



MCT DURHAM PCF XXXI CONFERENCE REPORT



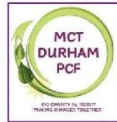
**WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY
10AM - 2.30PM & 6PM - 8PM
AT RAMSIDE HALL.**

This report is distributed to parent/carers and professionals who were unable to attend the conferences, alongside those delegates who did attend. It therefore contains all of the presentations and information given at the MCT daytime and evening conferences on Wednesday 1st May 2024 at Ramside Hall.

If you are unable to read any of the slides, they are also available to download via the "conference info" tab on the MCT website under "May conference 2024" - <https://www.mctdurham.co.uk/conference-info/>

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Daytime Agenda



MCT Durham PCF Conference XXXI

Wednesday 1st May 2024. 10am - 2.30pm

Ramside Hall Hotel, Durham.

- 09:30 Registration, information, and refreshments ☕
- 10:00 Welcome
- 10:05 Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) update - Cheryl Temple & Sam Black
- 10:25 Team Training update - Victoria (MCT)
- 10.35 SENDIASS - Lisa Kirton
- 10:45 Family Hubs - Alison Ghent
- 10:50 Have your say - What's good and what's not so good! - MCT
- 11.05 Coffee break ☕
- 11.20 The Needs Assessment Recovery Plan - Danny Meek
- 11.30 Waiting Well Update - Peter Mulholland
- 11:45 SENDEIC - (Short Breaks) update - Lyndsey Dunn
- 11:55 Autism Strategy - Liz Mulholland
- 12:05 Cheesy Waffles
- 12:25 Dinner / Networking. 🍴 ☕
- 13:20 Learning disabilities CIC - Heidi Smith
- 13.25 Neurodevelopmental Pathway - Rachael Allen
- 13:35 Valuing Neurodevelopment Project - Alison Ayres
- 13:50 Waves Parent Support Group - Louise Brown & Nikki Cooper
- 13.55 Live Well North East - Rockbox fitness 🏋️
- 14:25 Raffle, Paperwork and close. 🏆 🚪

Thank you for attending. MCT DURHAM CIO - Registered charity number 1202217.

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Evening Agenda.



MCT Durham PCF Conference XXXI

Wednesday 1st May 2024. 6pm – 8pm

Ramside Hall Hotel, Durham.

- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| 17:30 | Registration, information, and refreshments |  |
| 18:00 | Welcome | |
| 18:05 | Valuing Neurodevelopment Project – Alison Ayres | |
| 18.20 | Waves Parent Support group – Louise Brown & Nikki Cooper | |
| 18:25 | Waiting Well Update – Peter Mulholland | |
| 18.40 | Team Training – Victoria (MCT) | |
| 18:50 | Have your say – What's good and what's not so good! – MCT | |
| 19.05 | SENDIASS – Lisa Kirton | |
| 19:15 | SENDEIC – (Short Breaks) update – Lyndsey Dunn | |
| 19.25 | Neurodevelopmental Pathway – Alison Ayres | |
| 19.35 | Family hubs – Alison Ghent | |
| 19.40 | Learning Disabilities CIC– Heidi Smith | |
| 19.45 | Raffle, Paperwork and close. |   |

Thank you for attending.

MCT DURHAM CIO – Registered charity number 1202217.

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Welcome by Julie Temple from MCT.

Julie was the spokesperson for both of our 31st Parent carer conferences. Julie welcomed everyone to the conference and highlighted the usual housekeeping information. We also made everyone aware they'd been some adult nappies donated by an attendee Lesley Hutchinson and anybody was free to take some if needed.

Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) update

Speakers: Cheryl Temple - Progression Manager & Sam Black - SEND Service Manager.

Preparing for Adulthood

Cheryl Temple, Progression Manager, DCC
Sam Black, SEND Service Manager, DCC



Cheryl and Sam took 5 minutes to give context of Preparing for Adulthood. Cheryl asked the audience if everyone had heard of PFA and most said yes. She explained that PFA is a national incentive and prepares our children for adulthood and going out into the world.

Preparing for Adulthood

National picture:

- Until March 2022, Preparing for Adulthood was part of the Delivering Better Outcomes Together (DBOT) team which is a consortium of Mott Macdonald, NDTi and the Council for Disabled Children. The project was funded by the DfE. DCC were an active partner with this work.
- SEND Code of Practice: from the age of thirteen onwards annual reviews should focus on preparing for adulthood.

[SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf](#)
(publishing.service.gov.uk)

- Current Ofsted Thematic Reviews: Preparing for Adulthood arrangements

Thematic reviews of preparation for adulthood arrangements in local areas - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



Preparing for Adulthood

Local picture:

- An established Preparing for Adulthood Partnership.
- A new Preparing for Adulthood Board – made up of senior health, education and social care colleagues. Working on shared principles for transitions between services to ensure they are always effective, supportive, well prepared and planned for.
- Preparing for Adulthood focus is embedded within practice across the SEND team and Progression and Learning team.
- For learners with an EHCP from yr 9 – Preparing for Adulthood should be a key theme in annual reviews
- SEND Strategy for the County Durham Local Area Partnership 2022-24 reflects the 4 key outcomes for PfA

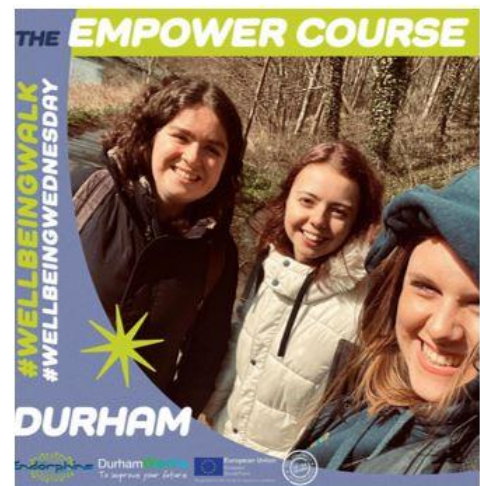


They explained that MCT are involved in the PfA board at a strategic level and a new PfA strategy is being written. The annual review process and EHCPs are the main PfA themes of the strategy. They spoke of outcomes achieved - DurhamEnable have inclusive employment and apprenticeship places and the Durhamworks programme for vulnerable year 11's into post 16 education is not just for young people with an EHCP.

Preparing for Adulthood

Some examples:

- The commitment to develop a dedicated **PfA strategy** for County Durham – aim to complete by June 2024.
- The development of **DurhamEnable** – new supported employment service and SEND Employment Forum.
- The continuation of **DurhamWorks** programme for school's service – careers guidance and support with transition from yr 11 into post 16 education.
- Clear examples of some schools and FE providers changing their curriculum to better reflect and work on PfA outcomes with young people. For example, Durham Trinity's **Preparing for Life** curriculum.
- **Inclusion officers** in post to support access to community activities for SEND children and young people.
- **Autism Strategy** and neuro-developmental pathway work



They stated they have meetings with stakeholders where they share stories of work in schools e.g. Trinity school have changed to a life curriculum called Preparing for Life which has made a big difference to the young people.

Cheryl and Sam left flip chart paper and pens on tables and asked everyone to look at the 4 questions below and write down answers and suggestions which would be used to shape the PfA service in the future.

Preparing for Life/Adulthood

1. Preparing for Adulthood or Preparing for Life?
2. What is working well for your child/young person to prepare them for transition to adulthood/life?
3. What are you worried about in terms of your child/young person becoming an adult?
4. What would you like to see available to you and your child/young person to help them prepare for the transition of becoming an adult?



Contact

For any further information on PfA or suggestions to include in the strategy please contact:

DurhamWorksreferrals@durham.gov.uk



Team Training Update.

Speaker: Victoria Robinson - MCT

Victoria explained to everyone what Team training is and who is involved - MCT, TEWV, Family Hubs, Durham County Carers Support, Darlington parent carer forum & SENDIASS and that Waves support group are joining us in July's meeting.

Victoria explained Team Training was started to enable as much parent / carer training was offered as possible and to avoid organisations putting on duplicate training sessions.

Victoria advised there was a sheet of paper in the conference packs and asked attendees to think of any training they would like to see. She will share all suggestions received at the next Team Training meeting in July.

You can view all the team training available at <https://www.mctdurham.co.uk/parent-carer-training-workshops/>. Training is added regularly so keep checking.

Team training slides below...





Team Training is made up of :



Most popular training requests from November's Conference:

- Sleep
- Eating
- Behaviour
- Toileting
- Anger Management
- EHCPs





Most popular training requests from November's Conference:

- Post 16
- Sibling Support
- Making friends
- Social Media
- Benefits
- Supporting children in care and foster care



Sessions offered since Nov 2023:

- An introduction to Sensory Needs
- Managing Sensory Challenge
- Wills and Trusts
- The Graduated Approach to SEND
- The EHCP process & the right to appeal
- Monthly SENDIASS drop-in sessions at each of the 15 family hubs





Sessions offered since Nov 2023 continued:

- Understanding Why Children Might Be Anxious About School
- Anxiety – over 11 years
- Anxiety – 5 – 11 years
- Emotional Wellbeing
- Understanding Sleep
- Understanding Behaviour Development in Children & Young People



Coming up from Team Training:

- Understanding why Children might be anxious in School
- Anxiety – over 11 years
- Anxiety – 5 – 11 years
- Emotional Wellbeing
- Understanding Sleep
- Understanding Behaviour Development in Children & Young People





Coming up from Team Training continued:

- Making Sense of Caring
- Paediatric First Aid
- Monthly SENDIASS drop-in sessions at each of the 15 family hubs and a fortnightly online drop-in session
- NEAS Durham face to face Workshops – At Horden and Willington Family Hubs
- Intro to ADHD delivered by Daisy Chain at various Durham Family Hubs

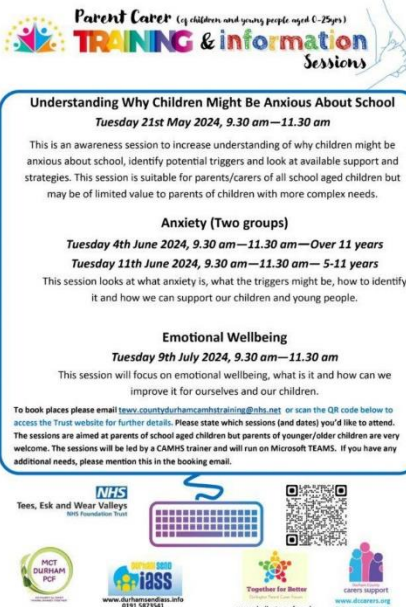


Coming up from Team Training continued:

- MCT & Sensory Worx are working on a leaflet of common things that parents have asked for information about.
- Team Training are looking at the possibility of producing some leaflets around topics that have been highlighted by parent carers – watch this space!



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



Parent Carer (of children and young people aged 0-25yrs)
TRAINING & information Sessions

Understanding Why Children Might Be Anxious About School
Tuesday 21st May 2024, 9.30 am—11.30 am
This is an awareness session to increase understanding of why children might be anxious about school, identify potential triggers and look at available support and strategies. This session is suitable for parents/carers of all school aged children but may be of limited value to parents of children with more complex needs.

Anxiety (Two groups)
Tuesday 4th June 2024, 9.30 am—11.30 am—Over 11 years
Tuesday 11th June 2024, 9.30 am—11.30 am—5-11 years
This session looks at what anxiety is, what the triggers might be, how to identify it and how we can support our children and young people.

Emotional Wellbeing
Tuesday 9th July 2024, 9.30 am—11.30 am
This session will focus on emotional wellbeing, what it is and how can we improve it for ourselves and our children.

To book places please email tees.countydurhamcamhstraining@nhs.net or scan the QR code below to access the Trust website for further details. Please state which sessions (and dates) you'd like to attend. 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. If you have any additional needs, please mention this in the booking email.

 **Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys**
NHS Foundation Trust

 **MCT DURHAM PDF**
www.mctdurham.co.uk

 **iASS**
www.durhamandtees.nhs.uk 0191 5875943

 **Together for Better**
www.darlingtonpf.co.uk

 **carer's support**
www.dcarers.org
Tel: 0800 5052123

Future Plans:

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

There is a sheet in your pack for you to complete now, the information recorded on these sheets are shared with all members of Team Training and help us identify parent carer training needs.

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



www.mctdurham.co.uk



Durham County
carers support
www.dccarers.org
Tel: 0300 0051213



<https://www.durham.gov.uk/helpforfamilies>



Tel: 0191 5873542 or
03000 267 007

<https://durhamsendiass.info/>



info@mctdurham.co.uk



www.facebook.com/MakingChangesTogetherDURHAM



www.mctdurham.co.uk

**SENDIASS - Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
Information Advice & Support Service.**

Speaker: Lisa Kirton - County Durham SENDIASS Co-ordinator & North East Regional IASS Representative.



MCT Conference
Lisa Kirton: SENDIASS Manager

Who are
SENDIASS?

SENDIASS stands for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service.

It's a free, impartial, and confidential service offering information to young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and to their parents and carers

SENDIASS offer to Durham families

Telephone
Helpline

Voicemail

Email
Helpline

Website &
Online Resources

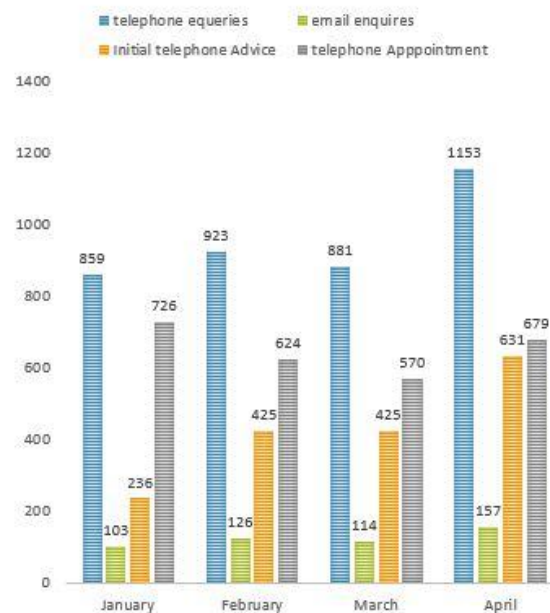
1:1 telephone
appointments

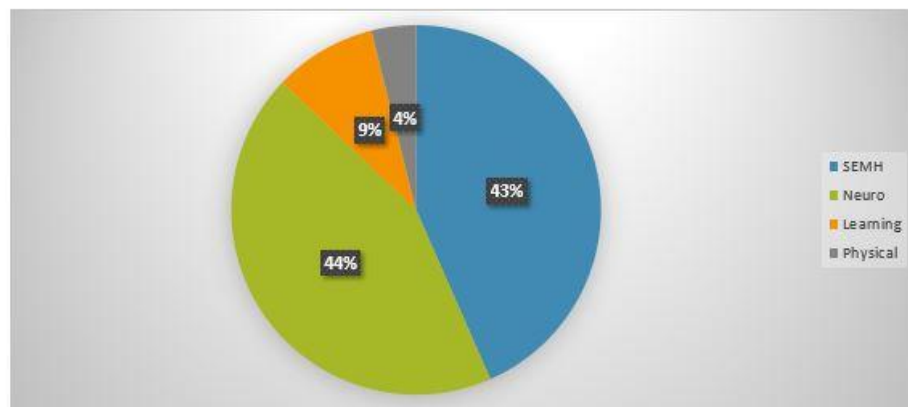
17 Drop-ins
a month

Facebook
Page

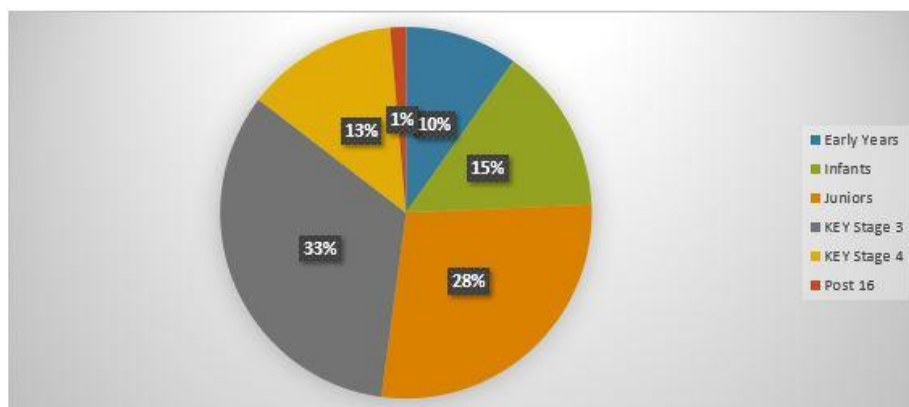


Enquiries to SENDIASS 2024:
1441 current referrals

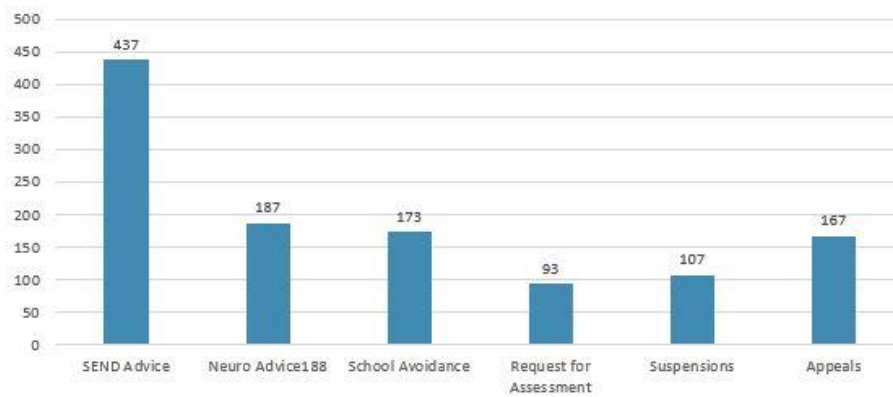




Areas of SEND



Year Groups Statistics

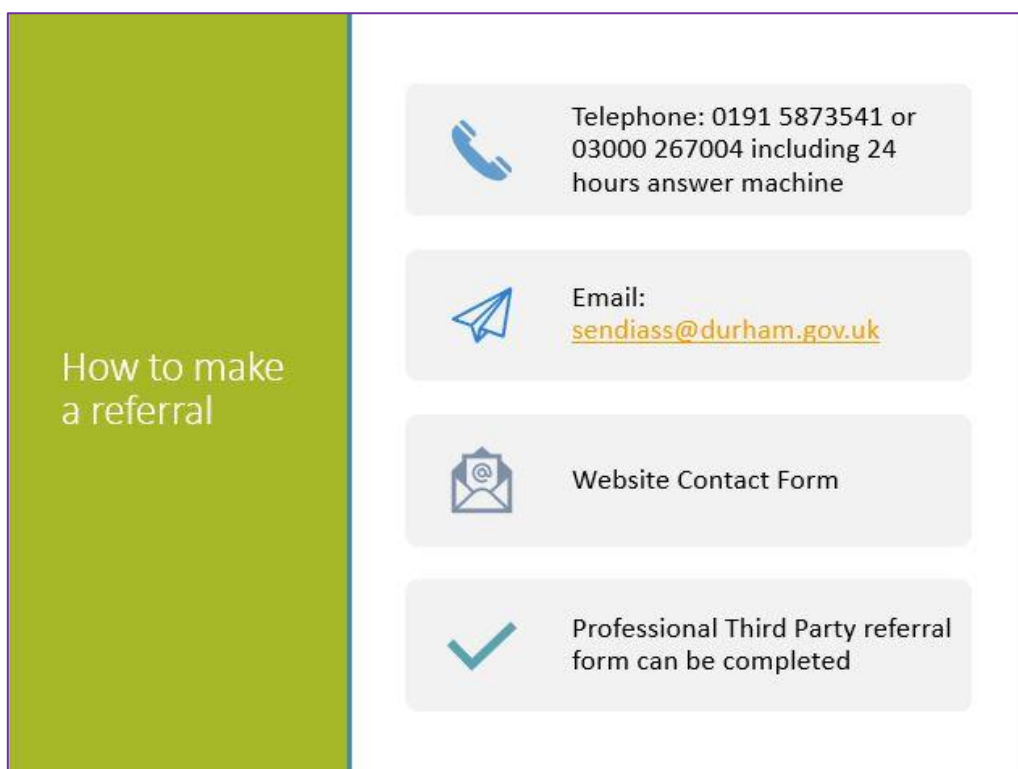


Reasons.....

Coming
soon.....

**SENDIASS Roadshow
in early September**

**SEND Workshops for
parents & carers
What would you like?**



<https://durhamsendiass.info/>



www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068147924300

Link to drop in sessions dates, times and venues [HERE](#)

Family Hubs update

Speaker: Alison Ghent - Family Hub Development Manager



Family Hubs SEND Support



What are the aims of Family Hubs?

- Provide support from pregnancy , through a child's early years until they reach the age of 19 (or 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities).
- Make a positive difference to all parents, carers, and their children, through providing a mix of physical and virtual spaces to easily access support.
- Provide a universal front door to families, offering a one-stop shop of family support services.
- Facilitate professionals across public sector, voluntary, community and faith sector to work together.
- Develop services in coproduction with parents and carers



You said – We did

You Said	We Did
Tell all the SENCOs about the Family Hub offer	Attended 6 SENDCO network meetings and added into the Schools Portal.
Parents need to know about this offer	Attending a range of school events, Little SENDsations info day, Pride in May, updated website, draft SEND leaflet
Range of ideas for gaps / Daisy Chain Workshops	Sibling Support, Autistic Overwhelm, Intro to ADHD all delivered or planned

New to the offer

Educational Psychology drop-in sessions for parents and carers



Alison brought a draft copy of a new proposed Family Hubs information leaflet to share and gave everyone a form to give feedback on it. She explained the leaflet would be sent to places and teams to give to families where it would be useful. She is hoping to have final draught finished by the end of next week which MCT will share on our website.

Our ask from you

Family Hubs

Making Changes Together Conference
1st May 2024

Is a flyer like useful?	
Do you have any comments about wording, design etc?	

Feedback sheet on your table

What do you think of the SEND Leaflet?

Is it useful? Wording? Design?



Virtual Family Hub and how to find out more

- www.durham.gov.uk/helpforfamilies specific SEND page within the course for parents' section
- Facebook – County Durham Family Hubs
- General Family Hubs Flyer
- Activities and Programmes Guide



NHS



Thank you for helping
us to develop our offer

FamilyHubs@durham.gov.uk



NHS



www.durham.gov.uk/FamilyHubs



www.facebook.com/CountyDurhamFamilyHubs

MCT - Have your say!

Speaker: Victoria Robinson - MCT



The logo for MCT DURHAM PCF features a green circular emblem with a leaf and a sunburst. The text "MCT DURHAM PCF" is in purple, and "CIO CHARITY No 1202217" and "MAKING CHANGES TOGETHER" are in small black text at the bottom.

Have Your Say

1st May 2024

Have Your Say feedback:

We gathered in all your post it notes at November's conference and for this slot we will be sharing the most duplicated feedback we received for:

- ▶ Health.
- ▶ Education.
- ▶ Services.



Health

Going Well:

- ▶ CAMHS is a good service but overworked.
- ▶ Working collaboratively with other services.
- ▶ New TEWV support group (Previously ran as Rollercoaster)

Not going well:

- ▶ CAMHS are overstretched.
- ▶ Waiting lists with all services.
- ▶ Generic letters



Education

Going Well:

- ▶ Dedicated and knowledgeable staff in Special Schools
- ▶ SENDCOs
- ▶ Teachers & Support Staff

Not going well:

- ▶ EHCP delays / process
- ▶ Communication - School/home/services
- ▶ Lack of understanding about masking
- ▶ Lack of places at special schools



Services

Going Well:

- ▶ Short Breaks/Short Breaks Providers
- ▶ SENDIASS new drop in sessions.
- ▶ Durham County Carers Support
- ▶ New Family hubs.

Not going Well:

- ▶ SENDIASS capacity
- ▶ Access to some services - waiting lists/criteria/time of service
- ▶ Hard getting help for older young people.



What have we done with this information?

- ▶ All the feedback we received from you has been typed up and passed on to Education, Social Care and Health departments/leads.
- ▶ We actively attend meetings to make sure professionals are looking into the issues raised at the previous Have Your Say sessions.
- ▶ As we all know most changes won't happen overnight but as a forum, we are passionate about "Making Changes Together" quickly and as practical as possible.



We want you to Have Your Say!

- ▶ What is going well in education/health/social care?
- ▶ What is not going well in education/health/social care?
- ▶ Write your praise or grievance on the relevant note pad provided & place in the decorated bins provided at the front.



Victoria shared feedback from the "MCT have your say" slot at November's parent carer conference and explained MCT had passed feedback on to the relevant departments in the Local Authority, NHS etc and would follow up with them soon.

Victoria then asked parents and carers to grab a preprinted Have Your Say sheet and write: -

- Something in education, health, social care or in general that **IS going well**.
- Something in education, health, social care or in general that is **NOT going well**.

This allowed parents and carers to share their praise and air their grievances. We got dozens of sheets with both praise and issues written on them. The feedback will be collated asap. We will again try to raise issues with the relevant department, and we will feedback to everyone soon.



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www.facebook.com/MakingChangesTogetherDURHAM

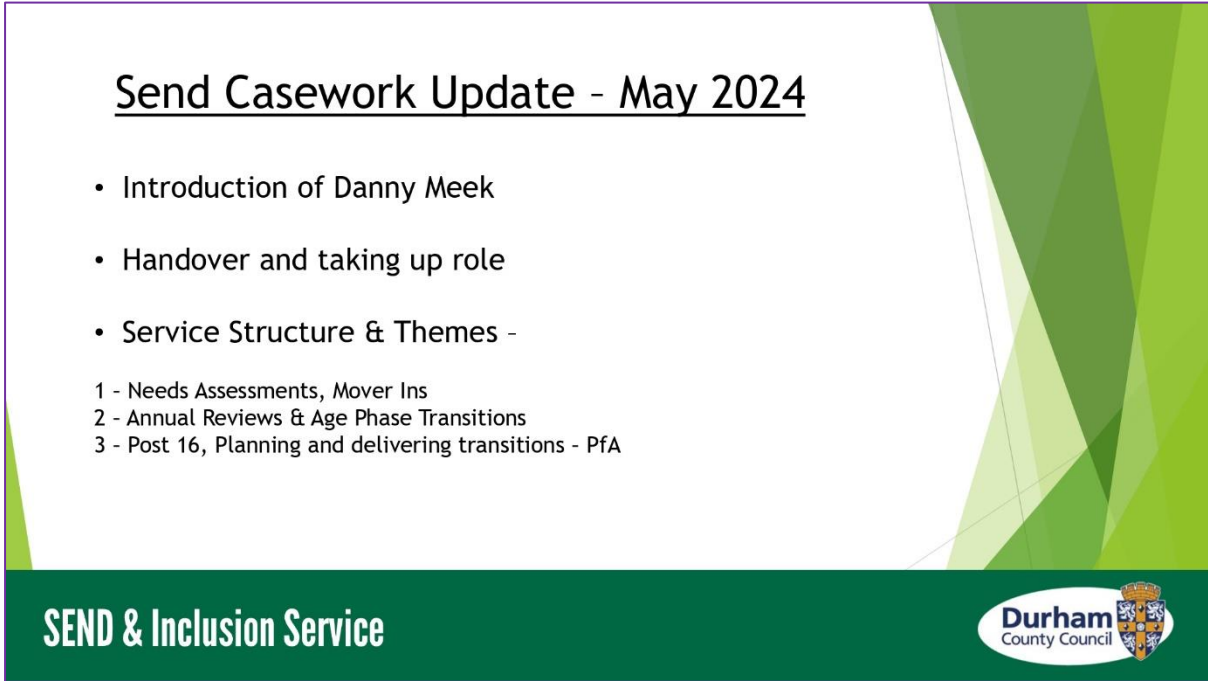


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The Needs Assessment Recovery Plan

Speaker: Danny Meek - SEND Casework Team

Danny explained he has taken over Clive Horton's role on the SEND casework team and works with Terri Coran Bland and Sam Black within that team dealing with EHCP requests. He deals with theme 1 on the first slide below. He would like to attend more meetings and events like the conference to meet parent carers and groups.



Send Casework Update - May 2024

- Introduction of Danny Meek
- Handover and taking up role
- Service Structure & Themes -
 - 1 - Needs Assessments, Mover Ins
 - 2 - Annual Reviews & Age Phase Transitions
 - 3 - Post 16, Planning and delivering transitions - PfA

SEND & Inclusion Service

Durham
County Council

Danny explained he has a neurodiverse adult with learning disabilities at home & is also a parent carer with lived experience.

Initiatives and Developments

- **Delivering Better Value (DBV)**
Staff appointments
Project scope - Graduated response
Pilot area
- **Needs Assessments, Catch up and Recovery Plan**
EP advice recovery plan
Numbers in system - Impact and response
Schedule and aspiration
Impact so far
- **Practice developments/priorities**
Communication strategy
Responsivity

SEND & Inclusion Service



Danny explained there is a national crisis with finding educational psychologists. This shortage has a domino effect with EHCP assessment and plans. Currently they are using three agency staff to write draft plans. The team have written 271 draft EHCP plans in the last six weeks and there is a "bottleneck" in converting to final plans. There is also an issue with outcomes and finding / adding school placements in plans.

"Waiting Well across the North East & North Cumbria" Update

Speaker: Peter Mulholland - Strategic Manager Specialist Inclusion Support and Principal Educational Psychologist.

SEND System Assurance Waiting Well Development Work

MCT Conference- 1st May 2024

Peter Mulholland

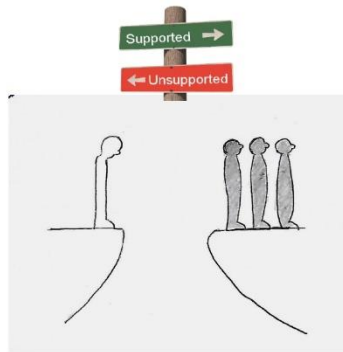
Strategic Manager for SEND & Inclusion Support/ Principal Educational Psychologist

Peter explained that delays for families accessing support had been found and as not all issues could be solved so it was decided to set up a "working well" group to flag issues and make actions to resolve them. He explained it is a national challenge due to extra demands and pressure in services.

A difficult context...

- Increased demand:
 - EHC Needs Assessments up 176% in 5 years
 - Neuro waiting lists up 300% in 2 years
 - Portage requests up 45% in 5 years
 - School requests for Specialist SEND & Inclusion Support input up between 4.5% and 45% depending on the area of need
- Reduced capacity:
 - Recruitment and retention issues
 - Funding pressures
- Access to services and support the number reason for complaints
- One of the key areas of weakness identified in Local Area SEND Inspections

A high price being paid...



What we've done as a Local Area Partnership

- Established a SEND Partnership *Waiting Well* Oversight Group- August 2023
- It met 3 times initially:
 - Meeting 1: To understand context and agree approach for exploring current practice
 - Meeting 2: To consider an approach for exploring practice from a child or young person/ parent or carer perspective over the longer term
 - Meeting 3: To agree headline findings and proposals to take back to the SEND Leadership group

Sources of Information

- Information captured as part of task and finish discussions
- Information gathered from the following service areas:
 - SEND Casework team
 - SEND Early Years
 - SEND and Inclusion Services
 - Early Help and Social Care
 - Speech and Language
 - Physiotherapy
 - Occupational Health
 - 0-25 Family Health Service
 - CAMHS

What are we doing that is effective?

Some areas of good practice that we can build on:

- Person centred planning meetings
- Phone contact and parent consultation opportunities
- SEND surgeries which include identification of how parents/carers can support their young person
- Duty slots for families and teachers/support staff
- Family Hubs support offer
- Keeping in Touch newsletters/letters/contacts
- Online information- e.g. website advice/info for families; bitesize videos in relation to services and some types of need
- Services working together to develop better information for parents about what support is available
- Signs of safety practice model and family networks
- VCS signposting

What do we need to do better?

Specific Areas of Concern:

- Limited **clear planning** or **practice guidance** across services
- Limited **feedback** from parents and young people on their experience of waiting, or **opportunities** for them to **coproduce** better ways of working
- Issues in relation to **workforce awareness** of the wider support offer, and **lack of accessible information** in relation to this

Proposed Actions:

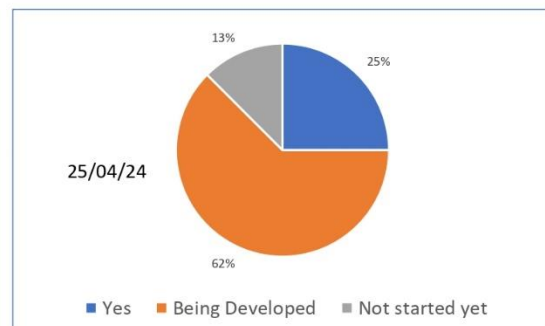
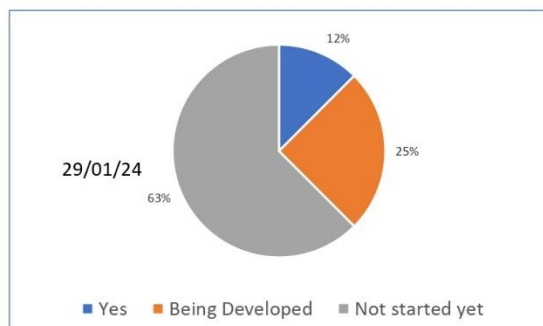
- All services and the Partnership to develop clear policy and guidance
- Waiting Well should be a consideration from the first point of contact
- All services to establish an approach to gathering feedback that informs practice development over time
- Create a sustainable approach to workforce development that ensures a good level of understanding of the support available and how to navigate it for/with families.
- Improve the quality and use of digital resources. Content needs to be developed with parents and carers, and as a Partnership where possible.

Proposed 5 actions to give feedback on :

What do we need to do better?

Progress- Proposed Action 1

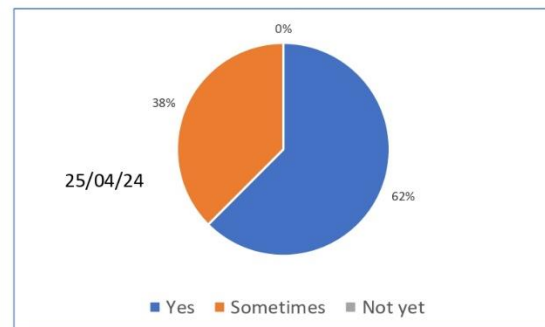
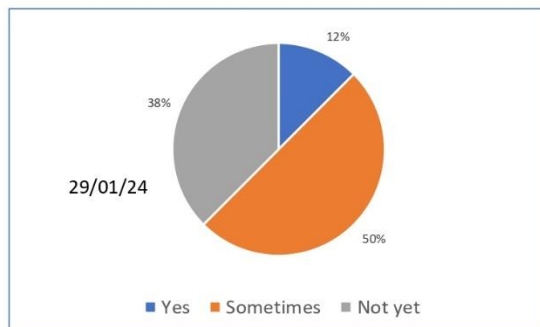
Does your service/organisation have a clear written policy and guidance for staff in respect to expected Waiting Well practices?



What do we need to do better?

Progress- Proposed Action 2

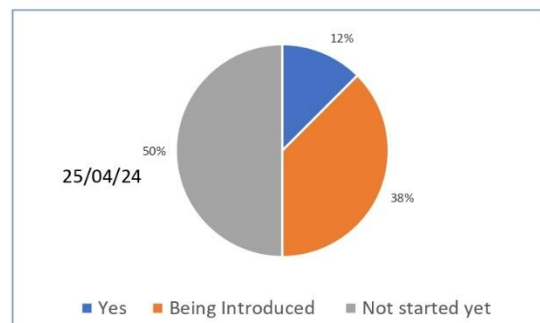
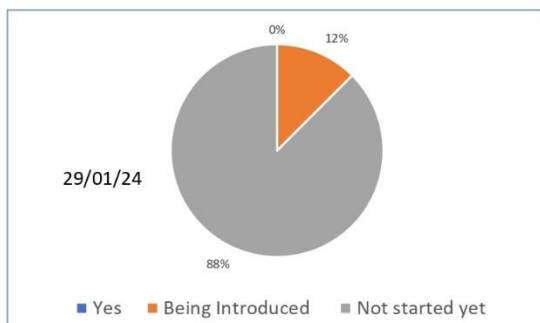
Are Waiting Well needs discussed at the first point of contact between service professionals and parents/carers and young people?



What do we need to do better?

Progress- Proposed Action 3

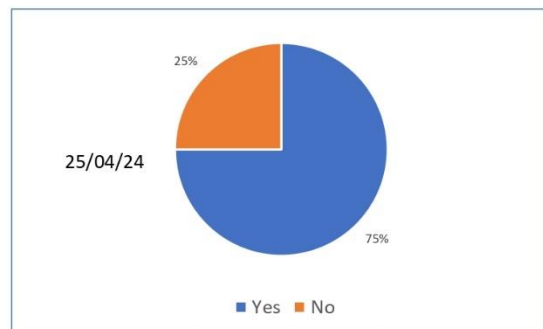
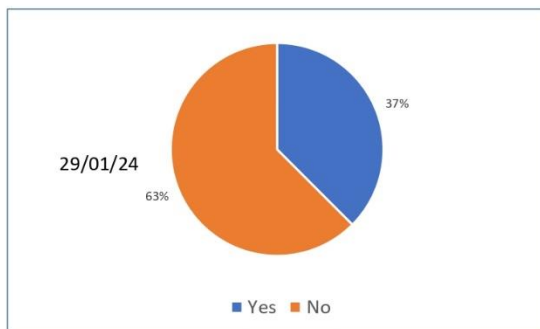
Is your service routinely gathering Waiting Well feedback at the end of case involvements?



What do we need to do better?

Progress- Proposed Action 4

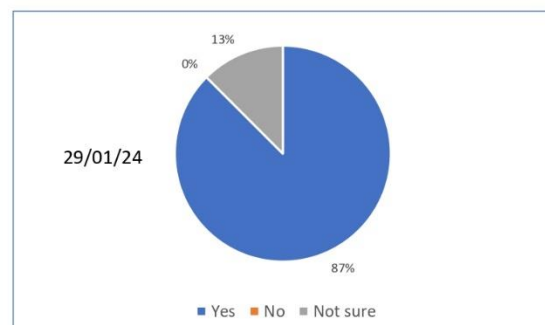
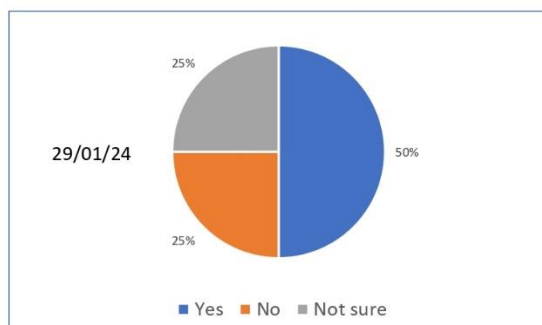
Your service improvement/development plan (or equivalent) includes details on how your workforce is enabled to understand the wider SEND support offer?



What do we need to do better?

Progress- Proposed Action 5

Service produced information (on and off line) is now being reviewed to support Waiting Well objectives where this is appropriate



In summary...

- We know services are struggling to meet the needs of young people and their families
- We're working together as a SEND Partnership to try and ensure the wider support system is properly coordinated, and that we're making the best use of the resources we do have
- We want action taken to be meaningful and informed by those using services
- We have taken steps to implement practical changes across key service areas, and progress is being made



Please
provide
feedback...

MCT Conference- Waiting Well Developments

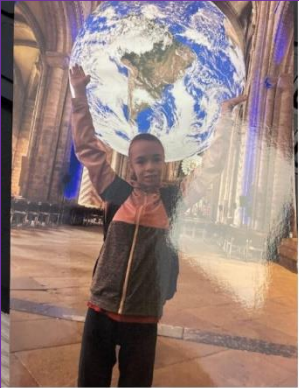


Direct link to give feedback on the 5 actions above [HERE](#)

SENDEIC - SEND Empowering Inclusive Communities /

Short Breaks

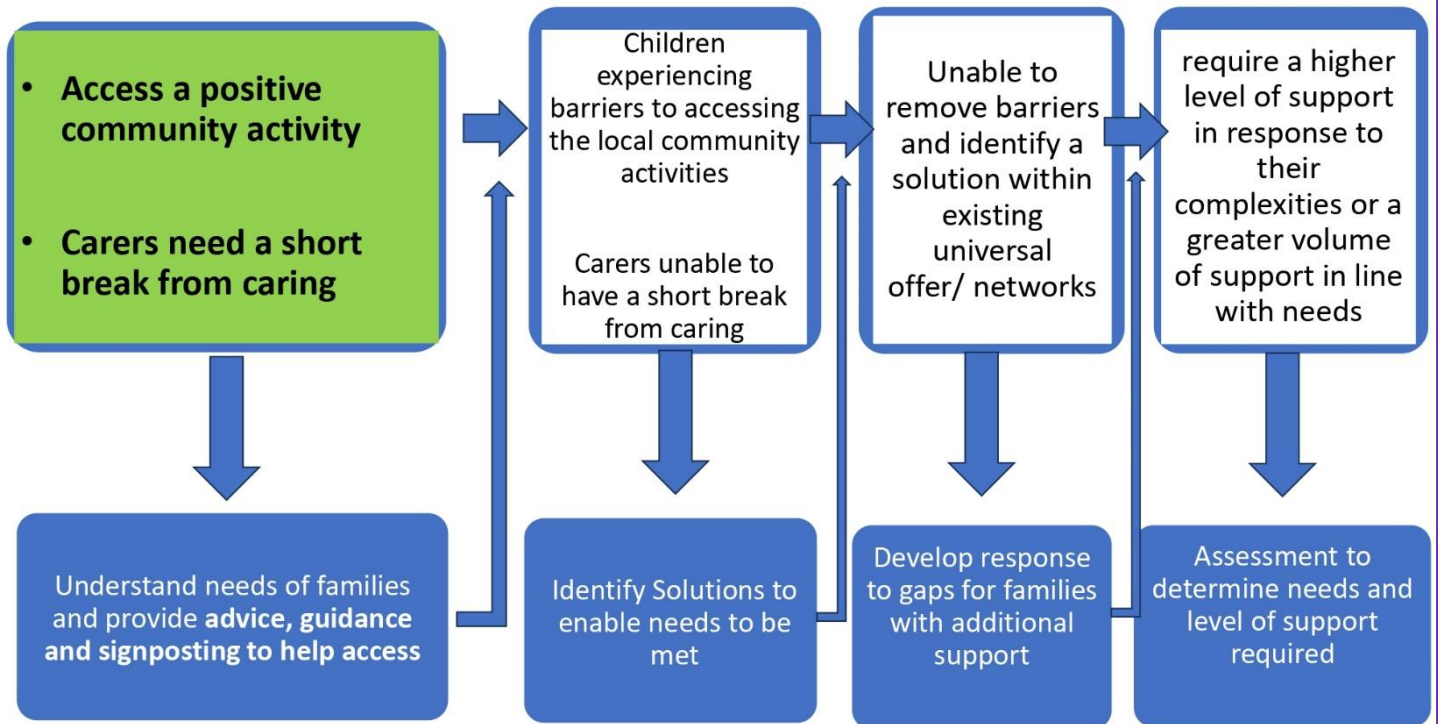
**Speaker: Lyndsey Dunn - Commissioning, Planning and Policy Officer
(Project lead)**

		MCT Durham PCF Conference 1st May 2024 • Access to Positive Activities for children with SEND. • Short Breaks for parent carers Presenter: Lyndsey Dunn Commissioning, Planning and Policy Officer
	 	

Lyndsey explained SENDEIC (SEND Empowering Inclusive Communities) is a service for Parent Carers to get a break from caring so that the family does not breakdown. She explained there has been some changes since the last few conferences. They now look to see if the child / young person needs an activity, if the parent carer needs a break or both. They work together with families to create or design a short break if nothing suitable is currently available in order to remove barriers.

For more complex needs the short break offer may need an assessment of need in order to receive a more specialist break.

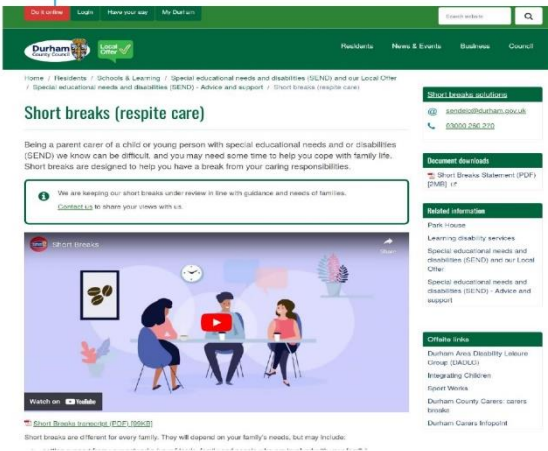
Pathway to access positive activities and/ or short breaks



Some professionals you may be working with who can help you to access this pathway of support

- ▶ Durham County Carers Support
- ▶ Family Hubs
- ▶ One Point
- ▶ Families First Team
- ▶ Families First Disability Team
- ▶ Schools and colleges
- ▶ Alternative Provision
- ▶ Voluntary and Community Sector providers

To view the short break offer, search for the Short Breaks Statement Durham.gov.uk/shortbreaks



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Scroll down and click on attachment for the full short breaks statement which is refreshed and kept up to date

How do we know what parent carers need?

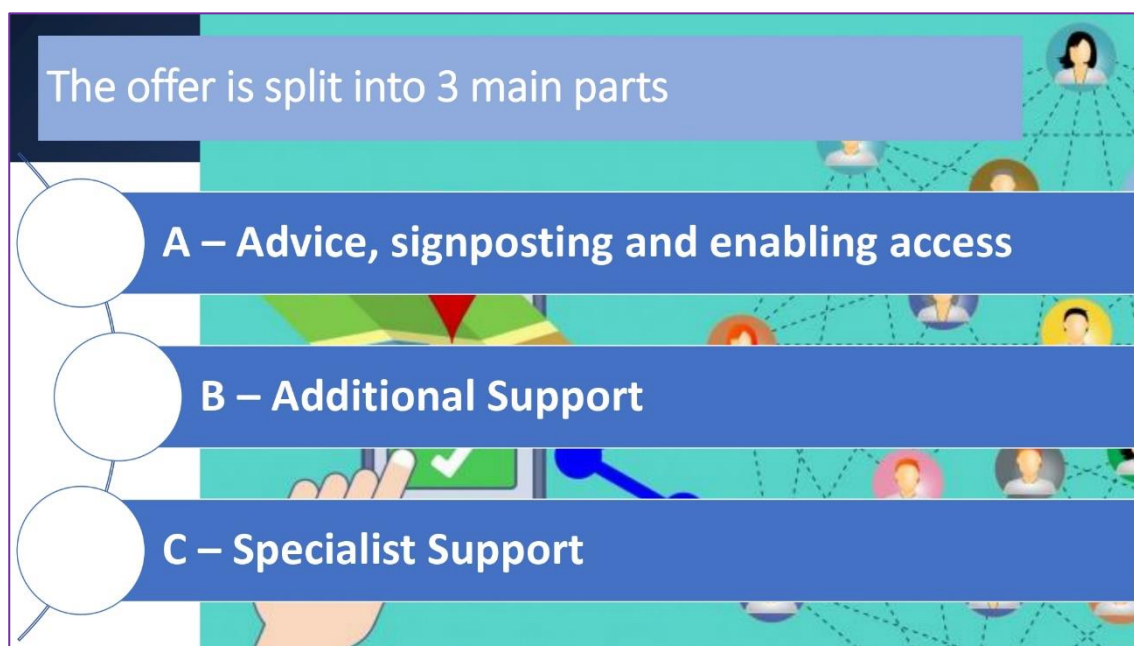
The Children and Young Peoples Network is Durham's Children's Disability Register. We use information from the register to engage with families and find out whether their needs are being met, the impact of the offer in allowing short breaks and if there are any gaps in meeting needs or changes we need to make.

So, please make sure you are registered.

The [Short Breaks Statement \(PDF\) \(2MB\)](#) will provide you with more detailed information on the short breaks offer in County Durham, any eligibility and how this can be accessed.




Link to short breaks information here - www.durham.gov.uk/shortbreaks



The offer is similar to a graduated approach. Danielle Pope (Enabling Inclusive Communities Officer) is the first point of call who will look at what is available locally and help for young people to access community activities. If it is found that nothing suitable is available, then Ruth Pope (Enabling Inclusive Communities Co-ordinator) will get involved and challenge providers. She can help fund equipment or put something in place to enable access to community activities by removing barriers and enabling inclusion.

SEND POPULATION

..... children and young people with SEND in County Durham.

The largest proportion of the SEND population should be able to have their own needs met within the community offer

A proportion of the population will not be able to meet their needs in the existing offer and will require some adapted and additional support

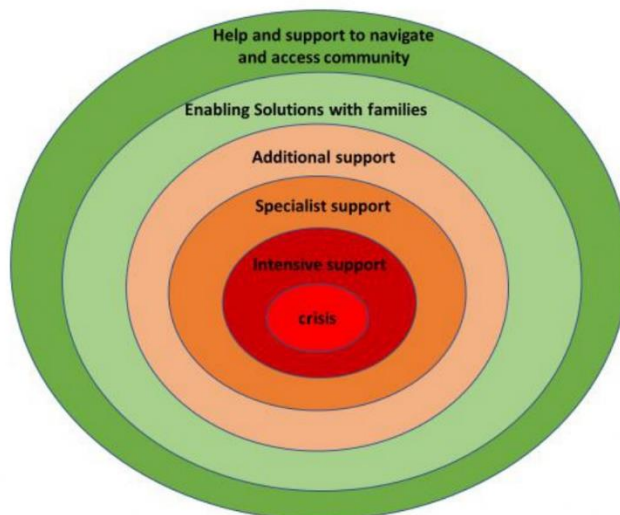
A small number of the population is very complex and will require tailored and specialist support following a social care statutory assessment

An even smaller number will hit crisis we hope

There is currently 350 specialist packages (3rd on chart above)

How this support looks – as a visual

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How do we capture this information on needs to help us understand

CREATED A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT

We have introduced a single point of contact for families and professionals through the creation of SEND Empowering Inclusive Communities (SENDEIC) Team.



DEVELOPED A NEW DATABASE

We have established a central database to capture needs, barriers and gaps in provision when contacted by families and professionals.



GATHER ONGOING WIDER INFORMATION

The team also gather wider intelligence through speaking to a range of partners, networking, attending events and being out their gathering information



SEND EMPOWERING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES (SENDEIC)

Danielle Pope, SEND Empowering Inclusive Communities (SENDEIC) Officer

First point of contact for families and professionals seeking information on community activities available for children with additional needs she will work to consider solutions and available options.



How do we understand what community activities are out there and available for our SEND population to access?

- Work closely with VCS Alliance in County Durham.
- Developed linked through social media with wider social media groups and activities.
- Online research
- Local research speaking with community venues, facilities, existing groups and gather information.
- Work with families through surveys and conferences to gather information on what is out there.
- Social media contributions for others to share SEND activities.
- Developing a map of existing provision and categorising types of activities.
- Developed strong relationships with providers to keep up to date with new developments
- Introduced Provider engagement sessions
- Links with multi-agencies to share their knowledge.



SEND EMPOWERING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES (SENDEIC)

Ruth Pope, SEND Empowering Inclusive Communities (SENDEIC) Co-Ordinator

Will work with families, providers and professionals experiencing any barriers accessing the community activities to develop solutions to remove these barriers wherever possible.





Some examples of the work so far linked to barriers and solutions

- ❑ Issues grants for local groups to expand existing sessions to be more inclusive
- ❑ Issued grants to help develop new SEND sessions
- ❑ Additional Staff training in SEND
- ❑ Funding equipment - e.g. changing bench.
- ❑ Funded additional staff members where children require higher levels of supervision and support.
- ❑ Developed SEND sessions into some of the Family hub on evenings
- ❑ Personilisation Grants
- ❑ Helped with additional room hire and sensory spaces
- ❑ Funded additional sensory gardens and outdoor spaces
- ❑ Working together with providers to help attract additional funding

Lyndsey gave an example: Ruth can find grants and helped a family make a sensory garden by sourcing funding for tools and equipment.



We want our children to be able to live the best lives possible and have the same opportunities as all children with the additional support they may need.

We need to do more working together to transform our communities to be more inclusive for children with a range of additional needs and their families.

Using the barriers shared by families a model has been developed which will be driven through an empowering approach against each barrier to deliver transformation and maximise inclusion for those with additional needs in their community

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND



We need parent and carers to work with us as part of this transformation

How can you be involved?

- Share with us the impact of positive activities and short breaks have had on you. Take part and agree to do a short video and win an amazon voucher.
- Nominate yourself to be part of one of our local SEND Empowering Inclusive Communities - Task Groups for parent/ carers. Either in person, or part of a network.
- Contribute your ideas through surveys, e-mails and telephone calls.
- Support your child to be part of one of our SEND Empowering Inclusive Communities - Task Groups for children with SEND
- Support your child to be part of one of our SEND Empowering Inclusive Communities - Task Groups for children without SEND, siblings and the wider population
- Encourage your local providers to join up and be part of the SEND provider clusters across County Durham.

E-mail SENDEIC@durham.gov.uk

Visit the facebook page or message via facebook SEND Empowering Inclusive Communities

Telephone 03000 260 270

Lyndsey asked attendees to contact them if they have examples of

- An activity a young person attends or would like to attend.
- The impact the activity has / would have on their daily life.
- Any barriers at those activities and what can be changed to allow better access.

SENDEIC would also like to know of any examples of good practice within local area groups that do amazing things. They are also involving the Children's Network to get young people's views.

Lyndsey explained she wants to see positive accessible activities outside of school in communities with friends. She wants to understand family's needs and help them get to where they want to be. She stated SENDEIC discovered a gap in Tudhoe and Bishop Auckland where there were no activities on a Saturday so commissioned a new group with MAIN.

A poster for MAIN's 'FAB AND FUN' summer Youth Group. The poster features the MAIN logo at the top, which includes the word 'main' in a stylized font with a red smiley face above it, and the tagline 'together raising smiles' below. To the right of the logo is a graphic of two stylized figures, one blue and one red, holding hands. The text on the poster reads: 'FAB AND FUN', 'MAIN are running a summer Youth Group From 6th July 2024 Saturdays 10am-1pm 5-12 years 1:30pm-4:30pm 13-18 years', 'Bishop Auckland Family Hub & Tudhoe Family Hub', 'In partnership with Durham County Council for our SEND children', 'CONTACT US' (with a clipboard icon), 'Please contact us for more information and to book Tel: 0191 3008556 /01642 608012 Email- info@iammain.org.uk', 'Follow us on Facebook @WeAreMAIN www.iammain.org.uk' (with a globe icon), and at the bottom, 'CHARITY NO - 1116884 MAIN - TAKING AUTISM PERSONALLY, FINLAY COOPER CENTRE, ELIZABETH TERRACE, NORTH ORMESBY, TS3 6EN' and 'COMPANY NO - 04809912'. The poster has a decorative border with blue and red wavy lines at the top and bottom.

main
together raising smiles

FAB AND FUN

MAIN are running a summer Youth Group
From 6th July 2024
Saturdays
10am-1pm 5-12 years
1:30pm-4:30pm 13-18 years

Bishop Auckland Family Hub & Tudhoe Family Hub

In partnership with Durham County Council for our
SEND children

CONTACT US

Please contact us for more information and to
book
Tel: 0191 3008556 /01642 608012
Email- info@iammain.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook
@WeAreMAIN
www.iammain.org.uk

CHARITY NO - 1116884
MAIN - TAKING AUTISM PERSONALLY, FINLAY COOPER CENTRE, ELIZABETH
TERRACE, NORTH ORMESBY, TS3 6EN

COMPANY NO - 04809912



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



sendeic@durham.gov.uk



Tel: 03000 260 270

- Link to register your young person with Children's and Young people's network and to get a max card - Ring 03000 265 792 , email cypn@durham.gov.uk or do it online <https://www.durham.gov.uk/cypn>

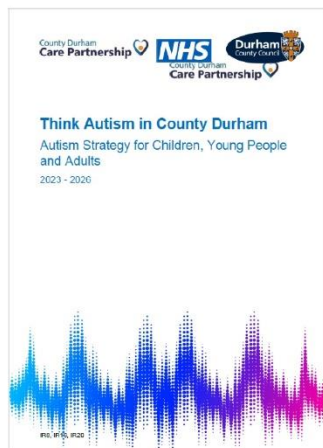
Short Breaks YouTube video - https://youtu.be/oH52uc15Ow8?si=g_RyVkqtgjVSAQQ4

Autism Strategy Review

Speaker: Liz Mulholland – SEND inclusion service.

Find the current Think Autism Strategy [HERE](#)

Think Autism in County Durham



**An update on the Autism Strategy for
Children, Young People and Adults
2023/24 – 2026/27**



Better for everyone

First 'Think Autism'
Strategy in Durham
2019

Strategy refresh
2023/24 – 2026/27

Background

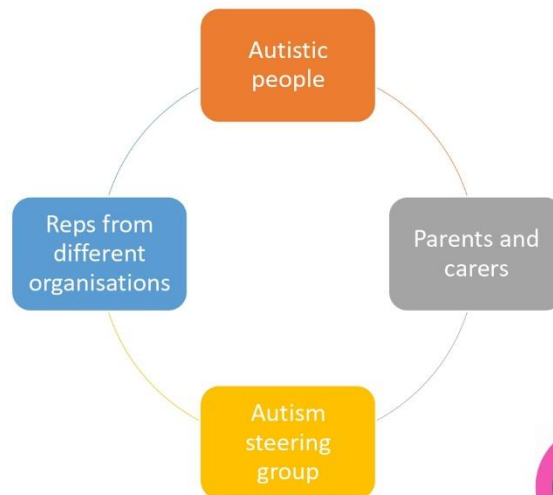
Alignment with the
National strategy

Raising awareness



Better for everyone

Who was involved?

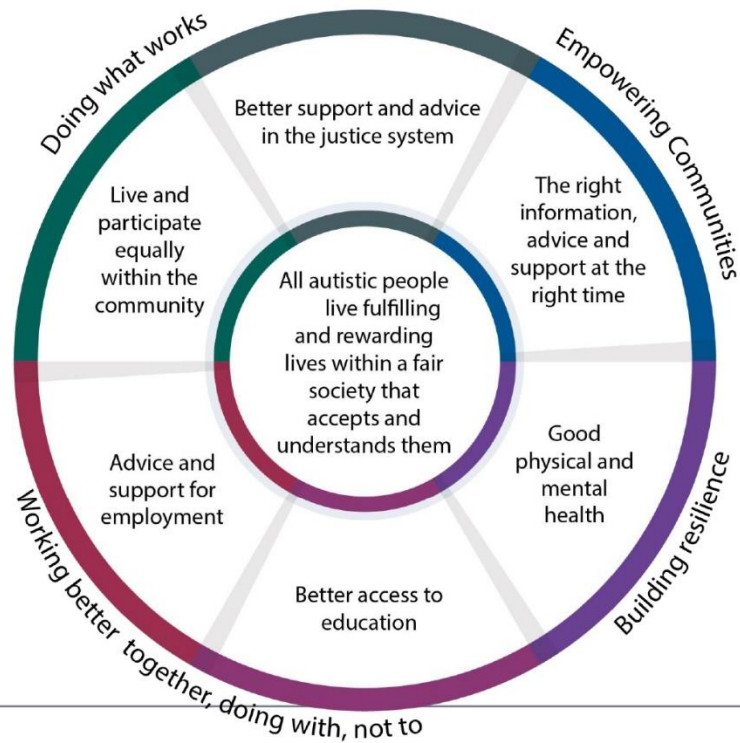


Our Vision

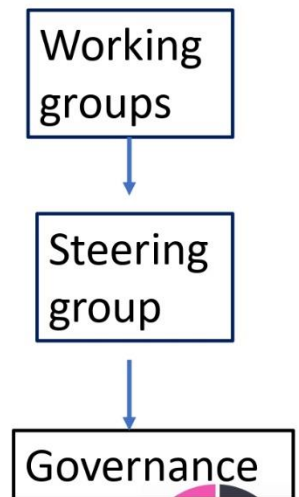
“In County Durham all autistic people live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them. They can access advice and support if they need it, and they can depend on mainstream public services to treat them fairly as individuals, helping them make the most of their talents.”



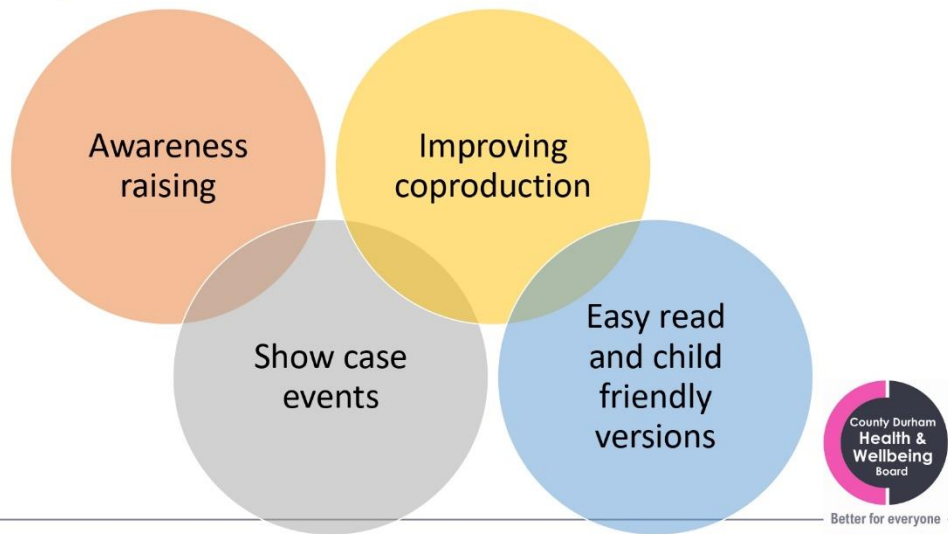
Aims



For each objective, the working groups have developed action plans which include:



Next steps:



Any questions?

For more information please contact:

- Liz Mulholland- Communication and Interaction Team Manager (SEND and Inclusion Service, Children & Young People's Services)
elizabeth.mulholland@durham.gov.uk
(Co-chair of Co Durham Autism Steering Group)
- Tricia Reed – Strategic Commissioning Manager (Adults)
tricia.reed@durham.gov.uk (Co-chair of Co Durham Autism Steering Group)

Thank you



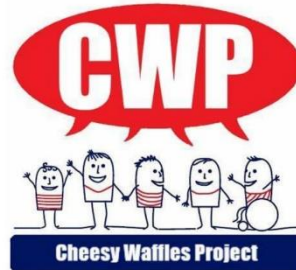
Cheesy Waffles

Speakers:

Day conference- Brice, Sally and Lee.

Evening conference - Robyn, Rob and Ellie.

We are based at Belmont Community Centre but deliver at different venues and work with children, young people and adults from across the whole of County Durham



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

We celebrate our achievements and ensure that every member of the Project is awarded to commend them for their commitment to the project and development through attending positive activities and projects. In the last year members have received Youth Council Awards, a Key inspirational Award we were finalists at The Northern Echo County Durham Together Awards for Community & Voluntary Group, we were presented a Local Hero Award from Belmont Parish Council, 8 of our young adults attended a reception at Buckingham Palace to receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards and 10 members have received their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Awards & Accreditation



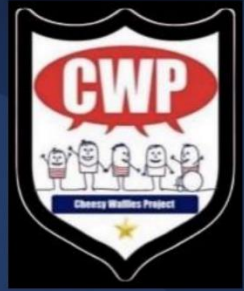
Cheesy Waffles FC

The Football Club is made up of people from the local community and people connected through the project for example brothers, cousins, parents, friends etc

Their aim is to promote disability awareness and give members the opportunity to be part of games either through taking on a management role, being a mascot, setting up changing rooms or taking part in football skills sessions.

This year they have played in the National Affinity Cup which is a National Competition for Charity teams and the Stanks Charity Cup Tournament in Berwick.

They raise substantial funds for the Project which is used to develop health and sports activities across the age groups.



The Skills House

We have our own Skills House that has been renovated thanks to the generosity of local businesses and tradespeople. It is a safe, warm and welcoming place to meet and stay.

The house is used to deliver small focused group work and residentials for our members with the aim of learning important life skills.



Our performing arts group 'Making Music' continues to grow with new members joining to be part of a mixed age and ability project that develops teamwork, coordination, speech and the raising of confidence and self-esteem.



Performance & Drama



Health & Wellbeing

Dedicated projects that promote health and fitness are delivered for transitions groups, adults and children through our Fun Fit and Fit Bits sessions. Outdoor Education is encouraged with residential and days engaging in fun outdoor adventure and wellbeing, Sensory and enjoying the outdoors is promoted across all of our groups and holiday programmes with a focus on healthy eating and being active.



Holiday Programmes

We have a programme of activities for all ages during each holiday period with centre-based days to develop skills and confidence, music and performance sessions, trips and visits to both places of learning and interest and fun days out plus residentials for different age groups.



Community Links

Being part of the community is at the heart of Cheesy Waffles and the links we make, and support we receive enables positive disability acceptance and community cohesion for everyone in the project. In the last year members have

- Designed a mural for the North Bound Platform at Durham Railway Station through an opportunity by The Key and supported by LNER.
- Worked on a communal art installation for Lumiere and were part of the Ushaw College Christmas Festival and the Flower Festival
- Been part of a recycling & upcycling project in Durham City which included ensuring information SEND friendly.
- Volunteered with Rotary Club of Durham at the Santa Sleigh Charity collections and were part of the Annual Swimathon.
- There have also been community food drives, fayres, chat and chill coffee mornings and fundraising for other charities and two Community coach trips with The Belmont and Carville Residents Association.
- Local Business Support includes Tesco, Sainsburys Local, The Co-op, MGL and Amazon.



Funding & Support

We rely on funding & support to enable us to continue to deliver a programme of activities and to develop.

Grants, Donations and Funders, Gifts in Kind and Voluntary support ensure that Cheesy Waffles remains accessible and affordable for all to engage.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who supports us.



We have delivered a positive and engaging learning programmes that are supported by different funders and have included Mining Heritage Project, Mental Health Support, Skills for Life, Community Development, Cookery and Budgeting and Finance.

Support from funders, friends, family, local business and grants as well as being part of Investing in Children, NE Youth and County Durham Boys & Girls Association has enabled the delivery of a varied and productive year of activities and events.

Our members are always at the heart of all that we deliver and we will endeavour to continue to promote positive disability awareness and community cohesion.





Cheesy Waffles Project Term Time Sessions



Fit Bits Adult health & fitness Club Monday 3pm to 4.30pm at Lynn Jordison House



Junior Club Monday age 7-13yrs 5.15pm to 6.45pm at Lynn Jordison House



Mens Group Adult Session every other Monday 7pm to 8.45pm at The Skills House



Ladies Group Adult Session every other Monday 7pm to 8.45pm at The Skills House



Fun Fit health & fitness Club 11-19yrs Tuesday 5.30pm to 7.30pm at Belmont Comm Centre



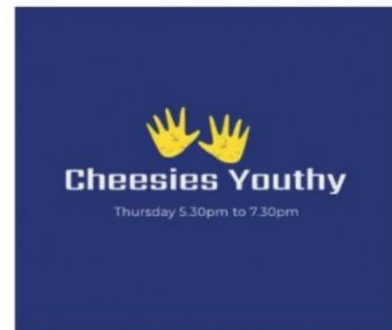
Top 20's & 30's Adult Social Session Tuesday 6pm to 8pm at Belmont Social Club



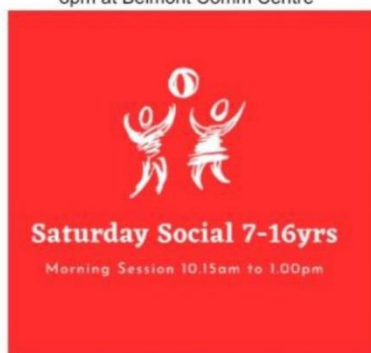
Making Music performing arts Project 12-19yrs & 20+yrs Wednesday 6pm to 8pm at Belmont Comm Centre



East Durham Youthy 11-18yrs Thursday 6pm to 7.45pm at Horden Family Hub



Cheesies Youthy 11-18yrs Thursday 5.30pm to 7.30pm at Belmont Comm Centre



Saturday Social 7-16yrs 10.15am to 1pm at Belmont Comm Centre (lunch provided)



Saturday Social 16-19yrs 1.30pm to 5.30pm at Belmont Comm Centre (tea provided)



Saturday Social 20+yrs 1.30pm to 5.30pm at Belmont Comm Centre (tea provided)

Joining the Project

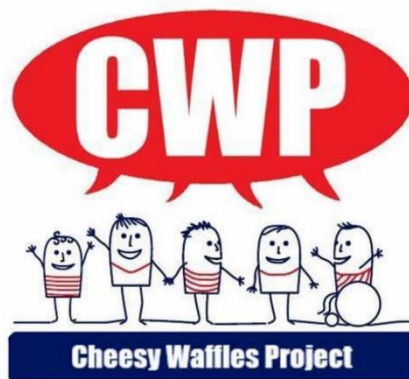
Contact us for a registration form

Email is best cwyproject@gmail.com or if preferred contact us by phone on 07808842205

We will let you know if theres a place available or expected waiting list time

We will contact you to discuss any needs that need support to access our activities

A start date will be given and the opportunity to come and meet the staff and visit the venue



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



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



Cwyproject@gmail.com

Learning disabilities CIC



Speakers: Heidi Smith - Director and client / service user John.

Heidi explained Learning abilities has just celebrated its 1st birthday as a new CIC. She explained she has a 13-year-old nonverbal son and worried what will happen to him in adulthood, so she set up this CIC.

Learning abilities CIC help adults with autism and / or a learning disability get into work. The areas they help in are Durham, Newcastle, Sunderland and Hartlepool. They can help with interviews, have access to a work scheme and can help with social experiences for example: They have an allotment in Chilton and had a pop up café in Horden.

John - a client of Learning abilities- explained he was referred by his advisor for Mental Health Matters in August 2023. John explained he has autism and stutter / stammer. He explained the McGuire programme has helped with his stutter/ stammer and he wouldn't have been able to stand up and speak at a conference like this without it. Learning abilities have helped him greatly. He goes to a social group on a Monday at Seaham where recently they have made items at Christmas, decorated chocolate eggs at Easter and most recently made jewellery using glass they picked up from the beach. He has had support and advice to find work and help on growing confidence. He now works as a kitchen porter and waiter on Saturdays which is helped his confidence greatly and likes working with people that understand each other.



www.learningabilities.co.uk/



www.facebook.com/learningabilitiesnortheast



hello@learningabilities.co.uk

County Durham and Darlington Needs Led Neurodevelopmental Pathway

Speakers:

Day conference - Rachael Allen (Team manager Neurodevelopmental Assessment Service & Night conference - Alison Ayres (Senior Project Manager Children's Services).

Rachael explained the Neuro pathway is a more of a holistic approach to diagnosis compared to the previous separate Autism and ADHD diagnosis pathways. She explained the pathway was commissioned to take 1000 referrals but at present they've had 4000 referrals (average 400 a month) of which 60% are accepted onto the pathway. She explained they are NICE compliant and is exploring how they can continue with a holistic approach without affecting quality- may introduce task and finish groups to get ideas.

She explained that there is a shortage of clinicians UK wide and are struggling to recruit workers. They have undertaken a "drive" at universities etc to get staff.

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What do we mean by "Neurodevelopmental"?



- Lifelong
- Difficulties including:
Cognition, language, motor development, attention and concentration, emotional regulation, social communication and social interaction
- Evidence that neurodevelopmental conditions co-occur
- Two of the most common Neurodevelopmental conditions are ADHD and Autism

Why “Needs Led”?

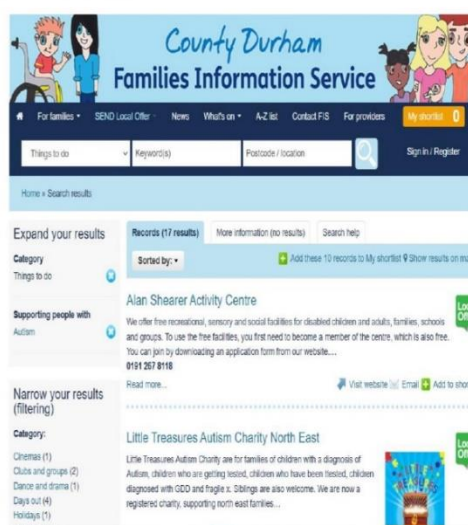
- Parents highlighted the importance of needs being met, regardless of diagnosis
- Confusion over what services were available without diagnosis
- Importance of a culture change across the system away from diagnosis

Link to the local offer [HERE](#)

Needs Led ‘Offer’

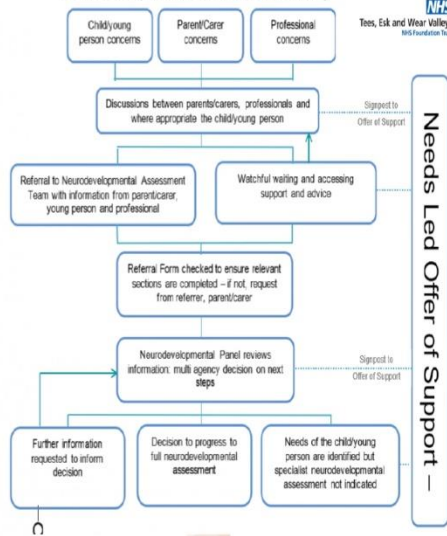
- Information brought together for the local area
- Some additional funding available to minimise ‘gaps’ identified
- Emphasis on support and advice being available regardless of diagnosis

[County Durham's Families Information Service | Search results](https://countydurhamfamilies.info)
countydurhamfamilies.info





Neurodevelopmental Assessment Pathway



County Durham Needs Led Pathway

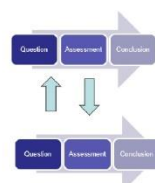
Link to clearly pathway chart [HERE](#)



Neurodevelopmental Assessment Team

- TEWV service
- Brings together previous Autism and ADHD assessment pathways

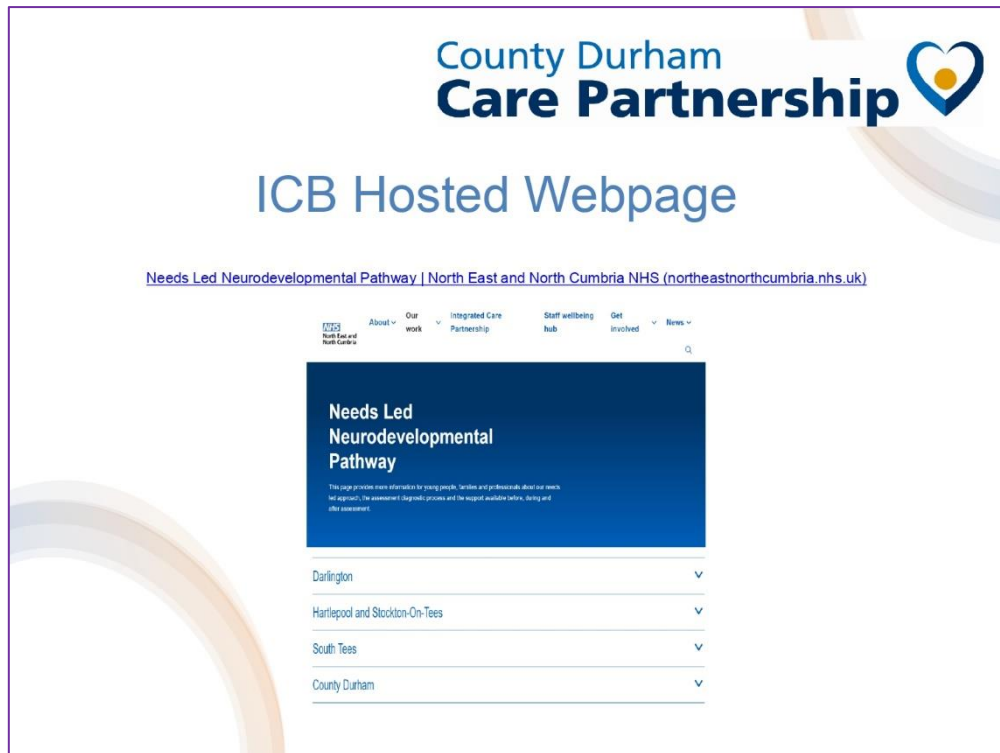
Separate pathways



One pathway



- ICB investment to increase capacity to meet increased demand/reduce waiting lists



Link to webpage [HERE](#)

County Durham
Care Partnership



Challenges we are facing

- Increased referral numbers
- Additional referral screening and discussion
- Increased demand for responding to queries from professionals and families
- Development of a NICE compliant standardised single assessment pathway
- Retention and recruitment of highly skilled clinicians – those who can diagnose autism/ADHD

Referrals into the Service

Referrals into Neurodevelopmental Assessment Team



Assessment Process

- Initial appointment with family and young person
 - Background information
 - Clinical impression
- School information
- Assessment planning meeting
- Assessment appointments
 - Developmental history (1, 2 or more appointments)
 - Additional observations
 - Standardised assessments
 - Information gathering from other agencies (social care, mental health, health)

Rachael explained about the keyworker model which ensures you have an allocated clinician throughout the pathway process.

Key Worker Model

Aims

- To keep the child and family at the centre of the assessment
- To be confident that the information we are using in our decision making is current and accurate
- To reduce families having to retell their story
- To use standardised paperwork
- To reduce the number of appointments needed to make a decision
- Ensure we are following a NICE compliant process
- To streamline the process, and cut out unnecessary steps and assessment for the young person
- Early indications suggest that this has a benefit for YP, family and staff

What we are working on

- Recruitment and retention of staff
- Professional hotline
- Choice of clinic for assessments

The pathway hopes to run a pilot for a “professional hotline” for schools etc to ring before referral to ask any questions.

She explained she is aware there is a longer wait in some areas so is looking at offering appointments in either area - Stanley or Sedefield- if appointments become available and people are able to travel.

They are also looking at a newsletter and relooking at the “keeping in touch” letters.

Someone in the audience asked a question regarding the waiting time to hear back after application has been submitted. Rachael explained the waiting times - as of 1st May 2024- are 4 months for applications to go to panel due to a back log and staff shortages.

At the evening conference Alison explained that at the panel (to decide if a young person will be put onto the pathway or not) they will look at any other needs indicated and refer to other organisations if needed.

Valuing Neurodiversity in County Durham Update

Speaker: Alison Ayres - Program Manager

Governance

- 1 Governing Project Board
- 5 Sub-Groups
 - Schools
 - Training
 - Diagnostic pathway
 - Comms & Engagement
 - Mapping

County Durham
Care Partnership

Working together to help keep the people of
County Durham happy, healthy and at home

Durham
County Council

NHS

Alison explained about support needed when on the waiting list and that someone is needed to go through and check if a young person is showing traits etc. She said support needs to be away from the diagnostic framework and needs based - " You don't need a diagnosis to get needs met"

Schools pilot

- Working with Consett schools
- Undertook a self-evaluation
- Identified training needs being met
- To evaluation in Summer 2024

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Durham
County Council

NHS

She explained about the schools project and how she asked attendees at the MCT conference 18 months ago what they would want the project to look like.

Training

- Identifying and improving the training offer to schools
- Developing resources for families around the Graduated Approach

She is hoping that more schools will get involved in the future. After a survey it showed that they needed to look at education and not the assessment. There needs to be checks to make sure teachers have the relevant information as teachers' knowledge varies from classroom to classroom. Schools did a self-evaluation which identified training needs, so they are looking at wider training and resources- some training is ongoing. She stated needs should be met in school and support is available

Through the valuing neurodiversity project, they also identified issues with the graduated approach e.g. CAMHS wrongly telling a family they need a special school place or schools telling a family their child needs a Neurodevelopmental assessment. This is not their area of expertise so should not be giving advice on such matters.

She explained that the project is a whole system project that includes - education , social care and health.

Mapping

- Mapping the current support offer is complete
- Working with Comms & Engagement sub-group on the gap analysis
- Workshops with clinicians, schools, social workers to identify gaps

Comms and Engagement

- Co-production engine chaired by Investing in Children
- Supporting sub-groups with co-production with children, young people and their parents/carers
- Newsletter

Next Steps



- Development of 3-year commissioning plan with year 1 priorities and THE most important thing
- Report to County Durham Care Partnership Executive in October 2024.

Working together to help keep the people of
County Durham happy, healthy and at home



Alison left paper on the tables and asked attendees to write down what they wanted to see in a 3-year commissioning plan e.g. things to buy or things put in place. She stated she knows there is pressure on the diagnosis pathway and due to staff shortages unfortunately money can't help.

Alison stated if you want to get in touch to email or ring on the details below.



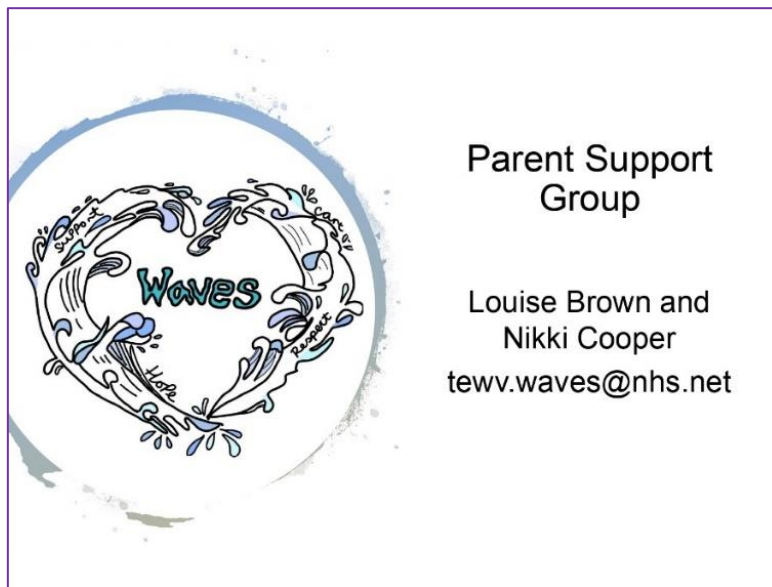
Necsu.durhameuroproject@nhs.net



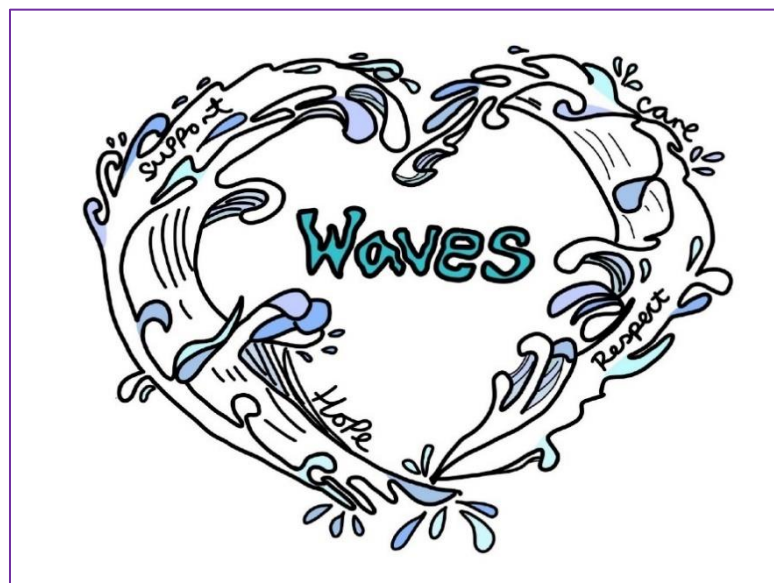
07789174699

Waves - New TEWV parent and carer support group

Speakers: Louise Brown - Parent Peer Practitioner TEWV & Nikki Cooper - Nurse specialist at CAMHS crisis team.



Louise and Nikki explained about the new TEWV parent carer support group and that they have added more venues. Louise shared that Lesley Hutchinson (a parent carer) designed the new logo (below) and that parents helped make a new group ethos. Waves covers all of County Durham and Darlington in order to support as many parent carers as possible. If you are a parent carer and are struggling, they offer a warm welcome place to come and talk and share hints and tips.





Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys
NHS Foundation Trust

Parent and carer support group in County Durham and Darlington

If you care for a child or young person with emotional or mental health difficulties, why not come along to one of our friendly support groups.

All groups are led by a friendly parent peer practitioner and supported by a CAMHS mental health nurse. The group will listen, support and offer advice and guidance based on lived experiences.

So why not pop along, a warm welcome awaits you. There's no need to book. If you have any questions, email the team at TEWV.waves@nhs.net.



Locations and dates:

**Acley Centre, Carers Way,
Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4PE
6pm - 8pm**

17 April	18 September
15 May	16 October
19 June	20 November
17 July	18 December
21 August	

**Winchester House, South West
Industrial Estate, Peterlee,
SR8 2RJ
10am - 12noon**

16 July	15 October
20 August	19 November
17 September	17 December

**Lanchester Road Hospital,
Durham, DH1 5RD
10am - 12noon**

3 April	4 September
1 May	2 October
5 June	6 November
3 July	4 December
7 August	

**Mulberry Centre, Rowan
Building, Darlington
Memorial Hospital, DL3 6HX
10am - 12noon**

2 July	1 October
6 August	5 November
3 September	3 December

The support group dates for the rest of 2024 are on the poster above.



Tewv.waves@nhs.net

Live Well North East CIC - Rockbox fitness

Speaker: Debs Forth - Joint Chief Executive/Chief Operations Officer



Debs from Live Well North east CIC joined us for some upbeat and fun dance style low impact Rockbox exercise. Rockbox is a full body interval training workout with a difference - combining boxing cardio and drumsticks toning. Everybody really enjoyed it.



<https://www.livewellne.co.uk/>



www.facebook.com/LiveWellNE



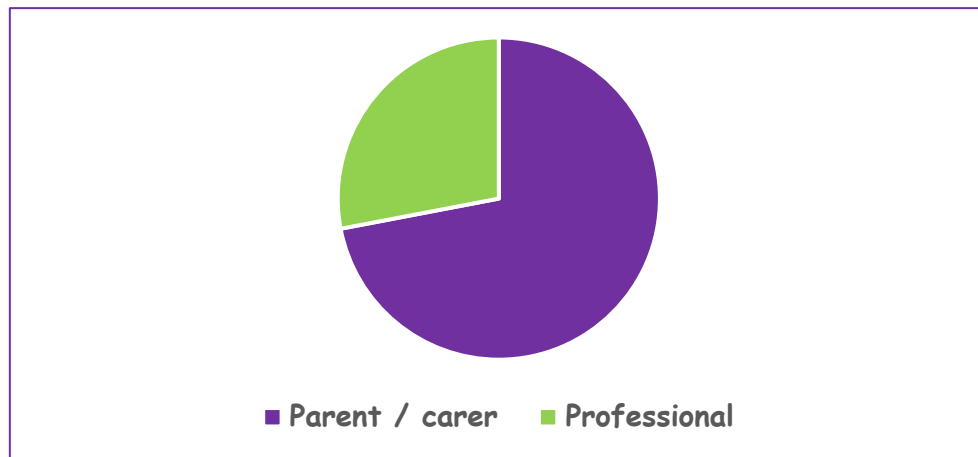
info@livewellne.co.uk

Raffle and Close.

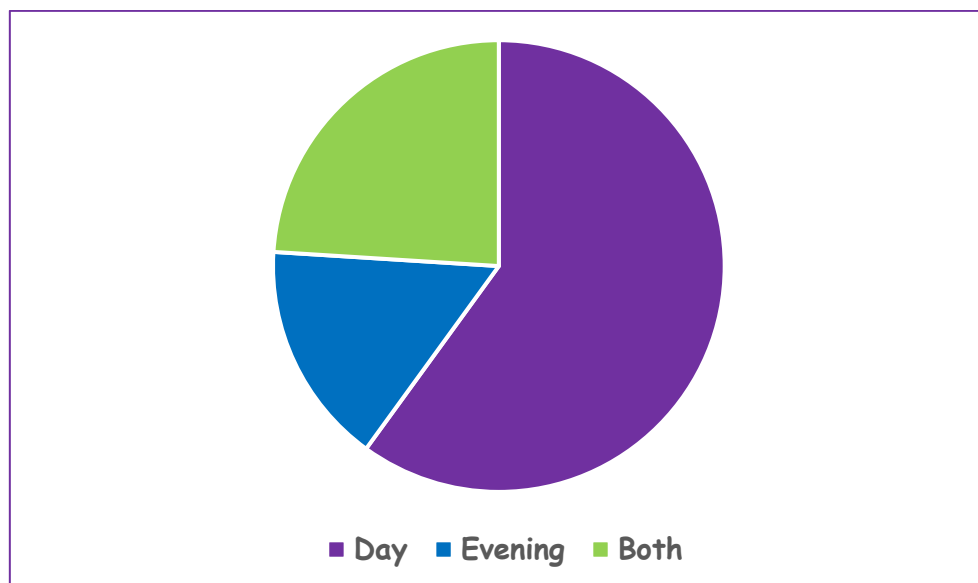
The raffles took place at the end of the conferences with a range of lovely prizes which were won by 13 delegates over the 2 conference. Julie thanked everyone for coming and asked delegates to complete the evaluation forms via the QR code or online link.

Conference Evaluations

Did you attend as a parent /carer or professional?



Which conference did you attend?





Head - Something I've learnt from today.

- You don't need a diagnosis for an EHCP
- The new A game community
- TEWV - neurodivergent needs-led pathway
- There are lots of services out there, it's just knowing how to access
- Opportunities for work
- The new services that are around now
- 1. What wonderful work Learning Abilities CIC do.
- 2. Work SENDEIC are doing
- 3. Great things family hubs are doing.
- 4. Live well Rockbox was AMAZING!
- 5. Waves support group is continuing supporting parents.
- That I am significantly more confident in my knowledge and around people than I thought.
- Learnt a lot about the send and inclusion process
- That many professionals are actually on our side and are trying to help.... It makes you feel a little more positive.
- Support that is available e.g. waves
- There is a serious need for more support for parents/ carers from professional bodies
- Family hubs - wish I'd known of them
- The plans in place to provide help
- Durham learn project and some parent's groups
- That I actually enjoyed the fitness session!
- The Autism Strategy exists and is being implemented now.
- There are hubs
- That the Consett project is being reviewed in Summer
- Cheesy waffles- an amazing group for young people to join
- That I'm not the only one with a neurological challenged child and there are lots of people that can help and give advice
- Accomplishment 😊👍
- I learned more about our Sensory and Inclusion team, having not realised the reach of the team (including the lead for the adult side of the service - really important for PFA and transitions). & about Team training
- informative updates from speakers



Heart - Something I've felt / experience today.

- Warmth, support, knowledge, relief
- The passion of people
- Exercise!
- Proud of the journey and how much we have accomplished
- I'm not alone!
- N/a
- Happy and informed
- Pride in what I do
- That a lot of services link with each other
- Loved the exercise with music at the end... Reminded me how much it motivates you!
- Good to be surrounded by likeminded people going through the same challenges
- Uncertainty of assessment times in the NHS and school admissions EHCP time scales. And all parent/ carers wanting the same answers and support from professional bodies
- how under-resourced the services are
- I am not alone
- Not be alone
- Positive that changes are happening and that departments are starting to work together more on matters.
- There are some lovely success stories where support services have helped people into work.
- Everyone is doing great work, but it will be years before we feel it
- It was good to see some of the people who make decisions about how SEND is worked in our area and good to know that the Valuing Neurodiversity programme is happening.
- Not alone!
- New friendships
- Thanks 😊



Carrier Bag - Something I'll take away from today.

- Knowledge
- Networking with others

- The importance of networking
- Something for the parents' well-being - wave
- Look at short breaks service website
- Getting the help with new things
- Knowledge that changes are happening.
- Always bring MCT Stand Guy to conference
- The amount of support what's available
- Other than my wine 😊 thank you for a lovely professionally put together day. It's nice to talk to friends, professionals and feel part of something. Not to feel alone.
- I am going to access some of the support available
- Support and knowledge from everyone at MCT team and members and the fantastic people who are out there helping our children and young adults to thrive and succeed and live their lives to the full
- Still need EHCP to access a lot of help
- Help is out there
- A lot of information flies
- Hopeful about the future for my eldest after listening to the Man from SEND Ability
- Knowledge of support services that can support my child
- There is hope
- The name of Alison Ayres - a woman who looks like she'll get things done.
- A plan to join some of the DADG events
- Information to help me
- Long day but prefer this than 2 days of stressing
- To look out for the Think Autism Strategy when it is published
- Another successful conference
- Some leaflets

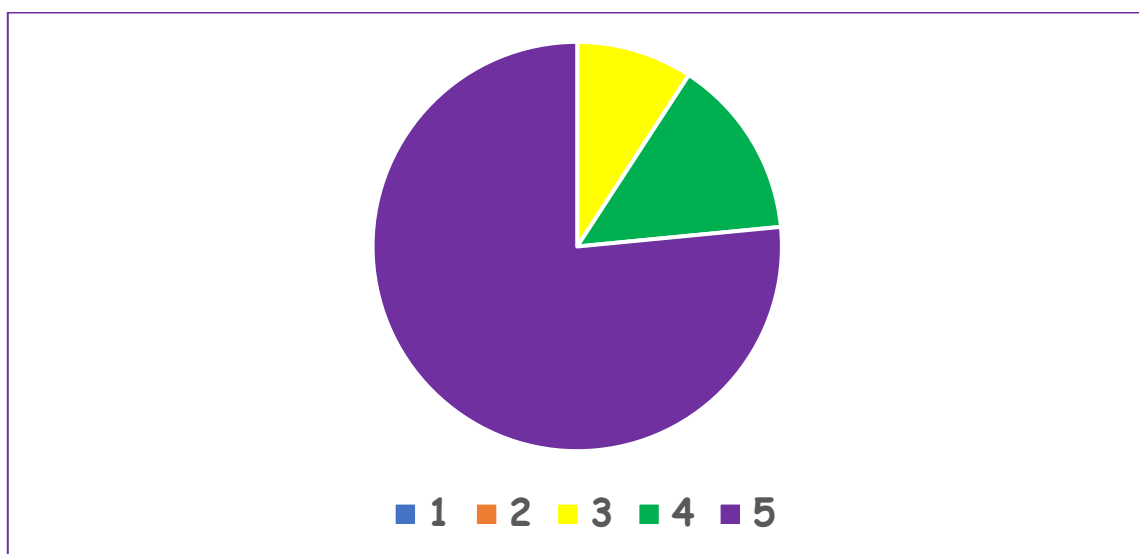


Dustbin - Something that was not good about today.

- Pie charts and bar charts etc, too much info on those points that are not necessary.
- Parents/families ongoing issues finding the right support for their children/young people
- All of the pleas to fill in countless forms for professionals for parent's view - too many
- Nothing
- The live well
- MCT Stand Guy getting all the glory

- That turnaround times in certain areas are hitting the 2 year mark
- Nothing because what isn't relevant to me on the day.... Will be to someone else.
- Not enough time to speak to the stall holders and professionals 1-1
- crackling microphone
- Cannot think of anything - enjoyed it all
- Some of the presentation had a lot of information on, far too much for us to process and to fit into their allotted time.
- Some of the presentations appear more aimed at other professionals and do not tell parents what the service actually does for them/their family and why it is relevant to them. They need to be more tailored to the audience. For example, the Waiting Well presentation didn't really explain what the service is and what it does for children/young people.
- Everyone is on waiting lists
- That I am lucky having Michelle of Durham CC in my corner.
- Very similar agenda to last year - it would be good to mix it up
- Should have been a questions and answers for a short time
- Maybe fruit selection for summer conference, rather than just cakes :)
- Nothing
- n/a
- Sometimes they spoke too quick for me.

How relevant or helpful do you think the speakers and information stalls were?
 1 - Not very helpful - 5 Very Helpful.



What subject would you like to see covered at future conferences?

- Schools, education, opportunities
- Not just development pathway - accessing OT services etc
- Things to do with post 16-education, work, developing independence, supported living
- More around selective mutism and how to support around it
- ADHD
- Support and care during school holidays so the routine isn't broken in everyday living. Plus, early years Support. Younger children don't seem to be part of anything covered.
- representation from higher education
- school avoidance and how to deal with it
- Trauma awareness, developmental trauma
- EHCP information: how to apply for one, how to challenge the needs assessment, appeals and tribunals - how they work, what they are for, Annual Reviews etc.
- SEND Law
- Sport clubs for children with SEND - football clubs/cricket/basketball etc.
- Dentists
- How schools will be informed about handing students who show PDA
- Supporting mental health in children
- Different types of autism and adhd
- Perhaps an update on how family hubs are going from a parent / family perspective
- Prospect of young. More information about their future.

Any questions or comments

- Thank you - hugely informative as ever!
- Thank you 😊
- A finger has fingerprints, but toes don't have toe prints, why is that?
- Just a massive Thankyou to all involved at MCT, all your hard work and dedication doesn't go unnoticed, Lots of Love x
- Thank you for catering for working parents by having the evening option.
- Help regarding school avoidance
- Can we remember to ask for rice with curry next time please lol
- It was a really informative conference - thanks very much to everyone involved in arranging it. We really appreciate all your hard work.
- Absolutely minor comment - it was fab to have food/hot food, that was a treat, would have loved a sweet/dessert option to round it off. So minor

so don't expect any response as that's a me thing. Thank you though for the event. it was very useful seeing people there.

- I thoroughly enjoyed the day it's the first time I have been.
- Thank you for another varied conference. I love seeing Cheezy Wotsits - please keep inviting them :)
- A big thank you to all of the parents who patiently completed the multiple requests for opinions / priorities / poop bucket suggestions as it keeps services appropriately focussed
- Thank you for letting me join you.
- So far, I still not very sure which is the best one I should contact with my concern.



MCT DURHAM PCF CIO - Registered charity number 1202217.

