



Spring 2016 Information for Parents in the North East

Linking parents and professionals – sharing knowledge and information on autism

Here is some local information that you and your family may find interesting

Autism Information Hub Gateshead Central Library

A new Autism Information Hub at Gateshead Central Library has now been opened. A range of books about autism and related



topics will be available to borrow and library staff are autism-awareness trained to help people find relevant information. A quiet space is also available. There is a monthly drop in session, delivered by Gateshead Council's Special Educational Needs Improvement Team (SENIT) which takes place on the second Monday morning of each month from 9.30am to 12noon. Parents and carers are also encouraged to call by and meet informally in the café to share experiences. **For further information please telephone 0191 433 8420 or you can email: libraries@gateshead.gov.uk**

NAS Resource Centre: Parent & Carer Group Sessions—held at Thomas Bewick School, Linhope Road, West Denton, Newcastle, NE5 2LW - 9.30—11.30 - The Group meet every other Thursday as follows:-

28th April - 12th May, 26th May - 9th June, 23rd June - 7th July, 21st July*

*Please ring beforehand as we go out for a meal after the group at the end of term.

If you would like further information please contact Deborah Garland on 07884 117741 or e-mail: Deborah.garland@nas.org.uk

Daslⁿe Information is funded by The Children's Foundation -

If you are interested in fundraising for Daslⁿe, please contact The Children's Foundation on 0191 282 0894.

**The Children's
FOUNDATION**

<http://www.thechildrensfoundation.co.uk/fundraising/community-fundraising/>

You can also follow Daslⁿe on Facebook - www.facebook.com/daslne

The Toby Henderson Trust have moved into their new home at Toby House, Earth Balance, West Sleekburn, Bedlington Station. The move will help to double the number of young children with autism that they can help. Further information about their move can be seen overleaf.



Manor Walks Shopping Centre
Units 5-7 Dudley Court
Cramlington
Northumberland
NE23 6QW

Autism Northumberland is a new support network for parents, carers and siblings affected by autism. They also aim to provide the following services:-

- Advice on EHCP/statement/transport and schooling.
- Advice with form filling, grant applications, and DLA claims.

The centre provides members with a fun space with soft play, iPads, PS3, Wii, a Lego room and so much more. There is also space available for training/workshops, after school and holiday clubs.

Contact Lesley Cole for further information on 07932835094 or e-mail autismnorthumberland@gmail.com



Moving House?

**Please send an e-mail with your new address to daslne@ncl.ac.uk:
Or you can contact Daslⁿe on 0191 282 1400**

The Toby Henderson Trust has moved to new premises -

**Toby House, Earth Balance,
Bedlington, Northumberland.**

Tel No: 0300 365 3055 or 01670 530 557

E:mail—info@ttht.co.uk



The new premises make the Toby Henderson Trust more accessible to every child, irrespective of disability. There will also be a much needed secure outdoor play area.

The Toby Henderson Trust were successful in winning an NHS England bid to strengthen the support for families after their child's ASD assessment. The award will be used to raise awareness of the post-diagnostic services provided by the team in collaboration with NHS provision. The Clinical Commissioning Groups in South Tyneside and Northumberland also supported the bid financially.

Two full day workshops have been held to publicise the much needed and very practical specialist Services which the Toby Henderson Trust offer to families. The first workshop took place on Wednesday 24th February in the Riverside Room of The National Glass Centre, Sunderland, and the second on Wednesday, 2nd March at the new centre, Toby House, at Earth Balance in Northumberland.

The workshops were aimed at both professionals and parents and showcased the experience of the Toby Henderson Trust's specialist team. The team presentations focused on the emotional responses experienced by families at this challenging time and some of the everyday life issues of living with a child on the autism spectrum. One important topic covered was the sensory processing difficulties and sensitivities which may be faced by the child, which can disrupt family life and activities. Specialist clinicians gave an overview of "How to help yourself" with some of their 'top tips' for coping in the period after assessment and diagnosis.

The Nathan Shippey Sensory Room at Sunderland FC

Nathan Shippey is an eight year old boy with autism spectrum disorder. Like most boys his age, he developed a love of football. Keen to go and watch a live game, he and his parents Kate and Peter set off to the stadium armed with ear defenders, headphones with his favourite music and hats. However, Nathan struggled with the loud noise and busy crowds, so they left shortly after kick off. After a few attempts, Kate and Peter decided to contact the club to see if there were any facilities which would help make the game more enjoyable for Nathan. There were not, but rather than taking this as defeat Kate and Peter set out on a campaign to provide a sensory viewing room for Nathan and other fans like him.



After a year of petitions, meetings and research, the Nathan Shippey Sensory Room was installed at Sunderland's ground, the Stadium of Light, in August 2015. The room has space for three pairs of people, and has been used so far by a range of individuals – from children to adults, and both home and away fans. The sensory room includes a great view of the pitch, sound proofing, bubble tubes and a Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) board. As Peter reports, it has been a "great success so far, with the room fully booked till the end of the year". Kate and Peter are now talking to other major clubs, including Manchester United, with the hope of getting facilities like the Nathan Shippey Sensory Room installed in all premier league stadiums. Peter explained how the usefulness of a sensory room is not just confined to football, having received calls from "both Silverstone motor racing circuit and, very recently, New Perth Stadium in Australia!"

For more information and regular updates, please visit <http://theshippeycampaign.com/>