

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL
NEEDS & DISABILITIES (SEND) IN NORTHUMBERLAND

GUIDE TO SERVICES 2018

UPDATED DECEMBER 2017 - PART OF THE SEND LOCAL OFFER

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council



Northumberland SEND
Information, Advice and Support Service



A guide to services for children and young people with SEND (special educational needs or disabilities) living in Northumberland.

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This guide has been produced by the Northumberland SEND Information, Advice and Support Service, in partnership with In It Together, the Parent Carer Forum for Northumberland. It provides details of local and national services, organisations and groups that provide information and support for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities, and their families.

The guide is divided into colour coded sections. The information within each section includes:

- The contact details of the service or organisation
- Whether a referral from a professional is required to access the service
- A brief description of the service

There is also an index at the back of the guide to help you find the services that may be useful to you. For more information about any of the services or organisations in this guide, it is best to speak to them directly. **Please note** that some of the organisations listed may charge for services they provide and this is something you will need to check.

In addition, the following services may be able to help you:

The **Northumberland SEND Local Offer** sets out the provision available to children and young people with SEND in Northumberland, and their families. It includes a wide range of useful information, including details of services and organisations. The Local Offer web pages can be found at <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/SEND-Local-offer.aspx>

The **Northumberland SEND Information, Advice and Support Service** provides free, confidential and impartial information, advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities up to the age of 25, and their parents and carers. Contact the service on **01670 623555** or alison.bravey@northumberland.gov.uk.

In It Together, the Parent Carer Forum for Northumberland, provides parents and carers of children and young people with SEND with the opportunity to get involved with service planning and decision making. Their aim is to ensure that services meet the needs of families. In It Together also organises events and training for parents and carers. For further details, contact In It Together on **07729 192 909** or info@in-it-together.org.uk

The **Families Information Service (FIS)** is a free, impartial service providing information on a wide range of services for children and young people in Northumberland and their families. The service also provides detailed advice on childcare and early year's educational provision. They can be contacted on **0800 023 4440** (Freephone), **01670 624889** or fis@northumberland.gov.uk.

We have done our best to make sure that the contents were correct at the time of printing, but please contact the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service or In It Together (details above) to let us know about any inaccuracies or services/information that need to be added.

DISCLAIMER: Please note that inclusion of services in the guide or Local Authority web pages is not an endorsement or guarantee of that provision.

INTRODUCTION

Information on childcare in Northumberland, including childcare suitable for children with disabilities and special educational needs, can be found on the Northumberland County Council website at www.northumberland.gov.uk (search for 'Childcare in Northumberland') or phone the Families Information Service on **0800 023 4440**.

All three and four-year-olds are entitled to free high-quality early education, starting in the term after a child's third birthday until compulsory school age; the school year after they have their fourth birthday. The current universal free entitlement is 570 hours a year; the equivalent of 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year. From September 2017 working parents may be eligible for 1140 hours per year; the equivalent of 30 hours a week for 38 weeks. However, parents may choose to use their entitlement over a longer period of time within the year.

Parents/carers of two-year-olds who meet a range of criteria are entitled to 570 hours a year of free high-quality early years education or childcare (as described above), from the term after a child's second birthday until the end of the term in which they are three. This includes some children with disabilities.

A list of childcare providers delivering the two, three and four-year-old funded places and a downloadable guide which covers both schemes is available on the Northumberland County Council website at www.northumberland.gov.uk (search for Early Education) or contact the Families Information Service on **0800 023 4440**.

If you look after a child or young person (your own or another person's) who cannot manage without your help because of their disability or special needs, then you are a **carer**. If you provide care on a regular basis you have a right to a **Carer's Needs Assessment**. This assessment is designed to find out what support you may need for your caring role and to help look after your own health and wellbeing. This may include support in the home, childminding, holiday activity schemes and short breaks, or money from the Local Authority's social care service so you can arrange this help yourself. As a carer you may also be entitled to a benefit called **Carers Allowance**. For further details please refer to the 'Social Care' and 'Financial Help' sections of this guide.

The **Short Break Care Duty** requires Local Authorities to notify the carers of disabled children about short break services in their area and the 'eligibility criteria' for accessing them. Some short break schemes are described as 'universal' which means they are available to all children and an assessment is not required. Further information can be found in the 'Social Care' section of this guide.

Some organisations that provide short breaks are listed below:

ACTION FOR CHILDREN, MONKSFIELD

CORBRIDGE ROAD, HEXHAM NE46 1UY

OPENING HOURS: 24 HOUR SERVICE

 01434 601 594

Monksfield provides short-break residential care services to disabled children and young people aged 6-17 years who live in Northumberland. This is in partnership with the Local Authority's children's social care services. Monksfield provides opportunities for the children and young people to enjoy regular short breaks from home where they can make new friends, experience a wide range of activities and have fun.

Action for Children also provides a full-time accommodated provision at Monksfield in a separate unit. This provision is for any Local Authority to access, so is not solely available to Northumberland.

THE ALAN SHEARER CENTRE - SHORT BREAK SERVICE

WEST DENTON CLOSE, WEST DENTON, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE15 7LU

OPENING TIMES: 24 HOUR SERVICE, 7 DAYS A WEEK (EXCEPT CHRISTMAS)

 0191 267 8128

 shortbreak@alanshearercentre.org.uk

 <http://alanshearercentre.org.uk>

Part of St Cuthbert's Care charity, the centre provides tailored short break care for children and adults with physical and learning disabilities, including autism, complex epilepsy and Asperger's Syndrome. Set in its own grounds, the centre has state of the art equipment and provides guests with expert care as well as free access to the Alan Shearer Activity Centre on the ground floor. Contact the centre for further information.

AZURE

KIELDER AVENUE, BEACON LANE, CRAMLINGTON NE23 8JT

 01670 733966

An enabling service for young people aged 13 years and over, who have a disability. Provide one to one support to enable the client to access services and facilities within their communities. Azure also has a supported living and employment service. Young people need to be referred by their social worker or a health care professional.

BARNDALE

HOWLING LANE, ALNWICK, NORTHUMBERLAND NE66 1DQ
OPENING TIMES: WEEKEND SERVICE

 01665 605 921

A short-break service for children aged 6-17 years who have moderate to severe learning disabilities. The service runs at weekends and provides young people with the opportunity to access a wide range of outings and activities. Referral is through a social worker.

Barndale Saturday Club: Barndale Day Care Scheme runs twice per month on a Saturday 10:00AM - 4:00PM. There is capacity to provide a service to twelve young people. Referrals are through a social worker from the Disabled Children Team.

BRIGHTSIDE YOUTH/ADULT SERVICES

1 ESTHER COURT, WANSBECK BUSINESS PARK, ASHINGTON,
NORTHUMBERLAND NE63 8AP

 07723 059221
07803 612371

 info@brightsideservices.co.uk
info@brightsideadultservices.co.uk

 www.brightsideservices.co.uk

Brightside provide specialist youth and adult provision for those aged 13-35 years. They offer a Saturday club and holiday scheme for young people of school age and a weekday/weekend day service for those aged 18+.

Brightside aim to develop young people's/adult's education and skills, whilst also providing a safe environment to have fun with friends and experience new opportunities. They also offer a range of evening and social activities including a film club, a specialist fitness session and regular party nights for people with additional needs and their families. They also offer an enabling service for children and adults of any age.

Referrals can be made directly to the service, or via a social worker/care manager.

CALVERT TRUST, KIELDER

KIELDER WATER AND FOREST PARK, HEXHAM, NORTHUMBERLAND NE48 1BS
OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - SUNDAY 9AM - 5PM

 01434 250 232

 enquiries@calvert-kielder.com

 www.calvert-trust.org.uk/kielder

Located in the stunning Kielder Water and Forest Park, Calvert Trust Kielder provides action packed adventures and experiences for disabled children and adults, together with their family and friends. Choose from a range of self-catering accommodation and centre bedrooms or simply visit for the day. Water and land based activities include sailing, canoeing, climbing, high ropes course, king swing, archery, and much more. If you prefer something less energetic there is the hydrotherapy pool and gentle golf buggy rides through the forest and along the lakeside.

FAMILY PLACEMENT SERVICE: ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE

 01670 626262

 familyplacement@northumberland.gov.uk

The Family Placement Service is responsible for providing a variety of placements to children across the community. The children in their care benefit from being able to live in a caring family environment other than their own, either on a short or long term basis. The service houses two teams:

The Fostering Service recruit, assess and train prospective foster carers, as well as supporting and supervising approved foster carers. They have extensive experience of providing short break care, short to medium and long term foster care for local children. The team are looking for new foster carers now.

 Go online to find out more: <http://fostering.northumberland.gov.uk>

The Adoption and Permanence Service recruit, assess, train and support adoptive families. They have extensive experience of finding families for local children who need adoptive homes. They also have responsibility for Special Guardianship assessments. The team are looking for new adoptive parents now.

 Go online to find out more: <http://adoption.northumberland.gov.uk>

FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM



01670 620288



familysupport@northumberland.gov.uk



www.northumberland.gov.uk/familysupport

The Family Support Team provides targeted intervention and support to children, young people and their families following requests from Social Care teams. The following services are available to children, young people and their families. Contact your child's Social Worker for more information about the services listed.

Family Aid Work (for all children and young people aged 0 to 18 years):

Family Aid Workers visit families in their own homes, providing opportunities for the families to affect change and develop confidence and skills in managing challenging behaviour. The work may also include the development of routines, safe caring strategies and financial guidance.

Home Support Care for Disabled Children and Young People (aged 0 to 18 years):

Home Support Carers can take a child/young person out into a community setting, or can care for the child/young person in their own home. This offers the family a regular and valued break from their caring responsibilities. The aim is to reduce social isolation and stress for the whole family; allowing each family member to take part in things that they may not normally be able to access.

Task Centred Care (for all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years):

Task Centred Carers work with children/young people outside the family home, accompanying them to access everyday activities under safe supervision and guidance. The worker provides practical and emotional support to the child/young person, empowering them to develop their social skills, their independence and their ability to interact with adults and other children/young people in the community. This could include taking the child/young person to sports and leisure clubs, and enabling them to participate in activities of interest to them, with their peers.

Supervised Contact (for all children and young people aged 0 to 18 years):

Contact Supervisors help to facilitate the contact between children and their families. The council has a duty to promote contact between looked-after children and their parents, relatives, friends and other people connected with the child.

Play and Activity Schemes for Children and Young People with disabilities/ additional needs; groups for Young Carers:

Play and Activity Schemes and Young Carers Groups provide an opportunity for children and young people to participate in a range of term time activities and holiday play schemes.

Overnight Provision: Overnight Support Care (for all children and young people aged 0 to 18 years):

This service offers a breathing space to children and families experiencing difficulties. It provides an effective intervention to support families to remain together, and to reduce the risk of children and young people entering the looked after system and/or being excluded from school and other services. It also provides a break to children in foster care and to families of disabled children and young people.

Short break care services are available for disabled children, young people and their families:

These give parents and full time carers of disabled children and young people a break from their caring responsibilities. Short breaks also enable disabled children to have social opportunities and join in with safe, fun and interesting activities.

GRACE HOUSE

GRACE HOUSE, BARDOLPH DRIVE, SOUTHWICK, SUNDERLAND SR5 2DE



0191 525 2885



info@gracehouse.co.uk

Grace House is a children's charity which welcomes children and young people from across the North East with complex disabilities, health needs and life limiting conditions. They provide a fun, safe, exciting environment where children can come and live life to the full.

Their main service will be overnight short breaks at their centre in Southwick, Sunderland. They are also planning to offer additional services to families, including therapeutic music and art activities; adapted sports coaching; alternative and complementary therapies for carers; counselling; information and training; support groups; and activity groups for babies and toddlers with complex needs, and their families.

HELPING HANDS COMMUNITY CARE

HELPING HANDS COMMUNITY CARE, 4 BERRYMORE COURT,
NORTHUMBERLAND BUSINESS PARK, CRAMLINGTON NE23 7RZ



01670 797946

Helping Hands Community Care provides a wide range of services for children, aged infant to young adult, with varying needs, and their families. These include respite at home, enabling and support at school, taking children to school, an extra pair of hands at home, personal care, supporting teenagers with independence and living skills, travelling on public transport, cooking, budgeting, shopping and socialising. There is a charge for this service. Contact Helping Hands directly for more details.

JOURNEY ENTERPRISES (FORMALLY DAYBREAK)

NETWORK HOUSE, ACOMB, NORTHUMBERLAND NE46 4SA



01434 605 185



angela.breen@journeyenterprises.co.uk

COWGATE COMMUNITY CENTRES, COWGATE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE5 3UT



0191 484 1290



christine.martin@journeyenterprises.co.uk



www.journeyenterprises.co.uk

Journey Enterprises use person centred approaches to plan a tailored programme of support for every person. They identify needs, and focus on the life outcomes people are looking for, in order to live a good life. Journey Enterprises offer opportunities for everyone to be involved in their enterprises, and to be part of their community. People are supported to choose the best opportunities for them, to increase their skills, increase their independence and ultimately move on to work placements or employment. They have the opportunity to make friends and work together.

Journey Enterprises operates over 3 Hubs all providing unique and specialised enterprise and opportunity.

SEND TO LEARN NURSERY

LONGHIRST ROAD, PEGSWOOD NE61 6XG



07514 723 655



www.sendtolearn.co.uk

At SEND to Learn we believe that our parents should expect the best for their child regardless of differing circumstances.

Our aim is to provide exceptional inclusive nursery education for children aged 2-5 years, in a friendly child-centred environment, delivered by highly experienced and motivated staff who understand the needs of the children in their care. Although open to all students, we specialise in children with additional needs, with care and education individualised to provide all children with the best opportunities for development. We have a unique approach to learning which is built upon the best aspects of Special Needs Education and Early Years Education and Child Care. We follow the EYFS framework, with a focus on the various communication and sensory needs of our children. We utilise our purpose built sensory room as well as a range of ever-changing daily sensory activities to develop each child's sensory awareness and tolerances. We also encourage an assortment of communication methods such as sign language, PEC's and visual aids as well as verbal communication to allow children to opportunity to communicate to the best of their ability.

SSAFA - THE ARMED FORCES CHARITY

 0800 731 4880 (Helpline)

 www.ssafa.org.uk

The charity gives specialist support to military families with additional needs; including parents of children with additional needs or disabilities. SSAFA provide a Forces Additional Needs and Disability Forum (FANDF) because they recognise that if a family has a family member with an additional need or disability then other families in a similar situation can provide unique support. They provide short breaks for service children with additional needs to enjoy with their families.

ST CUTHBERT'S CARE

ST CUTHBERT'S HOUSE, WEST ROAD, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE15 7PY
OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - THURSDAY 9AM - 5PM FRIDAY 9AM - 4.30PM

 0191 228 0111

 enquiries@stcuthbertscare.org.uk

 www.stcuthbertscare.org.uk

St Cuthbert's House is the registered head office for St Cuthbert's Care, one of the longest established social care charities in the North East of England. They care for children, disabled children and adults, elderly people and provide care in communities right across the region.

ST OSWALD'S HOSPICE CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS SERVICE

REGENT AVENUE, GOSFORTH, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE3 1EE
OPENING TIMES: 24 HOUR SERVICE, 7 DAYS A WEEK

 0191 285 0063

 enquiries@stoswaldsuk.org

 www.stoswaldsuk.org

St Oswald's Children and Young Adults Unit provides specialist residential short breaks and palliative care for children and young people who have progressive health conditions that are likely to result in shortened life expectancy, or are currently experiencing a life threatening episode.

All of the children and young people have high care support needs and require supervision from registered nurses. Many of the conditions cause progressive deterioration and the child or young person may need increasing support for complex health, social, emotional and spiritual needs. Some of the children or young people will need care and support at the end of their lives.

INTRODUCTION

Educational provision for special educational needs (SEN)

Children and young people with **special educational needs (SEN)** have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children and young people of the same age. They may need extra or different help from that usually available. The broad categories of special educational needs are: communication and interaction; cognition and learning; social emotional and mental health; sensory and/or physical needs. Many children and young people (about one in six) will have SEN at any given time during their education.

The current **SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years** identifies a **graduated approach** which recognises that children and young people learn in different ways, and can have different kinds and levels of SEN. A child or young person's SEN should be addressed as soon as possible through early intervention, high quality teaching and SEN provision. Education, health, social care and other services should work closely together to meet a child or young person's needs. Government-funded schools must publish their **SEN Policy** and **SEN Information Report** on their websites, which set out how they will meet the needs of children and young people with different types of SEN.

SEN Support is when a child or young person with SEN accesses help from their educational setting that is extra or different to that given to most other children. Their special educational needs are assessed, desired outcomes identified for them, and a support plan, which includes SEN provision, is put in place. The plan is reviewed after an agreed period of time to check progress and see if any changes need to be made. Children and their parents, and young people, should be fully involved in this process and their views taken into account.

The educational setting may ask for advice or support from external support services and will seek the consent of parents or young people for this to happen. Educational settings are funded to meet the needs of their pupils with SEND, but can also ask the Local Authority for extra funding, known as '**high needs top-up funding**', to meet a child or young person's needs, when this may be necessary.

The needs of most children and young people with SEN can be met with high quality teaching and SEN Support. If a child or young person has very high levels of need and does not make expected progress over a period of time, the educational setting, parents or young person may consider asking the local authority to carry out an **EHC (Education, Health and Care) needs assessment**. In making their decision, the Local Authority will require evidence about the steps that have been taken already and why the child or young person needs more support than the setting can normally provide.

The local authority must conduct an EHC needs assessment when it considers that it may be necessary for special educational provision to be made for the child or young person through an **Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan**. The EHC Plan is a

legal document that details the child or young person's SEN and the education, health and social care provision required. At any given time about 2% of children and young people will need an EHC Plan. Another 12% will have lower levels of need supported through 'SEN Support' arrangements.

For further details of the EHC process, including how to request an EHC needs assessment, you can contact the Northumberland SEND Information, Advice and Support Service on **01670 623555** or visit the Contact website at **www.contact.org.uk** or the IPSEA (Independent Parental Special Education Advice) website at **www.ipsea.org.uk**

Independent Support for families going through the EHC assessment and planning process is available from Aspire Personalised Care Solutions on **0191 375 3967** or **info@aspire-cs.co.uk** and the Northumberland SEND Information Advice and Support Service on **01670 623555** or **alison.bravey@northumberland.gov.uk**.

Disability, the Equality Act and education

A disabled person is defined as someone who has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial, long term and adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities. Long term is defined as 'a year or more' and substantial is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'. A key principle of the Equality Act 2010 is that, wherever possible, disabled people should have the same opportunities as non-disabled people in their access to education.

The Equality Act covers admissions, exclusions, education and associated services. It sets out the legal obligations that schools, early years providers, post-16 providers, local authorities and others have towards disabled children and young people. They must not directly or indirectly discriminate against disabled children and young people. 'Reasonable adjustments' must be made to make sure disabled children and young people are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers. This duty is anticipatory in that it requires thought to be given in advance to what disabled children and young people might require and what adjustments may need to be made to prevent any disadvantage. Schools and local authorities must publish accessibility plans setting out how they plan to increase access for disabled pupils to the curriculum and the physical environment.

Further information on educational settings and services

For further information on mainstream and special schools and academies, and other education-related services in Northumberland, go to **www.northumberland.gov.uk** and search for '**Education**'. You can also contact the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service on **01670 623555**.

THE 'GRADUATED APPROACH' FOR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)

PROCESS	WHAT HAPPENS	WHAT PARENTS CAN DO
Identification of possible Special Educational Needs	Concerns are raised about a child's progress. A child has special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty or disability that calls for special educational provision to be made for them.	Provide information on your child and work in partnership with the professionals involved. You can look at a school's SEN Policy and their SEN Information Report on their website.
Assessment	Assessments are made to look at a child's strengths, needs and progress.	Keep records of all information received or sent.
Differentiation of the curriculum	The teacher makes changes to how the curriculum is presented; taking into account a child's learning needs.	Share information on what may help your child. Find out how the curriculum will be differentiated. Check progress
SEN Support	The educational setting provides help that is extra or different to that usually provided, using the model: Assess, Plan, Do, Review Parents should be informed about what help will be given, who will provide it, short term targets, desired outcomes, review arrangements and how parents can help. The educational setting may ask for advice from external support services. They will ask for your consent for this to happen. They may ask the Local Authority for Higher Needs Top-up funding to meet your child's needs.	Monitor progress with the teacher or Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) . A SENCO is a practitioner/qualified teacher who has responsibility for coordinating SEN provision. Keep records of all information received or sent. Check how targets will be monitored. Support your child at home. Work in partnership with the professionals involved and discuss any concerns. Check whether your child needs an EHA (Early Help Assessment) . This is a process of assessing a child's strengths and needs and coordinating support available to the child and their family.
Request for an Education, Health and Care needs assessment - A detailed assessment of a child's strengths and needs. Can be requested by a school or a parent if a child does not make expected progress over a period of time, despite relevant and purposeful action being taken to identify, assess and meet the child's needs.	The Local Authority decides whether to go ahead with an EHC needs assessment based on a wide range of evidence provided by the educational setting, parents and involved professionals about a child's SEN and what has been done to help the child make progress.	Discuss how to help your child with the professionals involved. Give your views. Keep records of everything. You have appeal rights to SEND (the SEN and Disability Tribunal) if the Local Authority decides not to carry out a statutory assessment. You would need to consider mediation before doing so.
Education, Health and Care needs assessment	The Local Authority requests advice from the child or young person, parents and involved professionals and decides whether an Education, Health and Care Plan is required. If the Local Authority decides not to issue a Plan they must give the reasons for this decision.	Contribute advice for the statutory assessment. Give your views. You have appeal rights to SEND if you do not agree with the Local Authority decision. You would need to consider mediation before doing so unless your appeal is just about the educational placement.
Education, Health and Care Plan	The Local Authority produces an Education, Health and Care Plan - a legal document which describes a child's education, health and care needs and the provision they will receive.	Give your views. You have appeal rights to SEND if you do not agree with the contents of the final EHC Plan. You would need to consider mediation before doing so unless your appeal is just about the educational placement. The EHC Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis. You can request an earlier review if you are concerned about your child's progress. Contribute to the review.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Some of the people who work in educational services include:

Education Welfare Officers - who offer support and advice to parents, children and schools on a range of issues, including attendance.

Educational Psychologists - who work with schools and parents, offering support with difficulties affecting a child's development, learning and behaviour.

Early Years Inclusion Coordinators - who offer advice and support to early years providers (private, voluntary and independent settings, and child minders) on meeting the needs of pre-school children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Independent Supporters - who help families going through an EHC (Education, Health Care) needs assessment and the process of developing and reviewing an EHC Plan.

Portage Home Visitors - who provide planned, home based educational support for pre-school children with special educational needs. Along with the parent/carer, they build on the abilities the child already has and teach skills the child has yet to learn.

SEND Information, Advice and Support Service workers - who provide impartial information, advice and support to children and young people with SEN or disabilities, and their parents and carers.

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) - qualified teachers in schools or maintained nursery schools responsible for co-ordinating provision for children with special educational needs. Other early years settings are expected to identify an individual to perform the role of SENCO.

Specialist teachers and teaching assistants - who specialise in a particular area of special educational need; including autism spectrum conditions; behaviour; speech and language; literacy; and sensory impairment.

The following teams and services work with educational settings in Northumberland:

ASPIRE PERSONALISED CARE SOLUTIONS



0191 375 3967



info@aspire-cs.co.uk



www.aspire-cs.co.uk

Aspire Personal Care Solutions (PCS) are commissioned by the Council for Disabled Children to deliver Independent Support to the families of children and young people in Northumberland who are going through the EHC (Education Health and Care) assessment and planning process.

Independent Supporters provide a range of time-limited support, including liaison across different agencies and information on personal budgets. The level and nature of support is tailored to the particular needs of individual families.

AUTISM SUPPORT SERVICE

SOUTH VIEW, ASHINGTON NE63 0SF



01670 624802



asd.behaviourservices@northumberland.gov.uk

The Autism Support Service offer school based support to children and young people who have social communication difficulties or a diagnosis of an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The service aims to develop and enhance the skills and practices of school staff and improve educational outcomes for children and young people with social communication/ASD being taught in educational settings across Northumberland.

The support we offer is generally bespoke to the individual or school setting and may comprise of a combination of: observation, assessment, recommendation of strategies and approaches to enhance access to the curriculum, resource sharing, liaison with parents and carers, as well as a comprehensive range of training packages for professionals.

We provide written reports that outline the strategies and approaches that should be incorporated into teaching programmes and classroom practice.

Team members liaise closely with parents/carers, school staff and the young person to promote successful inclusion in the classroom.

Schools can access support from the Autism Support Service via a Service Level Agreement (SLA) and the completion of a 'Request for Support' form. All individual requests for support require signed parental consent.

SEND Manager for Autism : Fiona Tarn

BARNARDOS MEDIATION SERVICE

BARNARDO'S DAIS SERVICE, 20 BEWICK ROAD, GATESHEAD NE8 4DP



0191 478 4667



daismediationservices@barnardos.org.uk

An independent mediation service that works with families of children with special educational needs and disabilities and their Local Authorities.

The aim of the service is to support both parties to resolve their disputes, ensuring that all involved had the opportunity to have their views shared and listened to. A mediation adviser will typically become involved in disputes in relation to the Education Health and Care needs assessment and planning process. The mediation service will try to resolve issues before they escalate to the tribunal stage.

BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT SERVICE

SOUTH VIEW, ASHINGTON NE63 0SF



01670 624802



asd.behaviourservices@northumberland.gov.uk

The Behaviour Support Team provide support and advice to schools and young people who are displaying challenging behaviour as a result of an underlying social, emotional or mental health need.

The team aims to develop and enhance the skills and practices of staff and improve educational outcomes for children and young people with social, emotional and behaviour needs being taught in educational settings across Northumberland.

The support we offer is generally bespoke to the individual or school setting and may comprise of a combination of: observation, assessment, recommendation of strategies and approaches to enhance access to the curriculum, resource sharing, liaison with parents and carers, as well as a comprehensive range of training packages for professionals.

The Behaviour Support staff are certified instructors for BILD accredited 'MAPA' training (*Management of Actual or Potential Aggression*). This training develops the skills and knowledge of school staff to enable them to effectively manage the needs of pupils displaying challenging behaviour.

The team is able to provide examples of de-escalation strategies as well as offering advice on the creation of positive handling plans, individual support plans and appropriate reward and consequence systems that can be used to meet the needs of individual pupils and/or the wider school population.

Schools can access support from the Behaviour Support Service via a Service Level Agreement (SLA) and the completion of a 'Request for Support' form. All individual requests for support require signed parental consent.

SEND Manager for Behaviour Support : Fiona Tarn

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

SOUTH VIEW, ASHINGTON NE63 0SF

 01670 624807

 sendcommunicationservice@northumberland.gov.uk

The EAL service provides advice and guidance for schools to enable them to support children and young people for whom English is an additional language in response to EAL pupils' diverse learning needs. Support is offered for beginners and early stage learners up to advanced bilinguals who require intervention to raise their attainment. Support at initial Welcome meetings, parent booklets translated into first language and termly newsletters to keep schools updated are offered as part of the service

Schools can request support by completing the online or paper SEND Support Services 'Request for Support ' form as well as the accompanying parental consent form.

Academies can access support via a pay-as-you-go agreement.

SEND Manager for EAL: Judith Dodds

EARLY YEARS TEAM

COUNTY HALL, MORPETH NE61 2EF

 0345 600 6400

The Early Years Team work with a variety of early year's settings within the private, voluntary, independent and maintained sector, such as childminders, day care, out of school clubs and nurseries. They provide challenge and support to ensure that provision meets statutory requirements and to improve Early Years Foundation Stage outcomes and quality of provision. The team work in partnership with other key professionals to ensure support and interventions meet the needs of all groups of children and families, and to promote equality and inclusion.

The Early Years Inclusion Coordinators who work within the team offer advice and support to early years providers on meeting the needs of pre-school children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Free early education entitlement for two, three and four year olds

All three and four-year-olds are entitled to free high-quality early education, starting in the term after a child's third birthday until compulsory school age; the school year after they have their fourth birthday. The current universal free entitlement is 570 hours a year; the equivalent of 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year. From September 2017 working parents may be eligible for 1140 hours per year; the equivalent of 30 hours a week for 38 weeks. However, parents may choose to use their entitlement over a longer period of time within the year.

Parents/carers of two-year-olds who meet a range of criteria are entitled to 570 hours a year of free high-quality early years education or childcare (as described above), from the term after a child's second birthday until the end of the term in which they are three. This includes some children with disabilities.

A list of childcare providers delivering the two, three and four-year-old funded places and a downloadable guide which covers both schemes is available on the Northumberland County Council website at www.northumberland.gov.uk (search for Early Education) or contact the Families Information Service on **0800 023 4440**.

EDUCATION OTHER THAN AT SCHOOL SERVICE (EOTAS)

BRUNEL BUILDING, 64 REGENT STREET, BLYTH NE24 1LT



01670 623970

The key aim of the Education Other Than at School Service is to ensure that all referred students are able to access good quality full time education whilst they are unable to attend school.

Children/young people with health needs: Children/young people experiencing health difficulties which mean they have been absent for more than 15 school days, may be eligible for an educational programme through the EOTAS Service. They may be ill, injured, recovering from an operation or experiencing severe mental health difficulties. In each case, the programme arranged will depend on the health of the student involved.

EDUCATION SUPPORT FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (ESLAC)

BRUNEL BUILDING, 64 REGENT STREET, BLYTH NE24 1LT



01670 622779



eslac.info@northumberland.gov.uk

Education Support for Looked After Children (ESLAC) is a team which promotes and supports the education of looked after children. The work of the team includes: ensuring that looked after children are prioritised and fast tracked wherever possible through services within the County Council; promoting the education of looked after children; and advising and supporting schools and social care staff in matters relating to the education of looked after children.

ESLAC Team Manager: Toni McGuire

EDUCATION WELFARE SERVICE

BRUNEL BUILDING, 64 REGENT STREET, BLYTH, NORTHUMBERLAND NE24 1LT

 01670 622800

 educationwelfare@northumberland.gov.uk

Education Welfare Service Manager: Angela Cunningham

The Education Welfare Service sits within the Virtual School, Education and Skills Service. The service works to ensure that the Local Authority's statutory duties and other responsibilities for safeguarding children in relation to school attendance, elective home education, missing children, child employment and performance licensing are carried out to the highest possible standard.

Attendance

We work with, schools, children, young people and their families, together with partner agencies and disciplines to effectively address attendance and welfare issues.

From our work across Northumberland's schools, we understand the complex nature of the causes of absence in a county with both urban and rural aspects.

Our focus is firmly on supporting schools with their attendance priorities (in the context of reducing non-school attendance) Our team is able to act as a 'bridge' to other appropriate services and providers to meet the needs of those vulnerable children and families who may not meet the minimum thresholds for other statutory agencies. We work collaboratively with schools creating a vital safety net for our most vulnerable children and young people.

Elective Home Education

To create positive working relationships with home educators and, acknowledging the wishes of the parents/carers, we will support and advise on all aspects of elective home education.

We will offer information and advice to those parents considering educating children at home, encouraging good practice by providing written information which clearly sets out the legislative position and provides advice on roles and responsibilities of both parents and the Local Authority.

To establish whether the education received is suitable, we will offer to meet at homes or any reasonable alternative venues parents identify, or, by considering a range of information provided by parents at regular intervals

We will advise parents of a range of resources and information

The service hopes to build trust and effective relationships with home educators which function to safeguard children's educational interests, and respect the diversity of approaches and interests demonstrated by home educators in providing suitable education.

We work with other agencies as and when necessary to safeguard and promote the welfare of children educated at home.

Children Missing from Education and missing full time education

Education Welfare will:

- ensure that data and information is collected from schools and is collated.
- provide information on pupils who are not on a school roll and who are not known to be educated otherwise;
- assist schools in tracking and attempting to locate missing pupils.
- meet with other disciplines to track those pupils not receiving full time educational entitlement.

Exclusions from School

Education Welfare Officers support the work of colleagues in the Inclusion/EOTAS Service in ensuring that guidance has been followed in respect of all fixed period and permanent exclusions and that parental and pupil rights have been safeguarded.

Child Employment/Entertainment

To ensure that students are protected from exploitation in employment and the dangers of illegal employment the Service will:

- give advice to schools, parents, pupils and employers regarding the County Council's byelaws governing child employment and children in entertainment
- maintain a monitoring system for child employment and entertainment, to ensure that young people within the Authority are not adversely affected in their attendance, punctuality or attainment at school;
- maintain a register of employers and young people issued with work permits and performance licences
- maintain a register of all Chaperones for Children in Entertainment

INCLUSION SERVICES

BRUNEL BUILDING, 64 REGENT STREET, BLYTH NE24 1LT

 01670 624411

 inclusion@northumberland.gov.uk

INCLUSION TEAM MANAGER: JANICE WOODS

The Inclusion Team core purpose is to work with pupils, families and professionals to ensure that the social, emotional and health development of learners are fully supported and to integrate inclusion support services with Early Help, children's social care and other partner agencies so that education outcomes improve.

Inclusion Support Workers actively promote inclusive practice and provide early help for pupils who might become at risk of exclusion, may be a persistent absentee (under-pinning the work of EOTAS inclusion and Education Welfare) or have social and emotional needs. They also have an important role in supporting the effective re-integration of pupils back into school after exclusion or a period in alternative provision.

Exclusion

The EOTAS (see below) inclusion team provides support in addition to the statutory work regarding pupils who have been permanently excluded by providing a support service to broker alternative education provision for pupils at risk of permanent exclusion, and the quality assurance of alternative provision.

Exclusion from School: There are two types of exclusion from school; **fixed term (fixed period) or permanent.** Formal or permanent exclusion is the only legal method of removing a child from a school. Informal or unofficial exclusions are illegal regardless of whether they are done with the agreement of the parents or carers. Fixed term exclusions must not add up to a total of more than 45 days in one school year. Exclusion from school is a serious step for a school to take and can be a worrying time for parents and children. The Inclusion Team have experienced staff who will support the family, child and school through the process to ensure a full time alternative education programme is available. The exact nature of the programme will be dependent on the excluded child's age and needs. The service is responsible for ensuring all statutory requirements in relation to permanent exclusion are met.

For more information and advice regarding an exclusion, contact the Local Authority's **Social Inclusion Officers** on **01670 624187** or **624 183**. Coram Children's Legal Centre, an independent national organisation, provides advice on their website at **www.childrenslegalcentre.com** and by telephone on **0300 330 5485**. Their advice line is available from Monday to Friday between 8AM and 6PM.

Please note that the demand for the advice line is high and you may not get through at your first attempt. If your child has special educational needs or a disability you can contact the **SEND Information Advice and Support Service** on **01670 623555**.

LITERACY SUPPORT SERVICE (DYSLEXIA)

SOUTH VIEW, ASHINGTON NE63 0SF

 01670 624807

 sendcommunicationservice@northumberland.gov.uk

The Literacy Support Team aims to help meet the needs of children and young people with Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD), particularly persistent literacy difficulties (Dyslexia). The team is comprised of four specialist teachers, working across county into all school phases. The team have worked to provide all SENCOs with an assessment screening tool to enable them to set initial SMART targets to manage the needs of the learner. After two cycles of Assess-Plan-Do-Review if progress remains a concern, SENCOs can request support from Northumberland County Council's Literacy Team by completing the online or paper SEND Support Services 'Request for Support' form as well as the accompanying parental consent form.

Schools can expect a timely response with an initial meeting with school, parent/carer and learner, further assessment with guidance and advice about best interventions and a written report containing assessment information, shared with home and school. Schools can access support via a Service Level Agreement (SLA)

SEND Manager for Literacy: Judith Dodds

PORTAGE SERVICE

SOUTH VIEW, ASHINGTON, NORTHUMBERLAND NE63 0SF

 01670 622741

Portage is a home teaching service for pre-school children with SEND. It helps parents and carers to support their child's learning. The Northumberland Portage Service works with children birth to five years, where there are significant delays in at least two areas of development. A Portage Home Visitor will visit the family home for approximately one hour each week. The parents, carers and home visitor will plan activities together to encourage and promote the child's development.

Portage Lead: Carol MacDonald

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

SOUTH VIEW ASHINGTON NE63 0SF

 **01670 624813**

 **psychservices@northumberland.gov.uk**

Psychological Services is a team of experienced Educational Psychologists who work with school staff, children and families. They work with schools and settings to develop their capacity and achieve better outcomes for children and young people. They support the adults involved in the lives of children and young people and work with learners to:

- Prevent additional/special educational needs and requirements developing
- Intervene early where additional/special educational needs and requirements are identified
- Support those with on-going additional needs and requirements

Educational Psychologists can work at the individual level working directly with children and families, or at the group or whole school level to support schools in developing their policy and practice.

In the first instance, parents should discuss any concerns they have about their child's provision and progress with the school. This will usually be with the school SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator). The school will be able to explain how they are addressing the needs of the child or young person and discuss whether a referral to other services is necessary. If the school feels that a request for support from Psychological Services would be helpful the SENCO, with your consent, will contact the school's link Educational Psychologist.

From September 2017, schools will access Educational Psychology support via a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the exception of statutory assessment work. Statutory work includes the Psychological Advice written as part of an Education and Health Care Assessment (EHCA).

SEND Manager for Psychological Services: Paula Hesford
Senior Educational Psychologist: Katinka Bryan

PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT (PRU)

PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT (PRU), HEPSCOTT PARK, STANNINGTON,
MORPETH NE61 6NF

 01670 514963

Northumberland Pupil Referral Unit is a resource available to mainstream schools to assist them in supporting children with behaviour which disrupts their learning and that of others. Younger and more vulnerable children are taught separately in a purpose-built nurture unit with specially-trained teaching staff. This offers an exceptionally high level of support to children with complex needs and often quite extreme behaviour. Other children are taught in small groups by specialist teachers and support staff, using a tailored curriculum. The emphasis is upon blending individualised support with appropriate challenge.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT TEAM

COUNTY HALL, MORPETH NE61 2EF

 0345 600 6400

The Local Authority has a duty to provide free transport to the nearest suitable school for any child of compulsory school age, if it is beyond statutory walking distance from home (2 miles for children under 8 years of age and 3 miles for children aged 8 years and over). Different eligibility criteria apply for children from low income families and for young people over 16. Under certain circumstances the Local Authority may also provide home to school transport for children with special educational needs, disabilities or medical needs. Eligibility is based on assessment of individual need.

For more information about the Local Authority's transport policies and applying for transport, either visit the Northumberland County Council website at **www.northumberland.gov.uk** (search for School Transport) or contact the School Transport Team.

SCHOOLS' EQUALITIES SUPPORT

COUNTY HALL, MORPETH NE61 2EF

OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30AM TO 5PM



01670 622728



gill.finch@northumberland.gov.uk

The Schools' Equalities Coordinator provides documentation, training and guidance to support schools to comply with the law and meet the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty. If pupils experience difficulties and discrimination which arise due to their protected characteristics, which include disability, race, belief, gender identity and sexual orientation, we can offer training and advice. We can also put schools in touch with partner organisations who offer support.

Schools can request support by making contact with Gill Finch by email or telephone.

SENSORY SUPPORT SERVICE

SENSORY SUPPORT SERVICE, RIVERSIDE CENTRE, ARMSTRONG WAY,
ASHINGTON NE63 0YD



01670 624854



sensorysupport@northumberland.gov.uk

The Sensory Support Service is a service which works across the County, providing specialist support to children and young people with sensory impairments from birth through to the end of school education. The Service is based in Ashington, but staff visit homes and schools all over the County.

The Service is made up of Teachers of the Deaf/Visually Impaired/ Multi-Sensory Impaired, a Mobility/Habilitation Officer and a specialist Speech and Language Therapist. Referrals need to come from health professionals in the first instance for children and young people with hearing impairment, but schools can make referrals for visually impaired students. Advice can be sought from the Service by anyone at any time.

Levels of support are decided on the basis of need. The Service provides a combination of direct teaching and support for families, along with advice and guidance for schools and other settings. This includes audiological and technical support. Staff work closely with families and other professionals to ensure that the needs of children and young people with sensory impairments are met well. The aim is to enable children and young people with sensory impairments to enjoy the same rights and opportunities as their peers.

SEND Manager for Sensory Support: Nicola Taylor

SEND INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICE

COUNTY HALL, MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND NE61 2EF



01670 623555



alison.bravey@northumberland.gov.uk

Every Local Authority is required to have a dedicated service which provides free and impartial information, advice and support to children and young people with SEND (up to 25 years of age), and their parents and carers. This is to enable them to make informed decisions about matters relating to the child or young person's SEND, including matters relating to health and social care.

In Northumberland this service is provided by the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (previously known as the Parent Partnership Service). The service is run at arms-length from the Local Authority and is completely confidential (the only exception to this is if there are any safeguarding concerns).

The service provides a range of information, including a series of leaflets which explain different aspects of the SEND system. These are available on request or can be downloaded from the service webpage at www.northumberland.gov.uk; search for 'SEND Information, Advice and Support'.

The service is free and confidential, and operates on a self-referral basis.

THE SEND (SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY) TEAM

SEND TEAM, COUNTY HALL, MORPETH NE61 2EF



01670 622759



SEN@northumberland.gov.uk

The role of the team is:

- To manage High Needs SEN funding into schools, colleges and pre-school education.
- To administer the process of statutory assessment of special educational needs and creating and maintaining Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans.
- To work in partnership with parents, young learners, schools and other professionals.
- To ensure that reviews are held annually and that transition reviews are dealt with in line with SEND Code of Practice.
- To work in partnership with the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service to provide clear information to parents.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

The government-funded special schools/provisions in Northumberland for children with special educational needs are listed in the table below. A full list of schools in Northumberland can be found on the Northumberland County Council website at www.northumberland.gov.uk; search for 'Schools'.

The Department for Education's register of all educational establishments in England and Wales can be found at: www.gov.uk/guidance/get-information-about-schools

There are also independent special schools across the North East. A list of independent special schools and colleges for pupils with special educational needs, including those approved under Section 41 of the Children and Families Act can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-special-schools-and-colleges>

To attend a special school a child or young person would need to have an EHC Plan or a Statement of SEN. The school would need to be appropriate for their age, ability, aptitude and special educational needs. The placement would also need to be compatible with the efficient education of the other children with whom the child or young person would be educated and with the efficient use of resources.

For further details, contact the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service on **01670 623555**. The service can provide leaflets on 'Visiting a School', and 'Starting a New School'. If your child has a EHC Plan or Statement of SEN and you think that they would benefit from being at a different school, you should ask their current school to hold a review of their EHC Plan or Statement.

SPECIAL SCHOOL / SPECIALIST PROVISION	AGE RANGE	CONTACT DETAILS
Atkinson House School, North Terrace, Seghill, NE23 7EB	11-18 (Boys only)	0191 298 0838 http://www.atkinsonhouse.northumberland.sch.uk
Barndale House School, Howling Lane, Alnwick, NE66 1DQ	2 - 19	01665 602541 http://barndalehouse.com/
Cleaswell Hill School, School Avenue, Choppington, NE62 5DJ	2 - 19	01670 823182 http://www.cleaswellhill.northumberland.sch.uk
Collingwood School and Media Arts College, Stobhillgate, Morpeth, NE61 2HA	2 - 19	01670 516374 http://collingwoodmediacollege.co.uk
Cramlington Hillcrest School East View Ave, Cramlington, NE23 1DY	11 - 19	01670 713632 http://www.hillcrest.northumberland.sch.uk
Hexham Priory School, Corbridge Road, Hexham, NE46 1UY	2 - 19	01434 605021 http://www.hexhamprioryschool.co.uk
The Dales School, Cowpen Road, Blyth, NE24 4RE	4 - 11	01670 352556 http://www.thedales.northumberland.sch.uk
The Grove Special School, Grove Garden, Tweedmouth, Berwick upon Tweed, TD15 2EN	2 - 19	01289 306390 http://www.thegrove.northumberland.sch.uk
The Centre, Northumberland Church of England Academy, Lichfield Close, Ashington NE63 9RX	2 - 19	01670 844322 http://ncea.org.uk/

SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION SERVICE

SOUTH VIEW, ASHINGTON NE63 0SF

 01670 624807

 sendcommunicationservice@northumberland.gov.uk

The Speech, Language and Communication Team of Northumberland County Council offer bespoke support for children and young people whose spoken language difficulties are affecting their attainment and progress in school. The team comprises four dually qualified Specialist Teachers/ Speech and Language Therapists, a Specialist Speech and Language Therapist and nine Specialist Teaching Assistants. Staff who are Speech and Language Therapists have their practice regulated nationally by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

Working to extend the skills and knowledge of school staff and, where appropriate, to provide bespoke programmes to meet identified needs of children and young people referred to this service, the team offers a range of support which may include: a speech and language assessment, individual targeted work relating to spoken language (usually delivered by a Specialist Teaching Assistant), group interventions, recommendations, advice and strategies directly linked to the curriculum, resource sharing, support for parents and carers, as well as a comprehensive range of bespoke and accredited training for school staff.

Support is offered for children with delayed or disordered speech and language, children with a diagnosis of autism as well as children whose phonological awareness difficulties are impacting upon their literacy acquisition. All requests for support are responded to promptly and will typically include a report containing assessment information with contributions from school staff, parent/ carer and the young person.

Schools can access Speech, Language and Communication support via a Service Level Agreement (SLA). SENCOs can request support from the Team by completing the online or paper SEND Support Services 'Request for Support ' form as well as the accompanying parental consent form.

SEND Manager for Communication Support: Judith Dodds

YOUTH SERVICE

COUNTY HALL, MORPETH NE61 6NF

 01670 620320

The purpose of Youth Work is to create enjoyable and sometimes challenging learning opportunities for young people outside of normal school hours that they will find useful both now and in later life. Youth Work also assists young people to find the help they need when facing difficulties.

USEFUL EDUCATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

The following local and national educational organisations also provide information, advice and/or support for different types of SEND.

ABILITY NET NORTH EAST

 **0800 269 545** - Freephone (Advice and information)

 **www.abilitynet.org.uk**

AbilityNet aims to improve the lives of disabled people by helping them to use digital technology at work, at home or in education. They provide a range of services, including carrying out DSA (Disabled Students' Allowance) Needs Assessments. DSAs are grants to help meet the extra course costs university students face because of a disability or specific learning difficulty.

ACE EDUCATION

 **0300 01115 142** - Helpline - Monday to Wednesday 10AM - 1PM (Term time only)

 **www.ace-ed.org.uk**

ACE Education provides independent advice and information on different aspects of state education in England; including special educational needs, exclusion, bullying, disability discrimination and school admissions. Advice booklets are available to purchase and download from the website.

BULLYING - NATIONAL ADVICE SERVICES FOR BULLYING ISSUES

There is no legal definition of bullying. However, it is usually defined as behaviour that is repeated; intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally; and often aimed at certain groups, e.g. because of disability, race, religion, gender or sexual orientation. Bullying can take many forms and includes name calling, making offensive comments or threats, kicking, hitting, taking belongings, inappropriate text messaging and e-mailing, sending offensive or degrading images by mobile phone or via the internet, producing offensive graffiti, gossiping, excluding people from groups, and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours. Bullying can seriously damage a child or young person's confidence and sense of worth, and may affect their health. It needs to be dealt with as soon as possible. Bullying is different from the usual disagreements that children and young people may have from time to time.

Schools must have measures in place to encourage good behaviour and respect for others, and to prevent and address all forms of bullying. They are required to

have a behaviour policy in place, which should include a clear anti-bullying policy and strategies to tackle bullying. If you think your child is being bullied, you should talk to your child and then talk to the school about what can be done about it.

Further information on tackling bullying is available from Bullying UK at www.bullying.co.uk (helpline 0808 800 2222), the Anti-Bullying Alliance at www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk or Family Lives at www.familylives.org.uk (helpline 0808 800 2222). The Named Person advising on bullying issues for Northumberland Local Authority can be contacted at anjela.appleby@northumberland.gov.uk. Specific information for parents of disabled children and a guide to dealing with bullying can be found on the Contact website at www.contact.org.uk (search for Bullying).

CENTRE FOR STUDIES ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION (CSIE)

 0117 328 4007

 www.csie.org.uk

CSIE is a national charity that works to promote equality and eliminate discrimination in education.

CONTACT – SEN NATIONAL ADVICE SERVICE

 0808 808 3555 - Freephone helpline - 9.30AM - 5PM, Monday to Friday

 helpline@contact.org.uk (Response within 10 working days)

 www.contact.org.uk

 [@contactfamilies](https://twitter.com/contactfamilies)

 facebook.com/contactafamily (Response within two working days)

Contact provide information and advice on any aspect of caring for a child with special educational needs or a disability. Their website has information on issues such as education, benefits and family life, and their parent resources cover a range of topics, including health and social care services. Education specialist advisers provide advice on their helpline or you can post a query on their Facebook page.

DYSLEXIA NORTH EAST ENGLAND

 0786 826 3696

 info@dyslexianortheastengland.org

 www.dyslexianortheastengland.org.uk

Dyslexia North East England is a charity which offers support and educational opportunities for parents/carers and professionals involved in the care of children and adults with dyslexia and related conditions. Their mission is to promote knowledge, skills and understanding about dyslexia to enable dyslexics to achieve their potential. Their vision is to create a society that celebrates difference.

The charity aims to improve information and support to individuals and families, whether they are adults or children, from any background or culture, and raise awareness about dyslexia in the community at large, as well as encouraging 'dyslexia friendly' schools, colleges and businesses. They offer a range of different services. Visit the website or phone for further details.

EDUCATION OTHERWISE

 0845 478 6345

 www.educationotherwise.net

Education Otherwise is a membership organisation that provides information and resources for home educating families and those considering home education (HE) for the first time, including guidance on HE and the law, SEN and disabilities; downloadable fact sheets covering many aspects of HE; and links to local HE groups across the UK.

HOME EDUCATION ADVISORY SERVICE

 01707 371 854

 www.heas.org.uk

A national, home education charity based in the UK dedicated to the provision of advice and practical support for families who wish to educate their children at home in preference to sending them to school.

IPSEA - INDEPENDENT PARENTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVICE

-  Advice Line - Calls must be booked through the IPSEA website
-  SEND Tribunal representation - Calls must be booked through the IPSEA website
-  www.ipsea.org.uk

IPSEA is a registered charity which offers free and independent advice and support to parents of children with special educational needs, including advice on local authorities' legal duties to assess and provide for children with special educational needs; exclusion of children with special needs and disabilities; and actions or inaction by local authorities and/or schools which discriminate against children with disabilities. IPSEA also provide advice, support and possible representation for parents appealing to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SEND).

NASEN

-  01827 311 500
-  www.nasen.org.uk

A UK organisation supporting those who work with or care for children and young people with special and additional educational needs and disabilities. They support all staff, including SENCOs, leaders, teachers, governors and teaching assistants, in meeting the needs of pupils in schools, and promote training, development and support for educational settings.

NETWORK 81

-  0845 077 4055 - Helpline
-  www.network81.org.uk

A charity that supports, advises and trains parents and carers about the education of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

PARENTS FOR INCLUSION

-  info@parentsforinclusion.org
-  www.parentsforinclusion.org

Parents for Inclusion is a charity for parents of disabled children and children with special needs; parents supporting parents so that ALL children and young people are valued and treated equally in education and throughout life.

POTENTIAL PLUS UK

 0845 450 0295

 www.potentialplusuk.org

A charitable organisation that aims to provide help, support and encouragement to children with high learning potential, their families (especially parents) and all others involved in their education and welfare.

SEND TO LEARN NURSERY

LONGHIRST ROAD, PEGSWOOD NE61 6XG

 07514 723 655

 www.sendtolearn.co.uk

At SEND to Learn we believe that our parents should expect the best for their child regardless of differing circumstances.

Our aim is to provide exceptional inclusive nursery education for children aged 2-5 years, in a friendly child-centred environment, delivered by highly experienced and motivated staff who understand the needs of the children in their care. Although open to all students, we specialise in children with additional needs, with care and education individualised to provide all children with the best opportunities for development. We have a unique approach to learning which is built upon the best aspects of Special Education Needs Education and Early Years Education and Child Care. We follow the EYFS framework, with a focus on the various communication and sensory needs of our children. We utilise our purpose built sensory room as well as a range of ever-changing daily sensory activities to develop each child's sensory awareness and tolerances. We also encourage an assortment of communication methods such as sign language, PEC's and visual aids as well as verbal communication to allow children to opportunity to communicate to the best of their ability.

INTRODUCTION

Parents and carers of disabled children, and children and young people with disabilities, might be entitled to certain benefits and services that can help them.

These include:

- **Income Support**
- **Disability Living Allowance (DLA)**
- **Personal Independence Payments (PIPs)**
- **Carer's Allowance**
- **Direct Payments**
- **Housing Benefit**
- **Council Tax benefit**
- **Social Fund**
- **Tax Credits**
- **Child Benefit**
- **Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)**
- **Universal credit**

For more information on benefits visit the Gov.UK website at **www.gov.uk**.

The website has a PIP toolkit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-personal-independence-payment-toolkit-for-partners/the-personal-independence-payment-pip-toolkit>.

Contact provide information for parents and carers of disabled children on benefits and services that can help them, their children or family. The advice given includes benefits and tax credits, working and childcare, children's services and help with fuel bills. You can visit their website or call the free helpline for personalised advice from parent advisers about benefits and services.

Website: **www.contact.org.uk**

Freephone helpline: **0808 808 3555 (9.30AM – 5PM, Monday to Friday)**

Email: **helpline@contact.org.uk (Response within 10 working days)**

Facebook: **[facebook.com/contactfamily](https://www.facebook.com/contactfamily) (Response within two working days)**

Twitter: **[@contactfamilies](https://twitter.com/contactfamilies) (Response within two working days)**

The following services provide information and support:

BLYTH VALLEY DISABLED FORUM

20 STANLEY STREET, BLYTH NE24 2BU

OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - THURSDAY 9AM - 5PM FRIDAY 9AM - 4PM



01670 360927



judithbrain@bvvdhomecare.co.uk



www.blythdisabledforum.co.uk

The Blyth Valley Disabled Forum offers a range of services and support to people living in the Blyth Valley area, including advice and assistance on all disability issues. You can contact the Forum for advice about sickness and disability benefits. You must make an appointment.

CARER'S ALLOWANCE UNIT (C.A. UNIT)

OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - THURSDAY 8.30AM - 5PM FRIDAY 8.30AM - 4.30PM



0345 608 4321



0345 604 5312 - Textphone



cau.customer-services@dwp.gsi.gov.uk



www.gov.uk/carers-allowance

The Carer's Allowance Unit answers queries about entitlement to Carer's Allowance; issues claim forms; and provide advice about claiming.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Citizens Advice Bureau helps people resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing free information and advice. Advice is available face-to-face and by telephone.

The Citizen's Advice website provides a range of information on benefits, work, debt and money, consumer advice, relationships and housing. Visit **www.citizensadvice.org.uk**.

For more details of your local Bureau and their opening times, visit the websites above or phone **03444 111 444**.

CONTACT – BENEFITS ADVICE



0808 808 3555 - Freephone helpline - 9.30AM - 5PM, Monday to Friday



helpline@contact.org.uk (Response within 10 working days)



www.contact.org.uk



@contactfamilies (Response within two working days)



facebook.com/contactfamily (Response within two working days)

Contact provide information for parents and carers of disabled children on benefits and services that can help them, their children or family. The advice given includes benefits, tax credits, working and childcare, children's services and help with fuel bills. You can visit their website or call the free helpline for personalised advice from parent advisers about benefits and services.

DISABILITY GRANTS

 www.disability-grants.org

A number of charities and trusts provide funding towards the high cost of disability equipment, holidays, housing and days out. The Disability Grants website helps people with disabilities, or parents or carers of disabled children or adults, find information about disability grants.

DISABILITY NORTH

THE DENE CENTRE, CASTLE FARM ROAD, GOSFORTH,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE3 1PH
OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 10AM - 4PM

 0191 284 0480

 0191 213 0910

 www.disabilitynorth.org.uk

 reception@disabilitynorth.org.uk

Disability North aims to promote social inclusion, independence and choice for disabled people. They provide independent information and advice on a wide range of disability issues, including equipment and activities for daily living, benefits and Direct Payments.

FAMILY FUND

OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM

 01904 621 115

 01904 658085 - Textphone

 info@familyfund.org.uk

 www.familyfund.org.uk

The Family Fund help low income families caring for severely disabled or seriously ill children aged 17 and under. They provide grants for a wide range of items, such as washing machines, sensory toys, family breaks, bedding, furniture, outdoor equipment, clothing and computers.

MOTABILITY SCHEME



0300 456 4566



www.motability.co.uk

The Motability Scheme enables disabled people to use their high rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance or enhanced rate of mobility component of Personal Independence Payment to obtain a car, powered wheelchair or scooter. Parents and carers can apply on behalf of a child.

TURN2US



www.turn2us.org.uk

Turn2us is a national charity that helps people in financial hardship gain access to welfare benefits, charitable grants and support finances. Their website provides easy to use tools and information pages. The Benefits Calculator tool helps you to find out what welfare benefits, tax credits or other support you may be entitled to. The Grant Search tool enables you to find out if you might be eligible for financial help or support from a charitable fund.

WELFARE RIGHTS TEAM

WELFARE RIGHTS TEAM, EDDIE FERGUSON HOUSE, RIDLEY STREET,
BLYTH NE24 3AG

OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - THURSDAY 8.30AM - 5PM FRIDAY 8.30AM - 4.30PM



01670 629590 (For professionals only)

The team provides a range of services to staff in statutory and voluntary organisations throughout Northumberland whose work will bring them into contact with patients/clients who may have an entitlement to welfare benefits and tax credits.

The team delivers training about welfare benefits and tax credits, provides a telephone support service for staff and can also provide general information about benefits. Enquiries should be made by someone working in the organisations listed above; for example, a social worker or support worker.

INTRODUCTION

A child or young person may need to be referred to some of the health services listed in this section of the guide. Referral is when a professional decides to introduce a person to another specialised service for their help. This may be done by a health professional, such as a GP or health visitor; a social care professional, such as a social worker; or sometimes other professionals, such as teachers.

Medical assessments may lead to some children or young people being diagnosed as having a particular medical condition or disability. Sometimes no clear diagnosis can be made. If this is the case, the medical professional will do all they can to answer any questions and may refer the child or young person to other specialists for further assessment.

It is important that families feel supported throughout this process. Voluntary organisations or charities can provide helpful information about particular conditions and may also be able to put families in touch with other families who are in similar situations. You can find more information in the 'Local Support and Information' and 'Useful Organisations' sections of this guide.

Pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Schools must ensure that arrangements are in place to support children and young people with medical conditions. They should also consult with health and social care professionals, pupils and parents to ensure that children with medical conditions are effectively supported.

Support to prepare young people for good health in adulthood should include supporting them to make the transition to adult health services, including mental health services. For young people with EHC Plans, the plan should be the basis for coordinating the integration of health with other services.

People working in Health Services

The professionals who work in health services providing specialist support for children and young people with SEND include:

- **Clinical Psychologists** - who help children with emotional, social or mental health difficulties through counselling and other treatments.
- **Community Children's Nurses** - specialist nurses who work with children and young people with disabilities and complex health needs.
- **Community Psychiatric Nurses** - nurses who specialised in mental health during their training.
- **District Nurses** - who provide nursing care to patients usually in their own homes, residential care homes or health centres.
- **Health Visitors** - trained nurses with specialist qualifications who can give advice on childcare and development.

- **Occupational Therapists** - who are concerned with a child's overall development in terms of mobility, play and activities of daily living.
- **Paediatricians** - who specialise in the treatment and care of children in hospital or in the community. Community Paediatricians can also assess and manage any general paediatric problems that are concerning to a GP or other health professional.
- **Physiotherapists** - who assess and work with children who have movement difficulties.
- **Primary Mental Health Workers** - who provide early intervention for mental health difficulties.
- **Psychiatrists** - doctors who specialise in treating mental health conditions.
- **School Nurses (Public Health School Nurses)** - who support school children with different health or medical needs.
- **Speech and Language Therapists** - who work with children who have communication problems and/or eating and swallowing difficulties.

The following services provide support for children and young people with different types of health needs. You can also visit the Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust website at www.northumbria.nhs.uk for more information about different health services.

CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENT HAEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY



0191 282 6004



www.newcastle-hospitals.org.uk

The Department of Paediatric and Adolescent Haematology and Oncology, located at the Great North Children's Hospital at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, treats children and young people under the age of 21 who have cancer, leukaemia and other related diseases. It is the Regional Treatment Centre for the entire northern region from Teeside to Newcastle and Northumberland to Cumbria.

The Paediatric Oncology Outreach Nursing Team provides expert knowledge, coordination and personal support throughout a child or young person's care pathway, in hospital and at home or other chosen place of care.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE NORTHUMBERLAND (CYPS) - CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH

VILLA 9, NORTHGATE HOSPITAL, MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND NE61 3BP

 01670 798265 - 8AM - 8PM Monday - Friday

The Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) provides a single service to all children and young people aged 0-18 years living in Northumberland who present with mental health difficulties. This includes children and young people who may have learning difficulties and those living in a range of difficult and challenging circumstances.

The service provides:

- Assessment, diagnosis and intervention on a range of mental health issues.
- Intensive response and home-based treatment for those children and young people whose mental health is causing significant concern.
- An intensive Eating Disorder Service to support children and young people on the eating disorder pathway, who are at risk of an inpatient admission.
- A comprehensive transition support package to those young people who are approaching their 18th birthday and may need continuing support as adults.
- Training, consultation, support and advice to front line staff working in targeted services for children.

How to get referred

Referrals will be accepted from any professional working with a child or young person or their family and self-referrals can also be made. Referrals can be made in writing or by telephone.

CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE

NORTHUMBERLAND CHILD HEALTH CENTRE, WOODHORN LANE,
ASHINGTON NE63 9JJ

OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 6PM SATURDAY SUNDAY 9AM - 5PM
BANK HOLIDAYS 9AM - 5PM

 01670 564070

A specialist team of children's nurses and child health carers who work with children and young people aged 0 - 18 years living in Northumberland who have complex medical needs. The team work with children and young people whose health problems require the input of trained children's nurses to provide their nursing care.

Anyone involved with a child or young person's care (including a parent or carer), where a child has a complex health need, can refer the child to the service.

CHILDREN'S OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (NORTHUMBERLAND)

CHILD HEALTH CENTRE, WOODHORN LANE, ASHINGTON NE63 9JJ

 **01670 564050**

The Paediatric Occupational Therapy team specialises in working with children with a physical disability focusing particularly on functional ability both at home or in school/nursery, thereby advice and provision of specialist equipment is available along with more extensive environmental assessments for housing adaptations.

Children's Occupational Therapists work with children and young people from 0-18 years of age to assess the needs of the child across health and social care. The service assists children to participate and engage in everyday activities to maximise their potential due to their difficulty or disability. This includes advice, assessment and treatment of children with complex health and neurological conditions, developmental co-ordination disorder and support for children following a hospital admission to enable a safe discharge home. The occupational therapist advises and recommends appropriate equipment and adaptations to promote safety and independence within the child's home and school environment. The services are delivered in schools/nurseries, clinics, children's centres and at home. Referrals can be made by a health professional such as a GP. Social workers can also refer for housing adaptations and equipment.

CHILDREN'S PHYSIOTHERAPY

 **0344 811 8111**

 **www.northumbria.nhs.uk**

Provide physiotherapy assessment and intervention for children and young people aged 0 – 18 years (0 - 19 if attending a special school) who live or attend school in Northumberland. Physiotherapists work with children who have movement problems, e.g. gross motor delay, cerebral palsy, neuromuscular diagnoses, musculoskeletal issues, e.g. sprains or following a fracture. A child may be seen in clinic, at home or in school dependent on need. Referral is via a medical professional. Call the number above and ask for the physiotherapy department at your local hospital.

CHILDREN'S SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY NORTH LOCALITY TEAM,
CONSULTING ROOMS, INFIRMARY DRIVE, ALNWICK NE66 2NR

 01665 511880

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY CENTRAL LOCALITY TEAM,
CHILD HEALTH CENTRE, WOODHORN LANE, ASHINGTON NE63 9JJ

 01670 564066

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY SOUTH EAST LOCALITY TEAM,
BROCKWELL CLINIC, NORTHUMBRIA ROAD, CRAMLINGTON, NE23 1XZ

 01670 392754

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY WEST LOCALITY TEAM,
CORBRIDGE HEALTH CENTRE, NEWCASTLE ROAD, CORBRIDGE, NE45 5LG

 01434 636940

The service supports children and young people up to 18 years old. They can help with a variety of problems, including feeding and swallowing difficulties; communication problems arising from learning difficulties; physical disabilities; language delay; specific language impairments; specific difficulties in producing sounds; cleft palate; autism/social interaction difficulties; and voice disorders.

There are also special services to help if a child has a stammer. The speech and language therapists work to increase confidence in speaking, help with fluency and give targeted help on specific speaking situations.

Speech and language therapy services are delivered in schools/nurseries, clinics, children's centres, special schools and at home. Parents and carers can contact the services directly (see contact details above). Alternatively, health visitors, GPs and school staff can make a referral for a child or young person.

Useful Organisations (see the 'Education', 'Local Support and Information', and 'Useful Organisations' sections of this guide for contact details):

National Autistic Society, Down's Syndrome Association, Down's Syndrome North East, Afasic, Contact, ICAN, British Stammering Society, Speech Teach, The Hanen Centre, Makaton.

COMMUNITY PAEDIATRICIAN SERVICE

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND: BERWICK INFIRMARY, BERWICK UPON TWEED

 01289 356 612

SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND: BLYTH HEALTH CENTRE, THOROTON STREET BLYTH, NE24 1DX

 01670 396467 or 01670 396479

CENTRAL NORTHUMBERLAND: CHILD HEALTH CENTRE, WOODHORN LANE, ASHINGTON, NE63 9JJ

 01670 564030

WEST NORTHUMBERLAND: HEXHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL

 01434 655 395

PONTELAND PRIMARY CARE CENTRE, PONTELAND

 01661 867 749

Community Paediatricians are specially trained doctors for children and young people aged 0 - 19 years. They have specialist skills and knowledge about all aspects of child health and development. Community Paediatricians perform one-to-one assessments in clinics. This may involve taking the patient's history, carrying out a clinical examination and further investigations, if needed. They will also organise on-going monitoring and future therapy as well as referral to more specialist services, if necessary and appropriate.

Community Paediatrician also run clinics for children with special problems such as feeding or language and special clinics for young children or teenagers with development problems or a disability. They work closely with other health professionals such as nurses and therapists, and agencies which include professionals such as social workers or teachers.

Each locality has its own community paediatric team. A child or young person can be referred by their GP, a nurse (including health visitors and school nurses) or another health professional.

CONTINENCE SERVICE (BLADDER AND BOWEL PROBLEMS)

THE VICTORIA THERAPY CENTRE, HAWKEY'S LANE, NORTH SHIELDS NE29 0SF

 0191 282 8093

 www.bladderandbowelfoundation.org

The service provides assessments for both children and adults with bladder or bowel problems. There is also a home delivery service which provides continence products direct to the home. Referral is by GP, school nurse or district nurse.

HEALTH VISITORS

Every family with children under five has a named health visitor. They work with parents and carers to ensure that children have the best start in life and are able to achieve their full potential. Health visitors provide a wide-ranging service to children and their families, and can refer to other services for support with more specialist problems.

Health visitors offer support and information directly to parents and their children on a range of areas including: family health and wellbeing; infant feeding; parenting; a child's growth and development; language development; behavioural issues including sleeping, eating, potty training and temper tantrums; healthy eating, play, safety and exercise; accident prevention; and acting as a key worker for young children with disabilities.

You can contact your health visitor through your GP surgery.

HEALTHWATCH NORTHUMBERLAND

 03332 408468

 info@healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk

 www.healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk

Healthwatch Northumberland work with users of local health and social care services to hear about their experiences, find out the issues or problems and help make sure there are improvements. There are Healthwatch organisations in all council areas in England. They give users of health and social care services a powerful voice, both locally and nationally. Healthwatch Northumberland can be contacted directly.

JOINT EQUIPMENT LOAN SERVICE (JELS)

JOINT EQUIPMENT LOAN SERVICE (JELS), 43 COLBOURNE CRESCENT,
NELSON PARK IND ESTATE, CRAMLINGTON NE23 1WB

 01670 730595

The service provides equipment to meet a child or young person's assessed need. Assessments are completed by health or social care professionals, including care managers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, specialist social workers, district nurses and health visitors.

The types of equipment provided by the service includes: beds and chairs; bathing and showering equipment; toileting aids; hoisting and moving and handling equipment; kitchen aids; personal aids; walking aids, basic short-term wheelchair; pressure relief equipment; communication aids, and equipment for visual and hearing impairments.

Further information about the service can be provided by health or social work professionals.

NHS - 111 SERVICE

OPENING TIMES: 24 HOURS, 7 DAYS A WEEK

 111 - Freephone

 18001 111 - Textphone

 www.nhs.uk

111 is the NHS non-emergency number. A highly trained adviser, supported by healthcare professionals, will ask a series of questions to assess the patient's symptoms and direct them to the best medical care for them. You should use the NHS **111** service for urgent medical help or advice when a situation is not life threatening. For immediate, life-threatening emergencies, dial **999**.

For less urgent health needs, contact your GP or local pharmacist in the usual way.

NORTHUMBRIA DENTAL SERVICE

For general enquiries contact Blyth Dental Clinic on 01670 396471

The service provides specialised NHS dental treatment and oral health promotion services for adults and children in Northumberland who have been referred by a medical or dental practitioner or other health or social care professional. It is not an emergency dental service and does not see patients who are unable to register with an NHS dental practice. For urgent dental services call NHS **111**. For details of local dental practitioners accepting new or emergency patients, visit **www.nhs.uk**.

Some of services provided include orthodontics; dental treatments under general anaesthetics; inhalation sedation; treatment for patients with complex needs; home visits to patients with medical special needs; school dental screening; dental surveys; and oral health promotion.

PAEDIATRIC NUTRITION AND DIETETICS



0344 811 8111



www.northumbria.nhs.uk

The service treats people with differing health needs, from health promotion activities and cooking sessions to those requiring help to manage their weight (both to lose weight and to gain weight) through to people who are unable to eat because of a medical condition.

The team consists of adult and children's dieticians and nutrition nurse specialists and is supported by nutritionists, dietetic assistants and food and health workers. Dieticians are qualified to give accurate advice and information on nutrition and diet. They are able to give tailored practical advice specific to the patient and their condition, and will ensure that the patient receives the most appropriate nutrition at the right time. For general enquiries, phone the number above.

PATIENT ADVICE AND LIAISON SERVICE (PALS) - NORTH OF TYNE



0800 032 0202



northoftynepals@nhct.nhs.uk



<http://www.newcastle-hospitals.org.uk/patient-guides/patient-advice-and-liaison-pals.aspx>

The service provides information on NHS services; advises and supports patients, their families and carers; listens to concerns, suggestions and queries; provides information on mental health and learning disabilities services; signposts to appropriate agencies or organisations; and can help sort out problems quickly on behalf of patients and their families. The service can be contacted directly.

PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS TEAM



01661 864 588

The team provides support for mild to moderate wellbeing and mental health problems.

The following mental health difficulties may be eligible for input from the service: anxiety, depression, stress or other mood disorders (e.g. low self-esteem); simple phobias; self harm where this is low to moderate; adjustment reactions; mild to moderate emotional/behavioural disorders (impacting across all areas of a child's life)

Referral is through professionals currently working with the child or young person. Referrals are accepted when the issues are not resolving despite first level interventions from universal services; the problem is mental health focussed; it is having a significant impact on the child's general functioning; and the difficulties are present across different settings.

SCHOOL NURSING SERVICE

School nurses (sometimes known as public health school nurses) promote and protect the physical health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people who are of school age. They work in partnership with other agencies to ensure that children and young people grow up to be healthy, make the right choices about their health and safeguard their welfare so they are protected from significant harm. Every local authority school or academy has a named school nurse.

School nurses can visit children and young people at home or another location, as well as at school. They can be contacted through the school or can be contacted directly on the following numbers to make an appointment:

Central Northumberland	Child Health Centre Wansbeck General Hospital Woodhorn Lane Ashington, NE63 9JJ	01670 564048
	The Gables Medical Group 26 St Johns Road Bedlington NE22 7DU	01670 829889
North Northumberland	Tweedmouth Clinic Shieldfield Terrace Berwick TD15 2EQ	01289 356962
	Broomhill Health Centre Hadston Community Centre Hadston Road Broomhill NE65 9SF	01670 761906
South East Northumberland	Eddie Ferguson House Ridley Street, Blyth NE24 3AG	01670 629670
West Northumberland	Prudhoe and Ponteland Oaklands Health Centre Front Street Prudhoe, NE42 5DQ	01661 832512
	Corbridge Health Centre Manor Court Newcastle Road Corbridge, NE45 5LG	01434 636939

SPECIAL SCHOOL NURSING

The following Special Schools in Northumberland have access to some on-site nursing provision. The nurses have specialist knowledge and skills to provide advice and support to schools and families with children and young people's complex health needs. This includes their physical and emotional health. They support young people with transition to adult services. They also provide health advice and information on healthy lifestyles. Please contact the nurses at the school to make an appointment during school term time hours.

Barndale House School, Alnwick	01670 629134
Josephine Butler Campus, The Centre, Ashington	01670 84422
The Grove School, Berwick	01289 306390
Hexham Priory School, Hexham	01434 613440

INTRODUCTION

There is a range of leisure opportunities for children and young people with special needs and disabilities in Northumberland, including youth club and play schemes. Some of these groups have been listed in the following pages. You can contact all the services listed directly. It is also worth checking with your local leisure providers and entertainment venues to see what facilities and activities they have.

The Families Information Service website <http://northumberland.fsd.org.uk> (or phone 0800 023 4440) and the **Active Northumberland** website at www.activenorthumberland.org.uk also provide information on different leisure providers.

ABILITY 2 PLAY

BLYTH SPORTS CENTRE, BOLAM PARK, BLYTH NE24 5BT



01670 542222



www.activenorthumberland.org.uk (search for 'Ability to Play')



07889 320377 - Ronnie Scheu



RScheu@activenorthumberland.org.uk

Ability2Play was founded in 2006 and currently offers around 20 hours per week of term time activities as well as over 250 hours of fun during the holidays to both juniors and adults with varying disabilities.

Ability2Play is an inclusive programme. We pride ourselves on our ability to adapt sessions in such a way as to include everyone regardless of their disability. Our users range from people with mild learning difficulties to Autism and ADHD as well as people with anxiety disorders and physical disabilities.

Providing a place where our users can access sport & leisure in a fun and safe environment without fear of prejudice is central to what we do at Ability2Play. Our focus is on letting individuals be individuals and offering them the chance to make friends and socialise outside of their regular environment. We offer much needed respite for parents/carers and the chance for them to build up a support network with people in similar circumstances.

THE ALAN SHEARER ACTIVITY CENTRE

WEST DENTON CLOSE, WEST DENTON, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE15 7LU
 OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - SATURDAY 9AM - 5PM

 0191 267 8118

 www.alansheareractivitycentre.org.uk

The Alan Shearer Activity Centre is an interactive venue designed for disabled children and adults. Facilities include a giant indoor ball pool, three sensory rooms and a hydrotherapy suite.

ASHINGTON SWIMMING CLUB

ASHINGTON LEISURE CENTRE, LINTONVILLE TERRACE, ASHINGTON NE63 9JY

 01670 855413 - Kath
 07518 150339

We are a voluntary organisation that provide competitive swimming opportunities for swimmers from the age of 8. We operate from Ashington Leisure Centre and cater for mainstream swimmers and swimmers with additional needs. Session times and costs depend upon each group. Please contact us for our next trial session.

Or contact us through facebook Ashington Swimming Club

AUTISM NORTHUMBERLAND

UNITS 5 - 7 DUDLEY COURT, MANOR WALKS SHOPPING CENTRE
 CRAMLINGTON, NE23 6QW

 Tel: 07932 835094

 autismnorthumberland@gmail.com

 www.autismnorthumberland.co.uk

Autism Northumberland is a charity based in Cramlington offering services to families in Northumberland who are living with autism. No diagnosis is necessary. They offer parent/carers support, after school clubs, holiday clubs, training, sibling support, teen group and so much more. Contact them for more information or to become a member.

BLUE BADGE SCHEME (NORTHUMBERLAND)

The Blue Badge scheme enables people with disabilities to park in places where other drivers are not permitted, to ensure that they have access to public facilities. Eligibility criteria apply. Full details of the scheme are available on the Department of Transport website at www.dft.gov.uk.

In Northumberland, Blue Badges are administered by Northumberland County Council. Phone **0345 600 6400** for further details.

BLYTH VALLEY DISABLED FORUM (BVDF)

20 STANLEY STREET, BLYTH NE24 2BU



01670 360927



judithbrain@bvdfhomecare.co.uk

BVDF enables people with disabilities living in the Blyth Valley to access activities likely to increase their confidence and self esteem. Activities include athletics; swimming; youth clubs for 8-12 year olds, 13-19 year olds and over 19 year olds; and a football club for young people aged 16 and over. A play scheme runs during the school holidays. You can contact the Forum directly.

BRIGHTSIDE YOUTH/ADULT SERVICES

1 ESTHER COURT, WANSBECK BUSINESS PARK, ASHINGTON,
NORTHUMBERLAND NE63 8AP



07723 059221
07803 612371



info@brightsideservices.co.uk
info@brightsideadultservices.co.uk



www.brightsideservices.co.uk

Brightside provide specialist youth and adult provision for those aged 13-35 years. They offer a Saturday club and holiday scheme for young people of school age and a weekday/weekend day service for those aged 18+

Brightside aims to develop young people's/adult's education and skills, whilst also providing a safe environment to have fun with friends and experience new opportunities. They also offer a range of evening and social activities including a film club, a specialist fitness session and regular party nights for people with additional needs and their families. They also offer an enabling service for children and adults of any age.

Referrals can be made directly to the service, or via a social worker/care manager.

CINEMA EXHIBITORS' ASSOCIATION CARD AND OTHER SERVICES FOR CINEMAS

This is a national card that can be used to verify that the holder is entitled to one free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema. Terms and Conditions of use apply. To apply for the card the holder will need to be in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Attendance Allowance or Personal Independence Payment (PIP), or be a registered blind person.

The card is valid for 1 year from the date of issue. Application forms are available from cinemas across the UK supporting the card. Alternatively, you can contact the Card Network on **01244 526 016**, apply on line or download a copy of the form from their website at **www.ceacard.co.uk**. A nominal processing fee is chargeable per card.

Some cinemas are part of the Autism Friendly Films initiative. In autism friendly screenings of films, adjustments are made to the viewer's experience, including eliminating adverts, lighting left on low and the sound turned down.

The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) can offer information about audio description services in cinema, on DVD, on digital television and in the theatre. Visit the RNIB at **www.rnib.org.uk**. For information regarding subtitles and audio description for cinemas, visit **www.yourlocalcinema.com**.

COSTA AUTISM SOCIAL

COSTA COFFEE, 3-5 FORE STREET, HEXHAM NE46 1ND

 karen.slee@rmec.co.uk

Held on the 1st Thursday of the month from 6.30 - 8PM. For those with ASD, family and friends. Free hot drinks. Contact Karen Slee on the email above for more details.

CRAMLINGTON VOLUNTARY YOUTH PROJECT

MIDDLE FARM BUILDINGS, STATION ROAD, CRAMLINGTON NE23 1DN

OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 9PM

 01670 739009

A youth only centre for children and young people aged 8 -19 years old and up to 25 years old for young people with disabilities. The aim of the project is to offer a range of opportunities that can further the social and personal development of young people. The project provides a safe and friendly venue and can cater for the needs and interests of children and young people of different ages and abilities.

ENGLISH FEDERATION OF DISABILITY SPORT (EFDS)

 01509 227750

 www.efds.co.uk

A national charity that exists to make active lives possible. EFDS are dedicated to disabled people in sport and physical activity. Their vision is that disabled people are active for life. They can signpost disabled people to numerous participation opportunities and programmes.

FAMILY HOLIDAY ASSOCIATION

 020 311 70650

 info@fhaonline.org.uk

 www.familyholidayassociation.org.uk

A UK charity helping to provide access to holidays for families in need. Families must be on a low income, have at least one child under the age of 18, and not have had a holiday for 4 years.

FORGET ME NOT PROJECT - THE ALNWICK GARDEN

 01665 511350 - option 1

 forgetmenot@alnwickgarden.com

 thealnwickgarden.com/the-alnwick-garden-trust

Based at The Alnwick Garden and open to all children with additional needs and their families during term time and the school holidays. Booking is essential.

Weekend Club: First Saturday of Every Month 12:30PM - 3:30PM, Roots and Shoots Community room. Inclusive activities to engage young people of all ages and abilities.

Lonetree: First Saturday of Every Month 12noon - 3PM, Woodland Walk. Explore your natural environment den building, campfire cooking and more! This is a fully inclusive activity with a cost of £10 per child involved.

Youth Club: Every Wednesday 4:30PM - 7PM, Roots and Shoots Community Room. Open you all Young people between the ages of 14-24 with additional needs. Activities provided develop and encourage friendships, social and independence skills.

GO SWIM

 07518 150 339

 sarah@goswimuk.com

 www.goswimuk.com

Go Swim aim to promote and encourage high standards in disability swimming. We run one-to-one swimming lessons for disabled people of all ages, abilities and level of experience, with lessons tailored to suit the individual. Our lessons are based in a number of hydrotherapy pools in Northumberland run by experienced and qualified swimming teachers.

We also provide training, information and guidance to swim schools and swimming teachers to enable them to deliver better services for disabled people wanting to swim. We offer information packs, visual teaching aids, adaptive equipment, award structures, schemes of work, courses and workshops, as well as help and support for parents and carers.

HAPPY FACES

 info@happyfaces-prudhoe.co.uk

A parent-led group who run a weekly Youth Club meeting in Prudhoe on Monday evenings from 5 - 6.30PM. Happy Faces also run a football club, Prudhoe Inclusive Football, in conjunction with Prudhoe Youth Football Club, which meets from 6 - 7PM on Tuesday evenings at Ferndene in Prudhoe.

HEADWAY ARTS

THE OLD CHURCH, WATERLOO ROAD, BLYTH NE24 1BY
 OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - THURSDAY 9.30AM – 5PM

 01670 351962

 www.headwayarts.co.uk

Satellites Workshop Programme runs Monday – Thursdays 9.30AM – 5PM

Monday - dance

Tuesday - visual art

Wednesday - drama

Thursday - theatre performance

Offering exceptional quality creative opportunities to learning disabled people who want to get involved in the arts. Those with higher ambition can progress to join Headway Arts inclusive dance and theatre companies who perform fantastic professional quality shows all over the country at festivals, events and other venues.

Headway Arts also produce Come On Down - the region's annual festival of arts by and for learning disabled people, now in its 13th Year.

For dates, weekend events for all the family, Carnival Club and Creative Cafe see details on website, fb and twitter

We often work closely with SEN schools in Northumberland and can offer bespoke transition programmes by request. Contact us to discuss.

Headway Arts is a multi award winning professional arts organisation and registered charity established in 1995 and based in Blyth. We offer exceptional quality unique creative opportunities for people of all backgrounds to participate in the cultural life of their communities, in particular disadvantaged groups. We especially aim to include learning disabled people of all ages. Our work also supports mental health, wellbeing, lifelong learning and social skills.

Our fantastic ArtSpace is a stimulating, beautiful and friendly environment where people can thrive. Many people comment on our warm friendly welcome and we have been described as a being like 'family' on many occasions.

No previous experience needed. All sessions are led by professional artists. Fully trained and DBS checked. Fee £40/day. £20/half day (available Tuesdays). We can help arrange transport but not cover cost. Hot drinks are free. Personal care or 1:1 support is not provided. Supporters/carers are free and welcome. Please contact Headway Arts for more information or to book FREE taster days.

HIPPOTHERAPY NORTHUMBERLAND

TOWN FOOT FARM, SHILBOTTLE, ALNWICK NE66 2HG



07808 523638



Hipponorthumberland@gmail.com

A registered community charity enabling children with disabilities to access a fun, physical and therapeutic sport activity on a horse. Hippotherapy is a form of therapy in which the therapist uses the characteristic movements of horse to provide carefully graded motor and sensory input. It is a treatment approach that uses activities on the horse that are meaningful to the client and specifically address the individual's needs.

Hippotherapy is a small local charity, with volunteers and they rely on fundraising to help fund the services provided. Visit their facebook page Hippotherapy Northumberland for details.

MAX CARDS

Max Cards provide reduced admission fees for eligible disabled children and young people (up to 18 years old) in Northumberland into many local attractions across the north east. A booklet of where the cards are accepted is given to families when the cards are issued. Cards are valid on a yearly basis from the beginning of April. Renewals are processed automatically up until the Disabled Young Person is 18 years old. For details of how to apply for a Max card, phone **01670 536400**.

NATURAL ABILITY

STUDIO 6, ALLENDALE FORGE STUDIOS, ALLENDALE MARKET PLACE,
ALLENDALE, HEXHAM NE47 9BD

 01434 618149

 info@naturalability.org

 www.naturalability.org

Natural Ability works with and for people with learning and other disabilities, including those with Autism Spectrum Disorder, mental health and/or complex needs. They support children and young people to get out and about and enjoy activities in their local communities. Natural Ability also provides specialist education for individual young people. For adults they offer work experience, training and qualifications in horticulture, animal care, environmental and conservation work, and also provide independent supported living.

PATHWAYS4ALL

TIM LAMB CENTRE, RISING SUN COUNTRY PARK, WHITLEY ROAD,
TYNE AND WEAR, BENTON NE12 9SS

 0191 266 5233

 lynn4pathways@gmail.com

 www.pathways4all.co.uk

Pathways4All provides leisure and social opportunities for children with disabilities and additional needs in the North East of England. They are a parent-led charity providing a range of activities and events specifically tailored for children with disabilities and additional needs and their families. They also offer ongoing support to family members through informal advice, information and social networking.

PERCY HEDLEY FOUNDATION - HEDLEYS SPORT ACADEMY

 0191 268 7116

 sportsacademy@percyhedley.org.uk

 www.percyhedley.org.uk

Hedleys Sport provides a range of disabled sports clubs that compete at national level. Their aim is to develop and deliver high quality coaching and create sporting activities in a range of sports for all. They work to increase service users' participation in different sports, including powerchair football, wheelchair basketball, martial arts and boccia.

Based at Killingworth, the academy offers coaching in schools and can deliver and develop packages for both mainstream and specialist schools. They also offer training courses, including disability awareness, as well as holiday schemes and specialist projects.

PINE HOUSE ACCESSIBLE HYDROTHERAPY POOL

 0844 736 1442

 www.pinehousepool.com

Pine House Hydrotherapy Pool is a purpose built indoor heated pool attached to Pine House at Hepscott Park near Morpeth, Northumberland. It has been designed to be used by disabled adults, or children and young people with their carers.

The pool is 7 metres long by 2.5 metres wide. It has a three wide-stepped entrance at one end and then is a constant depth of 1.2 metres. It also has a hoist for wheelchair users and is kept at a constant recommended temperature of 33°C. If required, it also features a Jacuzzi facility and, for the more able, a powerful jet stream for non-stop swimming.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

To arrange free **Disabled Assistance** on trains when travelling, you must book 24 hours in advance. You can contact East Coast Trains on **0345 722 5225** or text phone **1800 1034 5722 5225** from Monday to Saturday 8am to 8PM and Sunday 10am - 8PM.

Concessionary Travel Scheme

You may be entitled to free off-peak travel on local bus services if you are considered to be 'eligible disabled' or aged over 60 years. If you need somebody to accompany you on journeys, they may be able to apply for a companion's concession card. To apply, contact Northumberland County Council on **0345 600 6400** or visit their website for more details at **www.northumberland.gov.uk**, search for 'Concessionary travel'.

Disabled Person's Railcard

The Disabled Person's Railcard allows you to buy tickets for rail travel at a discount of up to a third of the full price. These are usually available as a one year or a three year card. If another adult is travelling with you, they can also travel at the same discounted fare. Children aged from 5 to 15 may also be eligible for a Disabled Person's Railcard. While they pay the normal child's fare, an adult can travel with them at a discounted rate.

To buy a railcard you can download an application form from the Disabled Person's Railcard website - **www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk** or telephone the helpline **0345 605 0525** and request a copy to be sent to you (Textphone: **0345 601 0132**).

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

PEGASUS CENTRE, TRANWELL VILLAGE, MORPETH NE61 6AF

 01670 518219 or 07725 602549

The Pegasus Centre is a member group of the National Riding for the Disabled Association. They operate from a purpose built, BHS approved, riding centre and livery yard, seven days a week all year round. Contact the centre for further details and prices.

SMILE THROUGH SPORT

 01670 457757

 info@smilethroughsport.com

 www.smilethroughsport.com

SMILE through sport is a disability sport organisation working across the North East. We provide a wide range of disability sport sessions, events and festivals. Visit our What's on page of our website to find out about activities taking place in your area.

SPLINTER GROUP

OFFICES

MAIN: ROOM G08, BLYTH COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRE, RIDLEY STREET, BLYTH NE24 3AG.

RAP(NORTH) % GALLERY YOUTH PROJECT, REAR OF 39, BONDGATE WITHIN, ALNWICK, NE66 1SX.



07775 817544



splintergroupnorth@gmail.com
rapsplinter@gmail.com



<http://splintergroup.uk/>
www.wafflingon.uk



WafflingOn1



splintergroupnorth (<https://www.facebook.com/SplinterGroupNorth/?fref=ts>)

SpLinter Group is for young people with learning differences, aged 16 years and over who live in Northumberland. The group is run and managed by the young people, with support from co-workers and volunteers, who also offer one-to-one support. SpLinter offers group sessions, peer support, social events, workshops and having a say on issues that affect their members.

SpLinter Group activities include:

Group sessions at Blyth (address above) on Fridays between 12 noon and 2.30PM. They offer support for employment, accredited learning, projects and activities, and use the group to help members feel more confident about understanding each other and socialising with other young people.

SpLinter also runs the RAP (Rural Access Project) to create better access to opportunities for young people living in rural north Northumberland, and runs a second group for young people in Alnwick (address above) on alternate Tuesdays early evening.

The group works in partnership with the NE Drive Mobility Centre to support young people with learning differences to explore their travel and transport options. The programme includes an out of hours visit to find out what a driving assessment is all about, a drive in a car, support for driving theory, travel planning training and support and the offer of a travel buddy while getting used to new journeys on public transport.

The group involves members in running Waffling On, a social enterprise which takes a waffle-making stall to markets and employers fairs to raise funds and raise awareness about learning differences with employers and the public. Members are trained in food hygiene, customer service and risk assessment as well as recognising their enterprise skills, and this is all accredited. The group is always looking for new places to run the waffle stall.

Group members run awareness-raising training for anyone who wants to hear about learning differences 'from the horse's mouth', and the group hosts one or two events each year on specific issues of interest to people with learning differences, parents, carers, professionals, employers and funders.

The group coordinates the Safe Places scheme for Northumberland. The young people are involved in recruiting venues to sign up and be trained as safe places for people who may feel vulnerable to call in and get help. They also visit groups of people with learning differences and other groups who may feel at risk in public places, providing them with a Safe Places card, leaflet and app to help them use the scheme.

Please contact Kirsty (South East) splintergroupnorth@gmail.com or Jordan (north) rapsplinter@gmail.com for more details about the group, for an informal chat and how to join.

TORCH CENTRE, TYNEDALE

CORBRIDGE ROAD, HEXHAM, NE46 1QS



01434 606672

The TORCH Association aims to support all disabled people who live in the Tynedale area by providing and maintaining the TORCH Centre for recreation and other activities for their benefit.

The Centre is used by a number of groups whose members have various disabilities, including physical and learning difficulties, and mental health problems. The Centre offers a safe and welcoming environment for meeting together and engaging in a range of activities.

TRINITY SPECIAL NEEDS YOUTH CLUB

THE OVAL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ROSLIN PARK, BEDLINGTON STATION
NE22 5NU

OPENING TIMES: THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 6.30PM – 8.30PM



01670 531843

The Youth Club provides social interaction opportunities for young people with additional needs aged 8-18 years. It offers fun and exciting young person-led programmes of appropriate age and ability activities in a safe, secure, relaxed and informal atmosphere, to help young people to express feelings and worries, and explore their life skills, and to support them towards independence.

WECAN

ADAPT NE OFFICES, BURN LANE, HEXHAM NE46 3HN

 07741 480188

 info@wecanenable.co.uk

A community based organisation in Hexham, serving the South West Northumberland area. WECAN supports children and young people with additional needs to access community leisure activities and local events. They currently provide a term-time Saturday Club and a five week summer holiday scheme with further occasional activity days. WECAN also provide a high quality enabling service, where experienced staff can support children and young people with additional needs on a one-to-one basis in the community.

WECAN is a small local charity, with many volunteers, and they rely on fundraising to help fund the services provided. The service promotes inclusion, independence, friendship and lots of fun, enriching the lives of their users and providing vital support for their families. WECAN allows time for the children to develop socially, enjoying activities with friends, whilst providing respite for their parents and siblings.

WECAN enables children with additional needs to take part in and enjoy social activities of their choice, to form friendships and to increase their confidence and independence.

INTRODUCTION

Support and information is one of the most important services required by families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. They often face high levels of day to day stress, which can cause a major strain on family life. Getting the right help at the right time is of vital importance.

The **Northumberland SEND Information, Advice and Support Service** provides free, confidential and impartial information, advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities up to the age of 25, and their parents and carers. The service can be contacted on **01670 623555** or **alison.bravey@northumberland.gov.uk**

In It Together, the Parent Carer Forum for Northumberland, provides parents and carers of children and young people with SEND with the opportunity to get involved with service planning and decision making. Their aim is to ensure that services meet the needs of families. In It Together also organise events and training for parents and carers. For further details, contact In It Together on **07729 192 909** or **info@in-it-together.org.uk**

The **Families Information Service (FIS)** is a free, impartial service providing information on a wide range of services for children and young people in Northumberland and their families. The service also provides detailed advice on childcare and early year's educational provision. They can be contacted on **0800 023 4440**, **01670 624889** or **fis@northumberland.gov.uk**.

The **Northumberland SEND Local Offer** sets out the provision available to children and young people with SEND in Northumberland, and their families. It includes a wide range of useful information, including details of services and organisations. It can be found at: **<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/SEND-Local-offer.aspx>**

ACTION FOR CHILDREN



www.actionforchildren.org.uk

Action for Children disability services provide disabled children and their families with residential and short break care, help families deal with challenging behaviour, and provide specialist education and leisure opportunities.

Action for Children is committed to promoting access for disabled children, young people and their parents/carers to all their services. In Northumberland they provide a short break service at their Monksfield provision (see the 'Childcare and Breaks from Caring' section of this guide). They also run the following Children's Centres.

Coastal Children's Centres

ALL CENTRES ARE OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY FROM 9AM - 5PM

ASHINGTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE, ALEXANDRA ROAD, ASHINGTON NE63 9EF



01670 819988

AMBLE AND COQUET CHILDREN'S CENTRE, COQUET CHILDREN'S CENTRE,
BONDICAR ROAD, HADSTON, MORPETH, NE65 9SR

 01670 761596

You can find more details under 'Children's Centres' in this section of the guide.

ADAPT (NORTH EAST)

ADAPT NORTH EAST, BURN LANE, HEXHAM, NE46 3HN
OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM

 01434 600599

 www.adapt-ne.org.uk

ADAPT North East is a registered charity helping to improve the quality of life for both disabled and disadvantaged people in Northumberland. They provide a range of services for their members and the wider community, including accessible transport.

ASPIRE PERSONALISED CARE SOLUTIONS

 0191 375 3967

 info@aspire-cs.co.uk

 www.aspire-cs.co.uk

Aspire Personal Care Solutions (PCS) are commissioned by the Council for Disabled Children to deliver Independent Support to the families of children and young people in Northumberland who are going through the EHC (Education Health and Care) assessment, planning and review process (see the Education section of this guide for more details).

Independent Supporters provide a range of time-limited support, including liaison across different agencies and information on personal budgets. The level and nature of support is tailored to the particular needs of individual families.

AUTISM NORTHUMBERLAND

UNITS 5 - 7 DUDLEY COURT, MANOR WALKS SHOPPING CENTRE,
CRAMLINGTON, NE23 6QW



07932 835094



www.autismnorthumberland.co.uk

Autism Northumberland is a charity based in Cramlington offering services to families in Northumberland who are living with autism. No diagnosis is necessary. They offer parent/carer support, after school clubs, holiday clubs, training, sibling support, teen group and so much more. Contact them for more information or to become a member.

BARNARDOS ORCHARD MOSAIC SERVICE

75 OSBORNE ROAD, JESMOND, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE2 2AN



0191 212 0237



mosaic.project@barnardos.org.uk



www.barnardos.org.uk

Barnardos Orchard Mosaic Service provides therapeutic services for children, young people and families affected by trauma, loss, abuse, bereavement and those with a parent in prison. There are different referral paths for each of their services. Please ring them for further information.

BLISS MEDIATION

THE ERIC TOLHURST CENTRE, 3-13 QUAY ROAD, BLYTH NE24 2AS
OPENING TIMES: 9AM - 3PM MONDAY TO THURSDAY 9AM - 2PM FRIDAY



01670 540979

Bliss offer support services to children and young people with ADHD and their families. They also offer family mediation services to the South East Northumberland area and Child Anger Management in some schools. Referrals are through school or social care professionals, or you can contact the service directly.

CALMER THERAPY

 07944 512930

 calmertherapy@gmail.com

 Calmer Therapy

A non-profit community group who help and support families who have children with additional needs, ages from birth to 18 years. The group are based in Ashington, but cover all of Northumberland, including Berwick and the Scottish Borders. They offer parent support, nationally recognised accredited training, training workshops and activities for children, such as youth club, sensory relax, lego therapy, Calmer Scouts, family trips and more. Membership is free. Contact Donna Swan for more information.

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND

WANSBECK BUSINESS CENTRE, ROTARY PARKWAY, ASHINGTON NE63 8QZ

 01670 320025

 info@carersnorthumberland.org.uk

 www.carersnorthumberland.org.uk

A charity which aims to improve the lives of carers in Northumberland by providing a range of carer support services, including: one to one support; groups and social activities; an information and signposting service, with a dedicated carer telephone information service; and training for carers and professionals.

CASTLE MORPETH AND WANSBECK CENTRE FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

109 STATION ROAD, ASHINGTON, NE63 8RS

 01670 858688

 enquire@wansbeckcvs.org.uk

 www.wansbeckcvs.org.uk

Wansbeck Centre for Voluntary Service (CVS) is a registered charity providing information, advice, training and support to volunteers and local voluntary and community groups in Northumberland. They help to encourage and develop networks and partnerships between the voluntary and community sector and others. Their services include project development, funding advice, support for volunteer-involving organisations, a web-based database of volunteering opportunities throughout the county, as well as an assisted shopping project and training opportunities.

CHILDREN NORTH EAST

CHILDREN NORTH EAST, 9 DENHILL PARK, BENWELL,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE N15 6QE



0191 256 2444



www.children-ne.org.uk

Children North East provide a range of services for individuals, their families and communities that offer opportunities for personal development and the enhancement of self esteem. They run services in partnership with other organisations, the communities they serve, and the children and families who use them. Their aim is to support vulnerable people through difficult times and to counter the effects of life's inequalities.

CHILDREN'S CENTRES

Children's Centres work in partnership with the local community to improve the health and wellbeing of young children and their families in the area. They offer a multi-agency service providing integrated early learning and childcare, family support, community development, and child and family health services. For more information, contact your local Children's Centre or the Families Information Service on **0800 023 4440**.

CHILDREN'S CENTRE	TELEPHONE NUMBER	CHILDREN'S CENTRE	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Alnwick Children's Centre	01665 600 896	Amble Children's Centre	01665 761496
Ashington Children's Centre	01670 819988	Bedlington and District Children's Centre	01670 822714
Berwick Children's Centre	01289 309734	Blyth Central Children's Centre	01670 798800
Blyth West Children's Centre	01670 541150	Coquet Children's Centre	01670 761496
Cramlington West Children's Centre	01670 710080	Hexham Children's Centre	01434 601698
Morpeth Children's Centre	01670 511581	Newbiggin Children's Centre	01670 812751
North Tyne Children's Centre	01434 220716	Ponteland Children's Centre	01661 821591/ 825687
Prudhoe Children's Centre	01661 839350	Rothbury Children's Centre	01669 621681
Seaton Valley Children's Centre	0191 237 5184	Western Tynedale Children's Centre	01434 321761
Wooler Children's Centre	01668 283605		

Children's Centres offer families with children under five a friendly place to get information and support on health, parenting, work and childcare. They provide stay and play activities for parents, carers and their children, and lots of opportunities for parents to develop new skills. They also offer outreach, home visiting and services for children and parents with special needs. Contact your local children's centre for details about the services and activities they provide.

Blyth Valley Children's Centres offer a support group for Dads, Mums and Carers who have a child on the autistic spectrum (for children under 8). They offer activities

for the whole family as well as a chance for parents to get together and gain support from each other. They also have a sensory room and offer a sensory session to give children who require specific support a friendly and fun place to learn and play with other children. For more information, contact Dorothy Lewis on **01670 798800**.

Ashington Children's Centre has a dedicated sensory room available for use by both parents and professionals by appointment. Families can access this at their convenience and use of the room is not restricted to residential area boundaries. They also have portable sensory equipment which is available for hire. The Language Development Worker at the centre works with children and families pending a diagnosis, via referrals from health visitors and speech and language therapists.

Ashington Children's Centre staff work closely with specialist services. After school provision is available at the centre and welcomes children with additional needs. The centre also hosts Little Miracles, a group for families of premature babies with complex needs.

COLGATE COTTAGE

**COLGATE COTTAGE, BLYTH WEST CHILDREN'S CENTRE,
DEVONWORTH PLACE, BLYTH NE24 5AQ**

 **01670 541150**

Colgate Cottage is a self-contained facility alongside a sensory 'Smile' garden which is in the grounds of Blyth West Children's Centre. The purpose of the facility is to provide a place for local families of disabled children to book out and use as a family. It is also available as a more local venue to meet with professionals for assessment work and therapies.

The use of the cottage is coordinated and monitored through the Children's Centre. Priority is given to children and families from the Blyth Valley area.

CONTACT – NORTH EAST

**DENE CENTRE, CASTLE FARM, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE3 1PH
OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM**

 **0191 213 6300**
0808 808 3555 - National helpline

 **helpline@contact.org.uk**

 **www.contact.org.uk**

Contact provides advice, information and support to the parents and carers of all disabled children aged 0-19. They produce free publications, including regional newsletters and a range of fact sheets. They enable parents and carers to get in contact with other families on a local and national basis.

DASLNE (DATABASE OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER LIVING IN THE NORTH EAST)

INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND SOCIETY, NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY,
SIR JAMES SPENCE INSTITUTE, ROYAL VICTORIA INFIRMARY,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 4LP
OPENING TIMES: 9AM - 5PM



0191 282 1400



0191 282 4725



daslne@ncl.ac.uk



www.daslne.org

Daslne is a database designed to help with planning services for children with ASD in the region. The database currently holds information provided by parents on over 900 children. With this snapshot information, the Daslne team can provide data which helps local authorities and voluntary organisations in planning services. Families on the database are kept informed about autism research projects they may wish to be involved with. All information is kept confidential and secure. Reports from Daslne will never identify individuals in any way.

DEAF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SERVICE

NATIONAL DEAF CAMHS, DEAF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SERVICE, NORTH EAST OUTREACH, BENTON HOUSE, 136 SANDYFORD ROAD, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE2 1QE



0191 210 6875



07980 958842 - Mobile for text messages only



NDCAMHSNorth.lypft@nhs.net

A national specialist service working with children up to the age of 18 with either a severe or profound hearing loss, BSL as their preferred/first language, or significant language impairment related to moderate to profound hearing loss. They also must have a mental health condition where a referral to a specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is appropriate. The service also works with hearing children who have a parent who is a British Sign Language user, or has a severe or profound hearing loss.

As well as direct referrals the service will also support professionals working with families.

For accepted referrals the service can offer the following:

- Assessment of a child's emotional and developmental needs
- Therapeutic support that can be provided to individuals, families and groups
- Deaf awareness for individuals and groups
- Support and advice for the family
- Group work for young people and for parents
- Advice and consultation for teachers, care staff and other professionals working with deaf children

The service delivery team includes psychologists, nurses, psychiatrists, deaf family support workers, social work practitioners and therapists. They have both deaf and hearing professionals in the team.

DISABILITY NORTH

THE DENE CENTRE, CASTLE FARM ROAD, GOSFORTH,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE3 1PH

OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 10AM - 4PM



0191 284 0480



reception@disabilitynorth.org.uk



www.disabilitynorth.org.uk

Disability North aims to promote inclusion, independence and choice for disabled people. They provide independent information and advice on a wide range of disability issues (including equipment and adaptations) to disabled and older people, carers, health and social care staff and anyone with an interest in disability.

DOWN'S SYNDROME NORTH EAST

DSNE, PO BOX 185, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE12 7WP

OPENING TIMES: 24 HOUR ANSWER PHONE



08707 652 121



contact@dsne.org.uk



07740 511814 - Text



www.dsne.org.uk

An organisation that provides information and support for people with Down's Syndrome, their families, friends and interested professionals. They organise conferences, and family social and leisure opportunities, and produce a quarterly newsletter.

DYSLEXIA NORTH EAST ENGLAND



07868 263696
0191 466 1299



info@dyslexianortheastengland.org



www.dyslexianortheastengland.org.uk

Dyslexia North East England is a charity which offers support and educational opportunities for parents/carers and professionals involved in the care of children and adults with dyslexia and related conditions. Their mission is to promote knowledge, skills and understanding about dyslexia to enable dyslexics to achieve their potential. Their vision is to create a society that celebrates difference.

The charity aims to improve information and support to individuals and families, whether they are adults or children, from any background or culture, and raise awareness about dyslexia in the community at large, as well as encouraging Dyslexia Friendly Schools, Colleges and Businesses. They offer a range of different services. They have contact groups in Hexham and Durham. Visit the website or phone for further details.

FAMILIES INFORMATION SERVICE (FIS)

COUNTY HALL, MORPETH NE61 2EF



0800 023 4440 - Freephone
01670 624889



fis@northumberland.gov.uk



<http://northumberland.fsd.org.uk>

The Families Information Service (FIS) is a free, impartial service providing detailed general information on a wide range of services for children and young people in Northumberland and their families. The service also provides detailed advice on childcare and early year's educational provision.

FOREVER FAMILIES - POST ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUP

FAMILY PLACEMENT SERVICE, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL,
3 ESTHER COURT, ASHINGTON NE63 8AP

DUTY OFFICER AVAILABLE: MONDAY - THURSDAY: 8:30AM - 5PM

FRIDAY: 8:30AM - 4.30PM



01670 626262

Forever Families is a post-adoption support group run by and for parents in Northumberland who have adopted children. It is an independent group, supported by Northumberland County Council. Membership is free of charge and open to all adoptive parents and long-term foster carers in the county.

Friendly and informal meetings of the group are held once a month in relaxed and confidential surroundings, giving parents the opportunity to meet and share experiences with others who have gone through the adoption process. Parents offer each other support and friendship. There are occasional events for the whole family.

The group directly sources a wide range of literature, advice and guidance from adoption experts. Occasionally experts are invited to meetings to take part in question and answer sessions. Members have free access to a small library of specialist resources on attachment, adoption and related areas. There is also a signposting service to sources of information and support from education, health, social services and other relevant professionals in Northumberland and beyond.

**HENSHAWS SOCIETY FOR BLIND PEOPLE
(CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE)**

ROOM 25 HEATON COMPLEX, TREWHITT ROAD, HEATON,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE6 5DY



0191 275 9417



newcastle@henshaws.co.uk



www.henshaws.org.uk

A specialist service for children (from birth to 18 years) who have a visual impairment, and their families.

INFOLINK - THE NORTHUMBERLAND DISABLED CHILDREN REGISTER

COUNTY HALL, MORPETH NE61 2EF

 01670 536400

INFOLINK is a voluntary database held by the Local Authority for children and young people (up to the age of 18 years) with disabilities in Northumberland. It is used to identify children with similar disabilities or problems, and help target particular areas of need. Families are kept up to date via email with information, events and activities that may be of interest to them. Eligible disabled children and young people may also be entitled to a MAX card which provides reduced admission fees to local attractions throughout the North East.

Please phone **01670 536400** if you would like your child to be registered on the database. Their name is removed at 18 years, or earlier if requested.

IN IT TOGETHER - NORTHUMBERLAND PARENT CARER FORUM

 07729 192909

 info@in-it-together.org.uk

 www.in-it-together.org.uk

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

In It Together provide opportunities for parents and carers of children/young people with special needs and disabilities to:

- give their views about services for their child;
- find out what is happening locally and nationally for children with disabilities and special needs;
- meet other parents and local professionals in friendly and informal setting
- influence the planning and delivery of services that impact on children and young people with additional needs and their families in Northumberland.

In It Together organise training and consultation events and an annual conference for parent and carers. They also facilitate meetings for the Northumberland Parent, Carer and Professional Forum.

ME SUPPORT - NORTH EAST

BULLION HALL, SOUTH APPROACH, CHESTER LE STREET,
CO. DURHAM DH2 2ES



0191 389 2222



info@menortheast.org



www.menortheast.org

Provide help and support to people of all ages with ME, their family and carers. They help people understand and manage their condition, help with access to welfare benefit entitlements, provide opportunities for social interaction and offer a telephone helpline and information resource.

MORPETH BRIDGE STREET CENTRE

MORPETH BRIDGE STREET CENTRE, 7 GREY'S YARD, OLDGATE,
MORPETH NE61 1DQ



01670 510652



contact@contactmorpeth.org.uk



www.contactmorpeth.org.uk

A drop-in centre providing information, counselling and social support. It provides premises for CONTACT (Morpeth Mental Health Group); an information and resource point providing information on all matters relating to mental health and carers' issues; and a Virtual Carers' Centre.

NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY (NAS) BRANCHES

NAS Branches offer support to families who have a child or other family member with autism or Asperger Syndrome. A range of information is available on the NAS national website at www.autism.org.uk.

The Hexham Branch holds day meetings on a monthly basis, with occasional speakers. The group also have a free library of books, with some sensory items to try out. Their aim is to provide information on local charities who can offer support and the chance to meet others with similar issues. Contact the branch on **07786 856379** or by e-mail: HexhamBranch@nas.org.uk for further information.

The North Northumberland Branch meets at the Bellview Centre in Belford every second Wednesday of the month. Contact Helen Sutherland on **07825 192863** or by email: NASNorthNorthumberlandBranch@nas.org.uk.

The NAS Tyne and Wear Branch provides a range of support and activities. They can be contacted on **07920 086299** or by email: NASTyne&WearBranch@nas.org.uk

NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRE

STOBHILL COMMUNITY LINKS, 37 SHIELDS ROAD, STOBHILL, MORPETH NE61 2SA
OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 2PM



01670 519575



enquiries@ncenterprise.org.uk



www.ncenterprise.org.uk

The Centre offers a range of support and services to the local community including:

- Bedlington Community Allotment Project- a fully equipped and wheelchair accessible community allotment available for all ages and abilities to use.
- Facilitated sessions and support available to community groups, schools and individuals.
- Repaint scheme - Low cost paint available to the community
- Employability Project - Help with CV writing and job searches, use of computer.
- Handyman service for people over 60, single parents, low income families or people who have a disability. Call for an appointment on **01670 519575**
- Free advice on education and training, which can lead to nationally accredited qualifications and employment opportunities.
- Advice on a range of disability aids
- An information library and signposting service.

The Centre welcomes enquiries from anyone who feels that they or a friend or relative could benefit from their services.

NORTHUMBERLAND PARENT, CARER AND PROFESSIONAL FORUM

 07729 192909

 info@in-it-together.org.uk

The Northumberland Parent, Carer and Professional Forum aims to improve services for children/young people with special needs and disabilities, and their families. Locality meetings for the Forum are held every term in central, north and south-east, and west Northumberland. These are followed by a county wide meeting attended by parent/carers representatives from each locality and a range of key professionals from different services.

Phone or email In It Together for further information.

RESPECT EQUALS CHANGE (REC)

 01670 620320

 ben.sanderson@northumberland.gov.uk

Respect Equals Change (REC) is a group of young people with disabilities who want to have a voice, influence change and make a difference in Northumberland. If you are a young person with a disability and would like to become a member of REC, they would love to hear from you.

For further information, contact Ben Sanderson, Youth Participation Worker.

SORTED (SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 18 IN NORTHUMBERLAND)

CIVIC PRECINCT, FORUM WAY, CRAMLINGTON NE23 6SJ

OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - THURSDAY 8.30AM - 5PM FRIDAY 8.30AM - 4.30PM
(AT OTHER TIMES WHEN REQUIRED)

 01670 500150

 0800 633 5872 - Freephone

 info@sorted-north.co.uk

 www.sortednorth.co.uk

Sorted is a confidential young people's substance misuse service that provides information, advice, treatment and care to all young people under 18 years of age who are experiencing difficulties because of their use of substances. Sorted also offer training packages to professionals working in Northumberland. Further details are available on their website.

SPLINTER GROUP

OFFICES:

MAIN: ROOM G08, BLYTH COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRE, RIDLEY STREET, BLYTH NE24 3AG.

RAP(NORTH) c/o GALLERY YOUTH PROJECT, REAR OF 39, BONDGATE WITHIN, ALNWICK, NE66 1SX.



07775 817544



splintergroupnorth@gmail.com
rapsplinter@gmail.com



<http://splintergroup.uk/>
www.wafflingon.uk



WafflingOn1



Splintergroupnorth (<https://www.facebook.com/SplinterGroupNorth/?fref=ts>)

SpLinter Group is for young people with learning differences, aged 16 years and over who live in Northumberland. The group is run and managed by the young people, with support from co-workers and volunteers, who also offer one-to-one support. SpLinter offers group sessions, peer support, social events, workshops and having a say on issues that affect their members.

SpLinter Group activities include:

Group sessions at Blyth (address above) on Fridays between 12 noon and 2.30PM. They offer support for employment, accredited learning, projects and activities, and use the group to help members feel more confident about understanding each other and socialising with other young people.

SpLinter also runs the RAP (Rural Access Project) to create better access to opportunities for young people living in rural north Northumberland, and runs a second group for young people in Alnwick (address above) on alternate Tuesdays early evening.

The group works in partnership with the NE Drive Mobility Centre to support young people with learning differences to explore their travel and transport options. The programme includes an out of hours visit to find out what a driving assessment is all about, a drive in a car, support for driving theory, travel planning training and support and the offer of a travel buddy while getting used to new journeys on public transport.

The group involves members in running Waffling On, a social enterprise which takes a waffle-making stall to markets and employers fairs to raise funds and raise awareness about learning differences with employers and the public. Members are trained in food hygiene, customer service and risk assessment as well as recognising their enterprise skills, and this is all accredited. The group is always looking for new places to run the waffle stall.

Group members run awareness-raising training for anyone who wants to hear about learning differences 'from the horse's mouth', and the group hosts one or two events each year on specific issues of interest to people with learning differences, parents, carers, professionals, employers and funders.

The group coordinates the Safe Places scheme for Northumberland. The young people are involved in recruiting venues to sign up and be trained as safe places for people who may feel vulnerable to call in and get help. They also visit groups of people with learning differences and other groups who may feel at risk in public places, providing them with a Safe Places card, leaflet and app to help them use the scheme.

Please contact Kirsty (SE) **splintergroupnorth@gmail.com** or Jordan (north) **rapsplinter@gmail.com** for more details about the group, for an informal chat and how to join.

THE TOBY HENDERSON TRUST

TOBY HOUSE, EARTH BALANCE, WEST SLEEKBURN FARM, BEDLINGTON,
NORTHUMBERLAND NE22 7AD



03003 653055



support@ttht.co.uk



www.ttht.co.uk

The Toby Henderson Trust provides relevant, appropriate and accessible support for autistic young people from 2 to 20 years old, while also empowering parents, families and carers by sharing knowledge, experience and understanding. The charity specializes in the post-diagnosis development of children aged 2 to 7 years through intervention to improve the long-term quality of life for both the autistic child and their family and carers. Contact the Trust or visit their website for more details of the services they offer.

TYNEDALE SUPPORT GROUP



01434 601594

A support group for parents and carers of children with special need and disabilities living in the Tynedale area. The group meet monthly at Action for Children, Monksfield, Corbridge Road, Hexham, NE46 1UY. Contact the group for more information and meeting times.

Contact: Ali Shotton

USEFUL VISION

29 - 30 AZURE BUSINESS CENTRE, HIGH STREET, NEWBURN,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE15 8LN

OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY: 10AM - 4PM



0845 604 8491



info@usefulvision.org.uk



www.usefulvision.org.uk

Useful Vision is a charity which provides positive opportunities and fun-packed events for vision impaired children and their families across the North East. They offer a range of imaginative activities, relaxed family events and skills workshops which are designed to meet the needs of vision impaired children of all ages and abilities.

As a key part of their service they also offer practical advice and emotional support for children, siblings and families from early years through to young adulthood

YOUTH LINK - BLYTH AND TYNEDALE

BLYTH YOUTH LINK, 22 BEACONSFIELD STREET, BLYTH,
NORTHUMBERLAND NE24 2DP

OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM



01670 353394 or 07760 624868

TYNEDALE YOUTH LINK, HEXHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, GILESGATE,
HEXHAM NE46 3NP

OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM



01434 608 414

Youth Link is a Children North East project which aims to improve the lives and wellbeing of young people. They are matched with a trained volunteer who will help and encourage them to explore any difficulties and identify solutions to their problems. Youth Link supports young people through difficult times, helping them to move forward and take up new opportunities.

Youth Link recruits, trains, supports and supervises a pool of young volunteers aged 18-25 years. The volunteers then provide one to one peer mentoring support for younger people aged 12-18 years. All volunteers are subject to an enhanced DBS check, provide references and are required to complete a training programme before they start.

For further details about the project, contact the numbers above.

INTRODUCTION

Northumberland County Council has a duty to provide services for 'children in need'; which is a legal term from the Children Act 1989. The law says that there are three ways in which children may be in need:

- If the child is unlikely to achieve a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services;
- If the child's health or development is likely to be significantly impaired without the provision of services; or
- If the child is disabled.

The County Council works together with the NHS, schools, voluntary organisations and others to provide a range of services to support children, young people and their families. Different assessments are used to identify the social care needs of children, young people and families, and different types and levels of support are available.

If you are worried about the wellbeing of a child or young person you should take the following action:

- Emergency: If a child is in immediate danger or left alone, you should contact the police or call an ambulance on **999**.
- Non-emergency: If there is no immediate danger or you need advice or information, you should contact Northumberland County Council Single Point of Access on **01670 536000** Opening times: Monday - Thursday 8.30AM - 5PM, Friday 8.30AM - 4.30PM; Emergency calls outside of these hours will be transferred to an out of hours duty worker.

The social care needs of children and young people with SEND can be met in a range of different ways. For some the universal services available to all children and young person will be appropriate. For others more specialist services will be required. Details of different types of social care provision are listed below.

EARLY HELP ASSESSMENT (EHA)

Early Help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point of a child or young person's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.

The Early Help Assessment (EHA) is a way of working with children, young people and families to make sure that they get the help they need. It has replaced what was previously known as the Common Assessment Framework (CAF).

EHA is a voluntary process which will only go ahead with the agreement of the family. Information provided by the family will be kept confidential and only shared with their permission. The only exception to this is if there any safeguarding concerns.

EHA involves listening to parents and their children to find out what is working well, where there are concerns and what kind of support they may need. Once an assessment form is completed, a Team around the Family meeting will be held. An

action plan will be agreed to ensure that the child or young person and their family get the right support and help. To enquire about an EHA you can contact a professional working with you or your family or phone **01670 536000**

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE LOCALITY TEAMS

The aim of the Social Care Locality Teams is to work closely with schools and other services to develop joint ways of supporting children and their families, and responding to a range of issues. They protect children from harm and provide advice and support for families.

All of the Locality teams can be contacted via the SPA telephone number **01670 536000**.

THE DISABLED CHILDREN'S TEAM (SOCIAL CARE)

COUNTY HALL, MORPETH NE61 2EF



01670 536400

The Local Authority has certain responsibilities for disabled children and young people who live in Northumberland. All the Social Care Locality teams provide services to children and young people with special needs, and their families. Children and young people with more complex and profound disabilities are dealt with by the Disabled Children Team.

You, or a professional on your behalf, can contact the Disabled Children Team to make a referral. The most appropriate team to respond will be identified and a Children and Family assessment will be undertaken by a qualified social worker if required.

The Disabled Children Team aims to:

- Promote the care of children within their own families and communities by providing an assessed package of support, if appropriate.
- Minimise the impact of the disability by limiting the social barriers that exclude disabled young people from universal provision.
- Assist young people in the move to adulthood and transfer to an Adult Services Care Manager, if appropriate.

What will an assessment look at?

An Early Help Assessment (EHA) should have been considered prior to referral to the Disabled Children Team. If a child or young person is eligible for support from the Disabled Children Team, a social worker will complete a Children and Family assessment within a timescale of 10, 25 or 45 days depending on the complexity of need and agencies involved to meet needs. The assessment will also, in an integrated way, include an assessment of the carer's needs. However, carers are able to request a separate Carers Needs Assessment if they feel this would better meet their needs.

An assessment will look at the needs of the child or young person and the needs of the family. The information gathered helps the team to find out how best to help the family and the most appropriate range of people to help. If a child has a moderate to severe learning and/or physical disability the team will do their best to provide support or put families in touch with other services or organisations who are able to help.

The Disabled Children Team is responsible for:

- Co-ordinating care plans
- Organising services - this includes referring to other services, if appropriate
- Liaising with other professionals who may be involved with a child/family, as appropriate
- Regularly reviewing the plans and services with young people and their carers; at least every six months
- If part of the service is for the child to be 'looked after' overnight in the form of short-break care, or through full time accommodation, then the Local Authority has additional responsibilities to promote the child's welfare and protection.
- Contributing to Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) if the disabled child or young person meets the criteria for support from the Disabled Children Team.

What sorts of services are available?

The following are examples of services which might be considered in response to an assessed need for a package of individual support:

- After school clubs and specialist holiday activity schemes
- Day care, overnight care (including after school, weekends and during school holidays) or sponsored child minding
- Sitting services and/or direct care of the child, if unable to be met through standard services.
- Enabler support to provide periods of respite for parents/carers and/or enabling the young person to access local resources and break down social isolation.
- Short-break or full-time care may be necessary and the most appropriate way of meeting the needs of some children and young people. Referrals are sometimes made to specialist residential education resources with the support of Social Care and Health Service funding.
- Aids for daily living and support with adaptations through paediatric occupational therapists via a referral from the Disabled Children Team if the department criteria are met.
- Referrals to specialist services, such as the Portage service, benefits advice and signposting to the most appropriate service to respond to an enquiry.
- Assessed services can be funded through a Direct Payment, if this is the preferred option.

What else does the Disabled Children Team do?

The team identifies young people who have an Education, Health and Care Plan or a Statement of Special Educational Needs who will require assistance to access further education, supported employment or particular care services after the age of 18, through the Disabled Person Act 1986. From Year 9 onwards the young person's annual reviews will include planning for their education, training and placement after the age of 16 and assistance towards living independently, if appropriate. The young person's needs will be identified over time and services co-ordinated for the transition to adulthood and adult services.

Safeguarding Disabled Children

Disabled children have the same rights as all children to be protected from harm, but may be more vulnerable to abuse. Parents and carers of disabled children should be particularly vigilant to protect their child from harm.

Things parents and carers can do include:

- Making sure your child knows they are loved for themselves
- Ensuring your child is happy and comfortable with their carers, especially if the carer provides intimate care
- Listening to your child carefully if they tell you someone has hurt them and taking what they say seriously
- Making your child's safety your priority when they are in someone else's care
- Making sure your child knows what abusive behaviour is

Parents and carers can help their child to stay safe by teaching them:

- What abusive behaviour is
- To respect their own body and other people's bodies
- To recognise when a situation is not safe and what to do to be safe
- To communicate their thoughts and feelings
- To report adults or other children who behave inappropriately
- How to get help in an emergency

If you are worried that a child is being abused, or if you have any other safeguarding concerns, please speak to a professional person such as a social worker, health visitor, GP or teacher.

INFOLINK - THE NORTHUMBERLAND DISABLED CHILDREN REGISTER

INFOLINK is a voluntary database held by the Local Authority for children and young people (up to the age of 18 years) with disabilities. It is used to identify children with similar disabilities or problems and helps target particular areas of need. Families are kept up to date via email with information, events and activities that may be of interest to them.

Please phone **01670 536400** if you would like your child to be registered on the database. Their name will be removed at 18 years, or earlier if requested.

MAX CARDS

The cards provide reduced admission fees for eligible disabled children and young people in Northumberland (up to 18 years old) to local attractions throughout the North East. A booklet of the places where the cards are accepted is given to families when the cards are issued. Cards are valid on a yearly basis from the beginning of April. Renewals are processed automatically up until the Disabled Young Person is 18 years old. For details of how to apply for a Max card, phone **01670 536400**.

NORTHUMBERLAND ADOLESCENT SERVICES

**NORTHUMBRIA HOUSE, MANOR WALKS SHOPPING CENTRE,
CRAMLINGTON NE23 6UR**



01670 622930

A range of services that work with vulnerable adolescents, including looked after pupils and care leavers. Interventions are targeted to provide support to young people and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour within local communities. The services, which contribute to the management of complex young people and their needs, include the Youth Offending Service, the 16+ leaving care team, the Sorted team and a specialist supported accommodation scheme. All teams contribute to the effective risk management of young people.

Referral routes to the different parts of the service vary, so if you wish to make an enquiry, please contact the office and ask to speak to the duty worker.

SOCIAL CARE SUPPORT FOR ADULTS

ADULT SOCIAL CARE



01670 536400



socialcare@northumbria.nhs.uk

When a young person receives support from children's social care services their needs will be identified over time and services co-ordinated for the transition to adulthood and adult services, where appropriate. Under the Care Act 2014, **adult care transition assessments** must be carried out by the local authority where there is a significant benefit to a young person or their carer in doing so and they are likely to have needs which require care or support after turning 18.

Social care support for ill or disabled adults in Northumberland is operated by Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust in partnership with the Northumberland County Council.

The Northumberland County Council website at www.northumberland.gov.uk (search for 'Social Care for Adults') contains details of how social care support is arranged. There are also links to useful information produced elsewhere.

INTRODUCTION

Children and young people face a number of transitions in their lives as they are growing up; for example, when they start school and move from one school to another. These transitions will need to be carefully planned for all children and young people, and particularly those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), to make their experience positive and successful.

Leaving school and moving into adulthood can present challenges for many young people with SEND. It is important that they are given the support they need with making plans for their future and achieving their goals. Schools must ensure that pupils from Year 8 until Year 13 are provided with independent careers guidance, including advice about options for further and higher education. Further Education (FE) colleges also have equivalent requirements. Their duty applies for all students up to and including age 18 and also 19 to 25 year-olds with EHC Plans.

A young person can leave school at the end of the school year in which they turn 16, but, if they don't move into employment, would be expected to stay in some kind of education or training until they are 18. They may choose to stay on at school into the sixth form, move on to further education, do an apprenticeship, traineeship or internship, or follow a programme which combines training with work experience.

After compulsory school age the young person, rather than their parents, has the right to make requests and decisions about their education directly, unless they lack the mental capacity to do this. The young person's parents or other carers can continue to support them in making decisions, or act on their behalf, if the young person is happy for them to do so.

For children and young people with EHC Plans or Statements of special educational needs, their reviews from Year 9 onwards must include a focus on preparing for the transition to adulthood. Transition planning should include discussions about options for future education, employment or training; preparation for independent living; support for maintaining good health in adult life; and the social support a young person might require as an adult.

Further education providers, such as colleges, receive funding to meet the needs of their students with SEN. They must use their best endeavours to give them the support they require. Support for most young people will be through SEN Support. Young people who require more support than the college can normally provide may need to be supported through an EHC Plan (please refer to the 'Education' section of this guide for more details about the EHC process).

EHC Plans don't carry on into higher education (universities), but universities are still required to provide appropriate support for students with additional needs. They have to make reasonable adjustments so that disabled students don't suffer a substantial disadvantage compared to other students. Support will depend upon individual needs and may be in the form of assistive technology, copies of documents in other formats or one to one help.

Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) are grants available to higher education students to help meet the extra cost they may incur on their course because of a disability. This can include a long term health condition, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia. The support the student gets will depend on their individual needs and not on their income. More information about DSAs and how to apply for them is available from the GOV.UK website at www.gov.uk.

The following services provide transition support for young people with SEND.

LEARNING AND SKILLS SERVICE - NORTHUMBERLAND

We offer a range of learning programmes, work opportunities and employability support to help you achieve your goals.

Programmes and support are delivered right across Northumberland for anyone aged 16 years or over. You'll find opportunities to gain a qualification through Apprenticeships, Traineeships, Internships, full time study programmes and part time study courses. Alternatively, you might also want to get involved in an activity as something fun to do in your spare time.

What programmes can I do?

Full and Part Time Study Programmes

If you are aged 16-18 years, or have special educational needs and aged between 16-25 years, all of your learning is free. Knowing that it can sometimes be hard for you to decide on the best way forward, we have a team of Young People Coaches who can guide you towards the decision that is right for you. Your studies will usually consist of a job related qualification, help with English and Maths, an employability course or a work placement, and an enrichment programme that will be relevant to your preferred job role. Above all the course will be put together to meet your needs.

We have a Young People's guide to study programmes available online at: <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Learning/Skills.aspx>

Supported Internships

If you are aged 16-24 years and have an Education Health and Care Plan, we can help you get some work experience and training through a 12 month internship. You'll have the opportunity to show an employer what you can do and if you feel ready you can start a personalised study programme, which includes the chance to study for a relevant qualification alongside English and Maths.

Apprenticeships and Traineeships

Other on the job training opportunities are available through our Apprenticeship and Traineeship programmes.

An apprenticeship will give you the chance to work with an employer for at least 12

months. You'll get the chance to understand their business while developing your skills at the same time. What's more you can earn £120 per week. This wage is in line with the average weekly pay for an apprentice of £3.50 per hour for an average 37 hour week.

You will normally spend one day a week in training and four days a week with your employer, but this can be adapted to meet your needs. You will need to be able to work at Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE level) and have well developed English and Maths skills. You will work on a specific career pathway and get relevant qualifications as you build up your skills.

All of our vacancies are advertised at **<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>**

If you are not sure you are ready for an apprenticeship, contact our Young People's Team who will be pleased to work with you to get you ready and help you apply.

Through our Northumberland County Council Apprenticeship Scheme, we are working closely with employers who can offer you an opportunity if you have a special educational need, a disability or haven't had the chance to work for a long time.

We also have a team of mentors who are available for one to one support as you adjust to your apprenticeship and they can help you get the most out of your experience.

If you've applied for an apprenticeship or a job but haven't been offered a place, or you are not ready for an apprenticeship, then 16-24 years olds can undertake a traineeship instead. This will give you an opportunity to get ready for work. You'll get work experience for up to 6 months with a great local employer, receive personal coaching and attend classes in English, Maths and Employability. The aim of the programme is to get you work / apprenticeship ready and showcase your skills to real employers.

All our vacancies are advertised at **<https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship>**

What other support is available?

British Sign Language and Lip Reading

Our British Sign Language (BSL) and lip reading courses are available across Northumberland and are open to learners aged 16 years and over. The classes typically run for 2 hours per week; some in the daytime and some in the evening.

British Sign language courses have a small fee but these can be waived in some circumstances. Lip reading is provided free to all learners. Courses are advertised in our brochures.

The current brochures can be found at:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Learning/Skills.aspx>

Our lecturers are also on hand to act as signers and translators and lend support whatever your course of study.

If you would like to explore joining a Lip Reading or BSL class contact Lee Williscroft-Ferris, Education Lead for English, Maths and Languages on **01670 623687**.

For deaf and hard of hearing groups of six or more, we can make provide either a translator or a signer for any subject area.

English and Maths

If you worry about English or Maths, then you're not alone. Thousands of people do. You might find it difficult to read. You might struggle to add up the cost of food, shopping or loans. It could be that you want to take a particular course and you need to have passed English or Maths. Whatever your challenge, we can help you.

We run Maths and English classes in every one of our centres. And here's the good news: all English and Maths classes are free. We teach in small classes, making it easier for you to work together and learn these key skills. We believe that people work best in a relaxed atmosphere.

You will be able to:

- Learn the basics
- Improve your everyday English: reading, writing, spelling, grammar, speaking and listening skills
- Improve your everyday Maths: addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, fractions, percentages, shape, ratio and budgeting skills
- Refresh your skills and improve your confidence
- Gain recognised qualifications that employers are looking for

It's up to you. But don't let your worries about English or Maths hold you back.

If you would like to explore joining an English or Maths class contact Lee Williscroft-Ferris, Education Lead for English, Maths and Languages on **01670 623687**.

Help in Looking for Work

Fast Track to Work Courses

Getting a job is as much a skill as doing the job itself. Employers look for certain things in potential employees. They want people who are clear about what they can offer, who are confident, who present themselves well and who understand what their potential employer wants. Few people are naturally good at these things. We all have to learn them. The good news is that we can teach you how to get a job and how to get yourself ready to be employed.

We run intensive two-week courses that will help you to focus on:

- Surviving till you get a job: understanding benefits and budgeting
- Preparing your CV, applications and letters of introduction
- Interview techniques and practice interviews with real employers

- Staying motivated and dealing with rejection
- Dress codes and personal presentation skills
- Getting your IT up-to-scratch — you can even add on an IT qualification if you want

These courses are free if you are unemployed and are 2 week intensive courses. Contact Rianne Gallon on **01670 626107** for the next start date close to where you live.

Job Club

One of the things people feel most acutely when out of work is isolation. It's easy to feel that you're facing this all alone. Job Clubs, where you can meet and be supported by experts as you search, have been very successful in helping people find permanent work. We focus on helping you to prepare your CV and how to create compelling cover letters. And we can help give your confidence a boost as you get ready for interviews.

Our experts are always at hand to help you make the most of opportunities as they come along. We have Job Clubs at all of our sites. They are free to attend. They are normally 2 hour sessions running once a week and you can attend for as long as you need to help find work. Contact Rianne Gallon on **01670 626107** for the Job Clubs close to where you live.

Learner Counselling Service

We want our learners to be as successful as they can be but we know that sometimes learners face some tough times outside the classroom or workplace. We have a learner counselling service that can provide additional support if you need it. They provide one to one counselling sessions for around 45 minutes at any of our sites.

If you are a learner with us the service is free. If you are not a learner with us, but want to access some counselling support, we can provide places at £25.00 per 45 minute session.

All our counsellors are fully qualified to Level 7 and are members of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.

Where are we based?

We have centres throughout Northumberland and all are fully accessible:

ALNWICK

Lindisfarne Road, Alnwick, NE66 1AX, Tel: **01670 623691**

AMBLE

Bridge Street, Amble, NE65 0DR, Tel: **01670 623691**

ASHINGTON CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING,

Freeman Way, Ashington, NE63 0YB, Tel: **01670 623665**

ASHINGTON

Wansbeck Workspace, Rotary Parkway, Ashington, NE63 8QZ, Tel: **01670 623894**

BEDLINGTON

Jubilee Terrace, Bedlington, NE22 5HB, Tel: **01670 623687**

BERWICK

Walkergate, Berwick upon Tweed, TD15 1DB, Tel: **01670 626107**

BLYTH

Brunel Building, Blyth, NE24 1LT, Tel: **01670 622099**

CRAMLINGTON

Northumbria House, Manor Walks, Cramlington, NE23 6UR, Tel: **01670 622104**

HALTWHISTLE

Haltwhistle Library, Westgate, Haltwhistle, NE49 0AX, Tel: **01670 623701**

HEXHAM

The Gatehouse, Wanless Lane, Hexham, NE46 1BU, Tel: **01670 623701**

MORPETH

Cottingwood Lane, Morpeth, NE61 1DN, Tel: **01670 622257**

PRUDHOE

Fuse Media Centre, Moor Road, Prudhoe, NE42 5LJ. Tel: **01670 623689**

How do I get involved with a programme?

The first step is to contact our Young Person's Team and they will arrange to meet you (and your family) and start the process of looking at the best steps for you:

Michael Holliday, Education Lead Tel: **01670 622112 / 07867 441 942**

Edwina Fleming: Young Person's Coach for the North and South-East
Tel: **07733 301 947**

Karen Thomas: Young Person's Coach for the South-East Tel: **07825 833716**

Jacque Thompson: Young Person's Coach for the West Tel: **07825 833800**

You can also find out more about us at:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Learning/Skills.aspx>

AZURE

KIELDER AVENUE, BEACON LANE, CRAMLINGTON NE23 8JT

 01670 733966

An enabling service for young people aged 13 years and over, who have a disability. Provide one to one support to enable the client to access services and facilities within their communities. Azure also has a supported living and employment service. Young people need to be referred by their social worker or a health care professional.

CAREERS GUIDANCE TEAM

LEARNING AND SKILLS SERVICE, COUNTY HALL, MORPETH, NE61 2EF

 01670 622799

 careersteam@northumberland.gov.uk

Schools have a statutory duty to ensure that pupils from Year 8 to Year 13 have access to independent careers guidance. This includes information on a range of education or training options, including apprenticeships and other vocational pathways. The Careers Guidance Team works with a range of Year 11, Year 12, Year 13 and Year 14 young people who are either NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) or at risk of becoming NEET. This includes young people with SEND.

DIMENSIONS UK

AT HOME IN THE COMMUNITY LTD, WEST ROAD, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,
TYNE AND WEAR NE15 7PY

 0191 228 8160

 newcastle.office@dimensions-uk.org

 www.dimensions-uk.org

Provide support for young people and adults who have a broad range of learning disabilities and/or autism. They are particularly experienced in supporting people with autism and/or complex needs, such as those who have additional physical and sensory disabilities or behaviour that may challenge.

Dimensions UK provide the following types of support:

- Individualised support packages for people living in their own homes
- Support for people living in shared housing
- Registered residential care
- Transitions support services for 16 - 25 year old young people with a learning disability

- Short breaks
- Support for people to access employment and leisure opportunities

They can be contacted directly.

ESPA (EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM)



0191 510 2611



www.espa.org.uk

A north-east based charity whose mission is to enable people across the autism spectrum to enjoy rewarding and fulfilling lives. Their services include: an Independent Specialist Further Education College; Residential Care; Supported Living; Domiciliary Support; Floating Support; Transition Houses; Day Service; University support programme; Vocational traineeships. Visit their website or phone them for more details.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVIDERS

There is a range of different further education and training providers which cover Northumberland, including further education colleges, sixth form colleges, specialist training providers and specialist colleges. A list of local provision is located on the Local Offer website in the Preparing for Adulthood pages with the heading 'Local Post 16 Education, Employment and Training Provision'.

Northumberland College is the further education college located in Northumberland and has campuses in different areas of the county. Details for their Additional Learning Support Team are as follows:

NORTHUMBERLAND COLLEGE, COLLEGE ROAD, ASHINGTON NE63 9RG



01670 841200



advice.centre@northland.ac.uk



www.northumberland.ac.uk

The team provides a range of services for learners with varying support needs and is committed to responding to specific learner requests for support where possible. The team can offer one to one support and supervision for students with learning difficulties, such as dyslexia, physical disabilities, mental health difficulties, emotional/behavioural difficulties or language support needs. They cater for learners at all the levels of support set out in the SEND Code of Practice, including those with Education Health and Care Plans.

Other local further education colleges are listed in the table below. Further details about their campuses, courses and other information can be found on the college websites.

COLLEGE	WEBSITE	LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICES CONTACT NUMBER
Gateshead College	www.gateshead.ac.uk	0191 490 2253 / 426 4329
Newcastle College	http://www.ncl-coll.ac.uk/	0191 200 4189
Tyne Metropolitan College	www.tynemet.ac.uk	0191 229 5000 (ask for learning support)

INDEPENDENT SPECIALIST PROVIDERS

 www.natspec.org.uk

Independent specialist colleges cater for students with a range of disabilities. They are also known as Independent Specialist Providers or ISPs. These institutions are located around the country. They are often residential and can help people learn to live away from home. Applications for funding are made via the Local Authority. There are specific entry criteria that have to be satisfied and funding will not normally be granted if a local mainstream college can meet the young person's needs. There is also an expectation that funding for residential placements will be shared jointly between Education and Social Care services, and the Health service, if involved. Multi-agency support for the application is therefore required.

The Association of National Specialist Colleges (NATSPEC) provides detailed information about their colleges on their website.

JOB CENTRE PLUS

 0345 604 3719

Your local Jobcentre can help you find a job or gain new skills and tell you about disability-friendly employers in your area. They can also refer you to a specialist work psychologist, if appropriate, or carry out an 'employment assessment', asking you about:

- your skills and experience
- what kind of roles you're interested in

Ask the work coach at your local Jobcentre.

Programmes and grants

Your work coach can tell you about programmes and grants to help you back into work.

These include:

- Work Choice - to help you find a job, and get support when you start work
- Access to Work - money towards a support worker or for the cost of equipment or travelling to work
- Specialist Employability Support - to help you get ready for employment or become self-employed

NATURAL ABILITY

STUDIO 6, ALLENDALE FORGE STUDIOS, ALLENDALE MARKET PLACE,
ALLENDALE, HEXHAM NE47 9BD



01434 618149



info@naturalability.org



www.naturalability.org

Natural Ability works with and for people with learning and other disabilities, including those with Autism Spectrum Disorder, mental health and/or complex needs. They support children and young people to get out and about and enjoy activities in their local communities and provide specialist education for individual young people. For adults they offer work experience, training and qualifications in horticulture, animal care, environmental and conservation work. They also provide independent supported living.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD



01225 789135



info@preparingforadulthood.org.uk



www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk

Preparing for Adulthood is a programme commissioned by the Department for Education to support the requirements of the SEND reforms which came into effect in September 2014. The aim of the programme is to provide knowledge and support to local authorities and their partners, including families and young people, so they can ensure that disabled young people achieve paid work, independent living, good health and community inclusion as they move into adulthood. The Preparing for Adulthood website contains a range of information and resources to support young people with SEND as they move into adulthood.

POST 16 TRANSPORT

Under certain circumstances the Local Authority may provide Post 16 transport for young people with special educational needs, disabilities or medical needs. This would usually be to their nearest appropriate educational establishment. Eligibility is based on assessment of individual need.

For more information about the Local Authority's Post 16 transport policy and applying for transport, visit the Northumberland County Council website at **www.northumberland.gov.uk** (search for School Transport) or contact the School Transport Team on **0345 600 6400**.

SHAW TRUST

 01225 716300
08457 697 288 - Minicom

 www.shaw-trust.org.uk

A national charity which supports disabled and disadvantaged people to prepare for work, find jobs and live more independently. The Shaw Trust believe that everyone has the right to work and campaign to turn this vision into a reality. They work with clients who face barriers due to disability, ill health or social circumstances, and also have a range of services for businesses.

SKILLS FOR PEOPLE

KEY HOUSE, TANKERVILLE PLACE, JESMOND,
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE2 3AT
OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 4.30PM

 0191 281 8737

 information@skillsforpeople.org.uk

 www.skillsforpeople.org.uk

A user-led voluntary organisation based in Newcastle. Support adults and young people with learning and/or physical disabilities to speak up, gain in confidence and have more control over own lives.

SPLINTER GROUP

OFFICES
MAIN: ROOM G08, BLYTH COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRE, RIDLEY
STREET, BLYTH NE24 3AG.

RAP(NORTH) % GALLERY YOUTH PROJECT, REAR OF 39, BONDGATE WITHIN,
ALNWICK, NE66 1SX.

 07775 817544

 splintergroupnorth@gmail.com
rapSplinter@gmail.com

 <http://splintergroup.uk>
www.wafflingon.uk

 WafflingOn1

 [splintergroupnorth \(https://www.facebook.com/SplinterGroupNorth/?fref=ts\)](https://www.facebook.com/SplinterGroupNorth/?fref=ts)

SpLinter Group is for young people with learning differences, aged 16 years and over who live in Northumberland. The group is run and managed by the young people, with support from co-workers and volunteers, who also offer one-to-one support. SpLinter offers group sessions, peer support, social events, workshops and having a say on issues that affect their members.

SpLinter Group activities include:

Group sessions at Blyth (address above) on Fridays between 12 noon and 2.30PM. They offer support for employment, accredited learning, projects and activities, and use the group to help members feel more confident about understanding each other and socialising with other young people.

SpLinter also runs the RAP (Rural Access Project) to create better access to opportunities for young people living in rural north Northumberland, and runs a second group for young people in Alnwick (address above) on alternate Tuesdays early evening.

The group works in partnership with the NE Drive Mobility Centre to support young people with learning differences to explore their travel and transport options. The programme includes an out of hours visit to find out what a driving assessment is all about, a drive in a car, support for driving theory, travel planning training and support and the offer of a travel buddy while getting used to new journeys on public transport.

The group involves members in running Waffling On, a social enterprise which takes a waffle-making stall to markets and employers fairs to raise funds and raise awareness about learning differences with employers and the public. Members are trained in food hygiene, customer service and risk assessment as well as recognising their enterprise skills, and this is all accredited. The group is always looking for new places to run the waffle stall.

Group members run awareness-raising training for anyone who wants to hear about learning differences 'from the horse's mouth', and the group hosts one or two events each year on specific issues of interest to people with learning differences, parents, carers, professionals, employers and funders.

The group coordinates the Safe Places scheme for Northumberland. The young people are involved in recruiting venues to sign up and be trained as safe places for people who may feel vulnerable to call in and get help. They also visit groups of people with learning differences and other groups who may feel at risk in public places, providing them with a Safe Places card, leaflet and app to help them use the scheme.

Please contact Kirsty (SE) splintergroupnorth@gmail.com or Jordan (north) rapSplinter@gmail.com for more details about the group, for an informal chat and how to join.

This section lists some of the many organisations that can provide information, advice and/or support. These are in addition to the organisations already listed in previous sections. You can visit their websites or contact them directly.

ACTION ON HEARING LOSS

 0808 808 0123 - Information Line (all calls are free)

 0808 808 9000 - Textphone

 informationline@actiononhearingloss.org.uk

 www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk

Action on Hearing Loss is a charity which provides support and information to people with deafness, tinnitus and hearing loss.

ACTION FOR M.E.

 0117 927 9551

 questions@actionforme.org.uk

 www.actionforme.org.uk

A charity which offers a range of support to young people who have M.E. (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis) who have joined as supporting or young members. Services include information, a dedicated helpline, and parent and young members forums.

ADDERS

 www.adders.org

Promote awareness of AD(H)D and provide information and free practical help to sufferers, both adults and children, and their families via the web-site.

AFASIC (SUPPORTS ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION NEEDS)

 0300 666 9410 - Helpline

 use the online help form

 www.afasic.org.uk

Afasic is a parent-led UK charity helping children and young people with speech and language impairments and their families. They provide information and training to parents and professionals, and produce a range of publications.

ARTHRITIS CARE

 0808 800 4050

 northengland@arthritiscare.org.uk

 info@arthritiscare.org.uk

Works with and for all people with arthritis to promote their health, well-being and independence through services, support, self help and information.

ASTHMA UK

 0300 222 5800 - Advice line - Monday - Friday 9AM - 5PM

 info@asthma.org.uk

 www.asthma.org.uk

Work with people with asthma, health care professionals and researchers to develop and share expertise to help people increase their understanding and reduce the effect of asthma on their lives.

ATAXIA UK

 0845 644 0606 - Helpline - Monday to Thursday 10.30AM - 2.30PM

 www.ataxia.org.uk

A national charity for people with ataxia, their families and carers. They provide support and aim to find treatments and cures. The ataxias are a group of neurological conditions that affect walking, speech and movement,

ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SERVICE (ADDISS)



020 8952 2800



info@addiss.co.uk



www.addiss.co.uk

ADDISS provides people-friendly information and resources about Attention Deficit Disorder to anyone who needs assistance; including people affected by the condition, parents, teachers and health professionals.

BARNARDOS



0191 293 1400



www.barnardos.org.uk

Barnardos offer help and support when a child or young person's future is under threat from homelessness, drugs, sexual abuse, disability, unemployment, prejudice or emotional problems. They help children turn their lives around.

BIBIC (BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR BRAIN INJURED CHILDREN)



01458 253 344



info@bibic.org.uk



www.bibic.org.uk

The aim of bibic is to help children aged from six months to 18 years with conditions affecting their social, communication and learning abilities to achieve their potential for a happier and more fulfilled life.

BRITISH DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION (BDA)



0333 405 4567 - Helpline



use the on-line form



www.bdadyslexia.org.uk

Provide advice and information for all dyslexic people, parents, teachers, employers and other agencies. Their vision is a dyslexia friendly society enabling dyslexic people of all ages to reach their full potential.

BRITISH STAMMERING ASSOCIATION (BSA)

 020 8880 6590 - Helpline

 info@stammering.org

 www.stammering.org

BSA offers support to all whose lives are affected by stammering, including information and resources, and a helpline.

BRITTLE BONE SOCIETY

 01382 204446

 bbs@brittlebone.org

 www.brittlebone.org

A charity which provides information, support and advice to anyone affected by brittle bones (osteogenesis imperfecta).

CARERS UK (NATIONAL)

 020 7378 4999

 info@carersuk.org

 www.carersuk.org

Carers UK is the voice of carers. Carers provide unpaid care by looking after an ill, frail or disabled family member, friend or partner. They give so much to society, but as a consequence of caring may experience ill health, poverty and discrimination. Carers UK works to try and ensure that the true value of carers' contribution to society is recognised, and that they get the practical, financial and emotional support they need.

CEREBRA - FOR CHILDREN WITH NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

 0800 328 1159 - Freephone helpline - Monday - Friday 9AM - 5PM

 info@cerebra.org.uk

 www.cerebra.org.uk

A national charity that strives to improve the lives of children with neurological conditions, through research, information and direct on-going support. Cerebra offers a range of support services including advice, a sleep service, grants, a holiday home and 'personal portfolios' to help introduce children to new people they meet.

CHILD BEREAVEMENT UK

 0800 028 8840 - Monday - Friday 9AM - 5PM

 support@childbereavement.org.uk

 www.childbereavement.org.uk

The organisation supports families and educates professionals when a baby or child of any age dies or is dying, or when a child is facing bereavement.

CHILD BRAIN INJURY TRUST (CBIT)

 0303 303 2248 - National Helpline - Monday - Friday 9AM - 5PM

 info@cbituk.org

 www.childbraininjurytrust.org.uk

A UK-wide charity providing support, information and training to anyone affected by childhood acquired brain injury. This includes the child or young person, their family and the professionals who support them.

CHILDLINE

 0800 1111 - (24 hours) - (Calls are free and confidential)

 www.childline.org.uk

A private and confidential service for children and young people up to the age of 19. No problem is too big or too small.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



0300 303 7000



supportercare@childrenssociety.org.uk



www.childrenssociety.org.uk

A charity committed to making childhood better for all children in the UK. They work to defend, safeguard and protect the childhood of all children in a range of ways; including a national network of projects, research and influential campaigning.

CLAPA (CLEFT LIP AND PALATE ASSOCIATION)



020 7833 4883



info@clapa.com



www.clapa.com

The charity works to provide non-medical services which complement the medical care provided by the specialist Cleft Teams, and aims to support people with cleft and their families from infancy through to adulthood.

CLIC SARGENT - CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER



0300 330 0803



www.clicsargent.org.uk

CLIC Sargent provides support to children and young people with cancer and leukaemia, and their families, through clinical and care professionals, home from home, holidays, care grants and research.

COMMUNICATION TRUST



0207 843 2526



enquiries@thecommunicationtrust.org.uk



www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk

The Communication Trust is a coalition of more than 50 not-for-profit organisations, who provide support to children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). The members of the Trust offer a wide variety of services and information to all families in England. Some services are provided free, while others have a fee.

CONTACT

OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9.30AM - 5PM

 0808 808 3555 - Freephone helpline

 www.contact.org.uk

 Contactfamilies

Contact is a national charity that provides information and advice on any aspect of caring for a child with special educational needs or a disability. Their website has information on issues such as education, benefits and family life, and their parent resources cover a range of topics, including health and social care services. Specialist advisers provide advice on their helpline or you can post a query on their Facebook page.

CORUM CHILDREN'S LEGAL CENTRE

 www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Provide specialist advice and information on child, family and education law.

COUNCIL FOR DISABLED CHILDREN (CDC)

 0207 843 1900

 cdc@ncb.org.uk

 www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk

CDC aims to make a difference to the lives of disabled children and children with special educational needs. They do this by influencing government policy, working with local agencies to translate policy into practice and producing guidance on issues affecting the lives of disabled children.

CYSTIC FIBROSIS TRUST

 0300 373 1000 - Helpline

 enquiries@cftrust.org.uk

 www.cysticfibrosis.org.uk

Provides information, advice and support to families affected by cystic fibrosis.

DIABETES UK

 0345 123 2399

 helpline@diabetes.org.uk

 www.diabetes.org.uk

Provide support and information to people with diabetes, as well as their friends, family and carers. Provide information about the condition and how to manage it.

DISABLED LIVING FOUNDATION

 0300 999 0004 - Helpline

 info@dlf.org.uk

 www.dlf.org.uk

A national charity that provides impartial advice, information and training on independent living for all types of disability.

DISABILITY LAW SERVICE

 0207 791 9800 - Free legal advice

 advice@dls.org.uk

 www.dls.org.uk

A charitable organisation offering free legal information and advice to people with disabilities and their carers.

DOWN'S SYNDROME ASSOCIATION (NATIONAL OFFICE)

 0333 1212 300 - Helpline

 info@downs-syndrome.org.uk

 www.downs-syndrome.org.uk

The Down's Syndrome Association provides support, information and advice to people with Down's Syndrome, their families, carers, professionals and others with an interest.

DYSPRAXIA FOUNDATION

 01462 454 986 - Helpline

 info@dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk

 www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk

Provides information, advice and support on dyspraxia also known as Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD).

EDWARD'S TRUST

 0121 454 1705

 admin@edwardstrust.org.uk

 www.edwardstrust.org.uk

Support children and families during serious illness and bereavement.

EHLERS-DANLOS SUPPORT UK

 0800 907 8518 - Freephone Helpline

 www.ehlers-danlos.org

Offer support, advice and information to those living with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome.

ENCEPHALITIS SOCIETY

 01653 699 599 - Support

 www.encephalitis.info

Support adults and children affected by encephalitis, their families and carers, by providing advice and information, and working at a national level to improve services.

EPILEPSY ACTION

 0808 800 5050 - Freephone Helpline

 helpline@epilepsy.org.uk

 www.epilepsy.org.uk

An organisation that exists to improve the lives of everyone affected by epilepsy. Their services include confidential, personal advice through their helpline.

EPILEPSY SOCIETY



01494 601400 - Helpline
01494 601300 - Enquiries



www.epilepsysociety.org.uk

A charity that works for everyone affected by epilepsy in the UK through research, awareness campaigns, information resources and expert care.

ERIC (EDUCATION AND RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING CHILDHOOD CONTINENCE)



0845 370 8008 - Helpline



www.eric.org.uk

A national charity that supports children with continence problems and campaigns for better childhood continence care.

FAMILY LIVES



0808 800 2222 - Free phone helpline - (24 hour - 7 days a week)



www.familylives.org.uk

A national family support charity providing help and support in all aspects of family life. A freephone helpline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

FAMILY RIGHTS GROUP



0808 801 0366 - Free confidential advice line



www.frg.org.uk

A charity that works with parents in England and Wales whose children are in need, at risk, or are in the care system; and with members of the wider family who are raising children unable to remain at home. They advise parents, grandparents, other relatives and friends about their rights and options when social workers or courts make decisions about their children's welfare.

FOUNDATION FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

 0207 803 1100

 fpld@fpld.org.uk

 www.mentalhealth.org.uk/learning-disabilities

The Foundation aim to break down the economic and social barriers and prejudices that people with learning disabilities face throughout their lives, as well as providing them with information, resources and services that can help them lead fuller, more independent lives. They do this by working with people with learning difficulties, their families and those who support them. They do not operate a helpline and unfortunately can't offer advice.

FRAGILE X SOCIETY

 01371 875100

 info@fragilex.org.uk

 www.fragilex.org.uk

A national charity that provides support, information and advice to families whose children and adult relatives have Fragile X syndrome. Raise awareness and understanding; encourage and publicise research on all aspects of Fragile X.

GUIDE DOGS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICE

 0118 983 5555

 guidedogs@guidedogs.org.uk

 www.guidedogs.org.uk

Provides services for families of children and young people with a visual impairment, from birth to the completion of full time education. They provide family support and information, education support, IT advice/support, a range of activities, CustomEyes large print children's books and can also offer Buddy Dogs and guide dogs for young people.

HAEMOPHILIA SOCIETY

 0207 939 0780

 info@haemophilia.org.uk

 www.haemophilia.org.uk

A charity for everyone affected by a bleeding disorder. They help people with bleeding disorders to lead fulfilling lives, make informed choices and to support and inspire others.

THE HANEN CENTRE

 www.hanen.org

A not-for-profit charitable organisation based in Canada which is committed to providing the best possible language, social and literacy skills in young children with delays in language development, including children with developmental delays and autism. The Hanen Centre provides information and resources for parents and professionals.

HEARING LINK

 0300 111 1113

 07526 123255 - SMS

 enquiries@hearinglink.org

 www.hearinglink.org

A national organisation which aims to direct people to useful information about hearing loss and specialist services, and put people in touch with others who are having similar experiences.

HYPERACTIVE CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP (HACSG)

 01243 539966

 hacsg@hacsg.org.uk

 www.hacsg.org.uk

The HACSG is a charity which works with children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and hyperactive children, and their families. Their specialism is advocating a dietary approach to the problems of hyperactivity. The organisation offers ideas, information and advice to parents, carers and professionals.

I CAN - CHILDREN'S COMMUNICATION CHARITY

 020 7843 2544

 www.ican.org.uk
www.talkingpoint.org.uk

I CAN is a children's communication charity which works to develop speech, language and communication skills for all children. I CAN's particular focus is children who find communication difficult. It provides expert information to parents and practitioners about speech, language and communication. It provides information about training, research and other organisations that can offer help and advice.

You can call **020 7843 2544** to book a free and confidential call-back from a speech and language therapist or email your enquiry to **help@ican.org.uk**. The I CAN Help Enquiry Service does not include meeting and assessing children, so the service is unable to provide specific advice about a child or the level of provision they should have.

KIDSCAPE

 020 7730 3300
020 7823 5430 - Parent Advice Line (Monday - Tuesday 10AM - 5PM)

 info@kidscape.org.uk

 www.kidscape.org.uk

The charity equips young people, parents and professionals across the UK with the skills to tackle bullying and safeguarding issues.

LEUKAEMIA CARE

 08088 010 444 - (Freephone careline - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

 care@leukaemiacare.org.uk

 www.leukaemiacare.org.uk

Leukaemia Care is a national charity that provides care and support to patients, their families and carers during the difficult journey through the diagnosis and treatment of leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma or an allied blood disorder.

LISTENING BOOKS



0207 407 9417 - (general enquiries)
0207 7234 0522 - (library enquiries)



info@listening-books.org.uk



www.listening-books.org.uk

Provide a postal and internet based audiobook service for people who find it difficult to read due to illness or disability. Cover the school curriculum from National Curriculum Key Stage 2 to A-level and also have a large selection of fiction titles for both adults and children. Visit the website or phone the library team to find out how you can start using the service.

LOOK (NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FAMILIES WITH VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN)



01432 376 314



info@look-uk.org



www.look-uk.org

LOOK provides practical and emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any issue relating to visual impairment. They provide links to other families in the same area or other people with the same eye condition.

MAKATON - THE MAKATON CHARITY



01276 606 760



info@makaton.org



www.makaton.org

Makaton is a language programme using signs and symbols to help people to communicate. It is designed to support spoken language, and the signs and symbols are used with speech in spoken word order

The Makaton Charity exists to ensure that everyone living with learning or communication difficulties has the tools and resources they need to communicate. The charity works towards this through their activities, which include: providing training; developing resources; working with others to make their information accessible; providing advice and support for families and professionals; providing a discussion forum; and working in partnership to influence society and empower people.

MENCAP

-  0808 808 1111
-  helpline@mencap.org.uk
-  www.mencap.org.uk

Mencap works with people with a learning disability to change laws, challenge prejudice and support them to live their lives as they choose. They provide a range of services; including advice and information, personal support services and training.

MIND (THE MENTAL HEALTH CHARITY)

-  0300 123 3393
-  info@mind.org.uk
-  86463 - Text
-  www.mind.org.uk

Mind provides confidential help on a range of mental health problems and their consequences. The charity is an influential voice on mental health issues.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY (MS)

-  0808 800 8000 - Free helpline
-  helpline@mssociety.org.uk
-  www.mssociety.org.uk

A UK charity for people affected by Multiple Sclerosis (MS). The charity fund research, provide grants, campaign for change, provide information and support, invest in MS specialists and lend a listening ear to those who need it.

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY UK

-  0800 652 6352 - Freephone helpline - (Monday - Friday 8.30AM - 6PM)
-  info@muscular dystrophy.org
-  www.muscular-dystrophy.org

A charity that brings individuals, families and professionals together to beat muscle-wasting conditions. They support high quality research; campaign for faster access to emerging treatments for families in the UK; ensure that everyone has the specialist NHS care and support they need; and provide a range of services and resources to help people live as independently as possible.

NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY (NAS)

 0808 800 4104 - Autism Helpline

 www.autism.org.uk

Provide specialist help, information and care across England for children, adults or families living with autism; including social support, student support and outreach services. They support adults and children on the autism spectrum to build independence, try new things and achieve their potential.

NATIONAL DEAF CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (NDCS)

 0808 800 8880 - Freephone Helpline
020 7490 8656 - Minicom

 helpline@ndcs.org.uk

 www.ndcs.org.uk

NDCS is an organisation of families, parents and carers, providing emotional and practical support through their free phone helpline, their network of trained support workers, and their wide range of other support services, publications and website.

NATIONAL ECZEMA SOCIETY

 0800 089 1122 - Helpline - Opening Times Monday - Friday 8AM - 8PM

 helpline@eczema.org

 www.eczema.org

The National Eczema Society provides practical support, advice and information for people with eczema and their carers; and raises awareness of the needs of those with eczema with health professionals, teachers and the government.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM (NFBUK)

 01924 291 313

 admin@nfbuk.org

 www.nfbuk.org

A self advocacy organisation which aims to promote a better quality of life for all visually impaired people, through activities at local branch level and nationally, through campaigning.

NEWLIFE FOUNDATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

 0800 9020 095 - Freephone helpline - Monday - Friday 9.30AM - 5PM

 www.newlifecharity.co.uk

Provide support for disabled and terminally ill children in the UK through equipment to help individual children, nurse-led support services, the funding of medical research, and campaigning.

PHAB

 020 8667 9443

 info@phab.org.uk

 www.phab.org.uk

Phab's aim is to promote and encourage people of all abilities to come together on equal terms to make more of life together.

THE PLACE2BE

 0207 923 5500

 enquiries@place2be.org.uk

 www.theplace2be.org.uk

The Place2Be is a national charity which provides emotional and therapeutic services in primary and secondary schools, building children's resilience through talking, creative work and play. They help children and young people to cope with wide-ranging and often complex social issues including bullying, bereavement, domestic violence, family-breakdown, neglect and trauma.

RAINBOW TRUST

 01372 363 438

 enquiries@rainbowtrust.org.uk

 www.rainbowtrust.org.uk

Provides practical and emotional support to families who have a child with a life-threatening or terminal illness.

SCOPE

 0808 800 3333 - Free helpline - Monday - Friday 9AM -5PM

 helpline@scope.org.uk

 www.scope.org.uk

A national disability organisation that supports disabled people and their families. Provide a range of support, information and campaigning services, both locally and nationally, in addition to providing opportunities in education, employment, residential and day services. Visit the Scope website or contact the helpline for free, confidential information and advice.

SENSE - FOR DEAFBLIND PEOPLE

 0300 330 9256
0300 330 9256 - Textphone

 info@sense.org.uk

 www.sense.org.uk

Sense is the leading national charity that supports and campaigns for children and adults who are deafblind. They provide expert advice, information and specialist services to deafblind people, their families and carers, and the professionals working with them. They also support people with sensory impairments who have additional disabilities.

SPEECH TEACH

 www.speechteach.co.uk

A website for parents and professionals supporting children with speech difficulties. It provides free Speech and Language Therapy resources for speech and learning difficulties, for example dyspraxia, apraxia and autism. Other areas of articulation, literacy and late speaking are covered together with links and reviews for other websites specialising in these area. There is also a forum for exchanging ideas and opinions.

TOURETTES ACTION (UK) ASSOCIATION

 0300 777 8427 - Helpdesk

 on-line enquiry form

 www.tourettes-action.org.uk

A registered charity dedicated to educating, informing, campaigning, providing support and promoting medical research on behalf of all those affected by Tourette Syndrome.

WHIZZ-KIDZ

 020 7233 6600

 info@whizz-kidz.org.uk

 www.whizz-kidz.org.uk

Whizz-Kidz is a charity that aims to give disabled children and young people the independence to enjoy an active childhood - at home, at school and at play.

The charity provides children and young people with wheelchairs and other mobility equipment, training, advice and life skills to give them the independence to be themselves, and to make an immediate and life changing difference to their lives.

WINSTON'S WISH

 08088 020 021 - Helpline

 info@winstonswish.org.uk

 www.winstonswish.org.uk

A national service providing support to children who have been bereaved and their families. Parents, carers and professionals can use the helpline for information and guidance or to refer children to the service. Advice/support can be provided for children bereaved by suicide or murder. Resources available for families and professionals.

YOUNG MINDS - CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH

 0808 802 5544 - Parents' confidential helpline
(Free for mobiles and landlines)

 on-line contact form

 www.youngminds.org.uk

Young Minds is a UK charity committed to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people, through campaigning, research and influencing policy and practice. They also provide a telephone helpline service for parents and carers, on-line resources, training and development, outreach work and publications.

Young Minds can provide support on a range of different issues; including depression, anxieties and phobias, self injury, and drug and alcohol abuse.

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NORTHUMBERLAND SEND INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICE

 01670 623555

 alison.bravey@northumberland.gov.uk

 www.northumberland.gov.uk (search for SEND Information, Advice and Support)

IN IT TOGETHER - NORTHUMBERLAND PARENT CARER FORUM

 07729 192909

 info@in-it-together.org.uk

 www.in-it-together.org.uk

 www.facebook.com/inittogthernorthumberland

NORTHUMBERLAND FAMILIES INFORMATION SERVICE

 0800 023 4440 or 01670 624889

 fis@northumberland.gov.uk

 <http://northumberland.fsd.org.uk>