

## Hello!

Welcome to the Gateshead SEND Network Newsletter.

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

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

## Eslington School Student Council

Students at Eslington Primary School have raised over £100 for Newcastle Dog and Cat shelter. The money was raised through various one-off fundraising efforts including cake sales and non-uniform days which were organised by the school's Student Council. The Student Council meets regularly throughout the academic year and plays a key role in promoting children's voices and opinions in important school matters

The children chose the charity from a number of suggestions by using a democratic voting process. "We wanted to help animals in need," said Harvey, a representative of the school council. "Some people can't afford to keep their pets and the animals need help. We're definitely proud of ourselves."

The children raised almost double the amount they had aimed for at the beginning of the project. "The group have put in so much hard work and I'm so proud of them," says Miss Richter, the teacher who facilitates school council meetings. "The school council is pupil-led and they've worked really well as a team. They've been amazing."



Eslington Primary School is a special school for children between 5-11 years of age with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. \



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

# Gateshead SEND Strategy 2023-26

Gateshead Council and NHS North East North Cumbria Integrated Care Board have launched its SEND Strategy 2023-26.

The aim of the strategy is to improve outcomes for families and help raise the achievement of children and young people with SEND so that they can realise their potential and live happy and fulfilling lives. It outlines the key priorities for the partnership across Gateshead, including social care, education and health services.

“We’re ambitious for our young people with SEND to reach their full potential,” says Councillor Gary Haley, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People at Gateshead Council. “Inclusion underpins our core purpose, and we are committed to giving children and young people the best start in life. We want our children and young people to develop their independence and to become confident adults leading productive lives.”



To view Gateshead’s SEND Strategy 2023-26 click [Gateshead SEND Strategy 2023-26](#).

For an easy read version click [SEND-Strategy-Easy-Read](#).

For a symbol version click [SEND-Strategy-Symbol-Version](#).

## The Little Book of Useful Stuff

Teenage and early adult years can be a confusing time for us all. The NHS in Gateshead has published The Little Book of Useful Stuff to help young people aged 13+ to keep safe, stay healthy and make informed decisions in their lives.

The Little Book of Useful Stuff is overseen by health professionals and guided by young people in Gateshead who helped to choose the subject matter, design themes and even the title to keep it relevant to readers.

As a new initiative, The Little Book is being trialed in Gateshead – and if it’s successful, it may later be extended to other parts of the region.

You can pick up The Little Book of Useful Stuff from schools, GP practices and other local organisations in Gateshead – or view the contents online at [www.nenc-healthiertogether.nhs.uk](http://www.nenc-healthiertogether.nhs.uk). If you have any comments or would like a physical copy, please contact NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board at [nencicb-ng.cypfgh@nhs.net](mailto:nencicb-ng.cypfgh@nhs.net)



# Independent Travel Training

Hi, my name is Gemma Curran, and I am one of the Independent Travel Trainers within the Travel Care Team. Independent travel training is a very important skill for life. It has positive effects on the lives of the young people trained, as well as those around them.



Successful travel training can enable families to do more things together and provide more time for separate activities. Being able to travel with less support allows young people to do more social and educational activities. This helps them maintain better relationships with their peers. Independent travel skills also help to open employment opportunities and independent living opportunities. This all contributes to young people leading a more fulfilled life.

**If you would like more information regarding independent travel training, please don't hesitate to contact me at [gemmaurran@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:gemmaurran@gateshead.gov.uk)**

*My name is Becky, I am 17 years old. I have been learning to travel independently - Gemma has been helping me. I like to travel to college on the bus as it makes me feel grown up.*

*As a parent of a child with additional needs, I was nervous about my daughter travel training. However, the support I have received from Gemma and the travel team has been amazing. This opportunity will allow my daughter to travel independently to 6th form college for her final year*



# Summer Holiday Ideas

## Family Activities and Food

Gateshead Council are again providing free activities for children and families during the summer holidays, thanks to the Department for Education's Holiday Activities and Food Programme.

Gateshead's 'Brighten the Day' programme provides healthy food and fun activities for school aged children across the borough. The activities range from bike rides and nature walks to healthy cooking ideas and much more.



#BRIGHTENTHEDAY

For more information visit <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/16120/Summer-holiday-activities-and-food-2020> or email [brightentheday@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:brightentheday@gateshead.gov.uk)



Helping our community to thrive

Gateshead's Family Hubs provide a welcoming space for families to get the help they need on a wide range of issues. The Hubs are for families with children aged 0-19 years and up to age 25 for young people with SEND.

There are currently six Family Hubs located across Gateshead, which offer a range of activities for children of all ages.

For more details visit <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/22551/Gateshead-Family-Hubs> or watch [Introducing Family Hubs - YouTube](#). We also offer a [virtual Start for Life and Family Hub](#) if you are unable to attend one of our physical locations.

**Seven Stories** – The National Centre for Children's Books in Newcastle – is open every day except Wednesdays in term time, and seven days a week in the school holidays. It is a free entry venue and no booking is required. To see what's on go to <https://www.sevenstories.org.uk/>

**The Gateshead SEND Local Offer website** has details of a range of SEND-specific leisure activities in Gateshead and the local area: <https://gateshead-localoffer.org/family-information-service-and-directory/>

The Events section also has details of a broader range of activities for children, Young People, families and professionals.

## Contact us:

Special Educational Needs and Disability Team  
Gateshead Council

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We value your feedback and to help us improve our newsletter we have created a short survey which you can access by clicking <https://forms.office.com/r/HFRHE6EHmd>