.

Northumberland Disability Youth Forum

Weekly zoom meetings.

Please visit Facebook for further details regarding all activities.

Organisation

Evergreen Teens (North East) Limited is a youth organisation who works exclusively with young people and adults with additional needs.

Email: Toniglynne.dunn@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/evergreenteen

Information/Events

Please visit website or Facebook for further details regarding all activities.

Organisation

Happy Faces Prudhoe is a small charity providing social activities for children with additional needs. They also provide support for parents and carers through interaction with others going through similar experiences.

Everyone is welcome but for more information, contact them and one of the trustees will respond. Or use Facebook to send a message.

Email: info@happyfaces-prudhoe.co.uk

Website: www.happyfaces-prudhoe.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/happyfacesprudhoe

Information/Events

Monday evening - term time - 5.30 pm

Weekly Youth zoom

To join email info@happyfaces-prudhoe.co.uk.

Training Courses

These will take place via zoom and information is shared via the Facebook page.

Please visit website or Facebook for further details regarding all activities.

Organisation

Headway Arts is an award-winning arts organisation based in Blyth. They passionately believe that making art and being creative makes us feel better about ourselves and improves our mental health and wellbeing.

Email: Hello@headwayarts.co.uk

Website: www.headwayarts.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HeadwayArts

Information/Events

Stars creative workshops for young learning disabled adults

Monday - 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm

Movement and yoga - Zoom

Tuesday - 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm

Visual arts, making and mindfulness - Zoom

Wednesday - 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm

Inclusive dance - Zoom

Thursday - 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm

Theatre, expressive arts, circus skills - Zoom

You can view some recent online work on their website or Facebook page.

Please visit website or Facebook for further details regarding all activities.

Organisation

Hextol Foundation provides working opportunities to people with learning disabilities and mental health needs. They believe work is good for people and that the groups they work with deserve the same opportunities as others. Hextol Foundation is based in Hexham where they run a vegetarian/vegan café, and operate gardening teams (in both Hexham and Newcastle), handyperson service, a post and pack operation, catering and admin.

Email: contact@hextol.org.uk

Website: www.hextol.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/THEHEXTOLFOUNDATION

Information/Events

Hextol Foundation cater for people over the age of 16 with no upper age limit. Anyone interested in their services can contact them direct – no referral is necessary. All posts are voluntary vacancies.

To find out more contact Cherie Sutherland

Email: cherie.sutherland@hextol.org.uk

Tel: 01434 605253

Please visit website or Facebook for further details regarding all activities.

Organisation

Hippotherapy Northumberland is a community club, operating from Townfoot Stables, Shilbottle and Kirkley Hall Equestrian College, Ponteland. It is a registered charity which provides an opportunity of Therapeutic Sport for children and young people with disabilities, who will experience an active physical workout through a horse. There is interaction in and with 'normal' environments and young people (volunteers) therefore succeeding, achieving, engaging in and with physical activity, sport and games.

Email: hipponorthumberland@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Hippotherapy-Northumberland

Information/Events

Please contact Hippotherapy Northumberland for up-to-date information.

Organisation

Mortal Fools is a theatre, drama and creative learning company based in Prudhoe, Northumberland. They create compelling, dynamic and high-quality theatre by professional artists working as co-creators with young people and communities; helping people connect, have fun, learn and grow together.

Email: info@mortalfools.org.uk

Website: www.mortalfools.org.uk/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/mortalfoolsUK/

Information/Events

Theatre and drama sessions

Young people 7 - 19 years (school years 3+).

These sessions are currently taking place over Zoom.

Groups work with a professional theatre practitioner and film maker to create their very own short film.

No previous drama experience required.

Weekly Groups:

Stage 3 (school years 6 - 9): Tuesday 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm (term-time only)

Stage 2 (school years 3 - 6): Thursday 5.00 pm - 6:30 pm (term-time only)

New members can register via their website: www.mortalfools.org.uk/register-with-mfyt. New members will either be invited to join for a taster session or, if the groups are full, they will be added to a waiting list and will be informed when a space becomes available.

Organisation

National Autistic Society North Northumberland is based in Belford and holds a monthly support group for parents/carers of family members with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) on the 2nd Wednesday of the month 9.30 am -11.30 am. The society occasionally involves outside speakers.

Email: NASNorthNorthumberlandBranch@nas.org.uk

Website: www.autism.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NationalAutisticSociety

Information/Events

Wednesday 14 July 2021 - 9.30 am - 11.30 am

Support Group

Guests: David Street, Deputy Director of Education

Fiona Tarn, Northumberland Inclusive Education services.

Wednesday 8 September 2021 - 9.30 am - 11.30 am

Support Group

Tuesday 21 September 2021 - 10.00 am - 11.30 am

Preparation for meetings with Alison Bravey, Northumberland SEND Information, Advice and Support Service

All monthly support sessions are currently via zoom.

Please visit website or Facebook for further details regarding all activities.

Organisation

Northumberland Parent Carer Forum is the Department for Education's recognised parent carer forum in Northumberland. The forum works in partnership with the Local Authority, and Health and Social Care services to improve outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families.

Email: enquiries@npcf.co.uk

Website: npcf.co.uk/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/northumberlandpcf

Information/Events

The Northumberland Parent Carer Forum are parents and carers of children and young people (0 – 25) who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. They work in partnership with service commissioners and providers, sharing knowledge and experience, with the aim of supporting and enabling families within our community to access the services and give them a voice in developing the quality, range, and accessibility of this provision.

You can sign up to join the parent carer forum at npcf.co.uk/

Please visit website or Facebook for further details.

Organisation

SEND to Learn is a fully inclusive nursery in Blyth for children from 9 months old to 5 years and specialises in education and care for children with both special educational needs and complex medical care.

Email: info@sendtolearn.co.uk

Website: www.sendtolearn.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SENDtoLearn

Information/Events

Nursery Education

Monday to Friday - 9.00 am to 3.30 pm during school term time.

Holiday Programme

Age: 9 months - 8 years old.

February half term, May half term, October half term and the first two weeks of the summer holidays.

Hand in Hand

A parent support group which is open to any parent or family member. Support is offered throughout the year and monthly sessions are held every third Tuesday of the month which covers a range of topics. A free crèche can be provided if required but this must be booked in advance.

CPD

CPD sessions are organised throughout the year covering a range of topics including Makaton, Communication, 1st Aid, Sensory Processing and Behaviour. These sessions are either free or involve a small charge. The 1st Aid sessions are costed separately.

All activities are available to everyone but booking is required.

Please contact SEND to Learn for up-to-date information.

Organisation

SMILE Through Sport is a disability organisation providing a wide range of sport and activity sessions across the North East for individuals with a disability and their families. Activity sessions and events are fun, friendly and delivered in a relaxed welcoming environment. Activities are for all ages and all disabilities.

Email: jenni@smilethroughsport.com / rachel@smilethroughsport.com

Website: www.smilethroughsport.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SmileThroughSport/

Information/Events

For families living in Northumberland:

SMILE Together Online Physical Activity Sessions

This **free** online physical activity session is fun, interactive and social. Aimed at the whole family, it is suitable for all ages and for anyone who wants to participate in exercise at home. Each session lasts 45 minutes and features cardio, conditioning and stretching activities, set to a themed story and music. Themes include pirate adventure, jungle journey and animal encounter. It is suitable for beginners of any ability.

When: Every Saturday

Time: 9.30 am - 10.30 am

When: Every Wednesday

Time: 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm

To book visit: www.bookwhen.com/smilethroughsport05

SMILE Together Facebook Group

Join our private facebook group for families in Northumberland, to hear about up and coming sessions and events, sharing ideas of activities and some fun challenges to take part in as a family. Click the link to join [SMILE Together](#).

For more information contact jenni@smilethroughsport.com / Tel: 07710891741

Please visit website or Facebook for further details regarding all activities.

Organisation

SpLinter Group and 'Waffling On' is based at the Dovecote Centre, Amble, NE65 0DX and is run by young adults with learning differences. The group organises social activities and events, learning opportunities, residential, conferences, projects and campaigns for better services.

Telephone: 07775 817544

Email: splintergroupnorth@gmail.com

Website: www.splintergroup.uk www.wafflingon.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SplinterGroupNorth

Information/Events

Splinter Summer Olympics

A series of autism-friendly gaming conventions, each one featuring the Mario and Sonic at the Olympics Tournament Zone, High Score Zone and Free Play Zone.

Numbers will be limited to 16 max at each event. **Booking essential.**

All ages welcome but anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult

Thursday 29 July 2021: 11.00 am - 3.00 pm

Olympics 1

Venue: Dovecote Centre, Amble

Wednesday 18 August 2021: 11.00 am - 3.00 pm

Olympics 2 (event to include sports such as boccia and five-a-side football)

Venue: to be confirmed - in Blyth or Dovecote Centre, Amble

Friday 3 September 2021: 11.00 am - 3.00 pm

Olympics 3

Venue: Dovecote Centre, Amble

'Waffling On' - Splinter Group has set up a catering enterprise, with the chance to learn how to make and sell waffles, and/or to chat with customers to raise awareness about learning difference and autism. The trailer will be serving food at the Olympic events and some other festival days through the summer and autumn.

Splinter Sisters is a peer support group for young women which helps members explore relationships and staying safe and true to yourself. 1:1 support is also available to young women in partnership with Women's Workshop mentors.

Monday 19 July: 7.00 pm - Bowling and a meal at Cramlington

First Monday of the month - 7.00 pm - 8.30 pm

Support session - Zoom

Gaming project – The group is designing their own video game and running autism friendly gaming events and conventions to help make gaming more social.

The project is looking for members who can help with user interface, music or testing the prototypes.

Friday (weekly) 4.00 pm

Design team - Zoom

Quiz and Games

Sunday (weekly): 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm

All welcome - Zoom

Please visit website or Facebook for further details regarding all activities.

Organisation

SpLinter Group and 'Waffling On' is based at the Dovecote Centre, Amble, NE65 0DX and is run by young adults with learning differences. The group organises social activities and events, learning opportunities, residentials, conferences, projects and campaigns for better services.

Telephone: 07775 817544

Email: splintergroupnorth@gmail.com

Website: www.splintergroup.uk www.wafflingon.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SplinterGroupNorth

Information/Events

Support - Available to meet 1-to-1 with young people who might need help to take part in the SpLinter Group's meetings, and offer advice and support on housing, benefits, living independently, and looking for work.

Safe Places scheme - www.safeplaces.org.uk

In Northumberland the Safe Places scheme (part of a wider National project) is run by SpLinter Group. Safe Places is a network of cafes, transport exchanges, leisure and community centres, and other venues (with a mixture of daytime and evening openings) that have been approved by SpLinter Group and can be used by people in distress who need a refuge for a short time. People who are anxious, lost or vulnerable can use them to calm down and get help when they are out and about.

Training sessions with venues

Take part in training for staff in cafes, shops and community venues on how to make their premises and team a friendly place for anyone who is anxious when out and about. Full training is given.

Please visit website or Facebook for further details regarding all activities.

Organisation

Tanga Hexham (Tanga Club) is based at the TORCH Centre in Hexham and is a fully inclusive group supporting whole families who have children with additional needs. Areas of support include activities and events, groups, parent and carer support, advocacy, specialist toy library, reference library, help and advice on education, finance, healthcare etc, assistance with forms, appeals and tribunals.

Email: Thetangahub@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Tangaclubhexham/

Information/Events

TORCH Centre, Corbridge Road, Hexham, NE46 1QS

Youth / social club - The youth club is for children with additional needs ranging from severe and profoundly disabled to mild learning difficulties. Activities are also provided for siblings and friends who may not have any additional needs. There is a thriving sibling group at the club.

To be involved in activities offered at the club and kept up to date with all plans, join the members private Facebook page - Tanga@TORCH.

Activity groups are fully inclusive for children up to age 18 and their families. All levels of ability are catered for.

Summer Programme

Tanga in the Woods - Forest School - delivered by Nature's Living Room CIC

Date: Every Friday from 23 July 2021 - morning sessions

Activity: Family friendly, fully inclusive for families with different needs

Cost: £5.00 per child including lunch. No charge for parents/carers.

Book is essential via Tanga Facebook or email Northumberlandinclusive@gmail.com

Tanga Outdoors

Date: Every Wednesday - 11.00 am - 1.30 pm

Activities:

21 July - Mad Hatter's Tea Party

28 July - Tanga Sports Day

4 August - Bubbleologist

11 August - Crazy Creatures

18 August - International Food Week

25 August - Super Dress-Up Day

1 September - Tanga Finale

Please visit Facebook for further details regarding all activities.

Organisation

The Jack Ward Inclusion Initiative

Email: thejackwardii@gmail.com

Website: <https://thejackwardii.org.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thejackwardii>

Twitter: @thejackwardii

Information/Events

The Jack Ward Inclusion Initiative has been working throughout lockdown, offering support to families where there is a child 0 - 25 years with additional needs.

They offer the following services:

1:1 Peer Support - book online via <https://calendly.com/stephanieward/one-to-one-peer-support-meeting>

Online support group - [facebook.com/groups/andpsblyth](https://www.facebook.com/groups/andpsblyth)

Three times weekly zoom support calls for members. To become a member, join the Facebook group and complete the online registration form.

Surgical Hip Support Community

A new project, the Surgical Hip Support Community ([facebook.com/groups/surgicalhipsupport](https://www.facebook.com/groups/surgicalhipsupport)) for adults and children, carers and health professionals, who have, support or work with people who have surgical hip conditions. The Chair and Chief Executive Stephanie was diagnosed with hip dysplasia and has subsequently had surgical treatment, and has identified a need for additional support in this area. The group is in its infancy, but has orthopaedic surgeons, physiotherapists and mental health professionals lined up to offer advice and support to group members.

Please visit website or Facebook for further information.

Organisation

The Toby Henderson Trust is based in Bedlington and offers a range of services for young people and their families who are affected by ASC (Autism Spectrum Conditions). They run a social group called MATES and a social group for Sibling Superstars. There are Social Communication Groups for children in mainstream education. They also run various family events and workshops. They specialise in early intervention and their flagship Intensive Interaction Service has now been running for over 15 years. In a uniquely designed environment which is totally distraction free, where children are approached completely as an individual with their own specific needs. Advice, information and signposting are an inherent part of their role. They also offer support and guidance, and are always there to listen. They have a depth of a personal and professional experience to offer, which has grown over many years.

Email: support@ttht.co.uk

Website: www.ttht.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheTobyHendersonTrust

Information/Events

Webinars

To register for a webinar please email a member or staff or support@ttht.co.uk outlining which webinar you would like to attend, and include the following information:

1. Your Postcode
2. Age of child
3. Does your child attend mainstream or specialist provision
4. One question for submission

Autism and supporting emotional regulation

Monday 12 July 2021: 9.30 am - 11.30 pm

Presented by: Lynda Richardson - ASD Service Manager, and Alice Urwin - ASD Family Support Advisor

Understanding the avoidant profile

Tuesday 13 July 2021: 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Presented by: Rachel McManus - Occupational Therapist

Toileting issues

Thursday 15 July 2021: 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Presented by: Julie Curtis - ASD Nurse Consultant

Social Stories™

Thursday 5 August 2021: 9.30 am - 11.30 am

Presented by: Julie Curtis - ASD Nurse Consultant

Usual visual aids across the ages

Thursday 19 August 2021: 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm

Presented by: Lynda Richardson - ASD Service Manager, and Alice Urwin - ASD Family Support Advisor

Sensory issues

Friday 24 September 2021: 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Presented by: Rachel McManus - Occupational Therapist

Autism and mental health difficulties

Thursday 30 September 2021: 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Presented by: Carolyn Morgan - Child and adolescent psychotherapist

Sleep problems

Tuesday 26 October 2021: 9.30 am - 11.30 am

Presented by: Julie Curtis - ASD Nurse Consultant

Preparing for Christmas with your autistic child

Monday 1 November 2021: 9.30 am - 11.00 am

Presented by: Lynda Richardson - ASD Service Manager, and Alice Urwin - ASD Family Support Advisor

Organisation

Useful Vision is based at Newburn, Newcastle upon Tyne and is a charity that supports children and young people who are vision impaired. They provide a range of free, accessible activities to reduce social isolation and to build confidence.

Email: office@usefulvision.org.uk

Website: www.usefulvision.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UsefulVision

Information/Events

All activities are suitable for visually impaired children, young people, and their families. Once a child has been registered on the Useful Vision website, they can attend as many activities as they like, until their 19th birthday.

Saturday 10 July 2021 - 9.00 am - 10.30 am

Drama group - Zoom

Monday 26 July - Friday 30 July 2021 - 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

Newburn Activity Centre

Discover with Dance City

Wednesday 4 August 2021 - 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

Sunderland Football Foundation

Sports Activity Day

Friday 6, 13, 20, 27 August 2021 - 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

Newcastle - venue to be confirmed

Summer Drama Club

Saturday 14 August 2021 - 11.00 am - 3.00 pm

Hall Hill Farm

Farm Family Day

Sunday 22 August 2021 - 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

The Sill (National Landscape Discovery Centre), Northumberland

Nature Visit

Please visit website or Facebook for further information.

Organisation

Wecan (We Enable Children, Young people, and Adults with Additional Needs) is based in Hexham and provides social activities and respite care within the community, which enables children, young people, and adults to access various activities - dance, film sessions, sensory sessions, art and crafts, walks in the local community, and activities at Wentworth Leisure Centre, Hexham.

Wecan helps parents/carers to enjoy a short break/respite time whilst their team of skilled and experienced Support Workers look after their children on a 1:1 or group basis (dependent on their assessed need).

Email: info@wecanenable.co.uk

Website: www.wecanenable.co.uk

Facebook: [@wecanenable](https://www.facebook.com/wecanenable)

Twitter: [@wecanswnorth](https://twitter.com/wecanswnorth)

Information/Events

Virtual Ladies Night

Wednesdays: 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Saturday Club Children Service

(Term time only): 3 hours - start times: 10.45 am, 11.00 am, 11.15 am and 11.30 am

Saturday Club Adult Service

(Term time only): 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm - 3 hours

Summer Scheme holiday sessions

[Please visit website or Facebook for further information.](#)

Northumberland Information, Advice and Support Service

Northumberland Information, Advice and Support Service has its own website and Facebook page, which shares with parents/carers and young people information, advice and support for children and young people (0 - 25 years) with SEND (special educational needs or disabilities).

northumberlandiass.org.uk

www.facebook.com/NorthumberlandIASS

A link to our website can also be found on the Northumberland County Council website.

Just a reminder that the support the service can offer includes:

- Providing a listening ear and practical advice and support with understanding the SEND 'system'.
- Information on a range of SEND topics.
- Support with preparing for meetings.
- Help with exploring the options for a child/young person's SEND provision.
- Signposting to other services and groups, including parents group, youth forums and national helplines.
- Support for individual children, young people and their parents that empowers them to express their views and wishes and helps them to understand and exercise their rights in matters including SEN processes, exclusion, complaints and SEND appeals.
- Training for parents, children and young people, and professionals to increase their knowledge of SEND law, guidance, local policy, issues and participation.

Coronavirus/Covid19

We are continuing to provide a service during Covid-19. If you have any queries, please contact the service at iass@northumberland.gov.uk or 01670 623555 / 01670 620350.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list to receive a copy of the Bulletin, or if you would like your details removed from the list, please email julia.mccormack@northumberland.gov.uk.

Disclaimer:

Please note that we have done our best to ensure that the contents were correct at the time of printing. Contact julia.mccormack@northumberland.gov.uk to let us know about any inaccuracies/information that needs to be added. Please note that inclusion of services in the bulletin is not an endorsement or guarantee of that provision.