

# Gateshead SEND Network News

Gateshead  
**LOCAL  
OFFER**

Issue 15 | April 2024

## Hello!

In Gateshead we believe that the voice, opinions and experiences of children and young people with SEND and their families should be at the heart of everything we do. For more information go to [www.gateshead-localoffer.org](http://www.gateshead-localoffer.org), follow the Gateshead SEND Local Offer [Facebook page](#) or visit the [Gateshead Local Offer YouTube channel](#).

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

## Harry's New Role!

**Hi, my name's Harry.** Since December 2022 I've worked as the SEND Youth Ambassador for Gateshead Council and the NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board. I've recently moved onto a new role as a Sales and Digital Marketing Advisor in the council's Learning and Skills team, which was only possible due to the skills and experience I gained in my SEND Youth Ambassador role.

I grew up in Gateshead and have experienced the SEND system first hand as a young person with an EHCP, which is one of the reasons I was considered for the job. I thought, how interesting it would be to see behind the scenes and be actively involved in the processes I was on the other side of as a child.

One of my aims was to use my lived experience to identify areas for improvement and enact change within the SEND system. Having now seen the SEND Strategic Priority Action Plan implemented with its vision correlating with my own ideas for development, I am pleased to think that my work



has had a positive impact for people with SEND in Gateshead.

I have really enjoyed working as part of the SEND Team and the SEND Youth Forum. I'm on my way into a new job which I'm really looking forward to.

"We're all extremely proud of Harry and the work he's done as Gateshead's SEND Youth Ambassador," says Alex Thompson, Gateshead Council's SEND Involvement Worker. "He has channelled the opinions and experiences of young people with SEND in Gateshead and made a real positive difference. I'm sure he'll be a great success in his new role."

**For more information about SEND Participation and Involvement work in Gateshead, visit** <https://gateshead-localoffer.org/participation-and-involvement-work/>

# Eslington School Red Cheek Day

Congratulations to the students and staff from Eslington Primary School, who held their 'Red Cheek Day' event in aid of Comic Relief on 15 March. Their aim was to raise money for the charity by having at least one person bouncing on a trampette for the whole of the school day across both of their school sites.



in red and we raised over £160 in donations which all have gone to red nose day. It was a huge success and the children were on the trampette from eight-ten until ten past three on Friday!"

Well done to everyone for their fantastic achievement!

Eslington Primary School is a special school for children

between 5-11 years of age with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs.

For more information visit

<https://eslingtonschool.uk/eslington/> or email [eslingtonprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:eslingtonprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk)

Miss Richter and Miss Flamson organised the event in conjunction with their school's Student Council. "Our target of 20,000 jumps on the trampette was exceeded", says Miss Richter. "Across the whole day, we managed to get a total of 22,920 bounces across our Hazel Road and Rose Street sites. The children all came dressed

## Travel Care Team Update



**Hi, my name is Jocelyn Arnell** and I'm the new Independent Travel Trainer within the Travel Care Team. I previously worked within Road Safety for over eight years as a Pedestrian Trainer and then as the Pedestrian Training Coordinator, providing Pedestrian Training for primary schools throughout Northumberland and Tyne and Wear.

I joined the Travel Care Team in February and I am looking forward to training young people this important life skill to enable them to become more independent.

If you would like more information about Travel Training please do not hesitate to contact me at [jocelynarnell@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:jocelynarnell@gateshead.gov.uk)

## SEND Swimming Sessions

**Go Gateshead are offering weekly SEND-specific swimming sessions at local Leisure Centres:**

- **Dunston Leisure Centre:** Saturday 6pm – 7pm
- **Blaydon Leisure Centre:** Sunday 8am – 9am
- **Heworth Leisure Centre:** Sunday 3pm – 4pm

This session is intended to be a quieter session aimed at families who have children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Although SEND swimmers are welcome at all swimming sessions, this dedicated session will give an opportunity for the whole family to swim in a friendly, non-judgmental environment. **Proof of disability status is not required to attend these sessions.**

More information can be found at [Swim session types - GO Gateshead](#)



## Gateshead Autism Hubs

Gateshead Autism Hubs offer parents and carers of autistic children and young people (0-25 years) information, advice and support on a range of challenges that can impact autistic young people and their families. The Hubs provide drop-in sessions, peer support groups, and training for parents, carers, and professionals.

The Hubs can also offer information and signposting on related co-occurring conditions, such as: FASD, ADHD, Sensory Differences, Social and Communication Differences, Mental Health, and Learning Disabilities. Gateshead Autism Hubs are free to access and an autism diagnosis is not required to access support.

Find out more information: <https://www.daisychainproject.co.uk/gateshead-autism-hubs/>

Connect with other parents/carers via the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gatesheadautismhubs>



**DAISY  
CHAIN**  
Autism & Neurodiversity

## Gateshead SEND Youth Forum Update

*"I would like some sort of hybrid SEND Youth Forum meeting, like where if people would prefer meeting virtually or in person they can."* Gateshead SEND Youth Forum member

*"I'd like opportunities to be able to meet new people and more spaces to chill out and be with other people our own age."* Gateshead SEND Youth Forum member

In response to feedback from its members, Gateshead SEND Youth Forum meetings are now hybrid style. After the success of their Christmas meeting, the decision was taken to make all Forum meetings accessible in person and online. February's meeting was the first regular one to be held in this style, helping to promote accessibility and minimize any anxiety

issues or sensory preferences individuals may have.

SEND Youth Forum meetings are also now an hour longer than previously. The extra hour is used as a 'chat and chill' type session where young people can socialize, chat, play games etc in a relaxed atmosphere with their peers before the Forum meeting.

Gateshead SEND Youth Forum are always looking for new members to get involved. Meetings take place on the last Thursday of every month in Gateshead Civic Centre or via Teams.

For more information contact [AlexThompson@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:AlexThompson@Gateshead.Gov.UK) or visit <https://gateshead-localoffer.org/gateshead-send-young-peoples-forum/>

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD...

**GATESHEAD  
SEND  
YOUTH  
FORUM**



CONTACT ME VIA E-MAIL:  
[ALEXTHOMPSON@GATESHEAD.GOV.UK](mailto:ALEXTHOMPSON@GATESHEAD.GOV.UK)

SCAN TO  
VISIT WEBSITE



 **Gateshead  
Council**

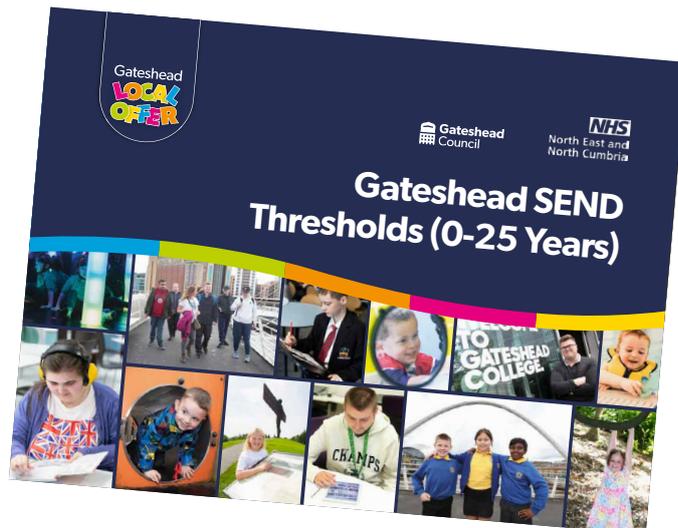
IF YOU ARE 12-25 YEARS OLD, LIVE IN GATESHEAD AND HAVE ADDITIONAL NEEDS, WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO GET INVOLVED IN GATESHEAD COUNCIL'S SEND YOUTH FORUM.

# Gateshead SEND Thresholds

We are pleased that Nichola Kehoe, Manager and SENCo at Rowlands Gill Under Fives, will be joining the Area SENCOs during the summer term one day a week to support PVI settings with the introduction of Gateshead's SEND Thresholds.

Nichola has been part of the Local Authority's pilot programme and has trialled the Thresholds in her setting over the past year.

We are asking all settings to pilot the Thresholds with one or two children during the summer term and then attend moderation meetings nearer the end of term, with the aim to fully implement them in September 2024. Nichola will be in touch with PVI settings shortly to discuss how she can help and support through this process.



More details and an electronic version of the SEND Thresholds can be found on the Gateshead SEND Local Offer website:

<https://gateshead-localoffer.org/send-thresholds/>

## SEND Futures Event



A 'SEND Futures' event will take place on **Wednesday 19 June 2024 at The Fed, Dunston**. The event is a chance to come together to improve the lives of children, young people and adults with SEND, and bring to life the Local Offer. It will be a marketplace event in two parts:

**Part 1: SEND Futures Marketplace**

9.30am - 1pm – open to all, parents, carers and young people and adults.

**Part 2: SEND Futures Networking**

1pm - 2.30pm (with a light lunch included) – professionals only.

The SEND Futures Marketplace will be providers, services and professionals, along with key areas such as Childrens Social Care, Adult Social Care, NHS, Transitions Team, and universal support from voluntary and community organisations and overarching organisations.

For more information, contact

Michelle Hall [MichelleHall@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:MichelleHall@Gateshead.Gov.UK)

## SEND Team Feedback

Gateshead Council's SEND Team would love to hear your views about the contact you've had with them. They want to use your views and experiences to help make sure that they are providing the best possible service and have created a short survey to help with this.



To access the survey, scan the QR code or visit <https://forms.office.com/e/Yd5da2K0g9>  
For more information, email the SEND Team [senteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@gateshead.gov.uk) or phone 0191 433 3626.

# Activities, Information and Resources

**Exam Stress Drop-ins:** Is your child or someone you work with (aged 4-18 years) struggling with exam stress? Why not drop in and meet children's therapists to discuss what you can do to support? Learn more about exam stress and how it presents in children <https://gateshead-localoffer.org/exam-stress-drop-ins/>

**A SEND LEGO Club is being launched at Chowdene Family Hub on Tuesday 30 April at 4:00-5:30pm.**

The club is aimed at children and young people aged 8+ with additional needs, parents and carers are welcome to attend. This is a drop-in session so people can arrive and leave at their convenience. For more information contact [AlexThompson@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:AlexThompson@Gateshead.Gov.UK).

**There's still time to get involved in Gateshead's SEND Local Offer website consultation.** We want to hear from anybody who uses the site – children and young people with SEND, their families, and professionals who work in the sector. The consultation will be open until 29 April 2024.

<https://consultation.gateshead.gov.uk/Project/1531>



**Local elections will take place on Thursday 2 May.** Gateshead Council are keen to encourage people with disabilities to use their vote. Visit <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/22880/Voting-if-you-have-a-disability> for details on how to register to vote, access the polling station, or organise a postal or proxy vote.

## Contact us:

Special Educational Needs and Disability Team, Gateshead Council

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

0191 433 3626

 [Follow us on Facebook](#)

We value your feedback and to help us improve our newsletter we have created a short survey which you can access by clicking <https://forms.office.com/e/iGHp2bGaSq>