# **SEND** Welcome to the Autumn 2024

# edition of the SEND Newsletter!

Remember, if your child is starting school in 2025, or moving to secondary school, you can apply for their school place from September 2024. It is a good idea to attend open evenings or arrange a visit to your local schools. There's lots of great advice on the Local Offer webpage if you are applying for a school place for your child with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Visit **www.SEND/lancashire.gov.uk** and select the "Primary and secondary education" category.

October is ADHD Awareness month. Although this was founded in America, it has been adopted in the UK to raise awareness of the condition, educate people and help those with ADHD to thrive. You can read more inside about where to get information and support in Lancashire.

If you haven't already discovered the new "What's On" guide to for libraries and Family hubs, you can find out more about it in this edition. There's lot of free activities including Family SEND groups and Colourful Footsteps stay and play groups.

As always, we are keen to include more stories from parents and carers in the newsletter. Reading about another parent's experience can be so reassuring to those who are new to the world of SEND. If you or a member of your family would like to write an article for a future issue of SEND, please contact us at: **FIND@lancashire.gov.uk** 

We hope you enjoy the Autumn edition of the SEND newsletter.

#### **Anna Burkinshaw** Policy, Commissioning and Children's Health

#### f www.facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer



The wind is rising, and the air is wild with leaves. We have had our summer evenings; now for October eves! *Humbert Wolfe* 

#### umbert Wolfe

# INSIDE

#### 2 - 4 Break Time

5 New Director of Education, Culture and Skills

Directories

- 7 ADHD Awareness Month
- 10 Lancashire Parent Carer Forum
- 11 SENDIAS Choosing a School
- 13 POWAR
- 15 Lancashire TAAG
- 17 East Lancs Down's Syndrome Support Group
- 18 New Hydrotherapy Pool CEA Card
- 19 Asthma & Lung UK
- 19-21 Parent Carer Support
- 22 SEND Employment Update
- 23 The Legacy Project
- 24-25 Young Adults
- 26 Watch me do it
- 27 LCC contact details

SEND Partnership: Workforce Development



lancashire.gov.uk/SEND

# WHO WE ARE

LEARNACTIVE

We believe every child deserves the chance to explore, learn, and thrive in a safe, supportive environment. Our multi-activity programme is specifically designed for Break Time, offering a wide range of engaging, inclusive activities that cater for unique needs and interests.



## COMING SOON TO..

Chorley Hyndburn West Lancs South Ribble Ribble Valley

During term time & holiday periods.

learn.active@outlook.com











# STARS CAMP

# **FREE MINIBUS**

Thanks to our partnership with Lancashire County Council, we can offer free minibus travel for our Stars Camp to those receiving 78 Break Time hours. Only four hours will be used for your daily place. Please note, minibus places are limited.

If you don't receive LCC Break Time hours, please contact us to discuss.

The minibus will pick up and drop off from Fylde and Wyre.

- To book or for more info:
- Email: info@bfcct.co.uk
- 🔄 Call: 01253 348691











Department

for Education



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

#### Stars School Holiday Camp

For children with a disability aged 7 to 18 from Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre.

Enjoy a variety of activities including sports, dance, gymnastics, arts & crafts, Lego, games room, and more!



#### Stars School Holiday Youth Group

For young adults with a disability aged 15 to 25 who are still in education.

To find out if you are eligible please get in touch.

Four LCC Break Time hours per day can be used Concessions available.

North Stand Community Hub Bloomfield Road Stadium, FY1 6JJ





Lancashire

County Council

# Lancashire Short Breaks Service

# **Break Time**

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

#### **New Break Time Providers**

We are pleased to welcome two new Break Time providers since the last update:

**Lowther Pavilion** in Lytham St Annes delivered some creative theatrebased workshops during the summer holidays; we look forward to more from them in the future!

Learn Active will be delivering Break Time groups from October half term in Hyndburn, Preston, Chorley and West Lancs, plus a group in Ribble Valley to be added towards the end of the year. Activities offered will focus on confidence, self esteem and independence skills.

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

#### How do I book activities?

- Visit the Break Time Activities page on the Local Offer to find details of all the Break Time providers. Each entry tells you about the types of activities offered, when and where the sessions take place, plus the provider's contact details.
- You can access any provider(s) from the list, however be aware that transport is not provided, so you will need to be able to get your child to/from the venue. The providers are listed in district order to make it easier to find something local.

- You cannot use your Break Time hours at any club that is not on the list.
- Please contact your chosen provider(s) directly to discuss your child's individual needs and to ask any questions you may have. Activity sessions are booked directly with the provider.
- When booking sessions, the provider will ask you for your child's Break Time membership number. If you have lost their number, email us at breaktime@ lancashire.gov.uk Please include your child's full name, date of birth and postcode.
- There is usually a parental contribution to pay for the activities – most providers charge around £2 per hour, however this varies between providers and depending on the types of activities offered, for example a trip out may include the cost of entry tickets/transport. Providers should tell you what the cost is when you book a session.

#### Registrations

Please remember, to continue accessing Break Time groups, you must re-register your child each year.

Registrations for 2025/26 are expected to open at October half term, for both new and existing members. More details will be shared on the Local Offer website and facebook page, closer to the time.

#### Feedback

We welcome feedback (good or bad!) from all Break Time members and their families, to help us develop and improve the service further. If there is anything you would like to tell us



about your experience of using the service, please complete the online form at www.lancashire.gov.uk/ children-education-families/ special-educational-needs-anddisabilities/things-to-do/shortbreaks-feedback

#### **Contact Us**

For any queries on the Break Time service, please contact us at **breaktime@lancashire.gov.uk** 

If you prefer to speak to someone, please call 0300 123 6720 and ask for the Children and Family Wellbeing SEND Team.

Full information on Break Time, including details of all our providers, can be found on the Local Offer at: www.lancashire.gov. uk/children-education-families/ special-educational-needs-anddisabilities/things-to-do/break-time

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



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

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

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

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



# A message from Paul Turner, the new Director of Education, Culture and Skills

My name is Paul Turner, and I am originally from Urmston but now live in Wigan. I am married with three children, aged 11, 13 and 15. I worked in schools for many years as a history teacher, head of department and senior leader and then for Blackpool Council where I was a School Safeguarding Advisor, Head of Service for Education and then Assistant Director with responsibility for Education, SEND and Early Years.

I have a degree in Ancient History and Archaeology, a Post Graduate Certificate in Education, a Post Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership and Innovation, an MSc in safeguarding in an international context and I am three years through my education doctorate. I also hold the national professional qualification for senior leadership.

I have written seven history books that are used in schools in the UK and further afield and I have worked with the Department for Education on a number of projects in Blackpool. I have successfully bid for two new schools in the last two years, with my teams (always a team effort). I was lead officer in Blackpool for the SEND inspection and the written statement of action.

I believe very strongly in inclusion, high quality teaching, the availability of high-quality early help and guidance and how we can break down barriers to high levels of educational performance, even in the most deprived areas.

I am heavily invested in the powers of co-production, and I believe that listening is the key part of communication, so I endeavour to do that regularly, and well.

My vision for services in Lancashire is very clear. I want to provide the highest quality provision at all times and one that meets the needs of the communities that we serve. When I joined LCC I said "I am committed to improving education in disadvantaged communities and creating sustainable change to help others treat learning as a lifelong journey. I know that communities require bespoke solutions to address the educational issues that they face."

"I believe bringing the local community into the wider life of a school is integral to continued and sustained improvement of educational outcomes. I also know that children must be at the heart of every decision we make."

aul Turner

Director of Education, Culture and Skills, Lancashire County Council

# Directories a reminder!



Supporting children, young people and families to succeed in Lancashire



There are lots of ways to discover information about what services are available in Lancashire to children, young people and their families, whether they are special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) services or not.

The Lancashire SEND Directory has been live since 2021 and is a great way to search for services in Lancashire which are beneficial to families whilst being free, low cost or affordable.

These not only include health services, education settings and national charities, but also clubs, organisations and family support. The SEND Directory is updated regularly with new services and groups. We recommend using the keyword search to help to find what you're looking for.

Some of the most recent additions have included disability football and cricket, Lancashire libraries and even an online gaming community! You can find the SEND Directory by visiting the Local Offer website www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND.

Another great resource for families is the new "What's On" guide you can find by visiting the Family Hubs network page https://lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/family-hubs/. You can filter activities by age, area, type of event, and even by SEND events. Many of the activities and events are free and held at your local library or Family Hub.



# Advice Drop-In Sessions

Are you looking for some support and advice ?

Come along to Ribbleton Family Hub where you can call in and speak with a range of agencies, including, Preston City Council, Citizens Advice, CFWS and Community Gateway. Advice will be available on a range of subjects including:

Housing Debt Advice Food Banks Benefit Advice

Free Funded Nursery Places Training and Employment Fire Safety

#### **Autism Pathway Navigator**

Learn about the Autism pathway processes, ask for advice about referrals and other mechanisms of support. Receive signposting support from someone with lived experience of a child/ young person with autism.



2-4pm Tuesday August 27th Tuesday September 24th Tuesday October 29th Tuesday November 26th



Ribbleton Family Hub, Ribbleton Hall Drive, Ribbleton, Preston, PR2 6EE

Telephone: 01772 539444







The Incredible Years program is an evidence-based program shown to strengthen positive parent-child interactions and attachment, reduces harsh discipline and fosters parents' ability to promote children's social, emotional, and language development.

For Parents of children Age 3-8 years

Venue: Preston East Family Hub, Brookfield Primary School, Watling Street Road, Ribbleton, PR2 6TU	
Start: Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	
<b>Time:</b> 09.30 – 12.00	
<u>OR</u>	
<b>Venue:</b> Clayton Brook Primary School, Great Greens Lane, Bamber Bridge	
Start: Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	

Time: 12.30 – 2:30pm

#### Course Length:

Email:

vcl.019.theparentingteam@nhs.ne

Phone: 0300 247 0040

The Incredible Years group visits:

- Play
- Praise
- Coaching
   Boundaries
- Boundaries Rules
- Commands
- Consequences
- Calming Techniques
- Problem Solving
- Emotional Regulation

"I felt nervous about coming to the group but now I feel excited.

I didn't realise that my mood and behaviour affected my son, now I know the power of modelling behaviours I want to see more of<sup>e</sup>





## Autism Training

Oliver House, a specialist autism school, are offering free training to any parents. There will be ten courses:

Aspris Children's Services

9th September 2024	Throwing away the rule book – Parenting in Autism
7 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	PDA and High Anxiety in Autism
4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Autism and ADHD
2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2024	Sensory issues and Autism
13 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Maximising Educational opportunities
10 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Organisations who support families
10 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Behaviours that challenge
12 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Autism & Associated Conditions
9 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	The Future - beyond school age
7 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	Transitions in Autism

The courses will run from 10am to 12 noon and there are 80 places on each course. Tea & coffee will be provided.

Please note that if you wish to attend you <u>must</u> book on the courses. Please contact Jenny Powell at Oliver House School on 01257 220011 to book.

Venue: Valley Church, Fourfields, Bamber Bridge, Preston, PR5 6GS



# October is ADHD awareness month

### What is ADHD Awareness Month?

October 1st - October 31st 2024

ADHD Awareness Month takes place throughout October and is dedicated to raising awareness of and educating people about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The goal of ADHD awareness month is to provide reliable information and resources to help people thrive with ADHD.

The 2024 theme is Awareness is Key!, and in this article you can find lots of resources to learn more about the condition.

## What is ADHD?

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a condition that affects people's behaviour. People with ADHD can seem restless, may have trouble concentrating and may act on impulse.

Symptoms of ADHD tend to be noticed at an early age and may become more noticeable when a child's circumstances change, such as when they start school.

Most cases are diagnosed when children are under 12 years old, but sometimes it's diagnosed later in childhood.

AWARENESS AWARENESS IS KEY!

People with ADHD may also have additional problems, such as sleep and anxiety disorders.

You can find out more by visiting https://www.nhs.uk/ conditions/attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder-adhd

# Why should we get involved in ADHD Awareness Month?

Statistics show that between 2% and 5% of UK school children have a 'type' of ADHD. This means it's likely that most UK primary schools will have, at the very least, one student with ADHD enrolled in the school.

ADHD Awareness Month is the perfect opportunity to educate adults and children about ADHD and promote respect and compassion for those with the condition.

To access support and information in Lancashire, you can visit https://www.healthyyoungmindslsc.co.uk/ and search "ADHD".

https://www.adhdlancashire.com/ also have some great resources and guidance for parent carers, as do the national charity https://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk/ where you can access free downloads.

If you want to find out more about autism and ADHD you can visit the Local Offer website www. SEND/lancashire. gov.uk and search for the "autism unlocked" page.







# RAVE NUL SELE

"Fabulous day out on the beach. Amazing to have this available when otherwise we'd be sitting on the side. My 11 year old son loved it as did his family. Fantastic experience. We will be back!"

We are a registered charity dedicated to giving as many people as possible, local residents and visitors, access to enjoy our beautiful beach and coastline with their friends and family. Our fleet of chairs are specially designed to be light and easy to manoeuvre on the sand and shingle, up to and into the shallow water.

A hoist is available to assist transfer between chairs and we operate within appropriate COVID guidelines and our 'Safe Guide to the Beach'.

even more individuals and their families can make memories that will last a lifetime!



#### HOW TO BOOK ....

- Telephone 03000 111 003 in advance with the date and time you'd like to reserve a chair. We will call back to confirm availability and to make the arrangements for your visit.
- Call in to The Wheel Base, Central Promenade. We will be open weekends and holidays 10am - 4pm (bookings at all other times should be made in advance by phone)

#### **OUR PARTNERS**

Thank you to these organisations for their support and funding of Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs: FLEETWOOD ROTARY FLEETWOOD TOWN COUNCIL WYRE COUNCIL HEALTHIER FLEETWOOD

The chairs are FREE to hire - donations on the day or via justgiving.com are welcome so



#### WHERE TO FIND US ...

Central Cate	Marine Hall
FY7 6QE	
	Esplanade
New Boston	The Mount



Freephone: 03000 111 003 W: fleetwoodbeachwheelchairs.co.uk

Fleetwood



#### **ABOUT US**

Sign Hi Say HI! is a charity for local families with children and young people (0-25 years) who are deaf or have a hearing loss, run by parents, carers and grandparents. Sign HI Say Hi! is affiliated to the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS).

We run regular activity sessions for deaf/hearing loss children/ young people, their families, siblings (under 19), parents, and carers. All deaf and young people are welcome whether they choose to communicate

by speech/ BSL/sign supported English etc.

Deaf children/young people meet, take part in activities such as sports and crafts and simply have the opportunity to be together. Parents /carers can have a coffee and have the opportunity to socialise together. Many children or young people find they are the only deaf child or young person in their school and at Sign Hi Say Hi! they are with other young deaf children/young people. We also offer new parents whose children have just been identified as deaf informal parent to parent support.

Activity sessions are held term time – most events are held Tuesday evenings 6.00pm to 8.00pm or Sunday afternoons – we try and vary where we meet up and have a range of activities to appeal to different ages. If you want to know

more about us or have a chat please ring 07437 335655 or email signhisayhi@ndcsgroup.org.uk

### Membership

We receive no local or government funding and rely on attracting grants and donations to run the activity sessions so we have to charge for membership (£5.00 per family a year). The charge for activity sessions is normally £1.00 per child unless otherwise stated.

#### Child Protection

Sign Hi Says Hi! takes Child Protection very seriously and has Child Protection Policies and Procedures in place. We also have a designated Child Protection Officer.

WE ARE A REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1037445

# Lancashire SEND Partnership: Parent Carers and Practitioners Working Together

### Online: Microsoft Teams and Face-to-Face sessions



Lancashire SEND Plan 2021 - 2025 is soon coming to an end.

Lancashire Parent Carer Forum (LPCF) are hosting a series of events between May and November 2024 for parent Lancashire Parent carers and practitioners to meet

our new Director of Education, Paul Carer Forum Turner, revisit the SEND plan which we coproduced with parent carers and practitioners in 2021 and write a new SEND Plan together.

We will discuss the priorities for the new plan which takes us forward from 2025.

We asked in our May sessions if our priorities for our children, young people and families are the same now as they were in 2021, or if they had changed since the COVID pandemic? You told us that the main priorities are the same but felt some of the plans had not been put into place and we should now concentrate on robust plans and evidence of the impact of what is put into place.

The next step is to write a new draft SEND Plan. We are excited to be working with Cath Ratcliffe and Gail Bedding on developing what we are already doing and embedding good practice, making sure parent carers and practitioners are all working together effectively

Details and links are on our Facebook page where you can also sign up to our membership database on our Website to be sent information about upcoming events and much more.



### Writing our new SEND Plan

• For all parent carers – please just attend one session:

- 14 Oct 10.30-12 noon 15 Oct 5.30-7pm 16 Oct 1-2.30pm
- For parent carers who run a local community SEND group please attend both sessions:

#### 5 November 2024 • 19 November 2024

More information will be available through our membership database so please sign up at: www.lancashireparentcarerforum.org.uk

More information available through LPCF Facebook:

www.facebook.com/LancashireParentCarerForum

and Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/lancashire-parent-carerforum-33669080245

All parent carers welcome to come along!

# SEND IAS

Information, advice and support for Special Educational Needs and Disability

Trying to decide on which school for your child to attend can be an exciting yet worrying time as part of your child's educational journey. Whether looking for your very first school or deciding on a secondary school, visiting the schools, talking to teachers, and attending open events can provide valuable insights to help you decide on which school you feel is right.

Comparing different schools can be a detailed process, but here are some key factors to consider:

- 1. **Curriculum:** Check if the school offers a curriculum that aligns with your child's interests and future goals. This includes special education, and extracurricular activities.
- 2. **Facilities:** Evaluate the school's facilities, including classrooms, libraries, sports fields, and technology.
- 3. **Safety and Discipline:** Research the school's policies on bullying, discipline, and overall safety.
- 4. **Location:** Proximity to your home can be important for convenience and your child's social life.
- 5. Values and Culture: Ensure the school's values and culture align with your family's beliefs and expectations.
- 6. **Extracurricular Activities:** Look at the variety and quality of extracurricular activities offered, such as sports, arts, and clubs.



When visiting a school, asking the right questions can help you get a comprehensive understanding of the environment and whether it's the right fit for your child. Here are some important questions to consider:

#### **Academic and Curriculum**

- What is the school's approach to teaching and learning?
- How does the school support students with different learning needs?
- What extracurricular activities and programs are available?
- How does the school integrate technology into the curriculum?
- What are the school's policies on homework and assessments?

#### **Facilities and Resources**

- What facilities are available for sports, arts, and other activities?
- How are the classrooms equipped?
- How does the school ensure a safe and secure environment?

#### **School Culture and Values**

- What is the school's mission and philosophy?
- How does the school handle discipline and behavioural issues?
- How does the school promote inclusivity and diversity?

#### **Parent and Community Involvement**

- How does the school communicate with parents?
- What opportunities are there for parent involvement?
- How does the school engage with the local community?

#### Logistics

- What are the school hours and calendar?
- What are the transportation options?

#### **Student Support**

- What support services are available for students (counselling, health services, etc.)?
- How does the school support students' social and emotional development?
- What is the school's approach to college and career readiness?

Asking these questions can give you a well-rounded view of the school and help you make an informed decision.

Helpline Number 0300 123 6706 - 9 to 5, Monday to Friday. You can leave a message outside of these times and we will call you back. Email - information.lineteam@lancashire.gov.uk Web site - www.lancssendias.org.uk

www.facebook.com/LancashireSENDinformationAdviceandSupportTeam



# Tackle loneliness head on



Building Connections is an NSPCC service that empowers young people to tackle loneliness.

Building Connections

#### 65% of secondary school students said they didn't feel equipped to cope with loneliness.

#### Building Connections can support you through.

Created for young people up to the age of 19. Discover tools that work for you by working with a befriender online over 11 weeks.

Befrienders are adult volunteers who are reliable and supportive. They're trained to guide you through the Building Connections programme.



# Hi, I'm Michelle 🛞 🅼

"Whether young people are confident sharing their experiences of loneliness or they find it more difficult to connect initially, that's ok, we can work with them building a supportive connection. Allowing them to find the tools and resilience they can draw upon to cope with loneliness." **Michelle, Building Connections Befriender** 

Build SUPPORT. Build CONFIDENCE. Build CONNECTIONS.

Talk to your teacher for more information

6NSPCC 2023. National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Registered charity England and Wales 216401, Scotland SC037717 and Jarsey 289. Photography by Tom Hull, Child pictured is a model. Adult pictured is Michelle, a Building Connections Befriender.





#### Make new friends and join in with our family sessions.

Shared sessions for parents and siblings of children with additional needs £3/4 Per child



#### Feet up in the cinema room.

Accesible cinema hire and shared sessions, streaming some of the lastest movies to hit the small screen and sometimes the big screen too

#### Private hire Sensory Rooms.

3 Fully customisable sensory room exclusive hire. Challenge our team by requesting any amazing visuals, music, theme or environment you can imagine.

#### Events.

From February the season of love to the Easter Bunny Then Right through to Christmas, The Space Centre holds accessible all inclusive events to suit every need.

Please note all sessions are by pre booking only, Please Call the centre and one of the team will be happy to help.

Email: Space.centre@creativesupport.co.uk, Tel: 01772 760403



#### Sir Tom Finney Preston Soccer Centre FA Charter Standard Club **SEND** Provision



Ages 5-11 Comets/ Multi-sport Ages 12-15 Football Ages 5-15 Frame Football

> Saturday Mornings 9.15-10.15am **UCLAN Sports Arena** PR2 1SG

Friday Evenings 6pm-7pm Playfootball, Preston PR2 3TX

University of Central Lancashire UCLan

3

SUBBIDGE

DODECHE Porsche Centre Preston

Aged 16+

Football Training

cerebral palsy sport

# SENse Hu

Special Educational Needs, Support & Empowerment

A friendly and inclusive space with a range of activities and support for children wikin additional needs, their p<mark>arents,</mark> siblings and carers 33 Cinrist Church Ministry Centre





Mondays in Term Time 1:30pm - 2:15pm

## MUSICAL PLAYTIME

Music and sensory stay & play for children 0-4 years (No Diagnosis Necessary)

Cafe Vista will be open and staffed by students from Po

FREE taster, places limited -To book go to www.bookwhen.com/alisonturpinmusic Christ Church Ministry Centre 1 Long Lane Aughton L39 5A5

# This is Us!



🌞 Dive into Awesome! 🚀 Hey, awesome young minds aged 12-25 with Special

Educational Needs, this is YOUR call! 🌈 Join our vibrant SEND group, your exclusive fun zone. Activities, new pals, and tons of fun await! It's your time to shine!





### Discover the Support and Community at Lancashire TAAG

At Lancashire TAAG (The Autism and ADHD Group), we are dedicated to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for children with autism, ADHD, attachment disorders, sensory processing disorders, and other neurodiverse conditions. Our mission is to provide enriching activities and valuable resources for both children and their families, fostering a sense of community and well-being.

### **Engaging Activities for Neurodiverse Children**

We offer a variety of activities designed to promote physical, emotional, and social development. Our weekly events take place every Wednesday evening at Springfield Leisure Centre in Coppull, featuring:

- Multi-Skills Sports: Encouraging physical fitness and teamwork.
- Indoor Wall Climbing: Building confidence and motor skills.
- **Rebound Therapy:** Providing therapeutic benefits through trampoline exercises.

We invite interested families to contact us to arrange a tour and see if our programmes are suitable for your child.



# Exciting New Initiatives

As we continue to grow, we are excited to introduce new projects aimed at enhancing the well-being of our members. Our latest initiative includes a specialised programme incorporating paddle boarding, canoeing, and rebound therapy. This holistic approach combines the benefits of water sports and therapeutic exercises to improve the quality of life for autistic individuals.

### Special Events for Younger Members

We are thrilled to announce a special event for our younger members who might be too young to attend our regular events. Thanks to the generous support of Rascals Play Centre in Walton-le-Dale, we will have exclusive late access on the last Wednesday of each month! This is a fantastic opportunity for young children with autism, ADHD, or other neurodivergent conditions to enjoy the play centre with their siblings and friends.

- First Event: Wednesday, 25th September, 6:00 – 7:00pm
- **Tickets:** £5.00 each, available online only. Don't forget to bring your ticket or code for scanning by our volunteers.

Hot and cold drinks will be available, but please note the kitchen will be closed for food. This event also provides a wonderful chance for parents to meet, network, and support each other.

### Meet Our New Junior Committee

We are proud to introduce our first Junior Committee. led by Lianne, a dedicated volunteer who has been with Lancashire TAAG since its inception. The Junior Committee will gather feedback from members on various topics, including activities, events, merchandise, and T-shirt designs. They will also play a crucial role in organising events and brainstorming fundraising ideas. To express our gratitude, Junior Committee members will meet 3-4 times a year and enjoy ice cream at a local dessert shop. These meetings are a great opportunity for parents to connect and socialise as well.

### Our Transition to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Formerly operating as an unincorporated association (1157535), we have successfully transitioned to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). While our name remains Lancashire TAAG, we now operate under a new charity number: 1208161. This transition allows us to better serve our community and expand our reach.

### Join Us and Get Involved!

We invite families to join our supportive community and participate in our activities. For more information or to arrange a tour, please contact us at info@taaglancashire.co.uk. At Lancashire TAAG, we are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of neurodivergent children and their families. We look forward to welcoming you and supporting your journey.

### The Lancashire TAAG Team





#### About Us

We are a parent-let charity, supporting families with a member with Down's Syndrome of all ages across East Lancs and beyond.

We offer a wide range of services but at our heart we are here to support families to get together, share experiences, make new friends, support each other and have fun too.

We meet every month in Whitewell Bottom, with something for every age group and a safe space for parents and carers to chat. Each month has a different theme, for example in September we have a visit from a gymnastics group, in October we have a bake-off competition, in November a firework display and December our big Christmas party. All members of the family are welcome; we have siblings, Grandmas, Grandads, uncles, aunties, cousins who attend regularly and make their own friends and support network. "we really enjoyed meeting with everyone they were great and very welcoming! We can't wait for the next meeting" — Lisa, new member



Our biggest event of the year is our group trip to Blackpool; this year nearly 200 people joined us over a weekend in May and everyone had a great time!



Another cornerstone of our offer is the monthly social group for our members with DS aged 13+ (no upper age limit). This is supported by a youthful team who create a great atmosphere where our young people can be themselves, make friends and have space from their parents and carers (who get to chill and chat in a nearby room). This meets at the Millhouse Venue in Clayton le Moors.

Inclusion and achieving to the best of our members' abilities is very important to us, so we provide weekly pre-school educational development classes and school support from an educational specialist.

We are a totally self-funded group, so we ask for small contributions for some events, but we are always looking for partners and support to ensure all our services are as accessible as possible.

If you are interested in attending a session, or volunteering or supporting our group, please contact Rachel Shatliff chair@eastlancsds.com and we'd be delighted to hear from you.

#### Dry Massage Facility!

In addition to our new Sensory Hydro-Pool, we will also be introducing our new DRY Water Massage Bed, 'MEDWAVE'. The MEDWAVE is designed to stimulate certain muscle groups in the human body using temperature controlled water pressure via an electric mat. This medical device is indicated to assist in the therapy of muscular and musculoskeletal disorders, and disfunctions and the pain caused by these.

The decision to add this new piece of equipment was made with individuals in mind who may have difficulty accessing the Hydropool due to sensory impairments. This will allow individuals to experience the same benefits of the Hydro-pool without the sensation of water.

രി Charter House





We also have a fantastic Multi Sensory Room on site, designed and equipped to suit the needs of children and adults of all ages. This is the perfect environment to aid in early development and is a safe space for those with learning difficulties, developmental disorders, behavioural difficulties, emotional needs or dementia. to freely express themselves and interact

with their surroundings.

Charter House Resource Centre C.I.C, Morse Street, Burnley, Lancashire, BB10 4PB 01282 429094 Info@charterhouseburnley.co.uk www.charterhouseburnley.co.uk



The CEA Card is a national card scheme developed for UK cinemas by the UK Cinema Association (UKCA).

Charter House has been supporting adults with disabilities and learning difficulties in Burnley for over 13 years. Through discussions with local social workers, physiotherapists, members of the community, and the service users we support, we have identified an increasing demand for a

This brand-new Sensory Hydrotherapy Pool will boast a

variety of fantastic equipment including floating fibre

speakers, a ceiling track hoist and much more, making

optics, LED motion lights, wall projectors, mounted

hydrotherapy more engaging and accessible for the

We are extremely excited to be bringing such a

well-needed facility to the Burnley community.

user. This will be the first Sensory Hydrotherapy Pool

Hydrotherapy Pool facility in Burnley.

of it's kind in Burnley!

The Card enables a disabled cinema guest to receive a complimentary ticket for someone to go with them when they visit a participating cinema.

To apply, the person requiring assistance must be 5 years of age or older and be in receipt of one of the following:

- Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Attendance Allowance (AA)
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP)

#### Or hold:

- Severely Sight Impaired Registration (formerly Registered Blind)
- Sight Impaired Registration (formerly Partially Sighted)

There is a one-off fee of £6.00 when you apply, and the card is valid for one year.

Around 90% of cinemas in the UK accept the CEA Card including chains such as Vue, Odeon and Cineworld, as well as some independent cinemas

The Card is developed by UKCA's Disability Working Group, whose members include film exhibitors and distributors, and national disability charities such as RNID, RNIB, Dimensions and Whizz Kidz.

Find out more and apply at www.ceacard.co.uk





Did you know there are a number of different types of screening in UK cinemas, helping to ensure everyone enjoys the big screen experience?

Accessible Screenings UK is a listing site to help you find information on accessible screenings in UK Cinemas.

These include Audio Described. Subtitled/Open Captioned and Autism Friendly screenings.

Many of these adjustments are available across a broad range of cinemas including independents, local and national circuits. Some venues cannot provide these extra services, so check first to see what is available at your local cinema.

For more information, visit www.accessiblescreeningsuk.co.uk



Burnley,

Charter House

**NEW Sensory** 

Hydrotherapy Pool!

With help from Burnley Council, we at Charter House Resource Centre C.I.C have launched our plans to build a brand-new, state of the art, Sensory Hydrotherapy Pool on site at our day care centre on Morse St,

For more information call

now or drop in to see us.

# Asthma + Lung UK Parent Carer Support Network

#### Who are we?

Do you have children or grandchildren who are 0-17 and living with asthma? The Asthma + Lung UK Parent Carer Support Network is a group for you. You are welcome to join us if your child has been diagnosed with asthma, or if you think they might have asthma. We will give you lots of help to manage your child's asthma at home, in school and in after-school clubs.

#### How can we help?

Every month we get together in a relaxed and friendly online video call. We talk about the ups and downs of our children's asthma journey with kind and supportive nurses and doctors. They can answer any questions you have about asthma. Our group is also a great place to meet other families of children with asthma, who understand what you're going through. Join our mailing list and sign up to our next event here:

Ambitious about Autism

> TalkTalk For Everyone

#### Parent and Carer Support Network Events Asthma + Lung UK (asthmaandlung.org.uk)

Wednesday 25th September 2024	After school clubs and asthma	Asthma should not stop children getting involved in after school clubs and sports. There are lots of Olympic athletes living with asthma who have gone for gold! Join us on World Lung Day to learn how to manage your child's asthma. Let them reach for the stars!
Wednesday 23rd October 2024	From Hospital to Home	Sometimes the scariest thing is not knowing what's to come. Learn about what will happen if your child's asthma gets worse and they need to go to hospital. Hear from families who have had to take their child to hospital before. Find out about how to care for your child when they leave hospital.
Tuesday 26th November 2024	Stay well in the festive season	Many children with asthma will also have food allergies or intolerances. The festive season can be a very worrying time, with lots of parties and tasty treats for children. Speak to an allergy nurse specialist to help bust your festive food fears.

about Autism

Talk

# Need to talk? Join Talk about Autism

- the online community

for parents and carers of autistic young people.

www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/ understanding-autism/early-years/ parent-carer-online-community



Neurokin Family

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

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

FORTNIGHTLY ONLINE MEETINGS TUESDAYS 8-9PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT NEUROKINFAMILY@GMAIL.COM

20			
PATH	Trinity Parent Carer Group		
For Parents/Carers of Autistic Young People and Mental Health Concerns	for parents and carers of children and young people with special needs or disabilities. Join us for an informal chat with other parents and		
Do you care for an Autistic young person? (with/without diagnosis) Do you have concerns about your child's mental health? Would you benefit from speaking to other parents with shared lived experience?	carers to share information and support. Face to face Meetings 2nd Thursday each month 9:30-11:30 am		
Our informal peer-support group is held in a relaxed, inclusive and confidential space.	St Annes Pastoral Centre, Prescot Rd, Ormskirk L39 4TG		
Connect with others with shared lived experiences, exchange practical advice, receive mutual support, and signposting.	2024 Face 2 Face meeting dates       June 13 <sup>th</sup> July 11 <sup>th</sup> September 12 <sup>th</sup> October 17 <sup>th</sup> NB change     November 14 <sup>th</sup>		
Autism & Mental Health professionals are regularly invited to provide workshops and Q&As.	Virtual Meetings via Zoom		
Where: The Base II Community Centre on Broadfield, Bannister Drive, Leyland PR25 2GD	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday most months 8-9pm 2024 Zoom meeting dates		
When: Fortnightly on Tuesdays (Term Time) commencing <u>Tuesday 10th September @12:30pm-2pm</u> Free to attend - No booking required	June 25 <sup>th</sup> July 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 24 <sup>th</sup> October 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 26 <sup>th</sup>		
For further information contact: Niki (Facilitator) on 07580358080 / .nikih@keycharity.org.uk www.keycharity.org.uk Registered Charity Number 1154772	Email trinitysnap17@gmail.com for a Zoom invitation All Welcome please check TrinitySNAP on Facebook fors any possible date changes due to school holidays etc Trinity Special Needs Advice Partnership		
Dads å Male Caress Brunch Club       Uterentet tarty Velibeing Source         At Highfield Family Hub (Wrights St, Chorley, PR6 OSL)       Quality time å FUN With your Children 0-11yrs         Saturday 31st August Saturday 26th October 9.30am till 11.30am       Outerent tarty Velibeing         NO BOOKING NEEDED!       Vith your Children 0-11yrs	<text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text>		
County	All abilities and needs welcome. Accessible facilities for everyone to enjoy. Let your children explore and nave fun in our expertly crafted soft play area, tailored for their safety and enjoyment.		





### C.H.A.T.S Parent Support Group (Lancaster and Morecambe area)

on Facebook

Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

Who is it for? Any parent/carer involved in the support of any child/young person struggling with mental, emotional or behavioural difficulties.

#### What happens?

The Facebook group is a friendly, safe space to talk, listen and help each other, available 24/7. You don't have to post or comment, sometimes just reading about what others are experiencing is help enough.

> We also host **face-to-face meetings**, **drop-in social meetings**, **workshops** and **Zoom meetings** during term-time.

Rebecca - 07852297215 Claire - 07494206371 chatsnorthwest@gmail.com

#### When?

CHATS Social Café (in person) drop-in First Friday of the month 10am until 12pm

> CHATS Face-To-Face meeting Second Thursday of the month 10am until 12pm

Come along, have a brew and find your people.

CHATS Workshops (places need to be booked) Third Thursday of the month 10am until 1pm

#### Where?

More Music - Devonshire Road, West End, Morecambe, LA3 1QT

CHATS Zoom meeting drop-in (login details are on the Facebook group) Last Thursday of the month 7pm until 8.30pm

# SEND Employment Update – spotlight on supported internships



## Well done, class of 2024! (and welcome to new interns)

The end of the academic year can only mean one thing for our interns; graduation time! Many celebrations took place in June and July, and interns donned their best attire, celebrating among their peers with families, friends and others involved in their journey. For 23-24, we have had eight programmes dotted around Lancashire, with over 50 interns working hard in their respective placements. Their skills development, confidence and abilities have really developed over the last nine months, and we wish them all the best of luck as they go into the world of employment. A big congratulations from all of us in Inclusion at Lancashire County Council!

A huge good luck to the interns beginning their journey for 2024 – 2025, who will be supported throughout this academic year to achieve employment by the end of their programme. Interns will be gaining skills development in a variety of businesses, and we are excited to see them progress throughout the year. Thank you to everyone in advance who will be supporting young people get work ready, from the onsite teams to the organisations hosting them.

## **Programmes in Lancashire**

The local offer page for supported internships has recently updated to reflect the choice of programmes across Lancashire. We are very pleased this year to be introducing two more courses to the offer; Nelson & Colne College will be offering a supported internship in collaboration with ASDA in Colne, and Preston college has partnered with Places for People for September 2024. This brings us to a total of 10 registered programmes in our county. Blackburn College has also partnered with ASDA in Blackburn, and the offer is available to Lancashire residents. You can find out more about each

programme on the Lancashire County Council local offer page. The map below also gives a visual idea of where programmes are located.

If you are thinking of leaving education to go into employment, hold an Education, Health and Care Plan and feel like you could benefit from a supported internship, please contact sendemploymentforum@lancashire.gov.uk. Our friendly Supported Employment Officer is always happy to help young people, as well as parent carers to make informed choices. Likewise, we are always looking for young people who have gained employment to sit on our SEND Employment Forum, so please do get in touch if you would like to be an intern representative.





# The Legacy Project Written by Angela Bergquist

#### Did you know?

Only 6% of adults with special educational needs (SEN) are currently accessing employment nationwide!

The Legacy Project at Divine Days Community aims to change this via a 12-month award-winning supported internship programme for individuals aged 16-25 with educational health and care (EHC) plans, in collaboration with a local educational provider in Skelmersdale and a local employer in the surrounding areas.

Since its establishment in 2021, The Legacy Project has achieved a success rate of over 70% in supporting young people with additional needs to secure employment in their community. The Legacy Project is growing year on year, and we are very excited to continue making a positive difference within West Lancs.

#### Why Choose Us?

At Divine Days Community, we believe that every young person with additional needs should be given the opportunity to achieve their goals and aspirations so that they can thrive and have the best quality of life. At The Legacy Project, we work collaboratively with young people, families, carers, educational providers, and professional organisations to find the most suitable work placement. We recognise the importance of building trusting relationships and admit we are fussy about which organisations we choose as placement providers - individuals must be in an environment where they are respected, included, and valued. We strive to provide our interns with the best possible opportunities so that they have the best chance of achieving positive outcomes.

#### What does it involve?

Students will attend college two days per week and work placement up to three days per week. During this time, they will be fully supported by a job coach and will have the opportunity to meet other students who are also part of the Legacy Project supported internship programme. The students will work towards achieving a nationally recognised qualification in employment skills whilst also accessing work experience with an end goal to achieve employment. Employability Skills focuses on breaking down barriers and addressing skills such as time management, adapting to change, Supported Internships for young adults with additional needs

and fostering independence. Fully qualified, specialist Job coaches work with the interns to develop independence, including such aspects as a tailored travel training programme for those who require it.

#### What would work placement look like?

We have a variety of work placements including schools, gym, retail, joinery, horticultural, and care settings and we continue to add to those in line with the preferences of our interns. We work closely with young people and their parents/carers to ensure they feel fully supported, tailoring their work placements so that they are able to learn at their own pace and are placed in areas they are interested in. With consistent support from their job coach, interns gradually develop autonomy in the workplace and develop the skills required to work independently. Job coaches act as mentors for interns and support them in applying for job roles and developing interview skills.

#### What can an internship lead to?

Our ultimate goal is for students to obtain employment by the end of the programme successfully. It is worth noting that how this will look is very much based on the individual. Some students strive to achieve full-time employment, whilst others may seek part-time or voluntary positions. We work with the individual, their carers and families to ensure we remain focused on matters most to them. In addition to employment, internships provide a fantastic opportunity for individuals to develop their confidence and resilience in a setting that they feel comfortable in whilst being fully supported. We are very proud of all our successes to date and are looking forward to welcoming more young people onto The Legacy Project in September.

If you would like more information or have any questions about The Legacy Project, please contact **Nicola@divinedays.co.uk** 

THE LEGACY PROJECT







Two games of Bingo



ØBINGO\$

Join us for a fun filled evening of Bingo, Karaoke and a game of

Pool.

Your Wednesday Evenings just got even better with a night of Social Interactions and fun for all.

### socialsparks@hotmail.com

**Charter House Resource Centre** Morse Street Burnley **BB10 4PB** 

# LATIONSHIPS

2 week workshop 1st & 8th October 2024 10am - 1pm

- You will learn about: Healthy and unhealthy
- relationships
- Consent in relationships
- How to get help and advice

The Fold, 2-6 Venice Avenue, Burnley, BB11 5JX















For more details contact Lizzie Winkfield, Training Coordinator on 01254 457026 lizzle@spring-projects.co.uk For more information visit: www.meet-n-match.co.uk







- Watch me do it is a FREE website designed to help children with dyspraxia, or other movement difficulties, learn activities of daily living
- The website contains movement demonstration videos for various everyday movement skills, like shoelace tying, opening packets, and using cutlery
- All the video demonstrations are recorded from a first-person viewpoint to match the viewpoint children have when practicing the skills and make it easier to copy the movements
- Children can watch the videos, practice copying the movements, and repeat as often as needed
- Our published research findings have shown that these videos are effective in helping children with dyspraxia learn everyday movement skills
- The videos and website were developed by psychology researchers at Manchester Metropolitan University, in collaboration with occupational therapists, and following feedback from families with lived experience of dyspraxia

Access the website using the link below or scan the QR code: Website: https://watchmedoit.mmu.ac.uk/ Email: watchmedoit@mmu.ac.uk



# Lancashire County Council – contact details

#### www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/get-involved/contact Email: enquiries@lancashire.gov.uk

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

## SEND Partnership: Workforce Development

Through parent carer and practitioner feedback via the SEND support survey, working together virtual events and in person SEND Partnership information and engagement events 2022-2023, gaps in training and knowledge were identified.

Feedback from practitioners told us that they needed to know what support was available to families in an accessible format.

The SEND Partnership agreed that a new information guide on the Local Offer was needed for practitioners to improve gaps in their knowledge and understanding. A task and finish group was established and the SEN support guide for professionals was co-produced to help all practitioners identify how conditions affect children and how to access support with or without a diagnosis.

The SEND Partnership workforce development working group was established in 2023 to review and update the Lancashire SEND Partnership Workforce Strategy 2024. The SEND Partnership training programme was developed and includes the SEND training guide for professionals, and videos and presentations from Network meetings and briefings to complement Education workforce development (SEND) resources.

Many thanks

Jenny Ashton Manager of the SEND Partnership More information can be found at https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/supporting-children-and-families/send/ send-partnership-workforce-development/



Lancashire

Partnership

### Your Help Is Essential

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

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

Contributions for future issues – please contact us.

Email: FIND@lancashire.gov.uk Tel: 01772 538077



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

### **Editorial Group**

Lancashire County Council Sarah.deady@lancashire.gov.uk Anna.burkinshaw@lancashire.gov.uk

#### **Parent Representatives\***

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

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

#### **Voluntary Organisation**

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

#### Health

Clair Martin - Designated Clinical Officer, North Locality

**Winter issue** – deadline for articles 27th September, published December 2024

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

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

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

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

We also have a facebook page. For regular updates, please 'like' our page at: www.facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer

#### Get this free newsletter sent to your door

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

Professionals – please email FIND@lancashire.gov.uk

#### You are welcome to photocopy, display and distribute this newsletter

The SEND Newsletter is produced by Lancashire County Council. The views expressed in signed articles do not necessarily represent those of Lancashire County Council. The newsletter cannot accept any responsibility for products and services advertised within it.

