

# SEND

## Welcome to the Winter issue of the SEND Newsletter, 2024

If you are looking for things to do over the festive period, remember to follow our Lancashire Local Offer Facebook page where we share activities and events suitable for children and young people with SEND. Also keep an eye out for sessions run by our Family Hubs, many of which are free or low-cost. You can follow your local Family Hub on Facebook or by visiting their website: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/family-hubs](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/family-hubs)

The Winter HAF (Holiday, Activity and Food) programme is available to children on free school meals, plus children with other vulnerabilities including SEND. If your child is eligible you can book sessions via the website:

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/school-holiday-activities](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/school-holiday-activities)

You'll find information about hospital passports inside this newsletter. Everyone with a learning disability is encouraged to use a Hospital Passport which helps inform hospital staff about the needs of the person with a learning disability and how to support them.

In the new year, Children's Mental Health week runs from 3-9th February 2025. You can find a variety of advice, guidance and support related to children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing in Lancashire on the **Healthy Young Minds website**. You can also sign up for updates for Children's Mental Health week here:

[childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/stay-in-touch/](http://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/stay-in-touch/)

We are always keen to include more stories from parents and carers in the newsletter. If you or a member of your family would like to write an article for a future issue of SEND, please contact us at: [FIND@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:FIND@lancashire.gov.uk)

### Anna Burkinshaw

Policy, Commissioning and Children's Health

 [www.facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer](http://www.facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer)



Our footprints always follow us on days when it's been snowing. They always show us where we've been, but never where we're going.  
- Winnie the Pooh

[lancashire.gov.uk/SEND](http://lancashire.gov.uk/SEND)



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# SPECTRUM GAMING



**A community created by autistic adults, for autistic young people ages 10-17 who live in Lancashire and have a Break Time membership**

Spectrum Gaming is an autistic-led UK based charity that supports autistic young people. We aim to create a world where every autistic child knows that who they are is ok and they can be themselves, whilst still developing meaningful relationships and achieving their personal goals.

We do this by providing spaces where they feel safe and accepted, amongst others with similar shared lived experiences, and opportunities to explore who they are. As well as our community provision, we are also involved in a wide range of advocacy work, which you can read more about on our website.

**A summary of what we offer young people:**

- Access to the Spectrum Gaming Minecraft server, which is open 10am-10pm every day.
- Regular online events around young people's interests, both gaming and non-gaming events.
- Open access to our online community on Discord, open 10am-10pm every day. This is an accessible space to connect with other young people through text, voice chats, video calls and gaming. The servers also have local area chat spaces too.
- Access to events and information around autistic understanding and wellbeing.
- Lots of joy, laughter and connection.



"I have had proper friends and a community for the first time in my life."

**How to join:**

- 1) Submit an application form on our website, including your Break Time membership number.
- 2) Arrange verification of your young person's identity, either via a video call with us, or an email from a professional.
- 3) Once verified, further instructions on how to join our servers will be emailed out to you.



Further information on who we are, what we do, and how the community works is available on our website!

[www.spectrumgaming.net](http://www.spectrumgaming.net) [info@spectrumgaming.net](mailto:info@spectrumgaming.net)



If you're a Break Time member, you can now get a free **Max Card**, giving you reduced or free entry to many UK attractions.

The **Max Card** is a discount card for families of children with additional needs. Families can save money on great days out at castles, zoos, bowling alleys, trampoline parks and many more.

Visit [www.mymaxcard.co.uk](http://www.mymaxcard.co.uk) to find out where you can use the **Max Card**.

Request a card at [www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/things-to-do](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/things-to-do)

You will need your child's Break Time membership number to request a **Max Card**.



# Break Time

**Fun group activities for children and young people with SEND in Lancashire**

**Don't forget!**

Registrations will be open from **21st October 2024** to **12th January 2025**

**Both new and current members must register!**

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND)




[lancashire.gov.uk/SEND](http://lancashire.gov.uk/SEND) >>>

**Lancashire County Council**

## BREAK TIME WINTER CAMP

**23RD, 24TH, 30TH AND 31ST DECEMBER**

**12-2PM**

**AT LOMESHAYE JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**FOR CHILDREN AGED 5-11 YEARS OLD**

- MAKE NEW FRIENDS!
- LEARN NEW SKILLS
- HAVE FUN!
- HEALTHY LUNCH AND SNACKS INCLUDED

**BAKING**

- ARTS AND CRAFTS
- SPORTS
- JEWELLERY MAKING
- LEGO LEAGUE
- WINTER FUN
- MUCH MUCH MORE!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL**

**- 07901636395**

**Lancashire County Council**



# Lancashire Short Breaks Service

# Break Time

**Break Time** provides fun group activities to children and young people aged 4-18, living in Lancashire, who have a special educational need and/or disability (SEND). Activities take place after school, at weekends and during school holidays and give parents and carers a short break from their caring role.

## Registrations

Break Time Registrations for 2025/26 opened at October half term and we have already received hundreds of applications!

Please remember, whether your child is already a Break Time member, or you are applying for the first time, you **MUST** register by the closing date of **Sunday 12th January**.

To apply, follow the link at the bottom of the page and complete the online form. When you submit the form, you should receive an automatic email to confirm it has been received. If you can't see the email, check any spam/junk folders.

Registrations will be processed in the order they are received and letters confirming the outcome will be posted to parents and carers by the 28th February.

## New Break Time Providers

Since the last update, we have introduced access to Spectrum Gaming, an online provider, for eligible Break Time members. This is an additional offer for young autistic young people aged 10-17 with a valid Break Time membership.

If your child has recently joined Spectrum Gaming, please remember you must also re-register for Break Time in order to continue to access in 2025/26.

Star Learning are the newest addition to the list of Break Time providers. Based in Nelson, they will be delivering a variety of fun activities for children aged 5-11 years, starting from the Christmas holidays.

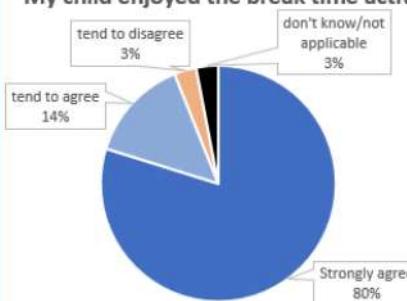
We are always looking to increase the range of activities available to Break Time members and their families. If you know of a suitable organisation that could deliver fun group activities, please ask them to contact us at:

[cyp-shortbreaks@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:cyp-shortbreaks@lancashire.gov.uk)

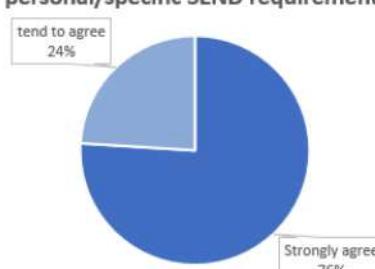
## Feedback

Following the summer holidays, we asked families to share their experience of using Break Time summer holiday clubs. Here is a summary of the responses:

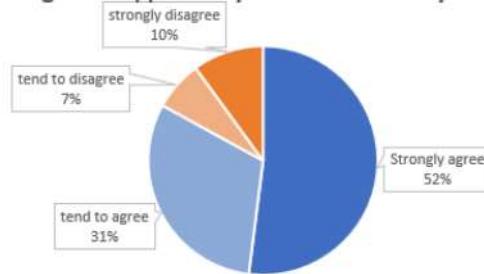
### My child enjoyed the break time activity



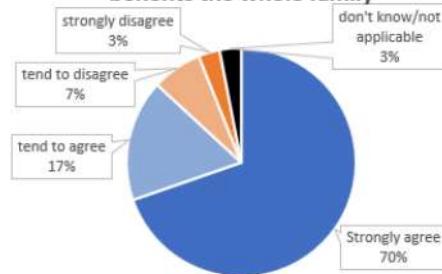
### The break time activity provider met my child's personal/specific SEND requirements



Whilst my child is at their Break Time activity, I get the opportunity to have a break myself



When my child attends an activity I believe it benefits the whole family



Suggestions to improve the service included:

- Increase the number of allocated hours.
- Provide more local and varied activities, for example groups for neurodiverse young people, those with anxiety and teenagers.
- Improve accessibility and support for children with higher needs.
- Extend the hours of operation to better accommodate working parents.

More detail of the survey responses and the actions we will take can be found at [www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/things-to-do/short-breaks-feedback](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/things-to-do/short-breaks-feedback)

If you have any feedback on Break Time or any short breaks service in Lancashire, please complete the online form at the link above.

## Contact Us

For any queries on the Break Time service, please contact us at: [breaktime@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:breaktime@lancashire.gov.uk)

Full information on Break Time, including how to register, can be found on the Local Offer at: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/things-to-do/break-time](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/things-to-do/break-time)

If you feel your child needs more support than Break Time provides, you can request a Child & Family assessment, so we can fully understand and identify the best way to meet their needs. Call **0300 123 6720** to request an assessment.





# STARS

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY**  
(during school holidays, excluding bank holidays)  
**11AM - 3PM**

**Stars School Holiday Camp**  
For children with a disability aged 7 to 18 from Blackpool Fylde and Wyre.  
Education and Community Centre, Bloomfield Road Stadium, FY1 6JJ

**Stars School Holiday Youth Camp**  
For young adults with a disability aged 15 to 25 who are still in education.  
North Stand Community Hub, Bloomfield Road Stadium, FY1 6JJ

**Lancashire County Council** **Blackpool Council** **Department for Education**

Free minibus pick up/drop off from Fylde and Wyre districts.

To book or for more info:  
Email [info@bfccct.co.uk](mailto:info@bfccct.co.uk)  
Call 01253 348691

## IT'S SLIME FOR FUN SEN SESSIONS

**Break Time Sessions**  
Child / Young Person with SEN only

**WHO**  
**Children & Young People with SEN Age 4-18**

- Feel good fun
- Crafts, cooking, outdoor play, games
- Acquiring life skills
- Boosting self esteem
- Sense of belonging

**Building relationships**

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY SESSIONS**  
**Saturdays in Term Time**

**VENUE**  
Whitewell Bottom Community Centre, Burnley Road East, Whitewell Bottom, Rossendale BB4 9LB

**TIME**  
**Break Time and Break Time Plus Provider**

**US**  
**Experienced Team**  
- Fellow SEN parents

**BOOK**

**Lancashire County Council**

Call Klair on 07841744020 or email [slimeforfuninfo@gmail.com](mailto:slimeforfuninfo@gmail.com)



**BARNARDO'S**  
Changing childhoods.  
Changing lives.

**TERM TIME SESSIONS**  
1 AFTER SCHOOL CLUB & 1 WEEKEND SESSION PER TERM IN EACH OF OUR AREAS

- SOUTH RIBBLE
- BURNLEY
- CHORLEY
- PRESTON
- SKELMERSDALE
- PENDLE

**HOLIDAY SESSIONS**

10AM-4PM

MONDAY = PENDLE  
TUESDAY = SOUTH RIBBLE  
WEDNESDAY = PRESTON  
THURSDAY = SKELMERSDALE  
FRIDAY = CHORLEY  
SUNDAY = BURNLEY

**Contact Us**  
[lancashirebreaktime@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:lancashirebreaktime@barnardos.org.uk)

**Activities**

**SENSORY SESSIONS**  
BAKING  
SWIMMING  
CINEMA TRIPS

**Lancashire County Council**

## Break Time Plus



**Did you know?**

Break Time Plus provides group based opportunities for children with disabilities



Children and young people can have a range of needs including those who may need 1:1 or 2:1 support

Activities include social, leisure and sports activities (evenings, weekend activities and school holiday clubs are available).

BT+ can be funded with a Direct Payment or via commissioned support.

For more information visit:  
<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/things-to-do/break-time-plus/>



**Holiday activities and food**  
LANCASHIRE  
**Winter 2024**

There will be clubs, parties, pantomimes, activities, warm food, and plenty of fun for all the family – Find out what is available in your district [www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/school-holiday-activities](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/school-holiday-activities)

Look Out for Your Holiday Activities and Food Voucher You will need a voucher to book a HAF place.

Vouchers will be sent to parents on the 2nd December.

They will be on a text or email from:

**hello@holidays**

The vouchers will now be linked to a central booking system, the link will take you straight to your district booking platform, registration and booking a place should be quick and simple.

The vouchers are issued for the district your child goes to school in and can only be used in that district, if you need to transfer the voucher to another district as you live in another district, close to the boundary or are spending the holiday in a different district please make a request to: **CFW-HAF@lancashire.gov.uk**

If you need any help with your child's HAF vouchers, contact:

**support@holidayactivities.com**

## Who is HAF for?

As in previous years, HAF is for school aged children and young people who are eligible for benefits related free school meals. It is there to provide holiday activities and food for children whose families are in financial hardship and can't afford to pay for provision. We are able to use 15% of our HAF budget to fund children not on FSM who have other needs or vulnerabilities that make it difficult for families to access activities, schools and other professionals can issue vouchers for these children.

They include those that are subject of Early Help or Child & Family plans supported by an early help service or children's social care, young carers, children looked after or subject to a Special Guardianship Order, families in crisis, for example sudden bereavement, illness, financial hardship, or refugee/asylum seeking families....

Unfortunately, we are not able to provide HAF places for all children with EHCPs or SEND as this would take us over the 15% we can use the budget for. So, if you have a child with SEND, you don't meet any of the other criteria and you are unable to pay for holiday provision that would support the welfare of your child over the holidays ask at your child's school and they can issue vouchers in these circumstances. If you are unsure if you are eligible for a HAF place, please ask at your child's school.

It is really important to us that HAF provision is inclusive and welcoming of children with SEND. Clubs will make reasonable adjustments in order to meet your child's needs, it is really important that you provide as much information as you can about your child during the registration process. Clubs can then plan for your child in advance and make your child feel welcomed and settled from the beginning. If you indicate that your child has a Special Educational Need or Disability you will be contacted by the club prior to delivery to support this process.

If you have any concerns about choosing the club that is the best fit for your child talk to your district HAF Co-ordinator who will be able to help you.



**YOUTHZONE & CHARITIES**   

# IGNITE Diversity

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES**

- Inclusive Environment
- Experienced Staff
- Community Building
- Fun and Learning

**AGE 8-21 YEARS** **SUNDAYS 2 PM - 6 PM**

**AGE 11-16 YEARS** **MONDAYS 3 PM - 6 PM**

JOIN US FOR A JOURNEY OF GROWTH, FRIENDSHIP AND DISCOVERY!

 **LIMITED PLACES. APPLY NOW.**

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE, JUBILEE ST, BLACKBRN, BB11 1EP

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CHILD TO ATTEND THESE SESSIONS THEN PLEASE CONTACT:  
Sajida Sidat 07541 938431 / 01254 781310  
sajida.sidat@imocharity.org

 @imocharity | [www.imocharity.org](http://www.imocharity.org)

**Lancashire County Council**

**Join Us**

**POWARD**

## A Youth Voice and Influence group for young people with SEND

A space to raise issues of importance to young people with SEND. Make changes across Lancashire to improve services and have fun!!!

**Where**



The Zone in Burnley,  
Whittam Street,  
Burnley, BB11 1LW

**When**

- Every Tuesday
- 4:30pm to 6:00pm , ages 8-15
- 6:30pm to 8:00pm , ages 16-25

**Who**

- Any young person diagnosed or undiagnosed with SEND

Contact Suli at [suliman.hussain@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:suliman.hussain@lancashire.gov.uk) or call 07775 221214.

**LIMITLESS CLARETS**  
*Don't dis my ability*


**FOOTBALL, CLIMBING & MUCH MORE!**

**BURNLEY**  
FC IN THE COMMUNITY

**FREE SESSIONS**

SCAN ME FOR MORE INFO





**OJ's**

**Christmas Holiday Dates:**

Saturday 21st December	Monday 23rd Decemeber
Saturday 28th December	Monday 30th December
Thursday 2nd January	Saturday 4th January

We are a charity for children and adults with **autism, learning difficulties and additional needs**. We have a whole family approach and welcome siblings and carers to our sessions.

We run our sessions every other Saturday, plus additional week days in the school holidays.

To book and for more information, visit: [www.ojscar.org](http://www.ojscar.org)



Children's Mental Health Week is an annual event dedicated to raising awareness about children and young people's mental health. This important event is a brilliant opportunity to open up a discussion about mental health and wellbeing with children and young people.

The children's mental health charity, Place2Be, set up Children's Mental Health Week to highlight the importance of mental health for children and young people. We all have mental health and up to 1 in 4 of us will experience mental health problems at some point in our lifetime.

During Children's Mental Health Week 2025, we can take some time to focus on mental health and talk about these important topics. We can encourage children to think about how they can best look after their own mental health and encourage parents, carers and teachers to reflect on their role in supporting children with their mental health.

#### What is the theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2025?

Each year there is a different theme for Children's Mental Health Week. The theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2025 is 'to be announced' so keep an eye on the Local Offer Facebook page and website for updates!

We can discuss important topics with children and young people during Children's Mental Health Week 2025, such as feeling lonely, making friends and developing healthy relationships.

Place2Be's

CHILDREN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH  
WEEK

3-9  
FEB  
2025

#### Children's Mental Health Week facts

Here are some Children's Mental Health Week facts to help you learn all about this important event:

- The first Children's Mental Health Week was held in 2015.
- Five children in a classroom of 30 pupils are likely to have a mental health problem (**The Children's Society**).
- 50% of all mental health problems start by the age of 14 (**The Children's Society**).
- 75% of children and young people who experience mental health problems aren't getting the support they need (**Mental Health Foundation**).

As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health. Every year, Place2Be experts create free resources to help you support your child's wellbeing from home. Make sure you sign up to be the first to hear our updates about Children's Mental Health Week 2025, including when our resources for next year are available!

[childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/stay-in-touch](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/stay-in-touch)

## What is the MyTime to Thrive service?

Barnardo's MyTime to Thrive is an Emotional Health and Wellbeing service working alongside mental health partners using the Thrive model of care for all children in Lancashire and South Cumbria.

**OFFERING** short term therapy for children and young people struggling with their mental health and wellbeing.

**SUPPORTING** ages 5-18 and up to the age of 25 for those with additional needs.

**DELIVERING** counselling and therapeutic interventions, in person, online, individually and in groups.



Find out more

T 01772 505138

W [barnardos.org.uk/get-support/services/lancashire-and-south-cumbria-thrive-service](https://barnardos.org.uk/get-support/services/lancashire-and-south-cumbria-thrive-service)

E [thrivesc@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:thrivesc@barnardos.org.uk)

[barnardos.org.uk](https://barnardos.org.uk)

Working in partnership  
**BARNARDOS**

Children and Family  
Wellbeing  
Service

#### Get advice and support

Someone to talk to  
Problems at home/school  
Jobs and training  
Apprenticeships  
Staying safe online  
Sex and health  
Relationships

Mental Health  
Self Harm  
Bullying  
Drugs and alcohol  
Things to do  
Housing, rights and money  
What age can I?

[facebook.com/LancashireYZ](https://facebook.com/LancashireYZ)

[twitter.com/LancashireYPS](https://twitter.com/LancashireYPS)

You can contact us 365 days a year

**2pm to 10pm**

talk  
zone

Text 07786 511111

Talk online [lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone](https://lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone)

Call 0800 511111

**Age 0-19**

(up to 25 for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities)

**Lancashire**  
County  
Council

[www.lancashire.gov.uk](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk)



Commonly used words and abbreviations that you might hear when looking into support for your child with special educational needs and disabilities.

#### Areas of need

Four broad categories used to describe a pupil's SEND. They are, Communication and Interaction, Cognition and Learning, Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEM), Sensory and/or Physical needs.

#### SEND Support

SEND support is an overall term that refers to pupils needing special educational provision who do not have EHC plans.

#### Graduated Approach

A four-part cycle for assessing, planning, delivering, and reviewing provision for pupils with SEND. (Assess-Plan-Do-Review)

#### Pupil Passport

Many schools have adapted the one-page profile into a document that contains information about a child's strengths, interests, and specific support needs.

#### One-page profile

One-page profiles can be used to support a person-centred approach for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) by sharing information between home, school and with other involved professionals. A one-page profile summarises an individual's strengths, views, wishes and support needs.

#### SEND Support Plan

A SEND Support Plan allows schools and staff to plan for progression, monitor the effectiveness of teaching, monitor the provision for additional support needs within the school, collaborate with parents and other members of staff and help the child become more involved in their own learning and work towards specific targets.

#### Outcome

Describes the difference that will be made to an individual as a result of special educational and other provision. Must be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound (SMART)

#### Special Educational Provision

Provision to help pupils with SEND access the curriculum that is different from or additional to the provision normally available to pupils of the same age.

Helpline Number: 0300 123 6706

Email: [information.lineteam@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:information.lineteam@lancashire.gov.uk)

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

# SEND Partnership Working Together Events

The Lancashire SEND Partnership were pleased to see lots of parent carers and practitioners coming together at the online “Working Together” events which took place in October 2024. You can read about the SEND Partnership here: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/lancashire-send-partnership>.

The purpose of these virtual events was to provide an opportunity for attendees to share their views to inform and shape our next SEND strategy for 2025 onwards.

After an introduction from Jenny Ashton, manager of the SEND Partnership, a presentation was delivered by Sam Jones, Chair of the Lancashire Parent Carer Forum about our coproduction journey from 2017-2024 and how people could be involved in future coproduction.

We then heard an update from some of our SEND leads about our current position in Lancashire – where we are now, and what our next steps are.

Finally, all attendees were split into smaller groups made up of parent carers and practitioners where we discussed what must be included in the new SEND strategy for 2025-2028, what should be included, and what could be included.



Together  
we can!!!

We gathered an enormous amount of input, ideas and stories from the events, all of which will be used to inform the new SEND Strategy in Lancashire.

The following are just a selection of the key themes that were identified and will inform the new strategy:

- Early identification of need and early intervention
- Communication and collaboration
- Transitions including planning for post-16
- Reducing exclusions

The events were evaluated with the following results:

- 96% of attendees said they felt welcomed at the events
- 91% of attendees said they felt they had the opportunity to contribute during the events

If you would like to hear about future events like this, or be involved, please follow us on Facebook by searching “Lancashire Local Offer”, keep an eye on “What’s New” on our website: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND), or sign up to the Lancashire Parent Carer Forum by visiting: [www.lancashireparentcareforum.org.uk](https://www.lancashireparentcareforum.org.uk).

Events are also published in the SEND newsletter.



## Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2028

*Our new Lancashire Children and Young People's Plan for 2024-2028 is now live.*

The plan sets out our vision and priorities to ensure that children and young people are safe, healthy, happy, develop skills for life and are active citizens who feel they have a voice and influence.

You can read the plan in full here: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/children-education-and-families/children-and-young-peoples-plan/>.

## New Survey incoming!!

We are always trying to improve our SEND newsletter and early next year you'll have the chance to have your say.

We'll be launching a survey in 2025 to gather feedback and ideas to keep the SEND newsletter current, relevant and useful to our readers. We'll be asking about how frequently you want to receive the newsletter, how you want to receive it and what sort of things you like to read about.

Please follow us on Facebook by searching “Lancashire Local Offer” or keep an eye on our website:

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND)

to complete the survey when it launches in 2025.





Join  
Us

## A Youth Voice and Influence group for young people with SEND

A space to raise issues of importance to young people with SEND. Make changes across Lancashire to improve services and have fun!!!

### Where



131 Brindle Road,  
Bamber Bridge,  
Preston, PR5 6YJ

### When

- Every Thursday
- 6:00pm to 8.00pm  
ages 12-25

### Who

- Any young person diagnosed or undiagnosed with SEND

Contact Suli at [suliman.hussain@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:suliman.hussain@lancashire.gov.uk) or call 07775 221214.

Phone: 01942 735426

**Dragon**



Short breaks for children and young people with additional needs and their siblings

#### Saturdays:

Juniors (ages 5-11) - 10am to 12 noon  
Seniors (ages 12-17) - 1pm to 3.30pm  
Ages are flexible, depending on your child's needs.

Places must be booked and paid for 4 weeks in advance.  
Additional support is available, if needed. Please ring for more info, to book a place(s) and next steps.

#### ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Sensory experiences  
Cooking  
Music, dance and movement  
Gaming  
Arts and crafts  
Ball games  
Accessible sports and exercise  
Drama and storytelling  
Drumming sessions  
Homework club  
Singing  
Table top games, Lego  
Computing

Includes 1 group studio activity, smaller group activities and 1:1 activities.

#### DO WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY, OR JUST CHILL

Our activities support the development of social skills, self-esteem and confidence. We also offer the opportunity to achieve Arts Awards.

#### OUR PREMISES BENEFITS FROM:

Level access, hygiene room, mobile hoist, changing bed, kitchen, large studio space and accessible stage, sensory room with water bed, smaller activity/gaming room/quiet space, free parking.



## Snapdragon Socials



### Disco for ages 5-11

Meet new friends, socialise and have fun!

First Friday of the month from 6pm to 8pm.  
For more info (including venue), phone 01942 735426 or email [info.mtwadvoc@gmail.com](mailto:info.mtwadvoc@gmail.com)

£5 each, PAs/carers free. Snacks and drinks available to buy.

Please note: if your child needs support, they must bring their own PA/carer.

## Snapdragon Socials

Disco for ages 12-17, with themed nights throughout the year.  
Meet new friends, socialise and have fun!

£5 each, PAs/carers free. Snacks and drinks available to buy.

Last Friday of the month, from 6pm to 8pm.

For more info (including venue), phone 01942 735426 or email [info.mtwadvoc@gmail.com](mailto:info.mtwadvoc@gmail.com)

Please note: if your child needs support, they will need to bring their own PA/carer.



# RAINBOW HUB

## The Rainbow Hub dream that has become reality



It all started with parents who said they could not find suitable education for their children and an idea became a dream that has come true.

In Summer 2023 work started on building the Rainbow Hub school which opened its doors in September 2024.

The weather was a challenge for many months but nothing stopped work on Rainbow Hub's dream – their purpose-built school in Mawdesley for children with special educational needs due to physical and neurological disabilities.

The school has four classrooms: a multi purpose hall with suspended ceiling swings; two additional therapy rooms; accessible life skills kitchen; ground level rebound trampoline; outdoor classroom, new meeting spaces and a dedicated parent/carers room.

It has solar panels and air source heat pumps with mechanical heating to ensure a constant temperature.

Designed in neutral colours for a calming effect, all education and therapy rooms have an H track ceiling hoist and classrooms contain both education and therapy equipment making them multi-purpose.

The school is initially offering places to children aged 5 – 11 years who have physical challenges but can follow a personalised curriculum and there are currently six children attending with space for a further 30 places following approval from Department for Education. Future plans will extend to offer places for young people up to 16 years. It has been developed for children with physical/neurological disabilities whose families struggle to find an environment that can meet their physical, social and learning needs.

With the growing number of children needing places in a specialist setting, local authority schools are not always able to meet specific needs of children with physical disabilities who deserve the same access to an education as any other child. A combined education and health approach at Rainbow Hub will help children to lead as full and independent lives as possible.

Lyndsay Fahey, CEO, Rainbow Hub, said, *"we started with a dream and to make this dream a reality we secured funding of £5 million from Wain Foundation which was a remarkable act of kindness for which we will be forever grateful. This development will allow us to extend the good work we already do in conductive education and our specialist nursery. It will allow us to provide support to children who may sometimes be over-looked, but deserve every opportunity to become as independent as possible."*

She continued, *"groundworks have also begun for a hydrotherapy pool for which we were delighted to receive a grant of £100,000 from Chorley Council as part of the Rural Prosperity Grant Scheme. We hope this will be completed by September 2025. However, these wonderful donations are restricted to the building projects and we will still need to raise £700,000 each year to keep our core therapy services running so the support of all the other wonderful people who help us is vitally important."*

If you are interested in placing a child at the school, then please contact:

**Martyn Berry,**  
Head Teacher  
[m.berry@rainbowhub.org](mailto:m.berry@rainbowhub.org)  
tel: 01704 823276

For more information on the work of Rainbow Hub or to support them, please visit [www.rainbowhub.org](http://www.rainbowhub.org) or follow them on social media @rainbowhubnw

# Splatter Dance

[www.splatterdance.co.uk](http://www.splatterdance.co.uk)

'Tell me & I forget. Teach me & I remember. Involve me & I learn'

Fun inclusive opportunities for everyone, especially those with additional needs. Allowing opportunities to access high quality dance experiences to explore dance as a creative & expressive art form.



With 15 years' experience working with schools & community groups we carefully design activities to develop participant's transferable skills. These skills include creative, physical, social, language & communication skills, as well as boosting resilience, mental health & emotional wellbeing.

## DANCE

Dance classes are perfect for those who love to move & express themselves. We play to each person's strengths & allow them to progress on their own terms, in a way that is meaningful for them. By focusing on the building blocks of dance we foster each person's love of dance.



## MAKATON

MAKATON classes develop essential communication & language skills. These skills support understanding & enable people to interact in everyday situations. Learning Makaton also reduces frustration & helps an individual's needs & wants to be understood.



All community venues have free onsite parking & are located in Ormskirk & the surrounding areas

The first & currently only Makaton Friendly organisation in West Lancashire, led by a fully qualified & licensed Makaton Tutor

Contact Emma to book: [emma@splatterdance.co.uk](mailto:emma@splatterdance.co.uk) [07973 636019](tel:07973636019)

## Magical Moments Playgroup

Magical Moments welcomes all children 0-5 who have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities or are awaiting assessment and would benefit from our calm and supportive space.

Siblings also welcome.

The group offers **free** and structured play to help with development plus a supportive atmosphere for parents and carers.

Join us at West Paddock Family Hub & The Zone,

West Paddock

Leyland

PR25 1HR

Every Thursday 9.30am—11.30am

West Paddock Family Hub,  
Leyland, PR25 1HR

Date: 11th December 2024

Time: 9.30am—12.30pm

**LANCASHIRE FAMILY HUB NETWORK**

chorley

# WILDCATS

Multi-Sports Club for Young People with a Disability

**@ All Seasons Leisure Centre**

**Every Saturday**

9:15 am - 11:00 am

**LOTS OF FUN SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 8 - 16 YEARS ON OFFER INCLUDING:**

- ATHLETICS
- FOOTBALL
- CRICKET
- BOCCIA

**FULLY QUALIFIED COACHES**

For more information please contact **Mike Mason**, Club Co-ordinator, on **01257 267748**

**AND LOTS MORE**

**BREAKFAST WITH FATHER CHRISTMAS 2024 AT Bygone Times!**

Grove Mill, The Green, Eccleston, Chorley PR7 5TZ

**SEN SESSION**  
8.15am Monday 23rd December

**£14 per child**

Each child ticket includes:

- A cooked breakfast
- Activities and 'letter to santa' writing
- A private visit to Father Christmas's grotto
- A special gift from Father Christmas
- Unforgettable photo opportunities

**• Small group**  
**• Outside of opening hours**  
**• Low volume music**  
**• Activity packs**  
**• Pre order food in advance**

For more information & to book today, please email [events@bygonetimes.co.uk](mailto:events@bygonetimes.co.uk)

**Christmas for Kids**

**The FREE Digital Sensory Series**

**Phoebe's Festive Favourites**

Award-winning children's theatre charity, Embracing Arts, presents their flagship festive production: *Christmas for Kids*. First offered in 2009, *Christmas for Kids*' sensory, interactive shows have been enjoyed by over 33,500 beneficiaries across the UK. This year marks their 5th FREE digital show...

**Phoebe's Festive Favourites**

Loveable puppet Phoebe shares her favourite elements of Christmas in this magazine-style children's show, delivered across six episodes. Each features a song and sensory activities to be facilitated live. The series is accompanied by a Resource E-Packs guiding parents, teachers and carers on how to facilitate the sensory moments wherever they are, as well as suggested further learning & play exploration.

'Phoebe's Festive Favourites' is a **FREE** sensory series specifically designed for neurodiverse children and those with life-limiting illness and PMLD. The show's digital format means it can be enjoyed in spaces where children and their families feel most safe and supported.

**About the Show**

'Phoebe's Festive Favourites' is an interactive, sensory-based series bursting with music, puppetry, colourful visuals and much more! Accompanying the series are **Resource E-Packs** aimed at supporting parents, teachers and carers to become the "Facilitators" of the show. Our resources guide those facilitating on how to bring sensory elements to life for children with complex needs or life-limiting illness & provide opportunities for engagement, communication and positive memory making.

**Collaborating Partners**

The show's e-resource packs are made in collaboration with organisations from across the SEND network and beyond - providing lots of festive further learning activities and craft ideas. Collaborating partners include;

To watch the show's trailer, or to register to access the show, visit [www.christmasforkids.org.uk](http://www.christmasforkids.org.uk)

For Press Enquiries, please contact: [media@embracingarts.org.uk](mailto:media@embracingarts.org.uk)

Keep up to date - follow us at:

[exmasforkids.com](http://exmasforkids.com)

[PEOPLE'S POSTCODE LOTTERY](http://peoplestopcode.com)

[POSTCODE SOCIETY TRUST](http://postcodesocietytrust.org)

[LOTTERY FUNDED](http://lotteryfunded.com)

[ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND](http://arts-council-England.com)

Supported using public funding by

# WELCOME TO



**BEE UNIQUE AUTISM**

*Our Purpose* To relieve the needs of those diagnosed with Autism and those who are currently engaged in the medical diagnosis of Autism and their immediate families and carers in England in particular, but not exclusively, by the provision of support and recreational activities.

Be your own kind of... **BEAUTIFUL**

Siblings welcome [www.beeuniquecharity.co.uk](http://www.beeuniquecharity.co.uk)  
<https://www.facebook.com/beeuniquecharity>  
<https://www.instagram.com/beeuniquecharity/>  
 For events & sessions visit <https://bookwhen.com/beeunique>  
 Registered Charity in England and Wales (reg 1193559)

BEE UNIQUE Autism 1193559, an award-winning charity launched on the 17th of February 2021 by four founders: Nadia & Dave Parsons, Natalie & Martin McCarron.

Being the parents to children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Condition with associated learning difficulties, we created BEE UNIQUE to embrace, educate and entertain SEN families. As we know with being a SEN family ourselves, this comes with incredible blessings as well as incredible challenges. We organise exclusive SEN activities and sessions for families to enjoy everyday activities together. Being in a safe & comfortable and non-judgemental environment really does make a huge difference!

The stigma towards Autism has often been difficult to tackle as it affects each individual differently. It is a hidden disability which makes it hard to recognise. It makes it difficult for families to access the correct support. This limits what they can achieve. This can leave families and carers feeling deeply upset and excluded. A better understanding and support can make a big difference.

In 2023, BEE UNIQUE organised over 2,500 exclusive sessions catering for over 25k individuals across the areas from Carlisle to Lancaster. All activities are advised on the BEE UNIQUE facebook page and uploaded on the BEE UNIQUE bookwhen link. This is easily navigated by filtering through different locations & calendar dates. BEE UNIQUE heavily subsidise these prices for families to enjoy affordable exclusive sessions.



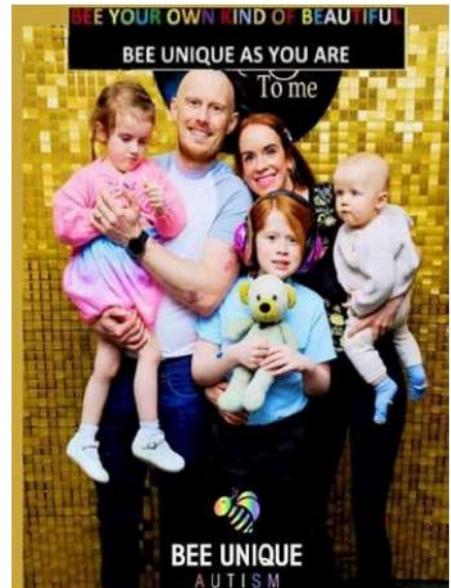
We are committed as founders that every single penny raised goes straight into the charity pot with no expenses ever taken. We run BEE UNIQUE around our own professions and our own SEN children and are passionate and dedicated to help as many SEN families as possible. We could not have created and grown the SEN community without the incredible support and with the help of our amazing reps and volunteers who dedicate and donate their free time to help us. All SEN families are welcome, and an official diagnosis is not required as we understand how lengthy the processes are.

We have a parents and carers private forum where families can ask questions and seek support. Please visit *BEE UNIQUE Parents, Carers & Family support private facebook page*.

In addition of organising a high volume of activities, BEE UNIQUE run monthly support coffee mornings (advertised on BEE UNIQUE facebook page), organise return coach trips, family fun days and support families with educational support, EHCPs and appeals processes.

In 2023, BEE UNIQUE set up its very own affiliated Pan Football Disability Team (Under 8's and Under 12's) – an award-winning BEE UNIQUE FC. This has given children the confidence to train in a non-rigid environment and experience playing in tournaments. The children have had the experience of being mascots and this was a great way to raise autism awareness. The children's confidence has blossomed and has grown from strength to strength.

BEE UNIQUE have organised a return coach trip to Old Trafford, Manchester for 15 children and their families to enjoy a tour of the Manchester United Old Trafford, Stadium followed by having an evening at the Manchester United Cliff Training Facility where they will be playing against Manchester United Pan Disability Foundation Team.

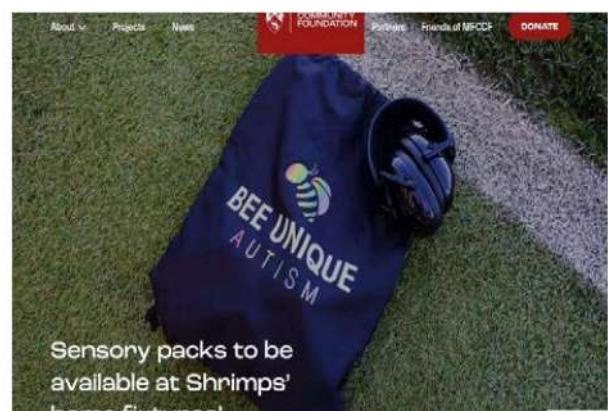


BEE UNIQUE are delighted to be collaborating with football teams Morecambe FC and Carlisle United FC. BEE UNIQUE provided Morecambe FC with sensory bags funded by the Premier League Fans' Fund for children to be able to loan for free and feel comfortable in the environment on match days. The sensory packs included ear defenders to reduce noise and fidget toys. It would be amazing to see the idea being rolled out across the premier league and English Football Leagues. We have made an agreement with Morecambe FC and Carlisle United FC that during their games on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2024 & 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025, children will be mascots wearing ear defenders alongside both Carlisle & Morecambe players to promote autism awareness. At the half time interval, children will be taking part in a pan disability football match to promote pan disability football. We are really excited about this venture.

Sensory packs are available at Shrimps' home fixtures, or:

<https://morecambefccf.com/sensory-packs-to-be-available-at-shrimps-home-fixtures>

*Please see above link for the Morecambe FC community Foundation on how to receive a sensory pack for the match days experiences at the Mazuma Stadium.*



For further information, please email us at [beeuniquecharity@gmail.com](mailto:beeuniquecharity@gmail.com)

For BEE UNIQUE activities, please visit <https://bookwhen.com/beeunique>

Please visit and share our facebook page @BEE UNIQUE.

If you are able to support BEE UNIQUE in any way you can, please get in touch.

Together we can make a difference.





## SEN Santa's Grotto at Barton Grange

Ho, ho, ho! Santa's Grotto is returning to Barton Grange for Christmas 2024.

We will be hosting two evening SEN Santa's Grottos on Thursday 5th December & Thursday 12th December.

These special events will be supported by OJ's Care, who work with children with autism, learning disabilities and associated disorders.

To book, please email: [sen.santa@bartongrangepro.co.uk](mailto:sen.santa@bartongrangepro.co.uk)

 [www.bartongrangepro.co.uk/santas-grotto](http://www.bartongrangepro.co.uk/santas-grotto)  
Garstang Rd, Brock, PR3 0BT

# M.A.T.C.H

## Men And Their CHildren

Calling all Dads, Grandads, Uncles and Male Carers  
Starting October 2024, every first and third

Saturday of the month 10am-12pm

Join us for a hot breakfast, activities and games. Suitable from birth to 11 years

Morecambe Central Family Hub (Morecambe Library), LA4 5DL

Free to attend

We look forward to seeing you



LANCASHIRE  
FAMILY  
HUBS  
NETWORK  
LANCASHIRE

Lancashire  
County  
Council

## Toy Library for children with disabilities and additional needs aged 0-18 years

# Unique TOYZ

Covering Morecambe, Lancaster and surrounding areas.

We deliver toys or can arrange click and collect from our unit on White Lund Industrial Estate.

Contact us now for more information or to request a membership form and join for free!

 Find us on Facebook  
Unique Toyz  
07889 597654  
unique toyz01@gmail.com

Funded By 

Join Kirsten and Gill for 3 days of activities for families with autism, disabilities, SEN and additional needs. Siblings welcome. All ages and abilities

Supported by Bee Unique  
£6 per child /young person  
Parents/ Carers Free



**Winter Penguins**  
Monday 23rd December 2024

Activities include: Make your own snow globe, winter themed crafts, music and movement, themed sensory play with igloo, snow balls and glowing pebbles, science with ice, interactive story telling ....


From 11am to 3 pm with 30 mins lunch break.  
Please bring your own lunch. Parents/carers please remain at all times and join in where possible!  
You can take a break or leave at any time, and no activity is compulsory!  
Any questions email [kirsten@connectplaylearn.org](mailto:kirsten@connectplaylearn.org)  
Please use [bookwhen.com/beeunique](http://bookwhen.com/beeunique) to book

More Music, West End, Morecambe 13-17 Devonshire St LA3 1QT

## RSBC are here to support you and your family if you have a blind or partially sighted child aged 0-25.

We believe that children and young people need a strong family to be able to grow and flourish and sometimes when you receive a diagnosis that your child has sight loss, you, your child, and your family might need some extra support.

From the moment you receive a diagnosis that your child has sight loss, if there is a change in vision, if your child or family are going through some changes that are difficult to manage or any other time when life just seems a bit tough, get in touch and let one of our Family Practitioners be there to support you.

We can support the whole family and have a range of activities that you and your child can join to connect with others both in person and online like Family Fun Days, Audio book Club, Cooking sessions, Support with Assistive Technology, Sisterhood Group, Creative sessions, Sensory Stories and much more.



Community Services December Activity Calendar				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2nd December	3rd December	4th December	5th December	6th December
Audio Book Club Ages 10 – 25 Virtual Session 5pm to 6pm	Sisterhood Ages 11 – 25 Virtual session 5pm to 6pm	LGBTQIA+ Group Ages 13 – 25 Virtual Session 5pm – 6pm  Connecting Families Early Years Virtual Session 7pm to 8pm	Audio Book Club Ages 10 – 25 Virtual Session 5pm to 6pm	
9th December	10th December	11th December	12th December	13th December
Audio Book Club Ages 10 – 25 Virtual Session 5pm to 6pm	Boys Crew Ages 11 – 25 Virtual session 5pm to 6pm		Audio Book Club Ages 10 – 25 Virtual Session 5pm to 6pm	Film Club Ages 10 – 25 Virtual session 5pm to 7:30pm
16th December	17th December	18th December	19th December	20th December
Audio Book Club Ages 10 – 25 Virtual Session 5pm to 6pm	Sisterhood Ages 11 – 25 Virtual session 5pm-6pm  Assistive Tech corner All Ages Virtual Session 5pm-6pm  Connecting Families Virtual session 7pm-8pm Festive Chat		Audio Book Club Ages 10 – 25 Virtual Session 5pm to 6pm	
23rd December	24th December	25th December	26th December	27th December
Audio Book Club Ages 10 – 25 Virtual Session 5pm to 6pm	Christmas Eve!	Christmas Day!	Boxing Day!	No Sessions

## Who to contact

Contact- Email: [connections@rsbc.org.uk](mailto:connections@rsbc.org.uk) or call 0203 198 0225  
Website – [www.rsbc.org.uk](http://www.rsbc.org.uk)

## Where to go

Name- Royal Society for Blind Children (RSBC)  
Address – Life Without Limits Centre, 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN

The Families First Service is a national service with Family Practitioners based all over England and Wales. The address in London is our head office where we have some activities and some of our activities also run online.

## Time / Date Details

When is it - Contact us Monday to Friday 9-5pm, many of our activities also run on evenings and weekend

## Other Details

Costs – all our services are free

## Availability

Age Ranges – Blind and partially sighted children 0-25 and their families  
Referral required - No



## Moving On Up

From Year 6 to Year 7



Are you in Year 6 and worried about moving to your next school?

Would you like to meet other Year 6's online who are blind or partially sighted and might have similar thoughts and feelings?

Then join our online sessions to meet and chat with others!



The sessions will be run on Zoom by our experienced Family Practitioners, who will also be there to help and support you.



When?  
Tuesdays  
4.30pm – 5.15pm

2025 dates:  
14 Jan, 11 Feb, 11 Mar,  
8 Apr, 6 May, 3 June,  
8 Jul, 5 Aug, 2 Sep,  
7 Oct, 4 Nov.

Interested?  
Email us now!

[www.rsbc.org.uk](http://www.rsbc.org.uk)  
020 3198 0225  
[familiesfirst@rsbc.org.uk](mailto:familiesfirst@rsbc.org.uk)



Registered Charity No. 307892

**Neurokin  
Family**

A LIVED EXPERIENCE PEER SUPPORT  
GROUP FOR PARENTS & CARERS OF  
NEURODIVERSE CHILDREN & YOUNG  
PEOPLE.

FORTNIGHTLY IN PERSON MEETINGS  
TUESDAYS 11-12.30  
FYLDE CRICKET CLUB  
POULTON-LE-FYLDE

FORTNIGHTLY ONLINE MEETINGS  
TUESDAYS  
8-9PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
[NEUROKINFAMILY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NEUROKINFAMILY@GMAIL.COM)

BEYOND THE SPECTRUM

A meeting space for parents and carers of Autistic children over the age of 16.

Facilitated by:  
The More You Know About Autism Services.

The Haven, Blanche Street, Preston. PR2 2RL

Please register your interest at:  
[Sue.Lovatt@RichmondFellowship.org.uk](mailto:Sue.Lovatt@RichmondFellowship.org.uk)



## **Lancashire Positive Minds Parent/Carer Support Group**



Anxiety / Obsessions and Compulsions / Depression /Self Harm  
Eating Disorders / Psychosis / Suicidal Thoughts / Autism  
Low Mood / Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder/  
Borderline Personality Disorders / Self Esteem and confidence issues  
and more.

Supporting a child, whatever age, with Neurodiverse and Mental Health difficulties and needs can be really challenging, isolating, emotionally, physically and mentally exhausting.

Come along to the group, meet with other likeminded Parents/Carers in similar situations and get both peer and professional support in a confidential, safe environment. The Group is very much parent led but professionally supported who can provide support, advice, guidance, practical tips and strategies, topic discussions and guest speakers all whilst you can have some time for you and have a cup of tea/coffee!

Leyland Group meet - First Monday of the month from 6.30 -8.30pm  
Preston Group Meet - Second Thursday of the month from 6.30-8pm  
Contact the below number for further details.

Email: Lancashirepositiveminds@gmail.com

Telephone- 07824 042908

Instagram:Lancashire\_Positive\_Minds

Twitter: Lancashirepositiveminds@lancashireminds

[www.Lancashirepositiveminds.co.uk](http://www.Lancashirepositiveminds.co.uk)

Facebook Closed Group: Lancashire

*\*All Facebook requestors will receive a message in messenger prior to the event.*

*your spam messages.*

*\*All Facebook requestors will receive a message in messenger prior to approval, please check your spam messages.*

**Do you care for someone with Neurodiversity?**



Our services include:

- Free Autism Training for carers
- Targeted peer support groups, activities, workshops
- Information and guidance to help you in your caring role

**Peer Support Group for ASD carers:**  
First Thursday of every month  
10am - 12noon

**Our allocated ASD Support Officer is here to help!**

 01254 387444  
 info@carerslinklancashire.co.uk  
 www.carerslinklancashire.co.uk

**everyone matters.**



Everyone Matters is a group for parents and carers of children and young adults with disabilities or SEN needs. You are welcome to join us every first Tuesday of the month at 1-3pm. Everyone Matters provides a friendly, safe and supportive environment for you to come and meet others.

Brave Church, Watson St, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3HH  
Phone: 01254 372771  
Email: hello@bravechurch.co.uk  
Website: www.bravechurch.co.uk



**'you are not alone'**

**Spectrum of Light Rossendale** is a parent carer support group of children whom have extra needs

**MONDAY EVENINGS**  
**7.00PM - 9.00PM**

Come along to our safe space with people who are in similar positions. Make friends, give and take away advice. £2 donation, refreshments are provided.

For more information contact **Julie** on  
**07968 057954**  
info@spectrumoflightrossendale.co.uk

**Family AUTISM Service**



**Is your child seeking or has an autism diagnosis?**

**Do you live in East Lancashire or Blackburn with Darwen?**

**Is your child/children under 25 years old?**

**Are you a parent/carer looking for information, advice and support?**

**Come along to our:**

- Parent Support Group
- Autism Awareness Sessions and workshops
- Cygnet Course
- Social Activities (for families, young people, siblings)
- Emotional Health and Well Being sessions

**For more information:**  
t 01254 244706 | e autism@canw.org.uk | [www.canw.org.uk](http://www.canw.org.uk)

  
**MAKE A REFERRAL**

  
**SPRING NORTH**  
COLLABORATION • INNOVATION • IMPACT

  
**CANW**  
Child Action Northwest

  
**NHS**  
Lancashire and South Cumbria  
Integrated Care Board



## Parent/Carer Peer Support Group

For Parents/Carers of Autistic Young People and Mental Health Concerns

Do you care for an Autistic young person? (with/without diagnosis)

Do you have concerns about your child's mental health?

Would you benefit from speaking to other parents with shared lived experience?

Our informal peer-support group is held in a relaxed, inclusive and confidential space.

Connect with others with shared lived experiences, exchange practical advice, receive mutual support, and signposting.

Autism & Mental Health professionals are regularly invited to provide workshops and Q&As.

Where: The Base II Community Centre on Broadfield, Bannister Drive, Leyland PR25 2GD

When: Fortnightly on Tuesdays (Term Time) commencing Tuesday 10th September @12:30pm-2pm

Free to attend - No booking required

For further information contact:  
Niki (Facilitator) on 07580358080 /  
[niki@keycharity.org.uk](mailto:niki@keycharity.org.uk)

[www.keycharity.org.uk](http://www.keycharity.org.uk)  
Registered Charity Number 1154772

Have your say on support provision:



Play Laugh Support

## SHINE SUPPORT GROUP

EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY 10-12PM



Open to parents, carers, and adults in the community seeking a warm and supportive environment. Join us in our specially designed soft play room for a unique and inclusive experience!



To book a place contact  
01695 455625

or email:  
[sensory@twinklehouse.co.uk](mailto:sensory@twinklehouse.co.uk)

### Connect and Share

Connect with other parents and carers.

Share experiences, tips, and laughter.

Build a community that understands and supports each other.

### Inclusive Atmosphere

All abilities and needs welcome.

Accessible facilities for everyone to enjoy.

### Warm Drinks and Conversations for Adults

For adults attending without their children, or those who simply want a break, our cozy corner offers a space to enjoy a warm drink and engage in friendly, supportive conversations.

### Safe Play Space for Little Ones

Let your children explore and have fun in our expertly crafted soft play area, tailored for their safety and enjoyment.

## Trinity Parent Carer Group

for parents and carers of children and young people with special needs or disabilities.

*Join us for an informal chat with other parents and carers to share information and support.*

### Face to face Meetings

2nd Thursday each month 9:30-11:30 am

St Annes Pastoral Centre,

Prescot Rd, Ormskirk L39 4TG

#### 2025 Face 2 Face meeting dates

January 9th	February 13th	March 13th	April 10th tbc due to school holidays	May 8th
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### Virtual Meetings via Zoom

4th Tuesday most months 8-9pm

#### 2025 Zoom meeting dates

January 28th	February 25th	March 25th	April 22nd	May 27th
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Email [trinitysnap17@gmail.com](mailto:trinitysnap17@gmail.com) for a Zoom invitation

**All Welcome** please check TrinitySNAP on Facebook for any possible date changes due to school holidays etc



about Autism



## Need to talk?

### Join Talk about Autism

– the online community for parents and carers of autistic young people.



TalkTalk  
For Everyone

[www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/understanding-autism/early-years/parent-carer-online-community](http://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/understanding-autism/early-years/parent-carer-online-community)

Are you a member of a parent carer support group?

We would love to share your group's details here, to inform other local families of the support available.

Contact us at [FIND@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:FIND@lancashire.gov.uk)

## Supported Internships

### - Applications for 2025 are open!

Our local offer page has been updated, and you can see the full list of Supported Internships available for September 2025 entry. For the majority of internships you will need to apply to the education provider (usually a college), but you can contact [sendemploymentforum@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sendemploymentforum@lancashire.gov.uk) if you are unsure where to start and would like some advice and guidance. Our Supported Employment Officer is keen to begin monthly drop-ins for parent carers and young people who would like to chat through their options, and is able to refer onto other services if a Supported Internship isn't the right pathway. Drop-ins will be announced in the next quarter's newsletter, so keep your eyes peeled!

62 young people between 16 – 24 have begun their Supported Internship since September, with some incredible progress already being made. We also saw the expansion of the offer, with Places for People and ASDA Colne opening its doors to Supported Internships. We would like to thank all the people and organisations involved across Lancashire who support our interns not only during their programme, but those that employ our graduates and ensure they are supported in the workplace.

## Success for Burnley College and Runshaw College

Two Lancashire programmes won national awards at the DFN Project SEARCH 2024 Conference, which took place on 7 – 8th November in Leicester at the Leicester Tigers Stadium. The conference saw programmes from across the UK come together to focus on this year's theme, which was 'Don't Stop Me Now', focusing on how partnerships can ensure young people not only succeed in gaining meaningful and sustainable employment, but the longterm impact on everyone involved. An awards dinner was held, which featured brilliant performances from local talent with everyone keen to hear who had won.

Burnley College, which is in partnership with Calico Housing Group, took home an award for 100% outcomes, and Runshaw College, which is in partnership with Progress Housing Group, took home an 80% outcomes award for the 2022 – 2023 cohort. Will Sutton, Course Leader for the programme at Runshaw College, commented 'It is important to recognize that the work we do is only made possible by the incredibly young people we have had, and the unwavering support from our Steering Group partners, past and present.'

DFN Project SEARCH outcomes are measured by the young people being in at least 16 hours of employment in non-seasonal work, and that the work is sustainable and meaningful.

We are very proud that Lancashire programmes have secured these prestigious awards, well done to not only the brilliant programmes but the young people who have secured such amazing and interesting jobs and destinations! Inclusion at Lancashire County Council proudly supports and champions these programmes, as well as our other Supported Internships we have in the county.



## Exciting Launch for Our Supported Interns at Places for People

We are thrilled to announce the successful launch of our Supported Internship programme at Places for People! Towards the end of September, we welcomed five dedicated interns who are embarking on this incredible journey with us. The launch event was a fantastic opportunity to introduce our interns to the team, share insights about their upcoming roles, and celebrate the start of this important initiative.

Before they begin their work placements, all five interns have been enrolled in a Level 2 Manual Handling course. This essential training will equip them with the practical skills they need to stay safe and efficient in their roles. The course will be delivered in-house by our brand-new training academy, PFP Thrive.

PFP Thrive is designed to provide high-quality, tailored training across the UK, covering everything from technical skills to Customer service and complaint handling. Discover more about our courses, resources, and tools on our new website: <https://bit.ly/3XCizx4>.

We're delighted that our interns will be some of the first to benefit from this initiative as the manual handling course is a key stepping stone for them as they prepare to contribute meaningfully to their placements.

We're looking forward to seeing the impact these bright individuals will make and are excited to support them throughout their journey. A big thank you to everyone involved in making this programme a success!

Stay tuned for updates on their progress and experiences!



# DanceSyndrome set to transform lives internationally

**Members of DanceSyndrome, a charity set up in Lancashire in 2009, have been invited to Japan to share their bespoke approach and methodology in how they support people with learning disabilities to be leaders, as part of a pioneering project to promote inclusion in Japanese society.**

DanceSyndrome transforms lives, creating change and giving joy, hope and opportunities to people with learning disabilities, and their families. Through the medium of inclusive dance, the organisation empowers those with and without learning disabilities to believe they can achieve their ambitions in life, and that having a disability should never be a barrier to following your dreams.

At DanceSyndrome, people with learning disabilities co-lead inclusive dance sessions and take visible Dance Leader roles to inspire people to see what can be achieved when we all become more inclusive. All sessions are co-produced with professional Dance Artists working side by side with trained and qualified Dance Leaders with a learning disability to co-produce high quality inclusive dance sessions for everyone to enjoy together. The Dance Leaders are all visible members of their communities, who can regularly be seen leading workshops, dance performances and community activities.

In recent years, DanceSyndrome's work has been recognised on a national level, with multiple partnerships with NHS England, Foundation of Nursing Studies and other national social care providers, as well as securing funding from National Lottery Community Foundation and Arts Council England (and is a 2023-26 National Portfolio Organisation).

The organisation is now celebrating success on an international level after recently winning a Gold Award in the 2024 International Stevie Awards as a non-profit or Government 'Organization of the Year' and has now been invited to Tokyo to share learning from their inclusive approach to co-delivery.



In September 2023, DanceSyndrome welcomed an international student, from University of Central Lancashire, called Ayuko Hara to volunteer in their Weekly Company Class sessions in Preston. Ayuko was so inspired by her time with DanceSyndrome that she reported this back to a colleague in Japan called Dai Matsuoka, who programmes the Tokyo Accessible Dance Festival on behalf of an organisation called LAND FES.

Dai reached out to the DanceSyndrome team to ask about the potential for them to share DanceSyndrome's approach to co-leadership in Tokyo. Funding for this project was secured in Japan from Arts Council Tokyo and four members of the DanceSyndrome team will be travelling to Japan in November 2024 for a 10 day visit which will enable them to share their co-production methodology, supporting Japanese Dance Artists and dancers with learning disabilities to become more inclusive in their delivery of dance activities, with a view to encouraging greater inclusion in the wider society in Japan which currently is not as advanced as in the UK.

Tokyo-based LAND FES has been working on projects that build creative relationships between dancers and people from all walks of life, including people with disabilities, the elderly and young people receiving support for employment. Through international collaboration and interaction, they have learned that in Japan there are not enough examples of different work and creative processes that encourage inclusion in dance.

Co-produced inclusive dance workshops are very hard to find in Japan and there isn't a system to share learning so that professional dancers can work in an inclusive way, meaning it is even more difficult for people with disabilities to learn to be leaders in dance and other aspects of society. LAND FES is keen to break this cycle by creating new opportunities, increasing accessibility to inclusive dance and deepening the understanding of its value within wider culture.

Dai Matsuoka from LAND FES said "*I feel very honoured and thrilled that we have been able to invite DanceSyndrome members to Tokyo this November. As an organization that is committed to develop and promote inclusive dance in Japan, LAND FES will benefit so much from this international collaboration project. I believe that DanceSyndrome's unique program should be shared more and permeated to empower people with disabilities all over the world.*"

Julie Nicholson, DanceSyndrome Managing Director, said "*This project embodies everything that DanceSyndrome stands for. We want to change the way that people think about learning disabilities by sharing the ways that we put inclusion and co-production into practice every single day. Our mission is to go out into the world and demonstrate that people with learning disabilities are able to be dancers and leaders or anything else that they want to be, as long as they are given the right support and opportunities to do that. We are so proud to have been invited to travel to Japan to be held up as an example of what good co-production looks like on an international level.*"

DanceSyndrome Dance Leader John Burrow travelled to Japan with the team. Before the trip, he said "*I'm excited to be going to Japan to share the Dance By Example workshops that I co-deliver here in the UK. Through DanceSyndrome I've gained social life, I've gained friends and a new outlook on my life. I've gained a lot of confidence in myself so when there's moments of self-doubt I'm now able to kind of go "no, I can do this." I'm looking forward to being able to share that with new people in Japan too!*"

The DanceSyndrome representatives were in Japan from 1st to 10th November 2024. Photos and videos from the trip will be shared on the charity's social media channels. You can follow them on **X, Facebook, Instagram, Linked In** and **YouTube** at **@DanceSyndromeUK**

For more information about DanceSyndrome, please contact **Sarah Calderbank, Communications Manager** on **07731 410661** or email **sarah@dancesyndrome.co.uk**

**Spring into action**

**MEET N MATCH**  
**EVENTS IN DECEMBER**  
For people with a learning disability and autistic adults

# Christmas DISCOS

**Hyndburn Disco**  
**Friday 6th December**  
Adelaide Suite, Accrington BB5 2BE

**Chorley Disco**  
**Thursday 12th December**  
St Joseph's Parish Centre, Chorley PR6 0HR

**Blackpool Disco**  
**Sunday 15th December**  
Marton Institute, Blackpool FY4 4DR

**6.30pm-9.30pm**  
No need to book, just turn up.

**£5**  
Carers Free

Come in your favourite Christmas outfit

For more details contact Samantha Nott, Events and Marketing Manager on 01254 457026 [samantha@spring-projects.co.uk](mailto:samantha@spring-projects.co.uk) [www.meet-n-match.co.uk/events](http://www.meet-n-match.co.uk/events)





## St Annes Autism Peer Group at St Annes Library

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month 12 noon till 2pm  
Clifton Drive South, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire. FY8 1NR

The group is open to autistic adults (18+) who live in Lancashire. People can have a diagnosis or be exploring their autistic identity. Each month there will be different topics discussed based on previous group feedback.

Dates for 2024: 9th October, 13th November & 11th December



If you would like to take part or find out more

 [a.lancs@cloverleaf-advocacy.co.uk](mailto:a.lancs@cloverleaf-advocacy.co.uk)

  **01924 454875**

 Follow us on Facebook! **CloverLAPSS**



**Lancashire Self Advocacy**



## You Speak, We Listen!

### New Online Peer Advocacy Group

#### For people who:

- Have a learning disability
- Live in Lancashire
- Do not go to any other Peer Advocacy Group

#### When and How:

1st and 3rd Monday of every month  
From 4 November  
6pm to 7pm  
Join on your mobile phone, tablet or computer using Zoom

Peer Advocacy is people with similar experiences meeting together to talk and learn together. By sharing experiences, we can help all of us live good lives.

#### Come Join Us!

The group will share:

- Experiences
- Information
- Ideas
- Resources
- And more!



The group will feedback to the Lancashire Learning Disability Partnership Board.

We will tell the Partnership Board what we think needs improving in local services.

#### First Meeting: Monday 4 November

We will talk about where we spend our time. What community groups and services we use.

We will ask  
'Things could be better if...'

To find out more, contact James at  
[speakup@wearepeoplefirst.co.uk](mailto:speakup@wearepeoplefirst.co.uk)





University Hospitals  
of Morecambe Bay  
NHS Foundation Trust

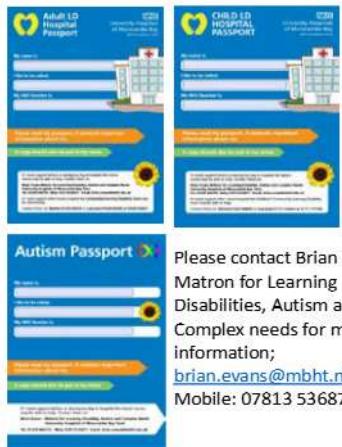
University Hospitals  
of Morecambe Bay  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Do you or somebody you know have a learning disability and/or Autism?

### Have you heard of Hospital Passports?

Morecambe Bay Hospitals Trust have developed some new digital Hospital Passports, when completed they give medical staff important information about you including any *Reasonable Adjustments* you may need to ensure that you get the best person-centred care, given in the right way for you.

Hospital Passports have helped many people access excellent quality healthcare that is designed to meet their specific needs, if you would like to complete a passport you can access via the link or scan the code or go on the UHMBT website and search for Hospital Passports.



The link and QR Code are below:  
<https://www.uhmbt.nhs.uk/get-involved/patient-experience/care-and-communication-passports>

Please contact Brian Evans, Matron for Learning Disabilities, Autism and Complex needs for more information;  
[brian.evans@mbht.nhs.uk](mailto:brian.evans@mbht.nhs.uk)  
 Mobile: 07813 536877.



**NHS**  
Blackpool Teaching  
Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

## HOSPITAL PASSPORTS

Do you have a learning disability or support someone who has?

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust have a Hospital Passport that you and/or your carer can complete.

Your Hospital passport tells us all about your support needs and any reasonable adjustments you need to make sure you receive the best person-centred care.



Download it here

[Hospital Passport :: Blackpool Teaching Hospitals](#)



Email it to:

[bfwh.passportsblackpoolhospital@nhs.net](mailto:bfwh.passportsblackpoolhospital@nhs.net)

## HOSPITAL PASSPORTS

Do you have a learning disability or support someone who has?

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust have a Hospital Passport that you and/or your carer can complete.

Your Hospital passport tells us all about your support needs and any reasonable adjustments you need to make sure you receive the best person-centred care.



<https://www.lancsteachinghospital.s.nhs.uk/media/.resources/619e28d5df1d49.95281303.pdf>



**NHS**  
East Lancashire Hospitals  
NHS Trust

## HOSPITAL PASSPORTS

Do you have a learning disability or support someone who has?

East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust recommend that you have a Hospital or Health Passport.

Your Hospital passport tells us all about your support needs and helps us to provide you with safe, personal and effective care.

Speak to our reception or ward clerk and they will provide you with a copy





## CYGNET Autism Training

The Cygnet programme was developed by Barnardo's with the support of parents and/or care givers, FOR parents and care givers!

The course aims to create a supportive environment of carers who may be experiencing similar challenges, and to present information on autism that provides opportunities for you to consider and adapt and/or reinforce the way you support your child's needs.

#### Content:

- Session 1 - Introduction
- Session 2 - Overview
- Session 3 - Thinking & Sensory
- Session 4 - Social Interaction & Communication
- Session 5 - Understanding and supporting behaviour
- Session 6 - Analysing behaviour



[info@carerslinklancashire.co.uk](mailto:info@carerslinklancashire.co.uk)

01254 387444



Does your child have ADHD?  
or are they under assessment  
for ADHD?

Are you a professional that knows  
a family that could benefit from  
our help?

**What we offer**

**Outreach Support**  
Parent & family support  
by our qualified family  
practitioners

**Telephone Support**

**Assist with  
services/agency meetings**  
We can attend TAF, Children  
in Need meetings or of  
anything similar

**Parent Empowerment &  
Skills Training Programme**  
Gain the knowledge, tools  
and confidence on how to  
parent a child with ADHD

**Where we are based**

**East Lancs** **Blackburn  
with Darwen**  
**North Lancs** **South Cumbria**  
**Central Lancs** **Blackpool**

**ADHD North West**  
Supporting Families  
Tel: 01254 886 886  
www.adhdnorthwest.org.uk  
reception@adhdnorthwest.org.uk

### New SEND Survey launches for families in Lancashire

This revised survey has been designed with Parent Carers and members of the SEND Partnership in Lancashire to help us listen to children, young people and their families with different kinds of SEND. The SEND Partnership want to understand what is important to children, young people and their parent carers to help them work more effectively with and on their behalf.

The feedback families share is vital in helping the Partnership to:

- Listen to parent carers in Lancashire who have a child or children with SEND needs
- Collect feedback from families about their experience of the 'SEND journey' and the effectiveness of support they receive and
- Identify gaps, areas for development and strengths within the SEND system

The new survey gives lots more opportunity for parent carers to tell the Partnership what is going well for their child in different aspects of their lives, along with things that could be improved.

Are you a parent  
carer of a child  
or young person  
with SEND?

Lancashire  
**SEND**  
Partnership

If families have more than one child with SEND, parent carers will need to return to the start of the survey and complete it for each child individually. All responses will be anonymous. It is parent carer choice to answer any question or skip it.

Please do scan the QR code here  
to complete the survey.

The survey will be available year round with promotion and analysis 3 times per year. Feedback will be shared with the SEND Partnership Board twice per year and published on the Local Offer website along with examples of the impact family feedback is having.

Lancashire SEND Survey 2024/25 -  
Parent Carer version



Any questions on the survey can be sent to  
[sendpartnership@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sendpartnership@lancashire.gov.uk)

# Lancashire County Council – contact details

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/get-involved/contact](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/get-involved/contact) Email: [enquiries@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@lancashire.gov.uk)

	Service	Number
Corporate Services	Signposting / General enquiries	0300 123 6701
	Libraries	0300 123 6703
	Library Service Automated Renewal Line	0300 123 6704
	Registration and Certification Service	0300 123 6705
	School Admissions	0300 123 6707
	School Appeals	0300 123 6708
	Lancashire Adult College	0300 123 6709
Care Connect	Social Care	0300 123 6720
	Safeguarding Adults	0300 123 6721
	Emergency Duty Team	0300 123 6722
Travel and Transport	Blue Badges	0300 123 6736
	NoW Card	0300 123 6737
	Schools Transport	0300 123 6738
Local Inclusion Offices	South (Preston, Chorley, South Ribble, West Lancashire)	01772 531 597
	East (Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Pendle, Burnley, Rossendale)	01254 220 553
	North (Lancaster, Fylde, Wyre)	01524 581 200
Other Useful Numbers	Family Information Service	0300 123 6712
	Carers Lancashire	0345 688 7113
	SEND Helpline	01772 533 900
	SEND Information, Advice and Support Team	0300 123 6706
	Children & Family Wellbeing Service	0800 511 111

"The Volunteer Prep course was very informative, excellent and much needed to have the necessary awareness about family issues for when we start volunteering. Personally I am looking forward to starting".  
Sedi, Volunteer

**HOME START**  
Blackpool,  
Fylde & Wyre

Volunteering....  
What's in it for me?

We need you

Improved Mental Health & Wellbeing  
Being fully supported and valued in your volunteering role  
Helping families and meeting new people

More Confidence  
A greater sense of purpose  
Friendship

90% of volunteers feel they make a difference through their volunteering

Fun  
Laughter  
Coffee & Cake

For more information please contact:  
Tel: 01253 728615  
Email: [enquiries@homestartbaw.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@homestartbaw.org.uk)

Volunteers tell us they want to feel they belong to a team, it helps them feel less isolated.

**TEAM**

**DAD MATTERS**  
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre

## Your Help Is Essential

We would welcome contributions from Children, Young People, Parent Carers, Voluntary and Statutory Agencies:

- Are you involved with a project or group you would like to promote
- Details of forthcoming diary dates
- Opportunities for Children and Young People with SEND
- Any ideas, views, letters, poems, etc, you would like to share
- Useful websites that you would recommend to other families

Contributions for future issues – please contact us.

Email: [FIND@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:FIND@lancashire.gov.uk)

Tel: 01772 538077



Do you have anything to share in the SEND Newsletter? We would love to hear from you!

## Editorial Group

### Lancashire County Council

Anna.burkinshaw@lancashire.gov.uk  
Sarah.deady@lancashire.gov.uk

### Parent Representatives\*

Lucy Ellis – Lancaster  
Amy Blackburn – Pendle  
Miranda Hyman – Fylde

\*Parent carers from other areas interested in joining the group, please contact us (details above).

### Voluntary Organisation

Tom Harrison – Community East Lancashire  
Sam Jones – Chair, Lancashire Parent Carer Forum

### Health

Clair Martin – Designated Clinical Officer, North Locality

**Spring issue** – deadline for articles  
10th January, published March 2025

**Summer issue** – deadline for articles  
4th April, published June 2025

**Autumn issue** – deadline for articles  
4th July, published September 2025

If undelivered, please return to:  
Room CH1:42, County Hall, Preston,  
Lancashire PR1 8RJ

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter in a different format, or if you no longer require a copy, please call 01772 538077 or email [FIND@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:FIND@lancashire.gov.uk)



We also have a facebook page.

For regular updates, please 'like' our page at: [www.facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer](https://www.facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer)

### Get this free newsletter sent to your door

If families would like to have a free copy of the SEND Newsletter delivered to their home 4 times a year, please register online at: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/getting-help/send-newsletter](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/getting-help/send-newsletter)

To Professionals – please email [FIND@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:FIND@lancashire.gov.uk)

You are welcome to photocopy, display and distribute this newsletter

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