



Making Changes Together XXVIII Conference Report

Radisson Blu Hotel

Durham City

23rd/24th November 2022

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This report is distributed to many parent/carers and professionals who were unable to attend the events, alongside those delegates who did attend. It therefore contains all of the presentations made at both events.

Welcome – Julie Temple (MCT)

Parent member of Making Changes Together parents forum Julie was the spokesperson for both evening and daytime events. Julie welcomed everyone to the conference and highlighted the usual housekeeping information.

SENDIASS update – Lisa Kirton, SENDIASS Team Manager

Lisa outlined the role of the SENDIAS service and the work undertaken over the last few months. This was done via a video link and the whole presentation can be seen throughout the slides below.



Lisa Kirton - Coordinator for the County Durham
Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)
Information, Advice, Support Service (IASS)

The role of SENDIASS: Our Statutory Duty

- ▶ The Children and Families Act 2014 states that every local authority must provide parents, carers and young people (16-25) with access to an Information Advice, Support Service (IASS) in relation Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).
- ▶ Therefore Durham **SENDIASS** are the statutory county wide service providing information, advice and support to parents/ carers who have a child/ren with SEND and to young people (16-25) with SEND. The service is free of charge, it is confidential, impartial and must be at arm's length of the local authority

Why might a family contact SENDIASS?

Families can struggle to navigate their way through the SEND framework

They have a question about the SEND provision in place for their child or young person

Information about your Legal Rights

Signposting to other services, agencies and support

Why might a family contact SENDIASS?

Advice about
statutory
assessment and
EHCPs

What to do if I
disagree a
decision about my
child?

Transitions

I just need a
listening ear

What do SENDIASS Offer Families?

- ▶ A dedicated telephone helpline, email, 1:1 telephone or virtual appointments.
- ▶ Listen to families views and concerns.
- ▶ Work with families to explore their options
- ▶ Support to promote effective communication
- ▶ Preparation for meetings
- ▶ The graduated approach to SEND
- ▶ Help with written information
- ▶ Health and Social Care Provisions
- ▶ SEND Mediation, Appeals and Tribunal
- ▶ The Local Offer & Signposting
- ▶ SEND Training Workshops

How to get in touch?

- ▶ Telephone: 0191 5873541 or 03000 267004 including 24 hours answer machine
- ▶ Email: sendiass@durham.gov.uk
- ▶ Website Contact Form [HERE](#)

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Short Breaks – Lyndsey Dunn, Ruth Pope, Danielle Pope

Lyndsey explained that in her role as a commissioner of children's short breaks it's important that she understands the needs of families requiring short breaks. Terminology is changing around 'short breaks', to incorporate more of an 'inclusion focus'. Lyndsey described the team and what the service does and the presentation below describes the breadth of what the service offers, as well as the links to enable parent carers to inform the service of what they feel they and their children need. Lyndsey also asked that delegates complete the questionnaires in their pack to inform and influence short breaks developments.

Lyndsey instigated an interesting debate within the conference about how parents can support their reluctant children to engage with some short breaks and the difficulty generally of accessing short breaks if your child is physically disabled.

Working in partnership



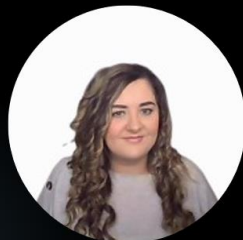
Enabling inclusive communities for children and young people with SEND in County Durham

to allow short breaks from caring when needed

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Lyndsey Dunn,
Project Lead



Ruth Pope, Enabling
Inclusive Communities
Co-Ordinator



Danielle Pope, Short
Breaks Solutions
Officer



Sara Rawle –
Parent / carer
lead

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County Durham
Care Partnership

We want:

Parent/ carers of children/young people with SEN/D to be able to have a short break from caring when needed.

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Durham County Council NHS

We want:

Opportunities that enable children and young people with disabilities to access their local community.



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Durham County Council

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Enabling Inclusive Communities

to allow short breaks from caring



***Help families access existing community activities.**

***Remove any barriers and fill gaps.**

***For those unable to access the community, ensure the right support is available to enable access to activities without a social care assessment.**

***Develop sufficient specialist and enhanced services to enable access for children who are complex and challenging to meet their needs identified as part of a social care assessment.**

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Current short break offer

Short Breaks Solutions Officer – first point of contact for families to explore existing community activities.
03000 260 270. shortbreakssolutions@durham.gov.uk

Enabling Inclusive Communities Co-Ordinator – to work with families and providers to remove barriers to enable access.

SEND Supported Community Activities – a range of services for those families unable to access the existing offer in response to needs/ gaps.

Specialist services – to meet the needs of families identified as part of a social care statutory assessment



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SEND Supported Community Activities
For families unable to access the existing community activities

- Family trips outs
- Supported families youth groups
- Preparation and transition sessions
- Virtual gaming session
- Additional support social sessions
 e.g Gym, swimming, cinema
- Supported physical activity sessions
- Specialist small youth groups
- Weekly family groups e.g
 Taekwondo, trampolining



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Priority – Build on existing community activities

County Durham
 Care Partnership

Understand needs	Continue to work with families to understand your needs including more families who are hard to reach.
Map existing provision	Research what community activities exist across County Durham.
Communicate	Strengthen our communication with families.
What is working well	Determine what is working well for families and community provision.
What are the barriers	Understand barriers to access and gaps and remove.

<p>Reduce families unable to access</p>	<p>Reduce the number of families unable to access. But, for those who cannot, co-produce solutions and commission an offer to meet their needs without having an assessment.</p>
<p>Ongoing review</p>	<p>Continue to review what we are doing together.</p>
<p>The right specialist support</p>	<p>For those families who require specialist support we will work with families and social work teams to understand quality and commission support in line with statutory assessments.</p>

Let's do this together!!

What is out there and where?

What is working well and why?

What are the barriers and how can we overcome these?

What is the best way to communicate?

Would you like to be more involved in this work...?



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If you feel you know a family are in need of a short break from their caring role but unsure how to get one – please contact Short Breaks Solutions by phoning the telephone or email address below.

Telephone: 03000 260 270

Email: shortbreakssolutions@durham.gov.uk

We can work together to co-ordinate a creative response for families.



Neurological Pathway Update - Sara Chadwick, Speech and Language Therapist , Sarah Watson, Clinical Nurse Specialist and Alison Ayre, Commissioning Manager

Alison described the background of the County Durham Care Partnership (see slides below). Sarah addressed the current waiting list children and families are in, in relation to accessing the right health support. Sarah explained that there are serious shortages of various key personal, so recruiting the necessary nursing and psychology personal is proving difficult.

Sarah described the assessment process and related issues. One major issue is that the current antiquated recording system doesn't automatically update when circumstances change. Sarah advised that families make sure they inform the service when moving house or changing other information, for every child individually. Another concerning factor is the volume of 'fail to attend' appointments. For example, in the month of September there were 30 appointments where families failed to attend various meetings and groups, making waiting lists longer.

Alison described some of the changing terminology around Neurodiversity, and what is on offer, both before and after an autism diagnosis.

She described the major undertaking currently taking place in terms of collecting parent/carer views around what they want and need from the neurodevelopmental services across County Durham, and asked that conference delegates be involved in the consultation across the next couple of years as they need that input to get it right.

Alison highlighted the questionnaire in the conference pack and asked that delegates complete it to further inform the consultation.

A discussion took place across the floor about how a new system might work and Alison answered questions from delegates about various aspects of service delivery. Sarah then talked through the pathway review and took question from the floor.

All of this information and contact details can be seen in the presentation below.



Neurodiversity in County Durham

MCT Conference

23rd & 24th November 2022
Radisson Blu, Durham

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Who we are



- The County Durham Care Partnership is a group of agencies working together to make sure we are joined up in our approach to supporting families in County Durham with their health and social care needs. This partnership includes representatives from Durham County Council, Northeast and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board and our NHS provider agencies (County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust).
- We will also include other agencies, as needed, for this piece of work.

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Recruitment issues in TEWV



- National shortage of nurses and allied health professionals
- Minimum of 3 years to complete a degree and become a qualified nurse
- Minimum of 6 years to become a qualified psychologist
- We have advertised for psychologists on four occasions and qualified clinicians twice over the last 12 months – unsuccessfully
- There is a project currently running to explore who to “fill the gap” of qualified psychologists in TEWV

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Private Assessments

- Many NHS trusts have commissioned private providers to conduct neuro assessments
- These now have significant waiting lists and some are closed to referrals
- For ADHD assessments the clinical governance and responsibility for prescribing lies with the prescriber
- There are occasions when children have had to be reassessed due to queries over the credibility of their assessment. On these occasions prescribing has been halted until there is a confident diagnosis of ADHD.

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Pathway Review

- Recent pathway review for Durham and Darlington
- Communication with families and young people is a theme
- Our clinical systems do not allow for mass e-mails or text and they don't automatically update contact information
- We rely on parents and carers telling us their information has changed

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DNA (did not attend) and Cancellations

- We appreciate appointments may have to be cancelled or rescheduled from time to time
- Across September and October we had approximately 30 DNAs
- Around half of these were for groups
- Many of the other DNAs were for initial appointments

Terminology

- Neurodiversity
 - The language of autism
 - More than autism
 - More than ADHD
 - Does it matter?
- The offer
 - Not the SEND Local Offer
- The system
 - NHS, social care, education, public health in County Durham

Why do we need to change?



- The current system doesn't meet need
- Too much demand in one part of the system
- Families not receiving the support they need when they need it
- Inequitable across the county

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What do we hope to achieve?



- Families whose needs are met when they are first identified
- A system that can change the support offered as a family changes
- Families feel listened too and supported
- Needs met as close to home as possible
- Perhaps reduced demand for diagnosis
- A family led, professionally advised offer of support and intervention

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What will this system look like?



- Please tell me
- Please complete the survey in your packs
- What do you want and need?
- At what point?
- How quickly?
- How locally?
- What does work and what doesn't work?

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Constraints



- There are none.
- If you could have any support, what would you have, when and where?
- Don't be constrained by the current system/offer
- Don't be constrained by the lack of system funding
- Don't be constrained by the lack of staff

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Then what?

- Collate the responses in December 2022
- Report to County Durham Care Partnership Executive Committee February/March 2023
 - Current state
 - Future state
 - Initial project plan
- Work to start in April 2023
- 3-5 year project
- Will need on-going engagement/discussion

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Other consultation

- PATH event with professionals and MCT in Summer
- Investing in Children
- PATH event with families in November
 - Second event 30th November 10-1, Durham Leadership Centre, Spennymoor.

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Do you want to get involved?



- necsu.durhamneuroproject@nhs.uk
 - Name
 - Contact details (email address preferably)
 - Area you live in
- For the event on 30th and/or on-going work

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Team Training – Victoria Robinson (evening) Sara Rawle (daytime)

Victoria and Sara described the range of training that has been carried out since the last conference, and the forthcoming training that parent/carers can access. They described the social media platforms where parent/carers can access information about the training and asked that delegates complete the questionnaires in their packs to enable the training team to formulate parent/carer training needs. The presentation below includes all the information discussed at both events



Team Training is made up of :





Sessions offered since May 2022:

- Emotional Wellbeing
- Supporting Children Who Are Anxious
- Understanding & Managing Anxiety and Emotionally Based School Avoidance
- Send Support the Graduated Approach
- The EHC Needs Assessment & EHC Plans
- Mediation, Appeals & Tribunals
- Preparing for an EHCP Annual Review
- Exclusion & SEND
- Access to the Creative Education Online Resources



Coming up from Team Training:

- Continued access to the Creative Education Online Resources
- SENDIASS Workshops
- Understanding & Managing Anxiety and Emotionally Based School Avoidance
- First Aid (No spaces left)





Exciting News:

- In the new year CAMHS will be adding to their training offer to parents, not only will they be offering their usual parent training but they will also be offering child to parent violence and adolescent sexual development training which will be delivered by their Forensic CAMHS Team and will be online via Microsoft Teams – please look out for more information on this in the new year.

So, look out for Team Training Publicity on our social media platforms. It will look like this....



Understanding and managing anxiety and emotionally based School avoidance

This session will increase understanding of what anxiety is and why we experience it, and raise awareness of triggers for school avoidance and how it can be managed.

Wednesday 19th October 2022 @ 9.30 am - 11.30 am or
Tuesday 6th December 2022 @ 9.30 am - 11.30 am (both sessions will be the same)

Emotional Wellbeing

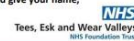
What is it and how can we improve it for ourselves and our children?

Tuesday 27th September 2022 @ 9.30 am—11.30 am or
Wednesday 16th November 2022 @ 9.30 am—11.30 am (both sessions will be the same)

The sessions are aimed at parents of school aged children but parents of younger/older children are very welcome. The sessions will be led by a CAMHS trainer and will run on Microsoft TEAMS

To book places please email teew.countyofdurhamcamhstraining@nhs.net

Please state which session/s you would like to attend and give your name, email address and contact number.



Future Plans:

We would love to hear of any ideas you have for future sessions.

There is a sheet in yourpack for you to complete now, these sheets are shared with all members of Team Training and help us identify parentcarer training needs.

The logo for 'Team TRAINING' features the word 'Team' in a black, sans-serif font, followed by the word 'TRAINING' in a bold, sans-serif font where each letter is a different color: T (red), R (orange), A (yellow), I (green), N (light blue), I (dark blue), N (purple), G (pink).

Please tell us of any ideas you have for future training sessions?

Are you interested in SEND Support in Schools?
Managing Sleep Difficulties?
Therapeutic Parenting?
Supporting Siblings?
Managing Anxiety?
Sensory Needs?
Or something not offered before?

Please write you ideas below and leave this sheet on your table to be collected by a member of MCT, Thank you.

You can contact any of the organisations through our social media platforms or website.



DURHAM
www.mctdurham.co.uk
c/o Durham SENDIASS
0191 5873 541



<https://durhamsendiass.info/>
Tel: 0191 587 3541 or
03000 267 007



support@rollercoasterfs.co.uk
Tel: 07377213952

Feedback from MCT's 'Have your say' Events

MCT held multiple events throughout summer 2022, both in person and online. Information and comments from the events are currently being fully collated to be shared with the Local Authority and Health services in due course.

'HAVE YOUR SAY'

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL THOSE THAT ATTENDED THESE EVENTS.

DURING SEPTEMBER WE HELD OUR 'HAVE YOUR SAY' EVENTS IN MULTIPLE AREAS OF THE COUNTY AND ONLINE.

AT THE SESSIONS WE ASKED YOU TO SHARE ANY PRAISES OR AIR YOUR GRIEVANCES ON ANYTHING SEND RELATED WITHIN COUNTY DURHAM.

THE GRIEVANCES AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT FEEDBACK WE RECEIVED WILL BE TAKEN TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND HEALTH FOR THEIR FEEDBACK AND RESPONSE TO THE ISSUES YOU ALL SHARED. THESE WILL THEN BE FED BACK TO YOU ALL AFTER.



DO YOU LIVE IN COUNTY DURHAM?



DO YOU HAVE A CHILD / YOUNG PERSON WITH AN ADDITIONAL NEED and / or DISABILITY?

DO YOU HAVE ANY GOOD NEWS STORIES TO SHARE OR ANY ISSUES YOU WISH TO RAISE WITH REGARDS TO -

- The Local Authority
- The NHS
- Services
- Procedures
- Anything at all Durham SEND related?

THEN COME TO OUR PARENT CARER FORUM
"SHARE YOUR PRAISE OR AIR YOUR GRIEVANCES"
COFFEE MORNING DROP IN SESSIONS.

EVENT TIME 10.30AM - 12.30PM & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.

- ☆ BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN HALL - THURS 15th SEPT
- ☆ EASTLEA COMMUNITY CENTRE, SEAHAM - THURS 22nd SEPT
- ☆ VANE TEMPEST HALL, GILESGATE - TBC
- ☆ VIA ZOOM ONLINE - TUES 27TH SEPT - LINK WILL BE ADDED TO OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA SOON.

EVENT TIME 12.15pm - 2.15pm & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.

- ☆ CITIZENS HOUSE, CONSETT - THURS 8TH SEPT

See our website events for more information.
WWW.MCTDURHAM.CO.UK

We work in partnership with the Local Authority, Health and Social Care also other groups and organisations (locally, regionally and nationally) to influence service provision and highlight the issues and needs of the families we represent. Together we can make changes.



Key Working – Daisy Chain Project - Rebecca Addison.

Rebecca described the Key worker project and how families and young people access the service. It is a service for C&YP with complex needs and offers a coordinated package of support, independent of CAMHS and other statutory agencies.

Questions asked by delegates included a request for clarification of where Daisy Chain works throughout Durham. Rebecca confirmed that general support from the organisation is available to parents and families in all areas of County Durham, including the east of the county.

The full presentation including their positive behaviour workshops is described through the presentation below



INTRODUCTION

The Key Working Function has been developed as a response to the NHS England & NHS Improvement Long Term Plan (LTP) commitment that by 2023/24, children and young people with a learning disability, autism, or both, with the most complex needs will have a designated Keyworker.

A Keyworker will be allocated to children and young people with a learning disability, autism or both, who are inpatients, or at risk of being admitted to hospital. Those children at risk of school exclusion or family breakdown will also be allocated a Complex Needs Key Worker under the project.



Outcomes

The Complex Needs Key Working Team will deliver a timely and coordinated package of support, ensuring:

- Access routes to support are clear
- Support is personalised and appropriate to the Child/young person and families needs
- Continuity
- Services and assessments are integrated across the various sectors
- Reasonable adjustments are made, where necessary
- The Families and Children/young people feel involved in planning their care and support.



1:1 Keyworker Support

The 1:1 support from a Key Worker is for those children/young people who:

- Have a diagnosed Learning Disability and/or Autism diagnosis.
- Are aged 4-18 years
- May be at risk of Tier 4 inpatient admittance or are currently in an inpatient setting.
- Home/school breakdown, or are at risk of out of area educational placement
- Are on the Dynamic Support Register.



What we do

The Keyworker project is made up of 2 elements:

1. Positive Behaviour workshops.
2. 1:1 support

For 1:1 support a diagnosis of Autism and/or Learning Disability must be in place and the child must be aged 4-18 years. PBS Workshops can be accessed by those who are on the Neurodevelopmental pathway.



Where do we work?

The Complex Needs Key Working Team cover the following areas:

- Durham
- Darlington
- Hartlepool
- Stockton
- Middlesbrough
- Redcar and Cleveland



Positive Behaviour Support

It is co-delivered by ParentCarer Forums.

Parents can selfrefer, or a professional can refer on their behalf. Leaflets are readily available and can be shared electronically.

The sessions are delivered both virtually and face to face

Keyworkers will identify, through the sessions, if a family requires additional support.



Structure of the Team

The team consists of the following:

- Strategic Lead
- One Senior Complex Needs Key Worker
- 6 Complex Needs Key Workers



Referrals

The Complex Needs Key Working Team can accept referrals for 1:1 support from:

- The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- MAAT following diagnosis
- Paediatricians
- SALT
- LD CAMHS
- Local Authority Education Department.



What is the Dynamic Support Register?

The Dynamic Support Register is a function used to identify the most vulnerable children and young people residing within local authority areas.

The DSR meeting is held every 4 weeks and attended by a core group of professionals to discuss the concerns for a child or young person, where there is a risk of hospital admission or placement breakdown.

A representative from The Complex Needs Key Worker Team attend the monthly DSR meetings to ensure those children and young people meeting the criteria are referred as soon as possible.



Service Aims and Objectives

- Ensure the child, young person and their family are at the centre of any planning and discussions.
- Ensure effective communication is in place.
- Advocate, support, challenge and influence problem solving to pull a strong coordinated personalised package of care together.
- Facilitate the provision and implementation of a tailored holistic package of support to help the child or young person and their family.



Continued

- Deliver training to parent/carers in relation to empowering to increase confidence and resilience.
- To maintain individuals in their own home and prevent escalation of need, wherever possible
- To reduce admissions to inpatient care through preventing crisis and placement breakdown
- Identify, guide and refer to other services where needed e.g. carer support services, Child Adolescent Mental Health Services, short breaks provision etc.



Any Questions?

Contact us

Tel: 01642 531248 Option 0

Email: keyworking@daisychainproject.co.uk



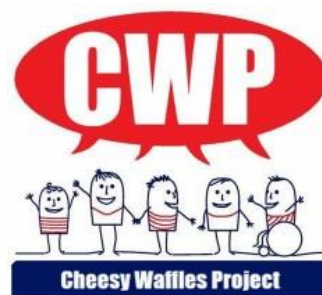
Cheesy Waffles group – Bryce, Michael, Lee and Sally

Young people from the Cheesy waffles group Bryce, Michael, Lee and Sally described the impressive range of groups and activities that the group offer. There are lots of sports and health-based activities as well as excellent community links. They have their own football club, Cheesy Waffles FC and are involved in the Duke of Edinburgh award where the young people told the conference which levels they have achieved individually.

The group told the conference about the range of tasks they carry out in the community café and the range of music and performance programmes that Cheesy Waffles have going on. Their residential activities are extensive with members going to all sorts of fabulous trips and holidays. The project has 10 ambassadors who get involved in all sorts of charity fundraising and events.

The CWP presentation can be seen in full, through the slides below.

**Presentation MCT
Conference 24th
November 2022**

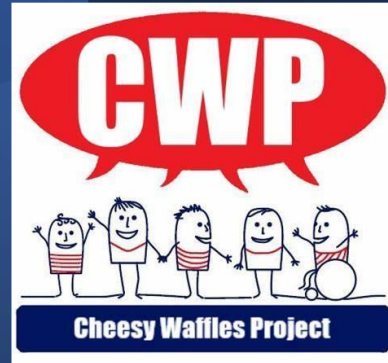


*Giving children, young people & adults a
voice through positive activities*

Our Clubs & Activities

We deliver a range of clubs and activities through eleven separate sessions per week during term time.

We also offer Ambassadors Sessions, 1:1 activities through NHS Connector Grant, Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Scheme including Expedition Training, offsite trip and visits and residentials.



Health & Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing plays a very important part in the delivery of our activities.

We have a Fit Bits Session for Adults age 18+ to enjoy gentle exercise, learn about healthy living, mindfulness and engage in cookery.

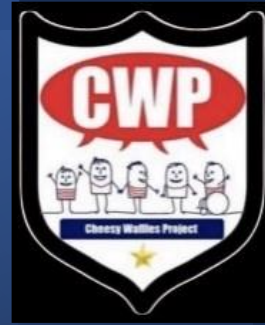
The Fun Fit Session is delivered to children and young people 12 to 19 years and encourages teamwork, sports skills and learning how to stay healthy.

Fun physical activities and wellbeing projects are delivered across our programme of clubs and groups and a dedicated health worker gives one to one support to ensure positive mental health and advice is available to all.



Cheesy Waffles FC

Cheesy Waffles FC are a group of local people including family and friends of our members . Their mission is to raise disability awareness, encourage inclusion & acceptance and raise funds through Community Football. Their donations have funded work with young men, sports and wellbeing equipment for children and young people and The Cheesy Waffles All Stars Football Team for adult members.



Community Links

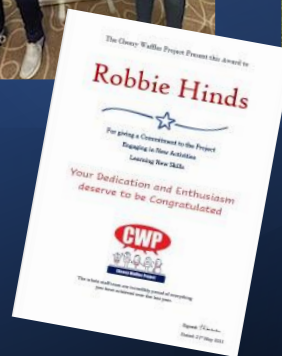
Community Cohesion is central to the work we do with our members delivering awareness days and working alongside local business and organisations .

We have supported local and National charities through fundraising and have hosted Community Fayres and Fun Days plus a welcome return to our Community Café in partnership with The Wider World Project.



Awards & Accreditation are accessible to all members including The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, V Award, Youth Achievement, In House Awards & Awards through our Charity Memberships including Durham Association of Boys & Girls Clubs and The Key.

Awards & Accreditation



The Skills House

We have a new venture launching in January 2023. Our Skills House, a place for our members to visit to learn life and personal skills, spend time with friends, become independent and enjoy social time in a warm and caring setting.



We have a large Musical Performance Project 'Making Music' that brings different age groups together to explore dance, music, song, poetry and acting. The Project encourages communication skills, team work, timing, coordination and raises self confidence.



Music & Performance



Holiday Programmes

We deliver a full programme of activities during every school/college holiday time with fun and engaging centre-based sessions, offsite visits to local places of interests, trips to places further away and overnight stays and longer residential.



CWP Ambassadors

We now have a team of 10 Ambassadors who work together to support decisions on activities, fundraising and the profile of our Charity as well as giving their time to support a range of events and awareness raising.



New Members

We are focusing on encouraging new members into our youth provision sessions for children and young people age 7 to 19 years at our Main Centre Site in Belmont, Durham and at Horden, East Durham.

The best way to start the registration process is to drop us an email at cwyproject@gmail.com



SEND Update – Paul Shadforth, SEND & Inclusion Manager

Paul introduced himself and described the outward facing part of his role. He manages various services within the SEND arena, manages SEND budgets and decision making around how the SEND budget is spent.

Paul talked to the conference about the SEND Strategy, Education Health and Care Plans, Primary SEND Trends and the SEND Green Paper update. His full presentation can be followed throughout the slides below.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Update

Making Changes Together
November 2022



What I Will Cover

SEND Strategy Update

Education Health Care Plan

Primary SEND Trends

SEND Green Paper Update



**SEND Strategy for County Durham
Local Area Partnership**

2022 - 2024

Action Area Headings

Attendance

Family Resilience

Voice of Children and
young People

Meeting Needs

Workforce

Promoting the 'Local' Offer



SEN Support and Education Health and Care Plans

- The number of children and young people with an EHCP or receiving SEN Support continues to increase year-on-year
- There has been a 37% increase in EHCPs in the last 4 years. That is 1,082 more young people with an EHCP
- There has been a 25% increase in the number of young people with a SEND Support Plan. That is 2,128 more young people
- 17.6% of Durham pupils have an identified SEND compared to 16.6% in England.

EHCP Requests

Requests for EHCP assessments are higher than pre-COVID.

Between 2019 to 2021 Durham's requests rose by 17%. This is higher than the national and regional with increases of 13% and 6% respectively.

2022 year-to-date figures are on track to outpace previous years. 687 requests Apr-Sep22 compared to 464 in Apr-Sep21

Around 1 in 5 requests are for under 5s with a third for secondary age pupils- This has increased and is higher than in our comparators



- The number of children and young people with an EHCP or receiving SEN Support continues to increase year-on-year
- There has been a 37% increase in EHCPs in the last 4 years. That is 1,082 more young people with an EHCP
- There has been a 25% increase in the number of young people with a SEND Support Plan. That is 2,128 more young people
- 17.6% of Durham pupils have an identified SEND compared to 16.6% in England.

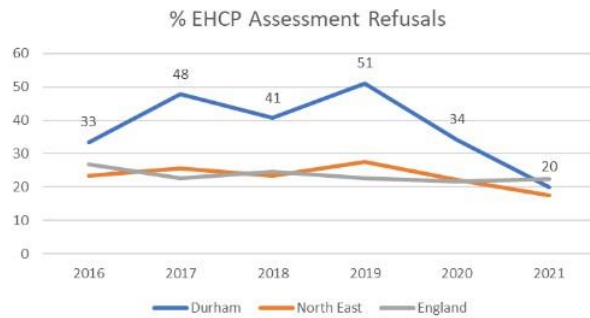


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EHCP Assessment Refusals

- Prior to 2019 Durham was an outlier for EHCP assessment refusals with around 45% requests refused when first received. Many of these decisions were later overturned and young people went onto receive an EHCP
- Following changes to the decision making process in 2019 refusals for EHCP assessments have fallen and in 2021 were 20% bringing us in line with national and regional averages
- 2022 YTD figures show a further decrease in refusals to 11% of all EHCP requests

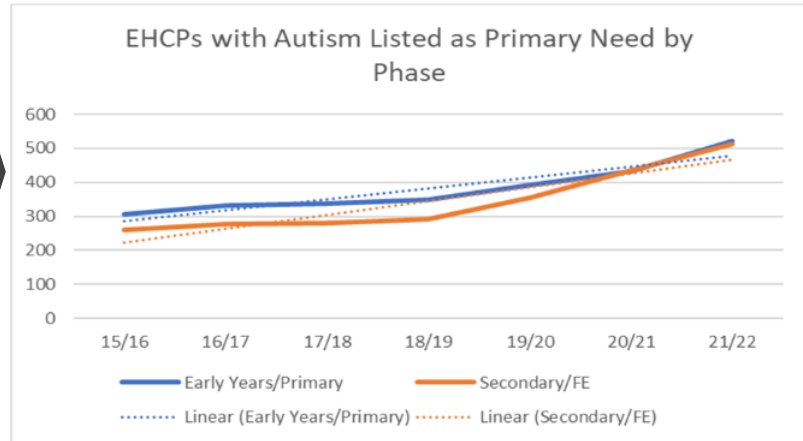


Primary Need and Placement of our children and young people with an EHCP



Autism Analysis

- The number and rate per 1,000 pupils with Autism is increasing
- Whilst this has risen across the country, the rate in Durham is now statistically significantly higher than the national average
- The increase is evident in both early years/primary and secondary/FE phases



National Policy Developments in SEND



SEND Green Paper

The Department for Education (DfE) have been seeking views on their published Green Paper

'Right Support, Right Time'. The paper sets out the changes the DfE want to make to the SEND and alternative provision system in England. The consultation ran from 29 March to 22 July 2022.

A response to the Green Paper was put together through engagement with Service Users and Key Stakeholders including members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and submitted to the consultation.

Durham's response along with all others submitted is being analysed by the DfE and an update is expected later in the year.



SEND Casework Team overview – Clive Horton, SEND Team Manager

Clive talked to the conference about New Assessments, Annual Reviews and Post 16 Year 11 plus Assessments, reviews and funding. Clive answered questions from the floor relating to the assessment process and the improvements in communication with parents that are being implemented shortly.

Clive's full presentation can be followed throughout the slides below.

Durham SEND Casework Team

Theme 1 – New Assessments – Nursery to Yr10

Clive Horton clive.horton@durham.gov.uk

Theme 2 – Annual Reviews – Nursery to Yr10

Teri Corsan-Bland teri.cbland@durham.gov.uk

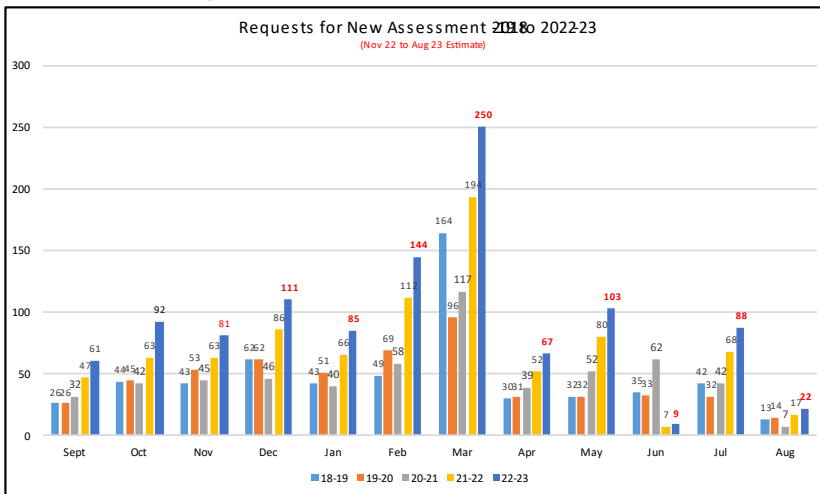
Theme 3 – Post-16 Yr11 plus Assessments and Reviews

Sam Black samantha.Black@durham.gov.uk

- Current Pressures within the SEND Casework Team
- Overview of funding banding in mainstream schools
- Improving Communication with Parents/Carers
- Strengthening the decision making process



New Assessment Requests



Profile of assessments remains consistently the same

Spike in March – Impact of guidance date

Total number of requests increasing

2018-19	583
2019-20	544
2020-21	582
2021-22	855
2022-23	1114-Estimate

Requests

KS1(inc R)	around 24%
KS2	around 46%
KS3	around 23%
KS4	around 7%

34 new assessments in November 2022

SEND & Inclusion Service



New Funding Process - All New EHCP and SEN Support Top -Up Funding from September 2022

Band A – Special Educational Provision from Core and Notional Budgets
 Schools are expected to provide ‘additional to and different from’ provision to meet identified SEND needs up to the value of £6,000 notional funding for each pupil.

Band B1/2
 Band B1 - £1,000 Band B2 - £3,000

Increased Support

Band C1/C2
 Band C1 - £5,000 Band C2 - £7,000

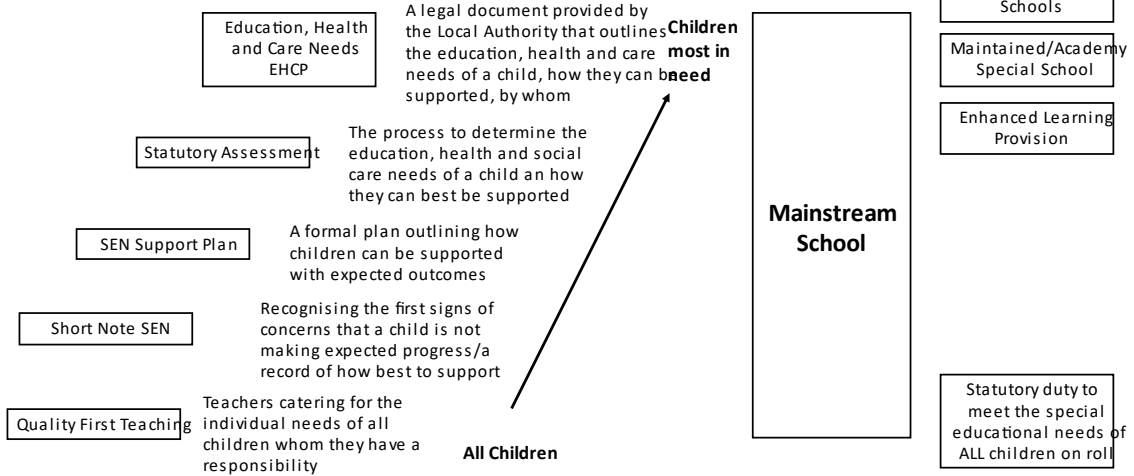
Frequent Support

Band D1/D2
 Band D1 - £9,000 Band D2 - £11,000

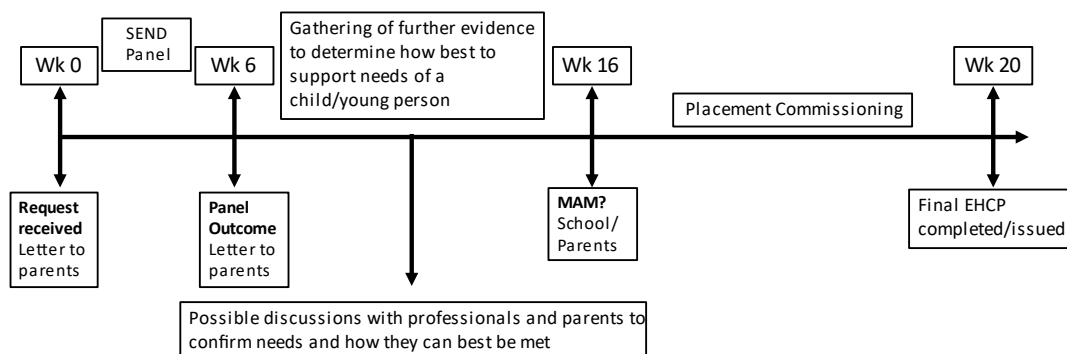
Frequent and Intensive Support



The Graduated Approach to Learning
Meeting all children's needs



Present Process – Communication with Parents – Key Points in Process

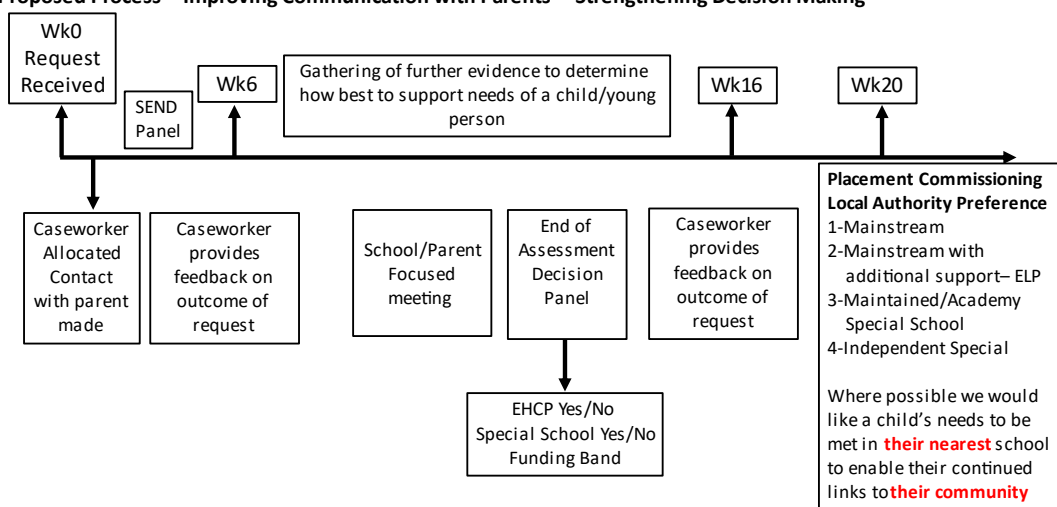


Currently a Multi-Agency Meeting (MAM) might form part of the decision making process
 Make up of the MAM has become limited to Parent/School/Caseworker

Decision Making
 Presently the decision is made by the Caseworker and Caseworker Manager Yes to an EHCP and Yes to Special School




Proposed Process – Improving Communication with Parents – Strengthening Decision Making



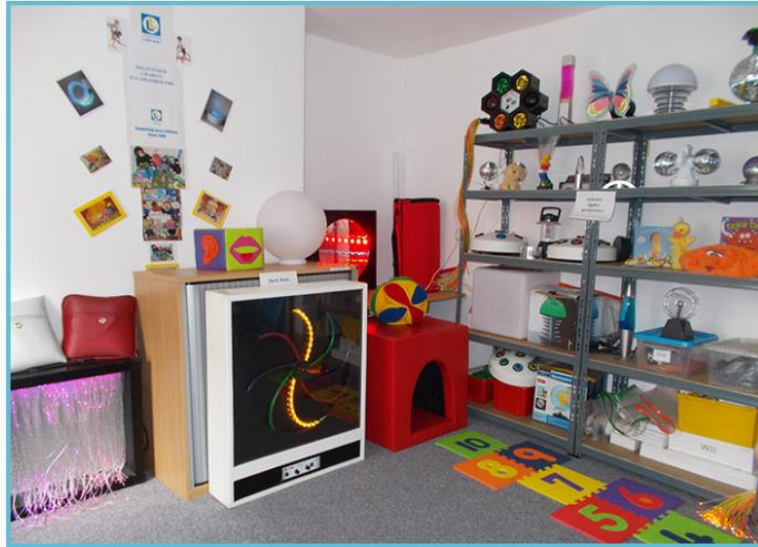
Learning Library – Sarah Machin and Kirstin Turnbull

Sarah and Kirstin told the conference how the Learning Library works and what is available to parents and families on loan. Their leaflets were available on a stand in the conference marketplace. Website is

<https://www.learninglibrary.org.uk/>



- Home >
- What We Do >
- Our Team >
- News >
- How Can You Help? >
- History >
- Catalogue >
- Contact Us >




Welcome

The Learning Library is a registered charity that provides the unique service of loaning out activity items, specialist equipment, sensory items, toys and games to children and adults with additional needs and learning difficulties. We are totally free to families and is also available to Schools, Day/Residential Services, Child Minders, Private Nurseries and other group organisations for a nominal annual fee.

Our service is available across County Durham and is based at North Street, Spennymoor from where we run our service. We offer either an outreach service, or members can visit us here if they choose.

Should you require more information on where to find us and contact details, please follow the link for the contact page.



- Home >
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Contact Us

Our Base

45/47 North Street, Spennymoor, Co. Durham DL16 6AP

Tel: 01388 420267

Email: info@learninglibrary.org.uk

Opening times

Our Outreach Workers bring our items to your home but we positively encourage visits to the Library so, if you would like to visit us, a member of staff will always be in the library on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9.00am until 4.00pm. If you wish to visit the library outside of these times please contact us prior to your visit to ensure a member of staff will be available.

We love to get your feedback

The Learning Library is constantly looking at and evaluating the service we provide. We would greatly appreciate any feedback on the work that we do and welcome any suggestion on ways we can develop and progress. So, how can you tell us your thoughts? It is simple, contact us using one of the methods given below but please include your name, address and contact telephone number in your email or letter so that we can get back in touch with you easily.

- You can call us on: **01388 420267**
- You can Email us at: info@learninglibrary.org.uk
- Or you can write to us at: **The Learning Library, 45 - 47 North Street, Spennymoor, County Durham DL16 6AP**

Please include your name, address and contact telephone number in your email or letter so that we can get back in touch with you easily.

Links to other organisations

- www.ncb.org.uk/play-matters
In June 2011, the National Association of Toy and Leisure Libraries in England and Northern Ireland merged with the National Children's Bureau.
- www.durham.gov.uk
(follow links to Social Care & Health)

Raffle and Close

Raffles took place at both events with a range of lovely prizes won by delegates.

Julie asked delegates to complete the evaluation forms, closed the conference and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Conference Evaluations

Daytime;

Head - Something learnt from today

- Support groups that are available to me, my family and child.
- About the wide range of activities, Short Break opportunities and services in Durham. I learned about MCT and the work they are involved in.
- Learning Library.
- Neurodevelopment Pathway. Proposed changes.
- Understanding constraints on services and waiting times.
- Services available.
- That you can access the Learning Library.
- Neurodevelopmental Pathway training was interesting and looking forward to seeing changes.
- About the Learning Library, great resource.
- Provision available at Daisy Chain is now available throughout the County. Also learnt for County Durham Oral Health that toothpaste can be causing my son to get repeated ulcers, I thought it was anxiety, they provided some toothpaste to trial.
- Daisy Chain can be accessed for my area, Chester le Street.
- More information about EHCPs.
- Durham Enable were very helpful and listened, I hope to use in the future.
- Changes proposed to funding process.
- About Daisy Chain.
- Daisy Chain aren't postcode lottery anymore.
- Cheesy Waffle club activities.
- Lots of agencies / professionals trying hard to make things better for SEN children and families.
- Some updates on current situation/positions/numbers.

- Statistics relating to EHCP applications in secondary school.
- There's more help there that you can use.
- Talking to people with very similar problems.
- Short Breaks.
- How broken the system is.
- Current (future) SEND framework.
- What SENDIASS does (didn't really know what they did).
- About Learning Library and Daisy Chain.
- It was lovely to hear from the Cheesy Waffles and the work that they are doing, they are great Ambassadors for their organisation.
- Changes in SEND processes.
- Services available.
- Costings for EHCP, SEND Plan breakdown.
- Other available services i.e., Daisy Chain and Durham Enable.
- All the different organisations that could help me which I did not know about.
- Better information from Neurodevelopment Team.
- Cheesy Waffles - brilliant presentation, relevant and clearly spoken.
- Lots of support out there.
- The road is long with many a winding turn (and the concerns processes aren't fit for purpose)
- Lots of good and useful information about local resources etc.
- I can access support from Daisy Chain.
- How many resources there are available.
- How much support is around without being told.
- Support agencies that are available.
- Support and funding on SEN Plan.

Heart - Something I've felt/experienced today

- Able to get / seek support where needed.
- Positive about some of the changes planned to improve things but also worried about some of the frustrations and pressures on meeting our childcare needs.
- How complex it is to navigate the different systems when a child has additional needs.
- Good sense of community.
- Time to stop and feel connected to others in a similar situation.
- I spoke to Dr Emma Honey who told me about the changes that have been made after my complaint / experience, it was positive to hear about this.
- Listening to the Cheesy Waffles young people speak was lovely to hear.
- A feel for positive change.
- The passion and frustration felt by parents.
- Nice seeing familiar faces.
- Cheesy Waffles Project, fantastic.

- Listened to, gathered a lot of information.
- Enjoyed charring with parents and professionals.
- Worried about increased demands on services and waiting lists.
- Ran the Rollercoaster stall when I didn't think I could do it.
- Empathy with parents looking for help.
- Some parent/carer stories.
- More people with similar problems and don't understand where everyone stands which today has helped.
- Positivity
- Always meeting other parents is my highlight of this conference.
- Parents being listened to and asked for views (questionnaires etc)
- Enjoyed talking to others and parents.
- It is challenging to be given individual case details in a public forum and it might be helpful to set the precedent that NHS staff are not here to answer individual clinical concerns.
- Shared interest.
- I have enjoyed today, thank you it was lovely to speak to others.
- That there are other people in the same situation as me.
- MCT staff, brilliant as usual.
- The process of getting an EHCP.
- Frustration at all the broken processes, hope at some of the success stories.
- Nice to see everyone come together and put on a good conference.
- That there are people that care about children like ours.
- I'm not alone in having a child with conditions.
- Cheesy Waffle Project.

Carrier bag - Something I'll take away from today

- Support groups contacts/leaflets.
- MCT are going to be an organisation / group of dedicated people I'll be in contact with in future.
- SEND updates.
- Networking opportunities.
- To see if I can contribute to the Neurodiversity Durham County Care Partnership.
- New contacts / useful organisations.
- SEND update.
- Daisy Chain.
- Some new information.
- EHCP process to better support my son.
- Look again at training and community projects.
- Some good discussion points for my new role as SEN link governor at my son's school.

- Toothbrushes and contact details for agencies.
- Daisy Chain
- There are people out there to help.
- Fidgets.
- My daughter is taking away lots of goodies.
- A clearer idea of how the various teams around SEND come together and what they do.
- Information about DADLG and Learning Library.
- Across the day there is a real passion for support for families and young people but that there is a real need to provide, and commission needs based support.
- Increased knowledge and some goodies.
- Accessing Daisy Chain and Integrating.
- Information about services I can access for my family.
- The different options outside of education.
- That there is help there to help with the needs of my son.
- Lots of information leaflets, keep them coming the more the better.
- All the goodies.
- Great knowledge transfer from services.
- Bag of goodies and some good local information.
- Daisy Chain information.
- A little more knowledge about resources and a lot of information leaflets.
- Advice leaflets, information.
- Toothbrush, information leaflets, fidget spinner and keyring.

Dustbin – Something that was not so good about today

- Not being able to hear half of the session due to the mic not working.
- Nothing, thank you.
- Groups of people talking over presenters, it made it difficult to hear and it was extremely rude.
- Sound issues.
- Food needed heating but it was still lovely
- People talking when speakers were speaking.
- Hearing some of the parent's negative experiences and people talking when speakers were up, couldn't hear!
- The short presentation given by lady from Neurodiversity Team, very confusing and no opportunities for questions.
- Neurodevelopment Team.
- Lunch.
- Problems with the microphone, quite difficult to hear some presentations.
- Keeping to times, well done for finishing on time.
- All ok, thanks you.
- Food compared to the Ramside last year.

- None working microphones.
- Food - Meh.
- Christmas starts dangling in front of the projector screen.
- I'm happy.
- Needs more time for discussion on tables / activities.
- Preferred venue of Ramside for transport purposes, food etc.
- Not being able to hear and people allowing the doors to slam, at Ramside this wasn't an issue.
- Not having access to microphone early.
- Preferred Ramside overall, accessibility, food, cost. Write bigger about free parking and felt more inclusive at Ramside.
- It felt rushed in parts with going over time.
- Parking was not great, getting into the city was horrendous.
- Food not great, sorry, lack of professionals in attendance this time.
- Volume - lack of! better microphones please.
- The unexpected derailment of presentations.
- Food wasn't the best.
- The food wasn't the best and the food plates should have been marked with the ingredients.

Evening;

Head - Something learnt from today

- Felt confident that Care Partnership may actually bring services together and make life easier for parents, children and young people.
- What groups are out there for my child.

Heart - Something I've felt/experienced today

- People do care.
- There is more help out there.

Carrier bag - Something I'll take away from today

- Some good information from the stands re supported working.
- Some positive changes in the pipeline.

Dustbin - Something that was not so good about today

