

# SEND

## Welcome to the Summer edition of the SEND Newsletter!

Has summer finally arrived?!

We've got lots for you in this jam-packed edition of the SEND newsletter.

Carers Week 2025 runs from Monday 9th to Sunday 15th June 2025 and this year's campaign will focus on 'Caring About Equality'. It will highlight the disparities and disadvantages faced by unpaid carers across the UK calling for a fairer society where carers have access to greater support. Inside you can find out about events being hosted by Carer's Link Lancashire plus more.

Our POWAR group and Young Advisors have recently selected winners from a very exciting design competition organised by the SEND Partnership for children and young people to create something reflecting "What makes me feel included?" The entries were outstanding, and it was very difficult to pick the winners! You can see some of the incredible talent inside.

There's been some changes to the Lancashire Parent Carer Forum which you can read about in the newsletter. They are working hard to involve more parent carers in Lancashire, and you can read about what they've been doing and what the next steps are for them. Follow them on Facebook by searching "Lancashire Parent Carer Forum" and keep your eyes peeled for their new website launching soon!

Finally, the new school year will be upon us before we know it. If you have a child starting school you will find lots of tips here <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/early-years-childcare-and-family-support/getting-ready-to-start-school>. If you have a child moving to secondary school or leaving school, don't forget to look at our Preparing For Adulthood guide on the Local Offer website. There is guidance and signposting for every age group from the earliest years right through to adulthood.

Happy reading!

**Anna Burkinshaw**

Policy, Commissioning and Children's Health

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



As you grow older,  
you will discover that  
you have two hands,  
one for helping  
yourself, the other  
for helping others.

**Maya Angelou**



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## GO BEYOND BREAKTIME £2 PER SESSION

Monday - Multisports | 5-7PM  
Fleetwood High - FY7 8HE

Tuesday - Youth Club | 4:30-6:30PM  
Fleetwood Youth Hub - FY7 6AR

Wednesday - E-Sports | 5-7PM  
Highbury Stadium - FY7 6SP



< **BOOK  
NOW**

FLEETWOODTOWNFCCT.COM/SHOP



## GO BEYOND SEND CAMP £12 PER DAY

Ages 8-16 (SEND Only)

Tuesday | Youth Hub - FY7 6AR

Wednesday | Poolfoot Farm - FY5 4HX

Thursday | Day Trip Out - Location Varies

For more info:

Philip.Bowker@fleetwoodtownfc.com



< **BOOK  
NOW**

FLEETWOODTOWNFCCT.COM/SHOP



## RAINBOW HUB FUN CLUB

Rainbow Hub are delighted to be a Lancashire Break Time Fun Club provider

If you have a child (between the age of 5 and 16 years) that has been awarded Lancashire Break Time hours or Break Time Plus hours and would like to attend our Fun Club in the future, please get in touch.

Our fun clubs take place for 4 weeks of the year, 10am -4pm during the school holidays (between the spring and summer terms, Feb-Aug).

For more information on the accessible and inclusive experiences and activities we offer, please contact us, or visit our website:

☎ 01704 823276 🌐 [rainbowhub.org/our-services/fun-club/](http://rainbowhub.org/our-services/fun-club/) ✉ [info@rainbowhub.org](mailto:info@rainbowhub.org)



**RAINBOW HUB**  
Every day is a life changing day

Rainbow Hub, Salt Pit Lane,  
Mawdesley, Ormskirk, L40 2QX



Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR



# FRIENDS OF RIDGEWOOD AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

We provide a high quality inclusive environment. All activities are adapted to meet individual needs.

After School Club

Arts and Crafts, Drama, Sports and Forest School

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday  
3pm-5pm

MORE INFORMATION

☎ 07841590318

📍 Ridgewood Community High School, Eastern Avenue, Burnley

# 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.

## My child has been awarded Break Time hours – what next?

The full list of clubs and groups where you can use your hours can be found at [www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/things-to-do/break-time-activities](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/things-to-do/break-time-activities)

Each entry shows the types of activities offered, what age group it is for, where and when sessions are delivered and the contact details. There may also be details of specific support the provider can offer, for example delivering medication or providing personal care.

Providers are listed by district to help you find something local, however you can use your hours with one or more Break Time providers, in any district. Please note that transport is not provided, parents are responsible for transporting their child to and from the activity.

Contact your chosen provider(s) directly to discuss your child's needs, find out more about the activities and book sessions. You will need the Break Time membership number from your confirmation letter when booking. If you have lost the number, just contact the team at [breaktime@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:breaktime@lancashire.gov.uk)

There will be a parent contribution to pay for the activities, this is usually around £2 per hour, but can vary depending on the type of activities offered. The provider should tell you what the cost is when you book.

Break Time members are awarded 78 hours per year, between 1st April and 31st March. You can keep track of your child's hours by downloading the Hours Tracker at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/things-to-do/break-time/?page=5>

## Additional benefits for Break Time members

Spectrum Gaming offer online activities to autistic young people aged 10-17 who are Break Time members. This service can be accessed in addition to the 78 hours of face to face activities.

Families that have a Break Time membership can also request a **FREE** Max Card which offers discounts on family days out – see the poster on the next page for more details. Discounts are offered per family, so you only need to apply once, even if you have two or more children with Break Time membership.

## How do I register for Break Time?

Registrations take place each year, for both new and existing Break Time members. The registration window for the current year closed in January and unfortunately, we are unable to accept late requests.

Please check the Local Offer for details of other groups and social opportunities that are available. [www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND)

## New Break Time Provider

Since the last update, we are really pleased to introduce our latest new provider, Fleetwood Town Community Trust. Their "Go Beyond" programme delivers a range of fun after school activities for ages 8+ during term time, plus longer sessions and trips out in the school holidays.

## Apply to become a Break Time Provider

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

## Contact Us

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

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.

If you have any feedback on Break Time, or any short breaks service in Lancashire, please complete the online form at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/things-to-do/short-breaks-feedback>





**LEARNACTIVE**  
Coaching & Teaching

**BREAK TIME**  
*Multi-Activity*  
**CAMPS**

Designed to offer SEND children **engaging & enjoyable** experiences.

EVERY TUESDAY 4-6PM  
 LORDSGATE PRIMARY, BURSLOUGH  
 EVERY WEDNESDAY 5-7PM  
 HOPE HIGH SCHOOL, SKELMERSDALE  
 EVERY THURSDAY 5-7PM  
 BUCKSHAW PRIMARY, CHORLEY  
 EVERY SATURDAY 10AM-2PM  
 COPPULL PRIMARY, CHORLEY



Scan to book!

**Indoor games, outdoor sports, challenges, arts & crafts, interactive activities, prizes to be won, etc**

Email us: [learn.active@outlook.com](mailto:learn.active@outlook.com) | Call Us: 07593 312734





**SUMMER HOLIDAYS**  
**BREAK TIME**

**MULTIPLE LOCATIONS!**

- Burnley, Hyndburn, Preston, Ormskirk & Chorley
- 10am - 3pm

**22nd Jul - 29th Aug, 2025**

This program is for Break Time Members aged 5-16. 'Scan the QR code to book'

**WHAT YOU EXPECT**

- Fun and friendship session
- Includes a variety of sporting activities
- Arts and crafts available
- Sensory equipment provided

**STAY ACTIVE HAVE FUN!!!**



SCAN ME

Join us for a fun and friendly session!  
 Enjoy a mix of sports, arts and crafts, and explore sensory equipment!  
 Staffing ratio 1:4.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: [RACHAEL.BLAND@SPORTWORKSLTD.CO.UK](mailto:rachael.bland@sportworksltd.co.uk)



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

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

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

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

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



**Break Time Plus**




**Did you know?**

Break Time Plus provides group based opportunities for children with disabilities

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

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

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

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



## Carers Week 2025: Caring About Equality

**Carers Week** is an annual campaign dedicated to raising awareness about the challenges faced by unpaid carers and recognizing their invaluable contributions to families and communities across the UK. This year, Carers Week will take place from **9-15 June 2025**, with the theme “**Caring About Equality**”.

### What is Carers Week?

Carers Week aims to:

- Raise awareness of the vital role carers play.
- Highlight the challenges faced by unpaid carers.
- Recognize the contributions carers make to society.
- Encourage people to identify as carers and access support.

### Theme for 2025: Caring About Equality

This year's theme focuses on the inequalities faced by unpaid carers, such as:

- Greater risk of poverty
- Social isolation
- Poor mental and physical health

Carers often miss out on opportunities in education, careers, and personal lives due to their caring responsibilities. Carers Week 2025 seeks to address these issues and work towards an equal society where carers are valued, recognized, and supported.

### Get Involved

Join the campaign by:

- Participating in activities and events.
- Supporting carers in your community.
- Spreading awareness about the importance of caring.

Together, let's make a difference and support the UK's 5.8 million carers.

For more information, visit the Carers Week website and sign up for their newsletter to stay updated on the latest news and events <https://www.carersweek.org/>.

9th - 15th JUNE 2025

**Carers Week 2025**  
‘Caring About Equality’

<p><b>‘It’s in the bag’ - Make Your Own Tote Bag</b></p> <p>Make a statement with your own designer bag. You can shop til you drop but you won't be dropping anything with your own handy bag to keep things safe.</p> <p><b>£5 PER PERSON</b></p> <p>Monday 9th June, 12.30pm - 3pm Clitheroe</p>	<p><b>Basic First Aid Course</b></p> <p>Learn a range of skills designed for members of the public to help in a first aid emergency, including how to perform suitable basic first aid techniques based on a minor injury or illness.</p> <p><b>£3 PER PERSON</b></p> <p>Tuesday 10th June, 1.30pm - 3.30pm Haslingden</p>
<p><b>Service User Carer Council</b></p> <p>Find out about how LSCFT Service User Carer Council operate and influence NHS services. Information will also be available from a variety of services to improve your emotional and physical wellbeing.</p> <p><b>FREE TO ATTEND</b></p> <p>Wednesday 11th June, 11am - 3pm The Chai Centre, Burnley</p>	<p><b>Fun at the Farm</b></p> <p>Have a day of fun at the farm, with the animals and wildlife in the beautiful Colne countryside. Be prepared for a surprise or two along the way, combining art, music, and nature! Bring a packed lunch.</p> <p><b>£3 PER PERSON TRANSPORT PROVIDED</b></p> <p>Thursday 12th June, 10am - 3pm Carers Link Colne Shop</p>
<p><b>Afternoon Tea and Singalong</b></p> <p>Join us at our Community Facility for afternoon tea, followed by a singalong. To book please contact us at: <a href="mailto:activities@carerslinklancashire.co.uk">activities@carerslinklancashire.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>£5 PER PERSON</b></p> <p>Friday 13th June, 11.30pm - 2pm Carers Link Community Facility, Accrington</p>	<p><b>Carers Link Lancashire</b> IMPROVING LIFE FOR CARERS</p>



## Carers's Project

Free 12-week activity programme with a different activity each day!

Come join us for outdoor activities including:

- Walking Football
- Cricket
- Beginners Bootcamp
- Standing Yoga
- Netball
- Rounders

Suitable for all abilities

**Starts Monday 28th April 2025**

at Hyndburn Leisure Centre,  
Henry Street, BB5 4EP

Scan the QR code to find out more and register your interest



Call 01254 387444  
Email [info@carerslinklancashire.co.uk](mailto:info@carerslinklancashire.co.uk)





## PEER SUPPORT FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF NEURODIVERGENT YOUNG PEOPLE

Supporting YOU to support your Young Person with their Mental Health & Wellbeing

An opportunity to connect with other parents/carers, share experiences, exchange practical advice, mutual support and signposting. Groups are professionally supported and held in relaxed & confidential spaces.

12:30pm - 2pm

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month

February Tuesday 25th

March Tuesday 11th & 25th

April Tuesday 8th & 22nd

May Tuesday 13th & 27th

June Tuesday 10th & 24th

July Tuesday 8th & 22nd

Venue: Key Unlocking Futures, Unit 2, Balfour Court, Leyland, PR25 2TF

For more information contact Niki (Facilitator) on [07580358080](tel:07580358080) / [nikh@keycharity.org.uk](mailto:nikh@keycharity.org.uk)

Join our Facebook Community



For details of our other Parent Peer support groups [scan here](#) ->



[www.keycharity.org.uk](http://www.keycharity.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 115477



## PARENT & CARER PEER SUPPORT

Supporting YOU to support your Young Person with their Mental Health & Wellbeing

Connect with other parents/carers, share experiences, exchange practical advice, mutual support and signposting. Groups are professionally supported and held in relaxed & confidential spaces.

### CHORLEY

1st Monday of the Month

5:30pm - 7pm

Duke Street Family Hub

51 Duke St. Chorley, PR7 3DU

Monday 3rd March

Monday 7th April

Monday 2nd June

Monday 7th July

Parking at rear

### PRESTON

2nd Monday of the Month

4:30pm - 6pm

Foundations/Inn2

2 Oxford St, Preston, PR1 3SG

Monday 10th March

Monday 14th April

Monday 12th May

Monday 9th June

Monday 14th July

Parking on-site

### BAMBER BRIDGE

4th Monday of the Month

4:30pm - 6pm

Walton Le Dale Family Hub

Brindle Road, PR5 6YJ

Monday 24th March

Monday 28th April

Monday 23rd June

Monday 28th July

Parking on Leisure Centre

### ONLINE

3rd Monday of the Month

5:30pm - 7pm

Microsoft Teams

Monday 17th March

Monday 19th May

Monday 16th June

Monday 21st July

To register to attend email: [nikh@keycharity.org.uk](mailto:nikh@keycharity.org.uk)



[Leyland ND Parent & Carer Peer Support](#)  
-< scan for details.



Join our Facebook Community



For more information contact Niki (Facilitator) on [07580358080](tel:07580358080) / [nikh@keycharity.org.uk](mailto:nikh@keycharity.org.uk)  
[www.keycharity.org.uk](http://www.keycharity.org.uk) Registered Charity Number 115477



## SEND Peer Support Drop-in

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month

9.30am - 11.30am

West Paddock Family Hub, Leyland, PR25 1HR

Peer Support drop in for parents / carers of children with SEND.

Partner agencies such as ASD pathway navigators / Ed Psych will be at some of our drop ins.



Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

## April to Summer Holidays

Thursday 24th April - Zoom online meeting - 7pm-8.30pm

Friday 2nd May - Social Café - 10am-12pm

Thursday 8th May - Connections meeting - 10am-12pm

Thursday 15th May - FBSA Workshop - 10am-1pm

(Emotionally Based School Avoidance)

No Zoom online meeting in May

Friday 6th June - Social Café - 10am-12pm

Thursday 12th June - Connections meeting - 10am-12pm

Thursday 19th June - Workshop 10am 1pm

Thursday 26th June - Zoom online meeting - 7pm-8.30pm

Friday 4th July - Social Café - 10am-12pm

Thursday 10th July - Connections meeting - 10am-12pm

Thursday 17th July - Workshop - 10am-1pm

No Zoom online meeting in July

Social Café, Connections (new name for the Face-to-Face) meetings

& Workshops are hosted at **More Music**

13-17 Devonshire Road, Morecambe LA3 1QT

[chatsnorthwest@gmail.com](mailto:chatsnorthwest@gmail.com)

easyfundraising





**EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY 10-12PM**



# SHINE SUPPORT GROUP

Open to parents, carers, and adults in the community seeking a warm and supportive environment.



To book a place contact 01695 455625 or email: [sensory@twinklehouse.co.uk](mailto:sensory@twinklehouse.co.uk)

**Connect and Share**  
Connect with other parents and carers. Share experiences, tips, and laughter. Build a community that understands and supports each other.

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

**Inclusive Atmosphere**  
All abilities and needs welcome. Accessible facilities for everyone to enjoy.

**Safe Play Space for Little Ones**  
Let your children explore and have fun in our expertly crafted soft play area, tailored for their safety and enjoyment.

## Trinity Parent Carer Group

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

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

### Face to face Meetings

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

St Annes Pastoral Centre,

Prescot Rd, Ormskirk L39 4TG

2025 Face 2 Face meeting dates			
April 24 <sup>th</sup> <small>Moved date due to school holidays</small>	May 8 <sup>th</sup>	June 12 <sup>th</sup>	July 10 <sup>th</sup>

### Virtual Meetings via Zoom

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday most months 8-9pm

2025 Zoom meeting dates			
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	May 27 <sup>th</sup>	June 24 <sup>th</sup>	July 22 <sup>nd</sup>

Email [trinitysnap17@gmail.com](mailto:trinitysnap17@gmail.com) for a Zoom invitation

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

Trinity Special Needs Advice Partnership

## Do you care for someone with Neurodiversity?



Our services include:

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

**Peer Support Group for carers of those with ASD:**  
First Thursday of every month

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

01254 387444

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

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



SCAN ME



## Learn more about autism

Autism Central is delivered by parents and carers, for parents and carers, to help you learn more about autism and the services available.

[autismcentral@gmt.team](mailto:autismcentral@gmt.team)



### What can I access?

- **Resources:** find information from partners and other trusted sources.
- **Find help:** one-to-one sessions with information and services available in your area from your regional hub.
- **Events:** talk to people who share similar experiences.
- **Online learning:** sign up to access further learning resources.

[www.autismcentral.org.uk/Northwest](http://www.autismcentral.org.uk/Northwest)



# Introducing the Lancashire Parent Carer Forum and it's new Co-Chairs



The Lancashire Parent Carer Forum (LPCF) is a dedicated group of volunteers comprising parent carers and grandparents of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) aged 0-25 years in Lancashire.

The forum aims to empower families by providing a voice to support and advocate for their needs at a strategic level, working closely with local authorities, health services, and educational settings.

## Meet the new Co-Chairs: Miranda and Michelle

We are thrilled to introduce Miranda and Michelle as the new co-chairs of the LPCF. Both bring a wealth of experience and passion to their roles, having been actively involved in the forum's activities and advocacy efforts. Their leadership promises to drive forward the forum's mission of gathering the collective voice from parent carers across Lancashire, and take those experiences to the relevant services to influence improvement within SEND services.

## Highlights from the Annual Event in March

The LPCF hosted its Annual Event in March at the Jack McLaughlin Centre, Preston. This event was a resounding success, with a large turnout of parent carers and professionals. Attendees engaged in meaningful conversations, shared experiences, and built valuable relationships. The event featured informative sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities, all aimed at fostering collaboration and support within the community.

## Virtual Events in May

Following the Annual Event, the LPCF organised two virtual events in May. These online gatherings provided an accessible platform for parent carers who were unable to attend the face-to-face event. The virtual events were well attended and facilitated positive discussions and relationship building. They allowed for greater inclusivity, ensuring that all parent carers had the opportunity to participate and benefit from the forum's resources and support.

## Strategic Partnerships and Advocacy

LPCF is also a strategic partner actively involved in shaping and feeding back on policies and services that affect families with SEND children and young people. We attend strategic meetings with local authorities, health services, and educational institutions to ensure that the voices of parent carers are heard at the highest levels. Our involvement in these meetings allows us to advocate effectively for the needs and rights of our community, influencing decisions that impact the lives of families across Lancashire.

## Collaboration on the Neurodevelopmental Pathway

The LPCF is proud to be working alongside Lancashire County Council (LCC) and the NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) on the Neurodevelopmental pathway in Lancashire. This collaboration aims to create a single point of access for all neurodiversity needs, ensuring streamlined and efficient support for families.

## Upcoming SEND Roadshows

Starting in September, the LPCF will be actively involved in the SEND Roadshows. These events will bring together representatives from LCC, ICB, and various volunteer organizations to provide valuable information and support to families. The roadshows will offer an excellent opportunity for parent carers to engage with professionals and peers, fostering a collaborative and supportive environment. To find out more, please keep an eye on our Facebook page.

## Expanding the Forum: Call for Volunteers

As part of our ongoing efforts to expand the LPCF, we are actively seeking more volunteers.

The forum relies on the dedication and commitment of parent carers and grandparents to continue its vital work. Volunteering with the LPCF offers a unique opportunity to make a meaningful impact, share experiences, and contribute to the development of a supportive community for families of children and young people with SEND.

The LPCF continues to strive towards creating a supportive environment for families of children and young people with SEND. With the leadership of Miranda and Michelle, the forum is poised to make even greater strides in advocating for and empowering parent carers across Lancashire.

**For more information about the Lancashire Parent Carer Forum, upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities, please visit their Facebook page.**



# Meet the round table members

Over the past 6 months, Lancashire Parent Carer Forum (LPCF) have created the Round Table, a team of Group Leaders from across Lancashire who are working together with LPCF to ensure the voice of parent carers are collated to feed into the Forum. The group are working collaboratively to support the work of the Forum and some of the Round Table members are actively involved in the strategic work of the Forum.



*Lucy Ellis*  
North Lancs Directions Group – parent peer support group – Facebook group, page and website =, Pan disability, 0-25. Meets virtually occasionally but mainly signposting and group chats with admin support to moderate questions and responses  
[www.northlancsdirectionsgroup.com](http://www.northlancsdirectionsgroup.com)



*Joan Bill*  
Trinity special needs advice partnership is a Support group for parent carers of children and young people with special educational needs  
Monthly Online meeting and face to face meet ups in Ormskirk  
[trinitysnap17@gmail.com](mailto:trinitysnap17@gmail.com)



*Paula Hignett*  
Private Facebook group and face to face support for parent carers with children and young people with an autistic profile of pathological demand avoidance (PDA)  
Evening Face to face meetings in Preston 2nd Tuesday of the month and daytime 3rd Wednesday of the month in Lancaster  
[Paulahignett@pdasupportlancs.org](mailto:Paulahignett@pdasupportlancs.org)  
[www.pdasupportlancs.org](http://www.pdasupportlancs.org)



A sister site to PDAsupportlancs . Offering monthly face to face support in Preston for parent carers with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities who struggle to attend school, access education/ health provision to meet their needs. An opportunity to be around like minded people with Lived experience.  
2nd Tuesday of the month at the Ancient Oak in Cottam Preston.  
[Paulahignett@pdasupportlancs.org](mailto:Paulahignett@pdasupportlancs.org)  
[www.pdasupportlancs.org](http://www.pdasupportlancs.org)

# SEND Partnership Development



## Day 3 by Jenny Ashton, Manager of the SEND Partnership

### The lead up to this event

On September 12, 2024, 71 people came together at Preston North End to talk about how to make things better for children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). They discussed what co-production means and what should be included in the new SEND Strategy.

In October 2024, 87 parents and carers, along with practitioners, shared their ideas about SEND. The SEND Partnership also talked to 40 inclusion staff, 250 head teachers, and 35 NHS SEND Champions.

On November 14, 2024, 38 people met again to look at the vision and priorities for a new SEND strategy. They added more details and talked about what should happen next.

To develop the SEND Priority Action Plan, we asked 204 people from health, education, and social care, as well as parents and carers, what actions should be taken around SEND. We wanted to know how these actions would help and how we could measure their success.

We also shared a survey about the Priority Action Plan on the Local Offer and got 256 responses. 35% were from parent carers, 37% from nurseries and schools, 19% from LCC staff, 6% from health colleagues, and 1% from children and young people.

### SEND Partnership Development Day 3

On March 31, 2025, 41 people met again, to consider the work that had been done in the previous development days and then we reviewed the draft SEND strategy in small groups.

The new interim chairs of the Parent Carer Forum, Michelle Pye and Miranda Hyman talked about the changes within Lancashire Parent Carer Forum. They have increased membership and want to engage with as many parent carers as possible.

In the afternoon everyone reviewed the Priority Action Plan and the draft SEND strategy. They then discussed how these should work together and how new governance arrangements would help improve outcomes for children with SEND.

**Are you a parent carer?**

**Have your say** about the services your child receives by filling in this survey.

The survey is for families in Lancashire where there is 1 or more children with SEND (aged 0-24 years). It can be completed at any time that suits them.

It helps the SEND Partnership to:

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

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND) [www.facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer](https://www.facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer)

Scan the QR code or the survey can be accessed as a paper copy in schools and Family Hubs, scanned and emailed back to [sendpartnership@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sendpartnership@lancashire.gov.uk)

Parent Carers Survey

**LOCAL OFFER SURVEY 2025**

<https://forms.office.com/e/P5v1bq9MQ0>

**CLOSES MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025**

Lancashire SEND Partnership

Visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND) or click <https://forms.office.com/e/P5v1bq9MQ0> and take a few moments to complete to help us improve and shape the Local Offer website. Thank you.

# Children and young people's SEND Design Competition - Winners chosen!

It was a difficult task for our Young Advisors and POWAR members to choose from all the fantastic entries submitted by some truly talented children and young people in Lancashire. The standard was exceptionally high, and the entries were extremely powerful. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we did.



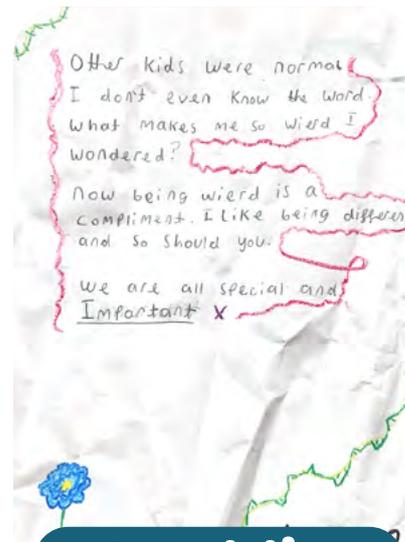
**Ava**



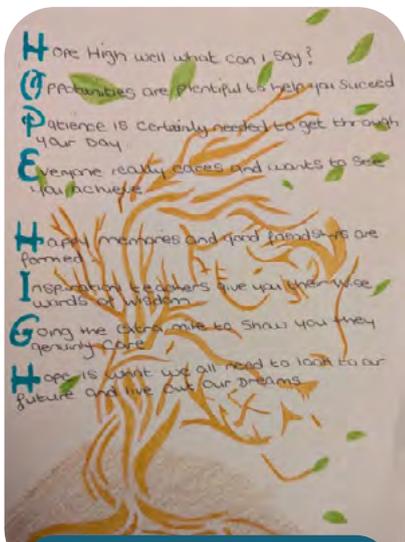
**Kayson**



**Kian**



**Maddie**



**Megan**



**Odin**



"Inclusion is not about words: it's about being felt, seen, and embraced in the unspoken language of the heart. When you meet me with kindness, patience, and love, you enter my world- where connection flows beyond speech, and every moment shines with understanding"  
Veer Age 7

**Veer**



**Free Monthly Meet ups across Lancashire for Deaf children 0-16yrs and their families, first Sunday of every month. We also offer Free Family Sign courses, a Free Deaf Youth Group and private Facebook/Whatsapp groups for local peer support. Please contact our team for free membership details 🙋**

[central.lancs.dcs@outlook.com](mailto:central.lancs.dcs@outlook.com)



## DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING FOOTBALL SESSIONS

Football sessions in a fun, safe and inclusive environment for Children and Young People (male/female) aged from 4 years plus.

Older members also have opportunities to enrol on FA Referee and Coaching Courses and become future role models.

Coaches are FA Enhanced DBS Cleared and have qualifications in First Aid and Safeguarding, with additional qualifications in Deaf Awareness and BSL.

Training is 6-7pm on Fridays at Lostock Hall Community Primary School, PR5 5AS (Withy Grove 3G Sports Hub October - April).

In association with:



To enrol or for further information, please contact Imelda: [imeldasankson@gmail.com](mailto:imeldasankson@gmail.com)



LANCASHIRE FAMILY HUBS NETWORK

FREE snack provided

Every Tuesday 3.30 - 4.30

# COLOURFUL FOOTSTEPS

**FREE GROUP SUITABLE FOR PRIMARY AGED CHILDREN WITH SEND @ WEST PADDOCK FAMILY HUB**

Lancashire County Council

This group aims to provide a space for children with SEND to develop social and emotional skills along with building their confidence and resilience.

The session provides lots of engaging activities both physical and emotional for the children including soft play, games and arts & crafts.

# Magical Moments

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

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

Siblings also welcome.

Join us at West Paddock Family Hub & The Zone, West Paddock Leyland PR25 1HR Every Thursday 9.30am—11.30am

FREE Snack provided!



# EXPLORE & PLAY

Open sessions for children with additional needs to develop physical skills in a safe environment supported by coaches!

**UP TO AGE 8**

Centurion Way Industrial Estate, PR25 4GU

**WEDNESDAYS 1:30-2:30PM**




# THE SENSORY CLUB!

**£3.00 PER CHILD PER SESSION**

**STARTS 4TH MARCH 2025**

**4-11 YEAR OLDS**

**4-5 PM EVERY OTHER TUESDAY**

**FREE TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE - PAY ON THE DAY FOR THE SESSION**

**MOVE AND PLAY ZONE**  
SENSORY PLAY ROOM

**CALM AND QUIET SPACE**

**DISCOVER NEW SENSORY ACTIVITIES TO TRY AT HOME**

**BOOK YOUR PLACE VIA EVENTBRITE:**

**TWINKLE HOUSE SENSORY CLUB 2025**

**MAKE FRIENDS**  
**BE YOURSELF**  
**FEEL SAFE**

**2 GORSEY PLACE, EAST GILLIBRANDS, SKELMERSDALE, WN8 9UP**

**CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES**



## BE YOUR BEST

**INVITING TEEN AND PRETEEN GIRLS**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND WAYS TO INCREASE YOUR SELF ESTEEM AND IMPROVE LOW CONFIDENCE? HAVE A STRONGER BELIEF IN YOURSELF.

**PHYSICAL WELLBEING**

PART OF THE SESSION INCLUDES A LIGHTEARTED FITNESS ROUTINE TO MUSIC. REDUCING FRUSTRATIONS AND ANXIETIES WITHIN THE BODY.

**CONFIDENCE BUILDING**

AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN OPEN HEARTED CONVERSATIONS.

**£7 PER SESSION**

**£30 WHEN YOU BOOK ALL FIVE SESSIONS TOGETHER**

**MONDAYS 16.15-17.00**

**MARCH 2025: 3RD, 10TH, 17TH, 24TH, 31ST**

**TO BOOK PLEASE CALL US ON 01695 455 625**

**2 Gorsey Place, East Gillibrands, Skelmersdale, WN8 9UP**




Phone: 01942 735426

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

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

Places must be booked and paid for 4 weeks in advance. Additional support is available, if needed. Please ring for more info, to book a place(s) and next steps. You don't have to live in Wigan borough to attend.

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

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

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

**OUR PREMISES BENEFITS FROM:**  
Hygiene room, ceiling and mobile hoists, changing bed, kitchen, large studio space and accessible stage, sensory suite with water bed, smaller activity/gaming room/quiet space, free parking.

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

More Than Words, Sovereign House, Unit B Sovereign Business Park, Kingscroft Court, Wigan, WN1 3AP  
www.morethanwordsadvocacy.co.uk

Leadership Skills Foundation | Wigan Council





## STAY AND PLAY

Does your little one have delayed mobility? Would you like to encourage their play, communication, and movement skills while meeting other families who can relate to your experience?

If so, our "Stay and Play" informal parent-and-child social drop in group might be perfect for you! Our knowledgeable team is here to provide support and share transferable ideas (they also make a great brew)

- ★ This group is a free, friendly session for children aged 0-3 years
- ★ Mondays' during term time 10-11.30am

Please register your interest:

info@rainbowhub.org    www.rainbowhub.org    01704 823276



**RAINBOW HUB**  
Every day is a life changing day

Rainbow Hub, Salt Pit Lane, Mawdesley, Ormskirk, L40 2QX



# Colourful FOOTSTEPS

For children aged 4-11 with SEND

Tuesdays 3.30-5pm  
Burscough Family Hub, Burscough, L40 0RZ

Thursdays 3.30-5pm  
Eavesdale Family Hub, Eavesdale, WN8 6BA

For children with additional needs along with their parents/carers. The session aims to offer an inclusive environment with opportunities for learning, development, and support.



No need to book



# Splatter Dance

www.splatterdance.co.uk

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

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

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

### DANCE

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

### MAKATON

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

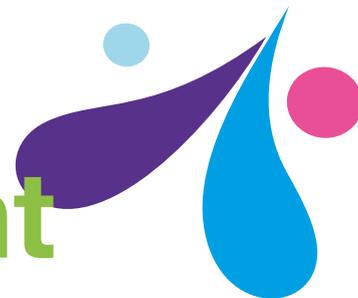


All community venues have free onsite parking & are located in Ormskirk & the surrounding areas

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

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

# Employing a Personal Assistant



I was awarded a Direct Payment back in the early 2000's, when the idea of employing your own staff was exciting and transformative. I really enjoyed the process of advertising, interviewing and providing an induction for Personal Assistants (PA's). The novelty wore off after around a year, when I realised how difficult it was to try to get through to the PA's what I wanted them to help with regarding my, then six-year-old, autistic son.

The social worker and I had worked hard to demonstrate how having a PA would provide him with new life skills, opportunities to make new friends and to have new experiences. However, the reality was the PA's acted as child minders who were happy to take him to the park, bowling or the cinema but he didn't really learn anything or meet new people.

Moving the clock forward 10 plus years he now has PA's who teach him skills. It may sound basic, but he can now wash up his pots, iron his clothes, clean his flat. He has learned how to manage anxiety (meditation and breathing techniques), how to initiate conversations with people, how to manage friendships, use Facebook safely and he is learning a whole new level of conversation techniques. He is even getting better at managing his budget. You may ask, why couldn't I have taught him all these things, and yes

you're right I could, but often the message is received better coming from someone else, and I do regularly 'feed' topics to the PA's that they might like to explore with him!

Today I employ seven PA's all part time and all doing different activities with my son. Gone are the days when I have to teach the PA the task before they teach it to my son, (honestly, I actually had to teach a young man how to wash up and he had only ever loaded a dishwasher!) I now have wonderful people who enable my son to have friendships, keep him fit (physically and emotionally), and guide him in the ways of the world.

And where did I get these wonderful people from, I hear you ask! I booked my son in for a yoga class, (which I pay for myself), after a few months once she got used to his ways, the yoga teacher agreed to some DP hours, I then contacted another yoga teacher, and I now have two. I spoke to man who worked on reception at the gym, and he is providing some gym coaching and again, now PA hours. I attended a local sailing club with my son, having chatted with the young people working there I now have a PA who takes

him sailing once a month and out to the quiz night at the local pub.

Putting an advert out for a PA didn't get me any responses, advertising for a carer or PA was too clinical and prescriptive. What I have done is introduce my son to new activities and therefore to people who then spent time getting to know him. Once they really got to know him and realised working with an autistic adult is ok, they were open to the idea of PA work for a few hours each week. I just wanted to share my story in the hope it helps those people out there struggling to find the right people.

**Gaynor Caldwell,**  
parent carer





# Activity programme June - July 2025

## Activities for deaf\* children & young people

*\*Deaf includes all levels of hearing loss (mild/moderate/severe/profound) including unilateral deafness (affecting only one ear) and temporary deafness such as glue ear.*

**Sunday 15th June**

**CIRCUS STARR**

**4.00pm Performance**

**Blackpool Sixth Form College, Blackpool Old Road, Blackpool, FY3 9LR**

Tickets to this event are strictly limited and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis so please make sure you will be able to attend prior to booking on the event. All ages.

**Sunday 22nd June**

**HOTHERSALL LODGE**

**9.30am – 4.00pm**

**Hotherall Lodge, Hotherall, Longridge, PR3 2XB**

There will be a wide variety of activities. Please ensure children are suitably dressed and that you bring a towel and change of clothing. There are no catering facilities so you will need to bring a pack lunch and drinks and snacks. Please ensure you arrive on time so as not to delay the start of the activities. As this is an all day expensive event there will be a charge of **£5.00 per child**, please make payment to our bank account quoting your surname as reference and I will then confirm you are booked on. Age 5 and over.

**Sunday 13th July**

**FARMER PARRS**

**10.00am – 5.00pm**

**Farmer Parr's Animal World, Rossall Lane, Fleetwood, FY7 8JP**

There are a variety of activities that take place throughout the day so this event is flexible as regards timing and you can arrive and leave as you please. However, it would be nice for everyone to meet up for a picnic, so please bring a picnic lunch. There are lots of picnic tables and a play barn to use if the weather isn't good. I propose we meet up for lunch at 12.30pm just outside the Play Barn. All ages.

**Sign Hi Say Hi! – Fylde, Wyre & Blackpool Deaf Children's Society for any child who is deaf or has a hearing loss, their siblings and families**

**Activities**  
**£1.00 per child**  
*(unless otherwise stated)*  
**Under 5's are free**

**To book on to the activities please contact**  
**07437 335 655 or email**  
**signhisayhi@ndcsgroup.org.uk**

### 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*

# Join us for NEW Inclusive Football Fylde

**INCLUSIVE FOOTBALL FYLDE**

We create a welcoming space where young people with learning disabilities can enjoy football, feel a sense of belonging, and be themselves. Here, they can play freely, express their creativity, and explore their potential without limits.

**WHEN**  
Mondays, starting March 24th, 6.30pm - 7.30pm

**WHERE**  
Kirkham Grammar School sports hall

**COST FREE**

Our club is not yet fully accredited with Special Olympics GB but we are in the process of becoming so. In the meantime, we are following all SOGB guidelines on eligibility, registration, safeguarding and standards of training. More information on athlete eligibility on the reverse.

TO REGISTER TO ATTEND, please email [ian@schudio.com](mailto:ian@schudio.com) for a registration form to complete before the session.



## Who Can Join Our Inclusive Football Club?

We welcome athletes who have a learning disability and are aged 10-18. As we are in the process of becoming a Special Olympics GB accredited club, there are specific eligibility requirements.



### What is an Learning Disability?

A person has a learning disability if they:

- Find it harder to understand new or complex information.
- Have difficulty learning new skills.
- Need extra support with daily activities like dressing, travelling, or handling money.

This condition must have started before the age of 18 and be ongoing.

### Who is Not Eligible?

You may not qualify if you only have:

- Dyslexia
- Dyspraxia
- ADHD
- Asperger's Syndrome (unless you also have a learning disability)
- A mental health condition
- A physical or sensory disability (unless it comes with a learning disability)

If you're unsure whether you meet the criteria, we're happy to help you find out.

### How Do We Confirm Eligibility?

To register, we need proof of eligibility from a professional who knows you well, such as:

- A doctor or psychologist
- A social worker
- A teacher or headteacher
- A care home manager

This proof can be a report, letter, or a completed Athlete Eligibility Form.

### What If You're Not Eligible?

If you don't meet the criteria but still want to be involved, you can join as a volunteer or, if we offer it, take part in Unified Sports, where athletes with and without disabilities play together.

Your best next step is to get in touch to discuss eligibility if you're not sure.

# Let's Dance now

**LPM Dance**  
North Lancashire Down's Syndrome Family and Carer's Group



Scan to book



**Just £5 per class**

**All teens & adults welcome**

## EVERY SATURDAY 2-3PM

COME JOIN US FOR OUR INCLUSIVE CLASSES (ALL ABILITIES WELCOME)  
AT CHRIST CHURCH, WYRESDALE ROAD LANCASTER, LA1 3EA

For more information visit us at [lpmdance.com/lets-dance-lancaster](http://lpmdance.com/lets-dance-lancaster)  
or email: [lpmclasses@gmail.com](mailto:lpmclasses@gmail.com)

# Super 1s

**Free inclusive cricket sessions**  
All disabilities welcome  
Ages 12-25

**MONDAYS | BLACKBURN HUB | 4.30pm - 6pm | AGES 12-16 ONLY**  
Blackburn Youth Zone, Jubilee St, Blackburn BB1 1EP

**TUESDAYS | FYLDE HUB | 5pm - 6pm | TABLE CRICKET SESSIONS**  
Kirkham & Wesham CC, Wellington St, Kirkham PR4 2JN

**TUESDAYS | ROCHDALE HUB | 6pm - 7pm**  
Rochdale Leisure Complex, Entwisle Road, Rochdale OL16 2HZ

**WEDNESDAYS | LIVERPOOL HUB | 6pm - 7pm**  
YPAS Plus Community Hub, Lyndene Rd, Liverpool L25 1NG

**THURSDAYS | SALFORD HUB | 6pm - 7pm**  
Moorside High School, 57 Deans Rd, Swinton, Manchester M27 0AP

**FRIDAYS | PRESTON HUB | 6pm - 7pm**  
West View Leisure Centre, Ribbleson Ln, Preston PR1 5EP

**FRIDAYS | BARNOLDSWICK HUB | 7pm - 8pm**  
West Craven Sports Centre, Barnoldswick BB18 5TB

**FRIDAYS | MANCHESTER HUB | 7pm - 8pm**  
Denmark Road Sports Centre, 120 Denmark Rd, Manchester M15 6FG

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Amlyn Layton at [alayton@lancashirecricket.co.uk](mailto:alayton@lancashirecricket.co.uk) or 07799 639838



Empowering young people through cricket



Registered Charity No. 306054 | OSCR No. SC046238



**RAINBOW HUB**  
**SCHOOL**



## Parents love the expansion of services as Rainbow Hub celebrates 24 years of supporting SEND children

Over the past 24 years Rainbow Hub has helped hundreds of SEND children through their programme of Conductive Education. Now parents love the expansion of services from Early Years to Primary school.



It all started in 2001 when a mother learnt of the work of the Peto Institute in Hungary who had developed conductive education – a programme of repetitive exercise which retrains the brain to by-pass damaged areas and finds new pathways for children with neurological conditions that affect muscle control, ability and learning, due to brain damage or illness.

The charity was founded to help her two children and grew from small beginnings in Ecclestone to its current location in Mawdesley, Lancashire. Today it helps children and their families from across the North West and has grown and expanded its services.

In October 2021, already known for their team of specialists offering a holistic approach to the health and well-being of every disabled child they support, Rainbow Hub's nursery opened for children between 2 and 5 years. A team of highly trained, experienced staff operate small groups giving each child a greater chance and more time to develop. They aim to achieve life skills such as washing, dressing, undressing and communications – all of which can be more challenging for a child with special needs – but with time to also play and interact with their peers. After an individual assessment of each child, the team are able to tailor the service to meet a wide range of needs including physical disabilities, neurological conditions and global delay. The purpose-built facility has extensive outdoor space, sensory room and soft play area and Rainbow Hub believe that their nursery is unique in the services and environment it offers.

Then in Summer 2023 an idea and dream came true as work started on building the Rainbow Hub School for parents who were struggling to find a suitable environment that can meet their children's physical, social and learning needs. It opened its doors in September 2024 and offers places for children between 4 - 11 with special education needs due to physical and neurological disabilities. In November 2024 it was judged 'Outstanding' in all areas by OFSTED. There are currently seven children with space for a further 25 following approval from the Department of Education. Future plans will extend to offer places for young people up to 16 years.

The school has four classrooms: a multi-purpose hall; two additional therapy rooms; accessible life skills kitchen; ground level rebound trampoline; outdoor classroom, new meeting spaces and a dedicated parent/carers room. It has solar panels and air source heat pumps with mechanical heating to ensure a constant temperature.

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

Parent, Joanne Berends-Sheriff, said, "Rainbow Hub has been a lifeline for Ronnie and us, starting at Conductive Education services and then eventually leading to nursery and school. He has grown up here, developed and reached many milestones we never thought he'd accomplish. The support we receive as a family has been second to none. From meeting like-minded parents who are on the same journey to amazing staff who understand the needs of all the children. We don't know what we would have done without them."

Lyndsay Fahey, CEO, at Rainbow Hub, who has a daughter with a neurological condition and understands the challenges families face, says “With funding having to stretch even further in statutory services, there is a distinct lack of therapy available for children with physical disabilities. We’ve been helping such children to become more active and independent for over 20 years and during that time we’ve seen a real disconnection between therapy and education. We started with a dream to enable children to access a school that offered a combined approach to health and education.”

She continued, “To make this dream a reality we secured funding of £5 million from Wain Foundation which was a remarkable act of kindness for which we will be forever grateful. The development of our school will enable us to extend the good work we already do in Conductive Education and our specialist nursery providing support to children who may sometimes be over-looked but deserve every opportunity to become as independent as possible.”

Rainbow Hub offers a wide range of services for children with physical disabilities and movement disorders, including:

- SEND Nursery
- SEND School
- Break Time Holiday Clubs, commissioned by Lancashire County Council
- Conductive Education Therapy
- Communication Support
- Family Support

*A touching moment Rainbow Hub Nursery*



*Conductive Education*



*Ronnie at Rainbow Hub School*

*If you'd like to know whether Rainbow Hub can help your child, or a child you know please contact [info@rainbowhub.org](mailto:info@rainbowhub.org) or call 01704 823276*

*For more information on their work or how to support them, please visit [www.rainbowhub.org](http://www.rainbowhub.org) or follow them on social media [@rainbowhubnw](https://www.instagram.com/rainbowhubnw)*



We are **East Lancs Down's Syndrome Support Group**, here for all families with a member with DS from diagnosis to adulthood.

We have two events per month - one for all the family at Whitewell Bottom community centre and a social group for young people and adults, in Clayton-le-Moors. We also support children in schools with our specialist education service, and have an annual family weekend in Blackpool.

For more information please contact Rachel Shatliff [chair@eastlancsds.com](mailto:chair@eastlancsds.com) or follow our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/EastLancsDS>

# SATURDAY FAMILY CLUB!

FREE SESSIONS!

**COME ALONG TO SATURDAY FAMILY CLUB AT BYT THIS MARCH!** Taking place in our Sensory Room, the sessions will encourage children and their grown ups to connect creatively through different themes!

These open access mornings have been kindly funded by Burnley Council Early Years Grants making them free for anyone to attend.

**SING-A-LONG WITH ALICE!**

Step into a magical space full of uplifting music, movement and instruments on **Saturday 22nd March** at BYT!

Delivered in our Sensory Room, the sessions will be fun and engaging. The perfect way to spark your little ones' imaginations.

0 - Crawling | 10:15am - 11am  
18 Months - Age 5 | 11:30am - 12:15pm

**LITTLE STORYTELLERS**

Celebrate World Book Day with your little ones on **Saturday 8th March** at BYT! Hear a wonderful story brought to life exploring this years theme "Read your Way"

Delivered in our Sensory Room, the sessions will be fun and engaging with lots of interactive moments throughout.

0-Crawling | 10:15am - 11am  
18months - Ages 5 | 11:30am - 12:15pm

**PERFECT FOR AGES 0-5**



**BURNLEY YOUTH THEATRE**

**Join us anytime between 10am - 12:30pm for free play and snacks!**  
Find out more and book your space: [burnleyyouththeatre.org](http://burnleyyouththeatre.org)

## WeCare WeSupport WeBelieve

**The Annexe - a safe space** where children, young people and their families receive support for their emotional and mental health needs.



A Community Mental Health Hub

The Annexe provides low to medium emotional health and wellbeing interventions for Burnley and the surrounding areas.



[www.neweraburnley.co.uk](http://www.neweraburnley.co.uk) | 01282 435302

New Era, Chapel Annexe, Chapel Place, Hammerton Street, Burnley, BB11 1LE




Connect with us





## WeCare WeSupport WeBelieve

**A Community Hub where you can be safe in the knowledge that young people receive professional support and care.**

The Annexe works alongside parents, organisations and existing provision by 'being there' in the heart of the community.

Improving local children & young people's wellbeing.

### What does The Annexe have to offer?

- ✗ Training and support for all community organisations
- ✗ Parent workshops around development, behaviour & neurodiversity
- ✗ Wellbeing workshops
- ✗ Joint 1:1 intervention Child & Parent
- ✗ Worry/ Anxiety / Low mood/ Self esteem workshops/ Group sessions - 8-11 yrs, 12-16 yrs

- ✗ Direct mental health 1:1 Intervention
- ✗ Family Courses - Handling Anger in the Family, ASD, ADHD, The Teenage Years
- ✗ Family advice & support sessions
- ✗ Development of youth panel
- ✗ Peer to peer support groups
- ✗ Parenting Hub



[www.neweraburnley.co.uk](http://www.neweraburnley.co.uk) | 01282 435302

New Era, Chapel Annexe, Chapel Place, Hammerton Street, Burnley, BB11 1LE




Connect with us








## POWAR

**POWAR is the youth voice forum for young people with SEND (including suspected and undiagnosed) aged 11-25 in Lancashire.**

**POWAR provides a space for young people to explore issues related to them and to challenge and advocate on the services they receive.**

**Aim HIGH!**

We are here to make changes across Lancashire to improve services for young people with SEND and have fun!

**When & Where:**

**Burnley** - Every Tuesday 18:30 - 20:30  
Burnley The Zone, Whittam Street, Burnley, BB11 1LW.

**Preston** - Every Thursday - 18:00 - 20:00  
Ribbleton Family Hub, Ribbleton Hall Drive, Preston, PR2 6EE.

 **Contact Us**  
 Suliman Hussain (Sul)  
 Professional Range Youth Worker  
 Targeted Youth Support – Participation  
 T: 01772 537481  
 M: 07775 221214  
 E: [suliman.hussain@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:suliman.hussain@lancashire.gov.uk)







## Starting 30<sup>th</sup> April

## POWAR ONLINE

**POWAR is the youth voice forum for young people with SEND (including suspected and undiagnosed) aged 11-25 in Lancashire.**

**POWAR provides a space for young people to explore issues related to them and to challenge and advocate on the services they receive.**

**Aim HIGH!**

We are here to make changes across Lancashire to improve services for young people with SEND and have fun!

**Join us online for a chilled hour of fun, games, and good vibes!**  
**Every Wednesday from 4.30pm till 5.30pm**  
**To book your place, just email Suli on:**  
[suliman.hussain@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:suliman.hussain@lancashire.gov.uk)

 **Contact Us**  
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 Professional Range Youth Worker  
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## NIP IN THE BUD: SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH FILM

Nip in the Bud is a fantastic UK-based charity dedicated to improving children's mental health by creating engaging and informative resources. Recognised with the Prime Minister's Points of Light Award, this charity collaborates with leading mental health professionals to produce free, evidence-based films, fact sheets, blogs, and podcasts. These resources are designed to help parents, carers, teachers, and others working with children to identify and address potential mental health issues early.

Many of the resources are designed for children and young people with neurodivergent conditions ADHD advice for parents and carers, Autism, Dyslexia and Conduct disorders including Oppositional Defiance Disorder (ODD).

### MISSION AND GOALS

Nip in the Bud aims to promote early intervention in children's mental health, helping to "nip problems in the bud" before they escalate. By providing accessible and expert information, the charity seeks to reduce the negative impact of mental health conditions on children's lives.

### RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Nip in the Bud offers a variety of resources, including:

- Films for Parents/Carers:** These films provide practical advice and real-life experiences to help parents support their children's mental health.
- Films for Teachers/Professionals:** Tailored for educational professionals, these films offer insights into recognising and addressing mental health issues in school settings.
- Fact Sheets and Blogs:** Covering a wide range of topics, these written resources complement the films and provide additional information and strategies.
- Podcasts:** Engaging discussions on various mental health topics, featuring experts and real-life stories.

### RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- What is a Worry Box?:** A blog post explaining the concept of worry boxes, a tool mentioned in their film about school anxiety and EBSA.
- Adolescence:** An article discussing how early intervention could have changed the outcomes of real-life experiences behind the story of "Adolescence."
- Equality vs. Equity in Schools:** A podcast episode exploring the difference between equality and equity in educational settings.
- Celebrating Diversity:** A summary of a podcast focusing on recognising and respecting neurodiversity in children.

Nip in the Bud continues to make a significant impact by providing valuable resources that promote early intervention and support for children's mental health. For more information, visit their website and explore their extensive collection of films and educational materials <https://nipinthebud.org/>.



**Nip in the Bud**

# JUBILOSO

Jubiloso is a Preston-based community music group delivered so as to be accessible for people with learning disabilities. Participants of the weekly Jubiloso sessions are guided in playing simple pieces of music using a variety of instruments including voice, chime bars, hand percussion, boomwhackers (plastic tubes that make a pitched sound when struck against something) or instruments that they bring along themselves.

The group emerged from one-to-one sessions between Jen Blackwell and Jon Aveyard. Jen is one of the founders of Dance Syndrome, a dance group for people with and without disabilities, but she is also a flautist who wanted to take part in group music-making. Jon is a local community musician who operates as Preston Music Workshops. He leads the Worldwise Samba Drummers, Preston People's Choir, Illumination Choir, Preston Handbell Ensemble and other participatory music groups. Following several music-making sessions together, Jon and Jen were then joined by Sophie who plays tuned

percussion and more recently by Sueho who plays violin. They are all keen to welcome other people to join their group.

According to Jon, "The word Jubiloso is a musical term meaning jubilant and was chosen to reflect our joyful approach to music-making as well as matching the first letter of the names of the two co-founders. The group meets in The Mandala, a space usually used for yoga and counselling sessions but now also providing a quiet and controlled environment in which our music sessions can take place."

It is recommended to contact Jon ahead of your first visit to check dates and pass on any specific requirements. Jubiloso meets at The Mandala, 18 Derby Street, PR1 1DT on most Fridays 10am-11am. £5 per session. Carers/support free of charge or optional donation. For more information, visit [www.PrestonMusicWorkshops.com](http://www.PrestonMusicWorkshops.com) or email Jon on [JonAveyard1@gmail.com](mailto:JonAveyard1@gmail.com).

## pickleball



**EVERY  
THURSDAY 6PM  
&  
FRIDAY 11AM**

**Deafway Sports  
Centre**

**FREE**  
Hearing  
participants  
£3pp

**Deafway, Brockholes Brow,  
Preston, PR1 5BB**

**Deaf Community Pickleball**

## Live Your Best Life!



Flourish and Achieve is a service for young people and adults with disabilities and autism. We are based in Parbold and Hilldale and offer a range of healthy lifestyle and creative activities, including:

- Nature walks and dog walks
- Allotments
- Cooking/baking
- Painting, arts and crafts
- Animal care
- Floristry
- And much more!

We focus on activities that are good for physical and emotional wellbeing, keep the mind active and engaged, encourage relaxation and reduced stress, connect people with nature, and get people involved in the community.



For more information, or to arrange a FREE taster day, contact Louise on 07976 955968 or email [flourishandachieve@hotmail.com](mailto:flourishandachieve@hotmail.com)



### Success for Runshaw College and Progress Housing Group Supported Internship

Earlier this year, the Supported Internship programme hosted by Progress Housing Group, with students from Runshaw College, were inspected under the Supported Internship Quality Assurance Framework (SIQAF), which is led by the British Association for Supported Employment (BASE) and commissioned by the Department for Education (DfE). The Framework has been designed to ensure the quality of supported internship provisions is high, and measures the programme across six key areas: Leadership, Planning, Partnership, Preparedness and Outcomes.

The Supported Internship Programme scored 116 out of 117, or 99.1%. This is one of the highest results in the country so far. We would like to extend our congratulations to the staff at Runshaw college, DFN Project SEARCH, interns past and present as well as their parent carers. Well done!

To read more about this programme, and other supported internships available in Lancashire, you can visit our Local Offer page:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/young-people-and-adulthood/supported-internships/>



## Lancashire Learning Disability Peer Advocacy Network Speak Up, Make Friends

### Our Groups

**North Lancashire**  
Friends Meeting House  
Meeting House Lane  
Lancaster  
LA1 1TX

**Central Lancashire**  
Plungington  
Community Centre  
Preston  
PR1 7NB

**East Lancashire**  
Accrington Library  
Accrington  
BB5 1NQ

We also have an online group on Zoom!

**West Lancashire**  
St Anne's Library  
Lytham St Anne's  
FY8 1NR

Get in touch today  
Call: 07517 909029

Email: [speakup@wearepeoplefirst.co.uk](mailto:speakup@wearepeoplefirst.co.uk)

## Ambitious youth network

**Are you 16-25?  
Are you autistic?  
Join our Ambitious Youth Network online platform!**

Meet new people in our peer support sessions and access paid opportunities to make things better for autistic people.

[ambitious-youth-network.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk](https://ambitious-youth-network.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk)

Ambitious about Autism is a registered charity in England and Wales: 1063184 and a registered company: 03375255.

# The 2nd Lancashire Disability PRIDE

**10 JULY 2025  
11am - 3pm**

Preston Flag Market PR1 2AP

For further information contact Caritas Care on 01772 732313 [info@caritascare.org.uk](mailto:info@caritascare.org.uk)

Registered Charity No: 326021 Registered Charity No: 1114622



# OPEN MIC & DISCO NIGHT for Autistic Adults

**Wednesdays**  
**June 11th**  
**September 10th**  
**December 10th**  
 6.30pm-9.30pm



Come along to sing, play an instrument, share a poem or just take part in our disco.

**Free Ticket Only Event**





Alta, 16 Accrington Road, Whalley, BB7 9TD

For more details contact Samantha, Events & Marketing Manager  
 01254 457026  
 events@spring-projects.co.uk

www.spring-projects.co.uk  
 www.meet-n-match.co.uk

In Partnership with





Scan QR code to book






For adults 18+ with learning disabilities and autistic adults

**£5 ENTRY**  
 Carers free  
 Ticket only event

# SPRING IN DA CLUB

## Club Night

**PRESTON**  
 16th May,  
 22nd Aug, 5th Dec.  
 Popworld 13 Church St,  
 Preston PR1 3BQ

**BLACKPOOL**  
 20th June,  
 12th Sept, 14th Nov.  
 Popworld 120-122 Promenade,  
 Blackpool, FY1 1RA  
**FRIDAYS, 6PM-9PM**






www.spring-projects.co.uk  
 www.meet-n-match.co.uk

In Partnership with






# Join us for our 10 YEAR celebration evening

**Saturday 29th November**  
 7pm till midnight



**\*\*FREE EVENT\*\***

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-into-phab-10-year-celebrations-tickets-1089216869979?aff=oddtcreator>



## TryTheTrain 2025 with Community Rail and Disability Equality



disability-equality.org.uk | twitter.com/DisabilityNW | facebook.com/DisabilityNW

**TryTheTrain: Introductory Workshop**

- @ Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025  
10:00am – 12:00pm
- @ Disability Equality (NW) Ltd. Community Hub  
23-25 Sedgwick Street  
Preston PR11TP

**Please Note:**  
 Before booking your place, please ensure that you are available during the day on the following dates:  
 Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025  
 Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
 Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
 Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
 Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025





Charity Number: 1114622      Company Number: 05506903  
 disability-equality.org.uk

To register your interest, please contact Beth or Matt on 01772 558863, or email communityhub@disability-equality.org.uk

Inclusive performing arts for Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde.

**MINI CHILDREN'S THEATRE**  
 INCLUSIVE THEATRE WORKSHOPS  
 AGE 4-7 YEARS  
**ONLY £60 PER TERM**



**CHILDREN'S THEATRE**  
 INCLUSIVE THEATRE WORKSHOPS  
 AGE 8-12 YEARS  
**ONLY £60 PER TERM**



**YOUTH THEATRE**  
 INCLUSIVE THEATRE WORKSHOPS  
 AGE 13-16 YEARS  
**ONLY £60 PER TERM**



**YOUNG ADULT COMPANY**  
 INCLUSIVE THEATRE WORKSHOPS  
 AGE 17-24 YEARS  
**ONLY £60 PER TERM**




TO APPLY  
 07852 498427  
 TRAMSHEDTHEATRE@HOTMAIL.CO.UK  
 TRAMSHED.ORG.UK

Small changes, big differences.




**Group Triple P**  
For parents of children up to age 12

**Group Stepping Stones Triple P**  
For parents of children with a disability 0-12 years

**Group Teen Triple P**  
For parents of 12-16-year-olds

**New positive parenting course starts soon...**

To book a place on one of our upcoming courses please scan the QR code or visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/events](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/events)



[www.triplep-parenting.net](http://www.triplep-parenting.net)

**Supporting Your Child**



**Parent & Carer e-Learning**

**No Charge & Access Any Time**

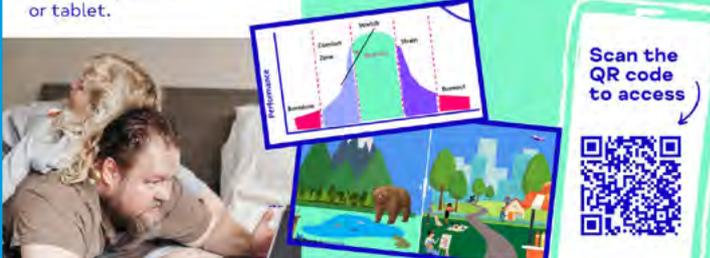
Optional support pack and signposting are available.

**Neuro-Inclusive Mental Wellbeing Training**

**Aimed at parents and carers of young people who struggle with their mental health and wellbeing.**

**For Parents & Carers:**  
Learn practical strategies and approaches to support your child.  
Access a downloadable support pack full of approaches and activities.  
Learn where to go for further support via the downloadable signposting guide.  
Access the eLearning anytime and anywhere via PC, smartphone or tablet.

Young people with specific challenges linked to mental health and neurodiversity / neurodivergence (autism, ADHD, dyslexia etc) are also included in the course. It is neuroaffirming, meaning it does not treat these kinds of differences as only negative.  
Includes true lived experience stories from parents, people who struggled with their mental health as children & comments from young people themselves, as well as information from specialists.




**SLEEP SESSION**

A SESSION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

**17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AT 6PM**  
DOES YOUR YOUNG PERSON WITH ADHD STRUGGLE SLEEPING?  
JOIN US FOR SUPPORT  
CONTACT US TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT  
TEL: 01254 886886

*You're Invited!*



**TEENS SESSION**

A SESSION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS OF CYP 12+

**23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE AT 10AM**  
THIS ONLINE SESSION WILL DIVE IN TO THE WORLD OF ADHD FOR PARENTS AND CARERS OF TEENAGERS  
CONTACT US TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT  
TEL: 01254 886886

*You're Invited!*

**These sessions are delivered online using Zoom. Each session is 1½ hours including time for Q&As. Your child does not need a diagnosis or to be on the pathway for ADHD assessment.**

# Lancashire County Council – contact details

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

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

**clickDelegate Growing Together: Empowering Parents for Early Childhood Success. Topic: Preparing children for the transition to school ([lancashire.gov.uk](http://lancashire.gov.uk))**

**Is your child starting primary school soon?** This session is designed to help you and your child make a smooth transition! Learn practical tips and strategies to prepare your little one for this exciting new chapter. Discover how to build confidence, develop essential skills, and create a positive attitude towards school.



**18 June 2025, 6pm to 7pm**

Book a place: <https://clickdelegate.lancashire.gov.uk/conferenceDetails.asp?cid=60509>

## Your Help Is Essential

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

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

Contributions for future issues – please contact us.

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

Tel: 01772 538077



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

## Editorial Group

### Lancashire County Council

[Anna.burkinshaw@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Anna.burkinshaw@lancashire.gov.uk)

[Sarah.deady@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.deady@lancashire.gov.uk)

### Parent Representatives\*

Lucy Ellis – Lancaster

Amy Blackburn – Pendle

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

### Voluntary Organisation

Tom Harrison – Community East Lancashire

Miranda Hyman – Joint Chair,

Lancashire Parent Carer Forum

### Health

Clair Martin – Designated Clinical Officer, North Locality

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

**Winter issue** – deadline for articles 3rd October, published December 2025

**Spring issue** – deadline for articles 9th January, published March 2026

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

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



We also have a facebook page.

For regular updates, please 'like' our page at: [www.facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer](http://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](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/getting-help/send-newsletter)

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

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