

Northumberland Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS) Information Newsletter April 2022 - Issue 7

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

Citizens Advice Northumberland provides free, confidential and impartial information and advice, on a range of issues including money, benefits, housing and employment.

The service can be accessed via their website www.citizensadvice.org.uk/, by telephone free on **0808 2787944** and also in person at one of their eight local offices around the county.

Money Advice

This Money Advice Project is fully funded by the Money Advice Service and operates throughout Northumberland via a mixture of face to face and telephone appointments. This is a free service. Contact the Money Advice Team on – **01670 339960** – or Text **DEBT to 81400** – to receive a call back within 2 working days.

Specialist Benefit Service

Welfare Benefits can feel like walking through a minefield especially if you are accessing this support for the very first time. Their website and general service can support you in finding out what you may be entitled to, how to apply, what evidence is best to use to support your applications and this is backed up by a team of specialists who can help challenge decisions when things go wrong.

Universal Credit 'Help to Claim' service

The Help to Claim service can help you find out if you can claim Universal credit and if it is the right benefit for you to claim. The Help to Claim Advisers can support you in the early stages of your Universal Credit claim, from the application, through to your first payment around 5 weeks later. Call for free on **0800 1448444** - Monday-Friday, 8.00am - 6.00 pm

Would you like us to include a 'spotlight on' article about your organisation? If so, email julia.mccormack@northumberland.gov.uk and let us know.

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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](#)

Twitter <https://twitter.com/NBLSchoolGames>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/northumberlandschoolgames/>

Seb & Olivia's Den

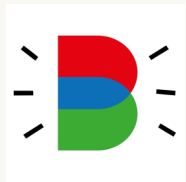
Northburn Sports & Community Centre, Cramlington

Email: sebandoliviasden@gmail.com

Seb & Olivia's Den is a sensory room and provides a stimulating and safe sensory space, equipped with tactile, auditory and visual stimuli for children, young people and adults with additional needs.

Please visit website, Facebook, Twitter or Instagram 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: adamthompson@bvdfhomecare.co.uk

Website: www.bvdfhomecare.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BVDFHomecare

Telephone: 01670 360927

Information/Events

Monday (except Bank Holiday): Pickups from 5.00 pm / 6.15 pm - 7.00 pm - pool time

Aqua Fun - Blyth Sports Centre

Tuesday: 4.00pm - 9.00pm

After School Club - fun, leisure, craft and art sessions.

Ages 8 - 13 years

Mini play schemes are also organised during school holidays

Wednesday: 4.00pm - 9.00pm

Activity group catering for adults with learning disabilities - socialise, play pool, wii, pin bowling and more

Thursday: 4.00pm - 9.00pm

16+ years group for young adults with special needs - socialise, play pool wii pin bowling and more

Saturday: 9.00am - 2.00pm

Sports sessions - football, basketball, horse riding, ten pin bowling, snowboarding, canoeing, swimming and more

Under 19 years

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 5 April - Zoom Bingo & Quiz - 7.00pm

Wednesday 6 April – Zoom Drama Group - 4.30pm

Wednesday 6 April – Border Links Zoom Disco - 7.00pm

Thursday 7 April – Zoom Chit Chat - 4.30pm

Tuesday 12 April - Zoom Bingo & Quiz - 7.00pm

Wednesday 13 April – Border Links Zoom Drama - 4.30pm

Thursday 14 April – Zoom Chit Chat - 4.30pm

Tuesday 19 April - Zoom Bingo & Quiz - 7.00pm

Wednesday 20 April – Border Links Zoom - 4.30pm

Thursday 21 April – Zoom Chit Chat - 4.30pm

Tuesday 26 April - Zoom Bingo & Quiz - 7.00pm

Wednesday 27 April – Border Links Zoom - 4.30pm

Thursday 28 April – Zoom Chit Chat - 4.30pm

Tuesday 3 May - Zoom Bingo & Quiz - 7.00pm

Wed 4 May – **BORDER LINKS DISCO - IT'S BACK!! - DJ Roger West** - 7.00pm

Black & Gold Club, Shielfield Park, Berwick upon Tweed

Monthly disco - 1st Wednesday each month

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

Organisation



Calmer Therapy is based at Stobhill Community Centre, Morpeth and supports children, young people and adults who have additional needs, disabilities and mental health needs. The centre has a sensory room, gaming room, activity hall and sports hall. 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: hello@calmertherapy.org

Telephone: 01670 516015

Facebook: www.facebook.com/calmertherapy

WhatsApp: 07368 417778

Information/Events

Monday

Exclusive session at Airbox bounce, Cramlington, for all the family: 4.30pm - 5.30pm

Tuesday

Baby and Toddler session: 10.00am - 11.45am

Parent/Carer support group: 12.30pm - 2.30pm

Family Pilates, for all ages and abilities (Grandparents too!): 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Disability Youth Forum - age 11-25 years: 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Wednesday

Sensory room play

Thursday

Football club - age 2-18 years: 4.30pm - 5.30pm

Friday

Youth group - age 11-13 years: 4.30pm - 6.00pm

Teen Youth group - age 13+ years: 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Saturday

Family Zumba, for all ages and abilities (Grandparents too!): 10.00am -10.45am

Sunday Calmer Kids - age 0 - 10 years: 10.00am-11.45am

Please visit Facebook, email or send a WhatsApp message 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 - term time

Weekly Youth club: 5.00pm - 6.00pm, Prudhoe Methodist church

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

Wednesday: 5.15pm - 6.45pm

Soft play @The Castle

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 - 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Movement and yoga - Zoom

Tuesday - 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Visual arts, making and mindfulness - Zoom

Wednesday - 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Inclusive dance - Zoom

Thursday - 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Theatre, expressive arts, circus skills - Zoom

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

Organisation



Hextol Foundation positively supports people with learning disabilities and mental health needs by providing volunteering opportunities which build up employability skills and work experience. The Hextol Foundation is based in Hexham where they run a vegetarian/vegan café and operate gardening teams (in both Hexham and Newcastle), warehousing, packing and distribution and catering services.

Email: contact@hextol.org.uk

Website: www.hextol.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/THEHEXTOLFOUNDATION

Information/Events

Hextol Foundation can offer supported placements to those aged 15 and above 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 Jo Elliott

Email: jo.elliott@hextol.org.uk

Telephone: 01434 605253 / 07826620361

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.

New members can register via: 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.

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)

Organisation



North Northumberland Branch of the National Autistic Society meets at Chatton village hall, or via Zoom.

Email: NASNorthNorthumberlandBranch@nas.org.uk

Website: www.autism.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NationalAutisticSociety

Information/Events

Monthly support group for parents/carers of family members with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
2nd Wednesday each month: 9.30am - 11.30am

Craft Group

1st and 3rd Thursday each month: 1.30pm - 3.00pm

Girls and Autism - zoom

Last Tuesday each month: 9.30am - 11.00am

Autism Friendly Forest school - at Clarty Commandos, Howick gardens

Tuesday 12 April 2022: 12.00pm - 3.00pm

Booking essential

Workshop - Adult Autistic Diagnostic Services

Wednesday 18 May 2022: 10.00am - 12.00pm

Workshop - OCD & Tourettes

Wednesday 22 June 2022: 10.00am - 12.00pm

Please visit email NASNorthNorthumberlandBranch@nas.org.uk for further details regarding all activities.

Organisation



Northern Lights Northumberland is a community group for families who care for a child, or adult, with additional needs or a disability. The group is open to families from Northumberland and neighbouring counties. They connect families with each other online, in their secure Facebook group, inform members about potential opportunities and organise meet-ups for families. Their support group has its own Speech and Language Therapist, who volunteers her time to offer advice and guidance to parents. They have members of the Northumberland Parent Carer Forum and Maternity Voices Partnership available in the group. The most important aspect of Northern Lights is the vital peer support on offer from the local parent carer community.

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

Online group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/569150484302899/?ref=share_group_link

Twitter: @NorthLandLights

Instagram: @northernlightsnorthumberland

Information/Events

Monthly meeting

A monthly meet at Soft to Play, a local soft play, in central Northumberland.

Alongside the regular monthly meeting, Northern Lights Northumberland run holiday dance and cookery sessions for their children. They are open to any suggestions and operate on a needs basis, with whatever parents feel is required.

If you are a family that cares for a child or adult with additional needs, or a disability, and you feel you would benefit from connecting with other families in the local area join their Facebook page and follow the link to join their **online support group**. You will be made very welcome by their community!

Lyla and Lilley's Stars

Northern Lights Northumberland is linked with another charity, Lyla and Lilley's Stars. Lyla's offers free holidays to Northern Lights Northumberland members at their caravan at Ocean Edge Holiday Resort.

Please visit [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) 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 - 9.00am to 3.30pm during school term time.

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 charity providing a wide range of sport and physical activity sessions across the North East for disabled children, young people and their families. Smile activity sessions and events are fun, friendly and delivered in a relaxed welcoming environment. Activities are for all ages and disabilities, and adapted for everyone.

Email: info@smilethroughsport.com

Website: www.smilethroughsport.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SmileThroughSport/

Telephone: 01670 457757

Information/Events

Cost: All sessions are FREE.

Every Tuesday

5-10 year old sessions: 4.00pm - 5.00pm - Vertu Motors Arena, Scotswood Road, Newcastle, NE4 7AF

10-19 year old sessions: 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Vertu Motors Arena, Scotswood Road, Newcastle, NE4 7AF

Every Wednesday

10-19 year old sessions: 5.30pm - 6.30pm - Sporting Club, Cramlington Learning Village, Highburn, Cramlington, NE23 6BN

Every Thursday

10-19 year old sessions: 6.30pm - 7.30pm - The Louise Centre, Front Street, Stanley, DH9 0TE

Family session (minimum age 5 years)

1st Sunday of the month: 11.00am - 12.30pm - Sporting Club, Cramlington Learning Village, Highburn, Cramlington, NE23 6BN

2nd Saturday of the month: 1.30pm - 3.00pm - Blyth Sports Centre, Bolam Park, Blyth, NE24 5BT

3rd Sunday of the month: 2.00pm - 3.30pm - Prudhoe Community High School, Prudhoe, NE42 5LJ

4th Saturday of the month: 1.30pm - 3.00pm - Jarrow Focus, Cambrian Street, Jarrow, NE32 3QN

Easter 2022

Monday 11 April: 10.00am - 11.30am - Sporting Club, Cramlington Learning Village, Highburn, Cramlington, NE23 6BN

Wednesday 13 April: 10.00am - 11.30am - Mortimer Community Centre, Reading Road, South Shields, NE33 4UG

Thursday 14 April: 10.00am - 11.30am - The Louisa Centre, Front Street, Stanley, DH9 0TE

To book, visit: www.smilethroughsport.com/sessions-and-events-calendar.

For more information about the sessions and the types of sports and activities, contact and speak to one of the team.

SMILE Together Facebook Group

Join the 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](#).

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

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

Organisation



Tanga Hexham (Tanga Club) is based at the TORCH Centre, Corbridge Road, Hexham, NE46 1QS 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: northumberlandinclusive@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Tangaclubhexham/

Information/Events

Friday 15 and Friday 22 April 2022: 10.00am - 2.00pm - Family sessions in the woods / Forest School

Easter activities and food - £5.00 per child

Contact Tanxa Hexham on Facebook or northumberlandinclusive@gmail.com to book places.

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.

Term time Friday Club and supports - Facebook or email to find out more.

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 provides a range of very practical services for autistic children, young people and their families who are affected by ASC (Autism Spectrum Conditions).

Their flagship service has been providing specialist autism family support for over 20 years, delivered by an experienced and knowledgeable team of practitioners, supported by clinical staff. You do not need to have a confirmed diagnosis of autism to access a service. Along with private assessment and diagnostic services for children and adults, they offer INTEGRATE which is a sensory profiling, recommendations and strategies resource.

The Toby Henderson Trust offer a rolling programme of free targeted webinars for families and a range of social groups across the ages from 5 - 20+ which are "MATES" Groups (Meet At Toby's And Engage Socially). They also offer monthly Siblings Superstars sessions. General support, advice and information is offered on a daily basis to all those needing help.

Email: support@ttht.co.uk

Telephone: 0300 3653055

Website: www.ttht.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheTobyHendersonTrust

Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn - links via the website

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

Or register online: <https://www.ttht.co.uk/training-workshops-and-events/webinars/>

Webinars - various topics

Autism Family Support Group - monthly: Wednesdays 10.00am - 11.00am

Families of Autistic Girls Support Group - monthly: Thursdays 10.00am - 11.00am

Grandparents Support Group

Dates and full details for webinars and support groups can be viewed online <https://www.ttht.co.uk/training-workshops-and-events/webinars/>

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

Telephone: 0191 447 2600

New address: The Lemington Centre, Tyne View, Lemington, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 8RZ

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.

Tuesday 5 and Tuesday 26 April 2022: 6.00pm - 7.00pm - Horse Riding at Morpeth RDA

Saturday 2 April 2022: 4.00pm - 5.45pm - Swimming - Spennymoor Leisure Centre , DL16 6DB

Wednesday 13 April 2022: 10.00am - 1.30pm

Age: 5+ years - Rock Climbing - Newcastle Climbing Centre

Wednesday 20 April 2022: 10.00am - 3.00pm

Age: 4+ (max weight of 13 stone)

Horse riding - Three Lane Ends Farm, Escomb, DL14 7SR

Sunday 24 April 2022: 10.00am - 3.00pm - Disney Crafts Greet and Meet - Sunderland City Centre

Saturday 30 April 2022: 10.00am - 12.15pm - Dance City Workshop - Middlesbrough College, TS2 1AD

Saturday 7 May 2022: 11.00am - 2.30pm - Bowling - Planet Leisure, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6BF

Sunday 15 May 2022: 10.00am - 3.00pm - Arts and crafts - The Sill, Once Brewed, Hexham, NE47 7AN

Saturday 28 May 2022: 10.00am - 11.30am - Dance City Workshop - Middlesbrough College, TS2 1AD

Monday 30 May 2022: 10.00am - 4.00pm - Speed of Sight Race Car Driving - Middlesbrough, TS6 6XH

Tuesday 31 May 2022: 11.00am - 1.00pm - Discovery Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4JA

Sunday 5 June 2022: 10.00am - 2.00pm - Family Fun Day, Newburn, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 8ND

Saturday 18 June 2022: 9.00am - 2.30pm - Tees Barrage - Age 10+ years

Saturday 25 June 2022: 10.00am - 11.30am - Dance City Workshop - Middlesbrough College, TS2 1AD

Please visit website or Facebook for further event 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

Saturday Club Children Service

(Term time only): start times: 11.00am - 2.00pm

Saturday Club Adult Service

(Term time only): 3.00pm - 6.00pm

Easter, Summer and half-term holidays

Information available on website.

Please visit website or Facebook for further information.

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>

The Community Hub at Cramlington

The community hub is a space where locals can meet others, take part in activities, visit the library or enjoy a coffee with friends in the Learning Café.

Manor Walks Shopping Centre, Cramlington, NE23 6YB

Tel: 01670 620394

Email: mylibrary@northumberland.gov.uk

<https://nland.uk/HubAtCramlington>

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

Useful Website Links

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/

Bridge Northumberland

Bridge Northumberland helps people overcome barriers to training, education and work.

If you are: · not in work, education or training, · aged 16 up to retirement age, · live in Northumberland.

It is FREE, entirely voluntary and doesn't affect your benefits.

www.bridgenorthumberland.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.uk)

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/

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/health/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.

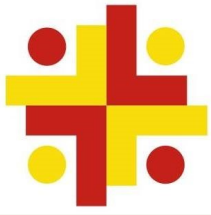
[literacytrust.org.uk/early-years/bilingual-quick-tips/](https://www.literacytrust.org.uk/early-years/bilingual-quick-tips/)

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/health/bitesize-support)

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 Newsletter, please submit your request via this link <https://forms.office.com/r/Mk13rkQs42>.

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.