Welcome to the Spring issue of the FIND Newsletter, 2019

The weather is starting to warm up and the days are getting longer. If you’re planning a family day out, or thinking about booking a holiday, there are ideas inside that may help.

Spring is always a time of change and new beginnings. The SEND Service was renamed the Inclusion Service in January, and will continue to develop to further support the inclusion of all children and young people with SEND in Lancashire.

The team would like to send our best wishes to colleagues who are leaving the service, including David Graham, Head of Service, and Dawn Fenton, who produced the first issue of FIND back in Spring 2002. We also welcome Edwina Grant OBE, Executive Director for Education and Children’s Services, and Steve Belbin, Interim Director of Education, to their new posts.

The Lancashire Parent Carer Forum has now reformed. Read an update on their work so far and their vision for the future on pages 18-19.

Many of you will be aware of the proposal to cease the funding for Lancashire Break Time short breaks. The public consultation is open now until 25th March – see page 11 for details on how to have your voice heard.

If you would like to submit an article for a future issue of FIND, please contact us on 01772 538077 or email FIND@lancashire.gov.uk

Finally, Mothers’ Day is on Sunday 31st March – we hope you all have a lovely time. Thank you for your continued support.

Sarah Deady
SEND Information, Advice and Support Team
Inclusion Service

“I can’t change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.”

Jimmy Dean

www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND
What Is Purple Day?

Purple day is the international day for epilepsy and falls on 26th March each year. On this day, people across the globe come together to raise awareness of the condition and make a difference to the lives of people affected by epilepsy.

Wear something purple on 26th March to show your support.

If someone in your family is affected by epilepsy, information and support is available from:

**Epilepsy Society**
Helpline: 01494 601 400
Website: www.epilepsysociety.org.uk

**Epilepsy Action**
Helpline: 0808 800 5050
Email: helpline@epilepsy.org.uk
Website: www.epilepsy.org.uk

**Young Epilepsy**
Helpline: 01342 831342
(Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm)
Email: info@youngepilepsy.org.uk
Website: www.youngepilepsy.org.uk
Dear Lancashire Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that following twenty years of service for Lancashire County Council I am retiring at the end of the Spring Term 2019.

I am ending my career as Head of Inclusion, which is a real privilege. Having worked with you to develop the strong partnership we have established across Lancashire, in creating the Lancashire SEND Local Area Partnership and successfully delivering the initial objectives in the SEND Written Statement of Action, I believe it is the right time for me to step down.

We have a draft two year SEND Improvement plan and this is, I believe, the ideal opportunity to hand the reins over to the next Head of Service to take this forward and deliver the changes it will bring. The recruitment process is underway and we will let you know as soon as an appointment has been made.

I can honestly say that my time in Lancashire has been as enjoyable as it has been fulfilling. I have had the opportunity to work with partners across health, education and social care that have been dedicated, inclusive and supported children and young people to achieve and develop, despite the barriers and challenges they faced.

In equal measure I have met and worked with parents and children who have been inspirational in the positivity they presented in meeting their challenges.

I feel truly grateful to have worked with my dedicated teams and individuals within those teams who have contributed to a multi-agency network that is dynamic, responsive and passionate in supporting children young people and their parents/carers.

We are of course in challenging times and we are being tested to develop new and innovative ways to improve the outcomes for children and young people in Lancashire. We will need to continue to be innovative and focused in improving the impact we have.

The new Inclusion Service will provide a vehicle for the SEND Service to develop and grow, to support the cultural change we need to make to embed the SEND Reforms across the Lancashire Partnership.

For my part I wish to say a heartfelt thank you and to wish you and your children the very best for the future.

Kind Regards,
David Graham
Head of Inclusion Service

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Goodbye from Dawn Fenton

“It’s time to say goodbye, but I think goodbyes are sad and I’d much rather say hello. Hello to a new adventure.” Ernie Harwell

In 2000, I was given the pleasure of forming a new multi-agency provision for families of children with disabilities, which became known as the FIND Service. The service creation was only achievable with the dedication and help of parents, children, young people and professionals from across Lancashire.

The FIND Service has been a journey of good and difficult times with many changes along the way. The only constant was the assistance from everyone to keep the FIND Newsletter evolving to the needs of the readers.

I hope you enjoy reading the FIND Newsletter and helping to make it the success it is, not just in Lancashire but nationally too.

It is with sadness that I now have to step down from this journey due to ill health, but I am sure the FIND journey and spirit will carry on into the future.

I would like to say Thank You to all the lovely people I have met through the years, for your support, commitment to the service and kindness to me.

I wish you all a happy and healthy future.

Dawn Fenton (Helm)
SEND Information, Advice and Support Team Manager
Cerebral Palsy United Football Club
Come and join our Football club!!!

**Age groups 3-14:**
- Tots Group
- Foundation Phase
- Development Phase

**Session dates:**
Sessions will run every Monday (6-7pm) from the 25th of February
Venue: St George’s High School
Cherry Tree Rd, Blackpool
FY4 4PH

All sessions will take place in the indoor sports hall
Please contact us to book your place

For more information on this and CP Disability Football across the North West Region visit us at:
- Cerebral Palsy United FC
  - info@cpunited.co.uk
- @CP_United_FC

“Be the best you can Be”
National Winners
FA Charter Standard Development Club of the Year 2017

Disability Football has been formed to provide opportunities for participants in an inclusive environment, across the NW region.

Anyone who has Cerebral Palsy/acquired brain injury and wants to play football is more than welcome to come along and be a part of our club.

Training sessions & fixtures are available to all regardless of age, ability, experience, gender, mobility or CP classification. Whether you play within the National talent program, play within a PAN disability team, play at school or don’t play at all, please come along and enjoy your football in a positive learning environment.

Training sessions are run by FA & UEFA qualified coaches and are specifically designed for players with CP, working on fundamental movement skills during each session.

Our long-term aim is to support players and help them to become the best they can be both on and off the pitch.

Junior Disability Sport Sessions
Tuesdays (Term Time Only)
5.30pm-6.30pm (7-11 year olds)
6.30pm-7.30pm (12-16 year olds)
(Sports Hall at Accrington Academy, BB5 4BA)

Accrington Stanley’s disability sport sessions are a fun way to learn new skills and help you develop physically and socially. Sessions cover a range of sports and are engaging for children with a wide range of disabilities. You are able to turn up on the night, no booking needed.

FREE OF CHARGE!
For more information please contact:
01254 30 40 71
www.stanleytrust.co.uk

Adult Disability Football Sessions
Thursdays 1pm-2pm
At Hyndburn Leisure Centre
Age 16+

Our adult disability football session creates an accessible opportunity for adults to participate in football. The sessions are a great way to be physically active and socialize with others. Sessions are fun, engaging and safe for people with a wide range of disabilities.

£2 per session
For more information please contact:
01254 30 40 71
www.stanleytrust.co.uk
FIND out about SEND
Does your child have special educational needs (SEND)?
Are you confused about the help that is available?

The Information, Advice and Support (IAS) Team run free courses across Lancashire for parent carers of children and young people who have or may have special educational needs or disability (SEND) and are at the beginning of the SEN support process.

Day time courses – 10:30am to 2:30pm

**Tuesday 5th March** – County Hall, Fishergate Hill, Preston, PR1 8RJ
**Wednesday 6th March** – Asda Colne, Unit 1, Swinden Retail Park, Corporation Street, Colne, BB8 8LU
**Tuesday 12th March** – Walton-le-Dale Young People’s Centre, Brindle Road, Bamber Bridge, PR5 6YJ
**Thursday 14th March** – Carnforth Young People’s Centre, Kellett Road, Carnforth, LA5 9LS

Evening courses – 6:00pm – 9:00pm

**Thursday 7th March** – Piccadilly Support Service, Piccadilly Garden, Scotforth, Lancaster, LA1 4PX
**Thursday 7th March** – The Legacy Rainbow House, Salt Pit Lane, Mawdesley, Ormskirk, L40 2QX
**Thursday 14th March** – The Maden Centre, Rochdale Road, Bacup, OL13 9NZ

If you would like to find out more and to book a place call **01772 538077** or email **FIND@lancashire.gov.uk**

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come basis.

Please note: This course is for parent carers whose child has not been through an assessment process for an Education Health and Care Plan.

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Information, Advice and Support Team

New Minimum Standards

The new Minimum Standards for Information Advice and Support Services (IASS, sometimes known as SENDIASS) are now finalised. These are part of the IAS Programme (IASP) and will be the basis of future operational plans and linked funding in 2019/20. The standards were drawn up by a group of IASS managers, parents, Local Authority representatives and the chair of the IASP board, in consultation with the DfE. They are based on the law, the SEND Code of Practice and the IASS Quality Standards (which they now replace). The consultation process received feedback from IAS Services, LA staff, third sector organisations, health services and parents.

We will keep you updated you about how this will affect the Lancashire IAS offer as we further develop.

The term ‘advocacy’ is used in the standards, the definition of advocacy which accurately describes the work and role of IAS is “support from another person to help you express your views and wishes and help you understand and exercise your rights”.

An advocate will not:
• give you your personal opinion
• solve problems and make decisions for you
• make judgements about you

The support of an advocate is particularly useful in meetings when you might not feel confident in expressing yourself. They can:
• support you to ask all the questions you want to ask
• make sure all the points you want covered are included in the meeting
• explain your options to you without giving their opinion
• help keep you safe during the meeting – for example, if you find the meeting upsetting, your advocate can ask for a break until you feel able to continue

Lancashire IAS can use advocacy to help with:
• school exclusions
• making a complaint
• SEND appeals
• tribunals

You can view the full minimum standards, including an easy read version, at: https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/information-advice-and-support-services-network/resources/minimum-standards-iass

If you would like further information, contact us:
Telephone 0300 123 6706
Email information.lineteam@lancashire.gov.uk
POWAR stands for Participate, Opportunity, Win, Achieve, Respect. It is Lancashire’s Council for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. We hold regular meetings which are informal and fun. These meetings are open to secondary aged young people up to the age of 25. We also meet 6 weekly with primary aged children.

Here is a description of our regular monthly meetings.

**Media group:**
Media group: a meeting where young people help to write the newsletters for POWAR and update the participation website, internet pages and Facebook page.

**Young Inspectors:**
Young Inspectors: Young Inspectors visit different services for children and young people to inspect them and then come up with ways that they can improve. The meetings are an opportunity to find out about upcoming inspections and write up reports for recent inspections.

**POWAR Combined:**
POWAR Combined: All members of POWAR from all parts of Lancashire are invited to attend this meeting. Visitors from different services and organisations often attend to speak to young people to gain their views about different topics.

**POWAR Meeting Dates March – May 2019**

**March**
- Media Group: Tuesday 5th March 6-8pm
- Young Inspectors: Tuesday 12th March 6-8pm
- POWAR Combined: Tuesday 19th March 5.30-7.30pm

**April**
- Media Group: Tuesday 2nd April 6-8pm

**May**
- Media Group: Tuesday 7th May 6-8pm
- Young Inspectors: Tuesday 14th May 6-8pm
- POWAR Combined: Tuesday 21st May 5.30-7.30pm

What POWAR have been doing

Youth Council trip to London

One member of POWAR is a Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) with Lancashire’s Youth Council. Recently the MYPs visited the Houses of Parliament to debate the topics which had been voted for in the yearly Make your Mark Ballot, in which over 1 million young people from across the UK voted on the top issues which are to be prioritised in the Youth Council Debate. The top 5 issues were:

- Put an end to Knife Crime
- Mental Health
- Equal Pay, Equal Work
- Tackling Homelessness
- Votes at 16

POWAR working closely with the Inclusion Team

POWAR have been influencing the Inclusion Team in Lancashire and trying to promote the fact that professionals should listen to disabled children and young people’s wants and needs.

One member of POWAR is on the SEND Improvement Partnership Board, alongside parent/carer representatives. POWAR have been suggesting ways to improve the SEND Strategy which has been implemented for the next 3 years, as well as giving their ideas, opinions and personal experiences of being a young person with SEND in Lancashire. This information has been fed back to the Partnership Board through the Engagement Working Group which two members of POWAR are involved with.

Five members of POWAR spoke to the managers of Lancashire’s Inclusion team to explain who POWAR are, how they can be contacted, some of the consultations they have been involved with and how the staff could contact POWAR to refer new members.

POWAR’s short film ‘We Want Change’ has been promoted to the Inclusion Team as part of their feedback. To find the film, follow this link: [https://youtu.be/x7IN-YxgiEM](https://youtu.be/x7IN-YxgiEM)

The meetings are held at various locations in Lancashire. Please also note that these meetings are held term time only. Please get in touch to find out what meetings and activities we have during half terms and holidays. Please contact the Participation Service on 01772 629470 for more information or if you would like to attend.
An Interns Journey

My name is Alia and I am currently a Preston’s College Student. I have been in College for 5 years now studying different courses such as: Hairdressing, a 2 year Performing Arts Course and Level 1 Vocational Course in Business, Information Technology, Maths and English.

This year I thought about what I wanted to do and that was to stop studying and to find a paid job. However, I am aware that I don’t have enough experience to get a job, so I spoke to the college about it and they said that the Supported Internship would be the way to go for me and I would get the support I need to gain the skills and experience required. So I was introduced to Project SEARCH.

So far during my time in Project Search, I started work in the Classroom with the other Interns, the Facilitator and Job coach doing some training before I go out to work placement.

Later on I started my work placement in SEND admin and learnt tasks such as: scanning, then checking my emails to see if the documents I have scanned are all there. I then email these to the relevant people. I have also been printing more than 50 documents and organising them into the right order so others find it easy to access them. I have also learnt how to fill out invoices on a spreadsheet, how to book rooms for meetings, how to upload to Single File which is an internal system which holds all the SEND’S information and much more. I’ve also learnt how to work in a team.

The best way to support me in the workplace is to explain the task to me and then hear me say what has been said to make sure I have understood well, and that I understand what to do. There will still be times during the task when I will ask questions about things occurring in the task that I am unsure of.

Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH is an academic year long Supported Internship programme for students with learning disabilities, aged 16-24 with an EHC Plan and in their final year of school or college. It is aimed at students whose goal is competitive employment. Interns participate in three department rotations at Lancashire County Council to build skills and develop their career paths. They work with a team that includes their family, instructor and supported employment specialist to create an employment goal. Together they develop the support the student needs for their successful transition from education to work through continuous feedback and acquisition of skills.

Who makes it happen?

Project SEARCH is a partnership between a host business, education and professional adult supported employment.

- Lancashire County Council: The host business provides a site base, commissioning, individual life planning guidance, care management and individual budgets for job coaching and other support
- Preston’s College: Student interns from the local area enrol here onto the programme. They also provide an instructor and the employability skills curriculum
- Supported Employment Agency: Provides job coaching and job development for interns at the host business and in their paid careers
- Department for Work and Pensions: Provides ‘Access to Work’ funding for job coaching and other follow on support

What are the benefits?

- Interns acquire competitive, transferable and marketable job skills
- Interns gain increased independence, confidence, and self-esteem
- Interns obtain work based individualised instruction, coaching, support and feedback from the instructor, job coach and host business managers and mentors
- Graduates are assisted to develop links to adult support agencies

How can I get involved?

To find out more about Project SEARCH, contact us:
Telephone: 07947 777 118
Email: carmel.mckeogh@dfnprojectsearch.org
Website: www.dfnprojectsearch.org
**Accessible Days Out**

**Martin Mere Wetland Centre**  
Fish Lane, Burscough, L40 0TA

Step into a wilder world where wilderness and family-friendliness combine. Come and enjoy each season, from ducklings to migrating swans - you’ll be amazed at how close you can get to fantastic wetland wildlife.

WWT Wetland Centres exist to connect people with nature, so aim to be accessible to everyone.

Martin Mere Wetland Centre has the following facilities:
- Free accessible car parking provision – 2 designated spaces
- Trained assistance dogs welcome
- Hearing induction loop in reception
- Maps can be enlarged, please ask ahead of your visit
- Manual wheelchair available to loan
- The paths around the site are level access
- Roaming volunteers, grounds and reception staff on hand if you require assistance
- There is step-free entry to all the hides
- Accessible toilets
- Restaurant staff are friendly and helpful and will carry trays to the table if required
- Pond-dipping with station for wheelchair-users
- Accessible boat safari – maximum 2 manual wheelchair-users per trip
- Waterplay – accessible (boardwalks / gravel) for children using wheelchairs
- Eco Garden – a great sensory experience
- Friendly and helpful staff

If you have any specific questions about accessibility, contact:
Phone: 01704 895181  
Email: info.martinmere@wwt.org.uk  
Website: www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/martin-mere

**Brockholes Nature Reserve**  
Preston New Road, Samlesbury, Preston, PR5 0AG

Brockholes is one of the best sites in the UK for many species of bird and the Boilton Wood section of the reserve has one of the largest strips of ancient woodland in the county. There is a fantastic natural Adventure Play area for all ages, with highlights including a climbing forest and a zip wire, and the Guild Wheel cycle way runs through the centre of the reserve too.

With a network of accessible trails and hides, as well as free use of a wheelchair, disabled facilities and car parking spaces, Brockholes is truly able to be enjoyed by all visitors.

Most of the footpaths at Brockholes are level and surfaced. The kissing gates are accessible for smaller wheelchairs and pushchairs and are shown on the Trail Access Guide. If you use a large mobility vehicle or pushchair you can obtain a key to the vehicle access gates from the Welcome Centre for your visit (you will be asked to leave a £10 refundable deposit).

Adapted toilets are on the floating Visitor Village. Please note that there are no toilets out on the reserve.

Assistance dogs are welcome in the Visitor Village and on the reserve, however other dogs are not permitted as they can disturb the wildlife.

A Trail Access Guide can be viewed, or downloaded, from the website.

Be sure to call in to pick up a welcome leaflet from the Welcome Centre that will help you plan your day!  
Phone: 01772 872000  
Website: www.brockholes.org
Accessible Countryside for Everyone (ACE)
England and Wales have some of the most fantastic countryside, from mountains and valleys to rolling hills and scenic coast.

There are thousands of miles of public footpaths, bridleways, green lanes, trails and tracks, however not all are accessible to those using wheelchairs or mobility scooters, parents with buggies or those with mobility impairment who find stiles difficult to negotiate.

ACE is an independent voluntary project to provide information and promote accessibility to leisure and sport in England and Wales – primarily aimed at those with mobility issues, their carers and families.
Website: www.accessiblecountryside.org.uk

The Walled Garden
Worden Park, Worden Lane, Leyland, PR25 1DJ

An interactive horticultural project with an emphasis on inclusion and community engagement, The Walled Garden is open to the public all year round and is a valued leisure and learning resource for local families, schools and colleges. Adults with support needs learn about growing vegetables, cutting flowers and plants, which are then sold to the visiting public.

There is a busy year-round schedule of events created in partnership with people supported and made available to the public. Some examples include:
• pumpkin carving
• wreath making
• face painting for children
• pickling and preserving workshops
• weekly gardening clubs
• reptile days
• arts and crafts

Open from 10am – 3pm on weekdays, and 11am – 5pm on weekends (summer months).
Phone: 07834 480375
Email: walledgarden@brothersofcharity.org.uk

Walks with Wheelchairs
A website dedicated to providing free information on routes that are suitable for those with access challenges. Tried and tested walks recommended by those knowledgeable about accessible routes in the great outdoors.

Walks with Wheelchairs will allow you to:
• Read reviews of the routes before trying any walks
• Download walk directions and detailed OS maps free of charge
• Share your own routes for walking with a wheelchair or buggy
• Add your own comments for others users to view
Website: www.walkswithwheelchairs.com

Pets’ Corner
Astley Park, Chorley, PR7 1XA

Pets’ Corner is based in Astley Park and is open to the public every day of the week. Situated next to the refreshment kiosk and children’s play area, there are rabbits, chipmunks, a huge African tortoise, reptiles, giant snails and many more weird and wonderful creatures.

Adults with learning difficulties are supported to learn about all aspects of animal welfare, and to care for the wide array of animals at Pets’ Corner, whilst providing information to and engaging with the visiting public.

There is full ramp access for wheelchairs and prams, with accessible toilet facilities in an adjacent building.

The building can be “hired” for private hand on sessions for any group, organisation or schools for one off visits or for block bookings, just contact us to discuss your requirements.

Kids Pets Club at weekends offers children 8 years + to engage and learn all about the animals (fee payable).

Open from 10am – 3:30pm on weekdays, and 11am – 4pm on weekends.
Phone: 07795 468669
Email: petscorner@brothersofcharity.org.uk

Miles without Stiles easy routes
Miles without Stiles are 48 routes across the Lake District National Park suitable for people with limited mobility, including wheelchair users, families with pushchairs, and the visually impaired. The website has an interactive map to explore the routes available.

Distances shown are in kilometres for a return trip unless otherwise stated. Routes are graded as suitable for “all”, “many” or “some”, based on gradients and surface conditions. Please remember that path conditions can change and be damaged, or eroded, by rain and bad weather.

The website includes advice on being prepared, with links to public transport and weather forecasts to help you plan your trip.

For more information contact:
Phone: 01539 724555
Email: hq@lakedistrict.gov.uk
Website: www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/visiting/thingstodo/walking/mileswithoutstiles
D.A.B. 
Differently Abled Bounce
MON 6-7PM

WHAT IS DAB?
Our D.A.B. sessions offer a calm and relaxing bounce environment for those who may feel overwhelmed by the music and the lights of our typical sessions. For our D.A.B. sessions our lights are kept at a low level and a more relaxing choice of music is played.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?
IMPROVES BALANCE
INCREASE SOCIAL SKILLS
INCREASE SPACIAL AWARENESS
IMPROVES CO-ORDINATION
FREEDOM OF THE PARK
STRENGTHENS LEGS
HELPS WITH CONFIDENCE
IMPROVES REFLLEXES
& MOST OF ALL, A LOT OF FUN!

Sydney Street, Accrington
BB5 6EG
01254 791117

Call 01772 524567 or email adam@spirepreston.co.uk

MONDAY KNIGHTS
Multi-sport activities for everyone aged 18 and over

Starting from:
Monday 7th January 2019
5:30pm-6:30pm
£3.00 Entry

West View Leisure Centre
Ribbleton Lane
Preston
PR1 5EP
**Lancashire County Council (LCC) is proposing to cease delivery of the Lancashire Break Time (LBT) service from 1 September 2019. This means short breaks for parents and carers and LBT activities for children and young people with special educational needs and/or a disability would no longer be available from this date.**

This proposal is part of a number of budget options currently being considered by Lancashire County Councillors. Like many councils across the country, LCC is going through financially challenging times. This is as a result of funding not keeping pace with the increasing demand and cost of services being delivered.

LCC needs to continue to look at ways of reducing costs to help balance the books for future years.

The proposal is subject to a public consultation, to give an opportunity for everyone to share their views and influence the final decision. Members of the public, staff and partner organisations are all invited to take part.

Please give your feedback on the proposals by completing the questionnaire at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/consultations.

Printed questionnaires are available on request, please ring 01772 538077 or email Find@lancashire.gov.uk.

Your views and comments will be included in the report that Lancashire County Council's Cabinet will consider when making the final decision on these proposals.

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**Lancashire Break Time Consultation**

Lancashire Break Time (LBT) provides an opportunity for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities to attend a fun activity, whilst also providing a break for their parent or carer.

Sessions are for at least 2 hours, and on weekends and during school holidays can be up to 6 hours.

**Who can attend Lancashire Break Time?**

The criteria to qualify for Lancashire Break Time short breaks is to be the primary unpaid carer of a child or young person with special educational needs and/or disabilities, aged 4 to 18 years and living in Lancashire (excluding Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool). The child or young person will find it difficult to access universal services due to sensory issues, learning difficulties, physical mobility problems, etc. They will not be in receipt of an assessed social care outreach package; those with a higher level of need will receive services through their package of care.

To find out what is available in your area, check out the information on Lancashire’s Local Offer: www.lancashire.gov.uk/send

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**Lancashire Break Time April ~ August 2019**

Activities have been confirmed for all school holidays and during term time (weekdays and weekends) up to 31st August 2019.

There is a wide range of activities on offer, including arts and crafts, sports, outdoor adventures, trips out and more. Children and young people have opportunities to try something new, make friends and have lots of fun!

You can find a list of providers in your area on the Local Offer (see below). Call the provider direct to see what activities they offer, and to book a place.

There is a minimum cost of £1 per hour to attend; this can vary depending on the activities.
Local dancer Becky Rich, aged 27, from Preston, has been recognised with a community award for the contribution that she has made to the lives of people with disabilities across Lancashire.

Becky is a volunteer with Accrington based charity DanceSyndrome. The charity delivers inclusive dance workshops and dance leadership training across Lancashire, as well as inspiring performances that demonstrate a focus on ability rather than disability. DanceSyndrome’s ethos is that disability should never be a barrier to following your dreams.

As a DanceSyndrome Dance Leader, Spokesperson and Ambassador, Becky goes to many community events to inspire people to see what can be achieved when society becomes more inclusive. Because of the incredible work she does, she was chosen as the 2018 recipient of the Lesley Finley Community Award which is awarded each year to a member of the community by Disability Equality (NW).

Disability Equality (NW) is a Disabled People’s Organisation that started in 1996. The organisation is run and controlled by disabled people, to give disabled people a voice and ensure people are included in society. Their main aim is to further the human rights of disabled people across the North West and to provide user-led services to support disabled people. These different services have all arisen out of local community needs.

The Lesley Finley Community Award was initiated by Disability Equality (NW) in 2014 and was named after former Chair Lesley Finley, who sadly passed away in 2013. The award recognises the positive impact made by disabled people in Lancashire to improve the lives of other disabled people and inspiring others to make a positive impact of their own.

Becky was presented with the award on Friday 16th November at the Disability Equality (NW) AGM at Plungington Community Centre, Preston.

Melanie Close, Chief Executive of Disability Equality (NW) said “The Lesley Finley Award is to recognise local disabled people who work tirelessly to improve the lives of other disabled people. This year we were delighted to have 5 shortlisted nominees. Becky is a very worthy winner of this year’s award. Becky has danced at many of our events & never fails to get people dancing & to make people smile -she has a real gift for spreading happiness and improving the lives of disabled people through dance.”

Speaking about the award, Becky said “I’m thrilled to receive this award! It is amazing to be recognised. I absolutely love working with DanceSyndrome. I did training and qualified as a Dance Leader and because I did such a good job of being a leader, I have recently been appointed Ambassador and Spokesperson. It’s amazing to know that my work inspires people and makes them feel more positive.

“Having Down’s syndrome has never stopped me from doing anything that I wanted to do and I am dedicated to sharing that message and helping people to see that people with disabilities should be treated as equals in society! Winning this award shows that people with disabilities can achieve anything, so my message to other people is ‘Follow your dreams - you can do it!’”

This isn’t the first time that Becky has been recognised for her voluntary work. In 2016 she was chosen as Volunteer of the Year at the Lancashire County Council Pride Awards and she went on to become a Champion for Lancashire Volunteer Partnership, featuring in a countywide poster and advertising campaign promoting the benefits of volunteering.

DanceSyndrome offers a range of opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to become more involved in their community. For more information, please visit www.dancesyndrome.co.uk
Let’s tell the world that no-one should be left behind!
Every single person with Down’s syndrome should have the same opportunities as everyone else, in EVERY area of life:

• Personal development
• Personal relationships
• Education
• Health care
• Work
• Public life
• Hobbies and leisure

Down’s Syndrome Awareness Week and World Down Syndrome Day are an amazing opportunity to challenge our society’s misconceptions about Down’s syndrome and to call for it to be more inclusive.

We’ll be celebrating the achievements of people with Down’s syndrome, telling their stories and amplifying their voices.

The DSA will especially be highlighting the stories and achievements of people with Down’s syndrome and who have more complex needs…a section of our own community who can sometimes feel particularly left behind.

How you can help

• Tell us your stories, email: DSAPress.office@downs-syndrome.org.uk if you would like us to feature your story during Awareness Week.

• Wear your #LotsOfSocks with pride on World Down Syndrome Day (21 March)
Wear them at home, nursery, school, college, university, work, play, travel, on holiday…wherever you are and whatever you’re doing on 21 March!
Make sure to take pictures and videos and post them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using the hashtags #LotsOfSocks, #WorldDownSyndromeDay and #WDSD19…we love seeing and sharing everyone’s #LotsOfSocks pictures!

• Hold an event at your school, workplace, place of worship or social club
You can order a fundraising pack and we’ll have lots of resources to support your awareness raising too: www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/support-us/order-a-fundraising-pack

• Share, share, share!
If you have a Facebook, Twitter or Instagram account, please share our posts and keep an eye on our hashtags: #LeaveNoOneBehind #LotsOfSocks #WorldDownSyndromeDay and #WDSD19

• Tell people to get in touch with the DSA!
If anyone you talk to wants to know more or would like support to be more inclusive, ask them to give our Helpline a call.

DSA Helpline: 0333 1212 300
(Monday to Friday 10:00am – 4:00pm)
Email: info@downs-syndrome.org.uk
Website: www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/about/helpline

Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you. Walt Whitman
Phab is very pleased to offer a unique range of Inclusive Living Holiday Projects for disabled and non-disabled children, young people and adults where everyone can take part and be included.

All Phab projects have an emphasis on self-reliance, building confidence and independence, breaking down barriers, learning to work as a team and most importantly having fun!

The projects take place at accessible outdoor activity centres set in beautiful locations around the country.

The following projects are now open to applications:

10th – 12th May
Family Weekend Project at Bendrigg Lodge, Lake District
£60.00 per person

27th July – 3rd August
Seven Nights at Bendrigg Lodge, Lake District
age 8 – 18 years
£195.00 per person

3rd August – 10th August
Seven Nights at Bendrigg Lodge, Lake District
age 8 – 18 years
£195.00 per person

10th – 16th August
Six Nights at Avon Tyrrell, Hampshire
age 8 – 25 years
£195.00 per person

11th – 13th October
Weekend at Bendrigg Lodge, Lake District
age 8 – 18 years
£65.00 per person

13th – 15th September
Weekend at Bendrigg Lodge, Lake District
age 8 – 25 years
£65.00 per person

29th June – 5th July
Jubilee Sailing Trust Voyage London – Weymouth
age 16 – 100 years!
£195.00 per person

For further details please contact Rebecca Hargreaves, National Projects Manager on 01254 824784 or rebecca.hargreaves@phab.org.uk or apply on line at www.phab.org.uk
**Useful Websites Accessible Holiday Ideas**

**Bendrigg Trust – Kendal, Cumbria**
We specialise in delivering a variety of high quality residential and adventure-based activities for disabled and disadvantaged people. We aim to promote inclusion, encourage independence and build self-confidence through the safe provision of adventurous activities. From the minute a person arrives they are supported and encouraged to do as much as they can, from making their own bed and helping at meal times, to pushing themselves to reach that little bit further up the climbing wall or taking their first canoe trip on open water. No matter what a person’s perceived abilities, we gently support and encourage them to challenge themselves throughout their stay.

W: [www.bendrigg.org.uk](http://www.bendrigg.org.uk)
T: 01539 723 766
E: office@bendrigg.org.uk

**Calvert Trust – Kielder, Lake District and Exmoor**
The Calvert Trust enables disabled adults and children, together with their families and friends, to achieve their potential through the challenge of outdoor adventure in the countryside. Each centre offers a warm welcome, accessible accommodation and a wide range of activities, all in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

W: [www.calvert-trust.org.uk](http://www.calvert-trust.org.uk)
T: Kielder 01434 250 232; Lake District 01768 772 255; Exmoor 01598 763 221

**The Children’s Adventure Farm Trust - Cheshire**
We offer residual stays for groups of up to 22 (including care staff) or for individual families, free of charge. Typical activities include a themed fun-day and a day trip to a local attraction, plus plenty of playtime with all our fantastic onsite facilities. Download an application form from the website.

W: [www.caff.co.uk](http://www.caff.co.uk)
T: 01565 830 053
E: info@caff.co.uk

**The Thomas Centre – Lincolnshire**
Are you a parent of a child that has autism, epilepsy, tourettes or other challenging behaviours? We provide outstanding facilities that meet the needs of the whole family, not just the needs of the family member with special needs. The boats are extra wide to accommodate wheelchairs and the ultimate flexibility for people with a wide variety of special needs. The boats are supported and encouraged to do as much as they can, from making their own bed and helping at meal times, to pushing themselves to reach that little bit further up the climbing wall or taking their first canoe trip on open water. No matter what a person’s perceived abilities, we gently support and encourage them to challenge themselves throughout their stay.

W: [www.thethomascentre.co.uk](http://www.thethomascentre.co.uk)
T: 01507 363463
E: enquiries@thethomascentre.co.uk

**The Bruce Trust – Wiltshire**
Part of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust, we have a fleet of four wide-beam boats, each with the highest quality accommodation and the ultimate flexibility for people with a wide variety of special needs. The boats are extra wide to accommodate wheelchairs and they have all been designed to give wheelchair users the opportunity to steer by using the tiller.

W: [www.bruce.katrust.org.uk](http://www.bruce.katrust.org.uk)
T: 01380 721 279
E: brucebranch@katrust.org.uk

**Holiday Homes Trust – locations throughout England**
We are a small charity that specialises in providing quality, fully-accessible caravan accommodation for families and individuals that need a fun and relaxing break. The Holiday Homes Trust provides the opportunity for every single member of the family or group to enjoy freedom and life away from the home environment.

W: [www.holidayhomestrust.org](http://www.holidayhomestrust.org)
T: 02084 337 290 or 02084 337 291
E: scout.holiday.homes@scouts.org.uk

**The Tranquil Otter – Lake District**
Luxury Lodges with a private nature reserve in the Lake District. One amazing log cabin and seven lodges, all south-facing, with fabulous views across the lake. All our lodges are accessible by wheelchair, and we have our own wooded areas where you can enjoy getting up close to nature. You can also do a delightful lap of our private lake on wheels, and if required, we have an on-site mobility scooter for guests with limited mobility to use while on site. Each lodge has an accessible bathroom and we can supply shower stools and other equipment on request.

W: [www.thetransquilotter.co.uk](http://www.thetransquilotter.co.uk)
T: 01228 576 661
E: info@thetransquilotter.co.uk

**Ribby Hall Village – Wrea Green, Near Blackpool**
Snowdrop Cottage is especially adapted for guests with disabilities. Close to all onsite facilities and sleeps up to 5 people. Type “Snowdrop Cottage” into the search box on their webpage.

W: [www.ribbyhall.co.uk](http://www.ribbyhall.co.uk)
T: 0800 085 1717
E: enquiries@ribbyhall.co.uk

**Primrose Hill Holidays – Blue Anchor Bay, Somerset**
Four self-catering bungalows with level wheelchair access and wet rooms. Dogs are welcome at an additional cost, but there is no charge for Assistance Dogs.

W: [www.primrosehillholidays.co.uk](http://www.primrosehillholidays.co.uk)
T: 01643 821 200 or 07743 310 883
E: info@primrosehillholidays.co.uk

**Blagdon Farm Country Holidays – Devon**
Purpose built, fully accessible, luxury lake-side lodges and caravan site on a working smallholding with fishing lake. Minutes away from the sandy beaches of Bude and Widemouth Bay.

W: [www.blagdonfarm.co.uk](http://www.blagdonfarm.co.uk)
T: 01409 211 140
E: info@blagdonfarm.co.uk

**Culmore Bridge Cottages – near Stranraer, South West Scotland**
Three purpose-built, wheelchair friendly, self-catering bungalows set amid a peaceful woodland area. The 9 acres of grounds are wheelchair accessible with garden, woodland and woodland areas and a viewpoint with extensive sea views.

W: [www.culmorebridge.co.uk](http://www.culmorebridge.co.uk)
T: 01776 830 539 or 07884 457 755
E: mail@culmorebridge.co.uk

**Galloways – support through sight loss**
When it comes to holidays for blind and visually impaired people, at Galloway’s we’re all about choice. Every year we provide as many quality holiday and activity based options as possible, from relaxing short breaks in the countryside to exciting adventure based holidays and even longer trips abroad.

W: [www.galloways.org.uk](http://www.galloways.org.uk)
T: 01772 744 148

**Happy Kids Holidays – France**
We are a non-profit making association who aim to support families of children and teenagers with Autism to holiday in France. We can help you prepare for your holiday to ensure your family has the best, most relaxing holiday possible, in surroundings that are suitable to your needs, and in a non-judgemental and supportive atmosphere.

W: [www.happykidsfestivals.com](http://www.happykidsfestivals.com)
E: holidays@happykidsfestivals.com

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Do you have a holiday you can recommend? If you contact any of the holidays from the FIND Newsletter, please give us your feedback – was the information helpful? Did you book the holiday? What was the holiday like? Send your comments to [FIND@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:FIND@lancashire.gov.uk)
Splatter Dance

Fun & creative dance classes for children with additional needs aged 4 plus & their siblings.

No official diagnosis necessary

- Have fun!
- Boost confidence & self-esteem
- Freedom to be creative & expressive
- Develop social & communication skills
- Extend physical skills
- Leave feeling relaxed
- Performance opportunities

Delivered by a specialist dance artist together with supporting artists allowing parents to enjoy a cuppa & a chat!

Contact Emma to book
07973336019
emma@splitterdance.co.uk
www.splitterdance.co.uk

Come along for a free Taster
£3.50 for 1 child, £5.00 for 2 children & £1.00 for each additional child
Mondays during term time
4.15pm - 5.00pm or 5.15pm - 6.00pm

Aughton Village Hall,
Wilfred Lane, Aughton,
Ormskirk, L39 5DH.

Everybody Dance Now!

Fun Dance Classes for children with special needs aged 10+

Every Saturday at 9.00pm
Cost = £4.50

Dansworks Dance Academy
DANCE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS
Pioneer Building
Rochdale Road
Bacup
OL13 9NZ

Let's Dance

Are you looking to learn a new skill? And get fit at the same time?

Then let's dance!

Where: The Clubhouse, Morecambe
When: Every Thursday 6.30pm-8pm
Price: £3pp and carers go free

If you are interested, then get in touch!
Tel: Katherine 07928662663
Email: theletsdanceclub@gmail.com
FB: fb.com/theletsdanceclub

Dansworks Dance Academy

Every Tuesday
3.15pm
£5.00 per class

Easy and fun to follow
Dances to current music!

Opportunities to take dance
medal tests and perform
in our Annual Show
for more info call:
07843 263714
info@dansworks.co.uk
Pioneer Building
Bacup OL13 9NZ
Home Education

My name is Joanna. I am the mum of 6 children, two of which have special needs; a 22 year old and a 4 year old. I have been reading the FIND magazine for many years now, and was delighted to write an article about home education.

Home education takes so many different forms and is undertaken by families from all different cultural, religious, financial and educational backgrounds.

I learnt about it 19 years ago from my best friend, and that knowledge has changed all of my children’s lives, as all of them have had times of home education and school.

I found out that I did not need to be a qualified teacher, that there were people already doing this in my area and that I could meet up with them and their families often. There was so much support from others already doing this, some of whom already had children at university who had previously been home educated. What I found the most inspiring was that most home educated families let their children choose school or home education. Wanting them to find their own best learning path. Many had a child at home and a child at school.

Now 19 years later there is so much more information, and so many more families home educating, that I could be out every day at an event or activity. It’s not geographical, so I just go where the activities are that suit my children.

A lot of our community have children with special needs and find home education suits their children better. At present I haven’t found a solution which involves a school that can meet my youngest’s complex needs. I am going to let him develop at home, with all the activities we do on top. Maths club, English club, Art club, Science club and Bushcraft, just to name a few. Plus one off trips and drop in groups. All of these are facilitated through the Charity, Bolton Area Home Educators. I have been attending their activities for over 5 years now. As we are all volunteers, I thought it was about time I gave back and I have just been made the Chair of the charity. Thanks to all those volunteers in the past who have helped me so far on my journey with my children.

Bolton Area Home Educators welcome families from other areas to their activities and events. Information about drop in sessions where you can meet others who home educate while the children socialise can be found on our website www.BAHE.org.uk

Joanna Short
Parent Carer

Educating your child at home

If you are thinking about home education (home schooling), or are already educating your child at home, there is help available from the local authority.

Most people choose to send their children to school to be educated, but you are legally entitled to educate your child at home.

You don’t have to be a teacher, operate to a timetable or follow the national curriculum (although you’re perfectly at liberty to do so if you wish).

Parents who choose to educate their children at home must be prepared to assume full financial responsibility, including the costs of any public examinations.

Telling the school or council
If your child has never been to school or you are new to the area you don’t have to tell us.
If your child is registered at school you will need to send a letter to the head teacher informing them that you wish to educate your child at home. We will then contact you to ask for some basic information.

You must contact us if:
Your child attends a special school - in this case we will ask the school to remove the child from the school register once we have received the necessary information from you.

Your child is registered at a school as a result of a school attendance order - you must ask the council to revoke the order.

Please let us know if your child returns to school at any point and is no longer home educated. We will then remove your child’s name from our database.

Information and support
If you are thinking about home educating and would like to talk to us about your decision, or you wish to register yourself with us please contact us on:

Phone: 01772 532289
Email: enquiries.ehe@lancashire.gov.uk

Further information is available on the Local Offer: www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/educating-your-child-at-home/special-educational-needs
Lancashire Parent Carer Forum

We are pleased to announce the Lancashire Parent Carer Forum (LPCF) has reformed and will be championing equality, fairness and support for families across Lancashire. Sam Jones, LPCF Chair, provides an update on their journey and their plans for the future.

Background
In November 2017, Lancashire’s local area provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) was inspected by OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Serious concerns were raised in regard to SEND provision within Lancashire and a written statement of action (WSoA) was required by the Inspectors to set out a plan for making improvements.

At the same time, the independent Parent Carer Forum (PCF) ceased to operate. It is a requirement of OFSTED and the WSoA that an independent PCF is consulted by those providing services so that the voice of children and young people with additional needs and their families is taken into account when services are being designed, implemented, reviewed and, where necessary, cut.

Support from Contact
Catherine Ratcliffe, an associate from Contact (formerly Contact-a-Family) was asked to support the formation of a new Parent Carer Forum in Lancashire. Catherine met with parents from across the county to set up an independent PCF so that the voices of parents and carers across the region were heard by the people making decisions about services for their families.

In May last year Catherine held a meeting attended by 12 parents who were interested in helping to set up a new Forum. Some of the previous PCF Steering Group members attended to explain what their role was and offer help to new parent carers to understand what a PCF is asked to do. They explained it is not a campaign or a support group, but a group of parents who can participate in meetings to inform the planning of local services based on the views, opinions and concerns of parents, carers, children and young people.

New Forum Created
The parent carers formed a new interim steering group to organise three separate events across Lancashire—North, East, and South (including West Lancashire). Parents from each area organised a local event to make contact with other parents who might like to be involved with building a new PCF. These three events were held at the end of June.

In the summer term, the SEND Partnership held a series of 16 parent participation events across the County, for parents to share their experiences and discuss what was not working well, and to outline the Partnership’s planned response to the Inspection findings. From these meetings, 44 parents volunteered to be part of WSoA working groups, to start to work out some solutions to the difficulties raised by the Inspection and to formulate an Action Plan.

The first monthly meeting of the new Lancashire Parent Carer Forum (PCF) was held in September, an open meeting for parents which was advertised in the FIND newsletter. At this meeting the Steering Group of the Lancashire PCF was formed, consisting of all 11 of the parent carers who attended and wanted to be on the Steering Group. An interim Chair, Sam Jones and interim Vice Chair, Melissa Palmer were elected.

A draft Constitution was adopted and new ways of working together as a PCF were discussed. There was some internal conflict about how the PCF should work and the new parent carers did not have a shared understanding of their role and aims for the PCF. Some decided to step away and work directly with LCC as part of the 44 independent parents on various working groups.

Planning for the future
At the October PCF meeting, Steering Group members began to plan how to equip themselves for the roles and responsibilities required by a PCF and to develop their understanding of what these were.

In early November, the Steering Group commissioned an inspirational teamwork trainer, Cheryl Speak, to work with them during their monthly meeting. They took part in training which helped them to understand how people see things differently and they analysed their own personal strengths and areas for development, and the impact these would have on their ways of working as a team.

Later that month Chair, Sam Jones, attended the National Network of Parent Carers Annual Conference in Coventry to develop her understanding of how PCFs work across the country, and how they work with NHS England, the Department for Education (DfE) and the Government to influence policies and services on a local and national scale.

Two separate events took place on the 26th November. Steering Group members Clare Carsley and Karen Helsby-Entwistle attended a Contact meeting in Leyland and presented information to parents about the role of the PCF and progress so far.

In Preston, Sam Jones sat on the Lancashire SEND Partnership Board as the representative of the new PCF. She was able to discuss issues concerning parents, including communication with Hillside parents about their views concerning relocation of their school, and improvement in the quality and monitoring of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

In early December, at PCF’s monthly meeting, Steering Group members participated in a second teambuilding training session to develop a shared vision and aims for the PCF. Gareth Jenkins from the SEND
Partnership was invited to take part in this training to help his understanding of how the aims of the Forum could support the Partnership to understand the needs of families of children and young people with additional needs.

On 5th December, Sam and Clare presented to the County Councillors at the request of the Scrutiny Committee Chair (Cllr Andrea Kay) and Vice-Chair (Cllr Nikki Hennessy). They answered questions from Councillors, gave them an update of progress so far and shared the vision and aims of the PCF.

Sam and Clare explained that the PCF want to bring their expertise as parents and carers to help service providers better meet needs and make the best use of available resources. They were asked what their biggest challenge would be and explained that they felt the culture needed to change so that families are accepted as a valuable part of the decision making process. The Councillors were very supportive and offered their help to the PCF.

Just before Christmas, Sam Jones and Melissa Palmer met with David Graham, Head of SEND Services in LCC, for the first official meeting of the Head of Lancashire SEND Service and the PCF to share the vision and aims of the Forum and to discuss how the PCF could be involved at a strategic level, representing parents and carers in being part of the decision making processes which shape local services.

David explained that from January, the SEND Service would, in answer to criticisms from the Inspection about services not working together to meet the needs of families, widen its remit to include other partners, including Health, and be called the Inclusion Service. David will continue in this role until Easter and the PCF has been a key part of the interview panel to appoint his successor.

A new year and a new start
The work of the new PCF has continued in earnest during 2019.

In January, Sam and Clare attended the North West Regional Parent Carer Forum meeting in Ashton, where the training topic was the ‘National expectations of SENDIASS services’. This was helpful, as the Lancashire SEND IAS Team is currently being restructured.

During the monthly PCF meeting, the Steering Group met the new Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, Edwina Grant OBE, who replaces the outgoing Interim Director, John Readman. It was a very positive meeting where Edwina asked the Steering Group to formulate an in-depth plan to discuss with her at a meeting scheduled for May.

Rosie Cooper, MP for West Lancashire, challenged the DfE over the level of funding made available to improve SEND provision in Lancashire.

On the 24th January, members of the Steering Group and Catherine Ratcliffe met with an external provider to commission more training around parent participation in Lancashire, this time for a wider group of parents. Details will be announced soon on our official Facebook page, called Lancashire Parent Carer Forum.

At the end of the month, Sam Jones gave a presentation to the SEND Partnership Board on how the PCF has been formed and trained, outlining the next steps to further develop trusting, working relationships and to extend communications with parents to give them a voice.

PCF representatives will be working with the newly commissioned Designated Clinical Officers (DCOs) at meetings with parents across the whole of Lancashire in the coming months, to explain the role of the PCF and how parents can become involved.

For more information, please email: chair@lancashireparents.co.uk
Meet families with deaf children near you

Our group offers regular meet ups and support for deaf and hearing impaired children (including those with glue ear) and their families. Check out our Facebook page or drop us an email to find out about upcoming events.

Find us on Facebook: Central Lancashire
Deaf Children’s Society
central.lanc.dc@outlook.com

National Deaf Children’s
Society
Registered Association

Central Lancashire Deaf
Children’s Society
LAUNCH PARTY

SUNDAY 3RD MARCH 2019
2-4PM
CIVIC CENTRE LEYLAND

Cake stalls, snacks, hot & cold drinks, raffles & tombolas

Professional advice & support from Audiology Teachers of the Deaf & NDACS, including local support networks

Children’s entertainment from:
• Hackshyleague
• Signed stories by Wayne Sharples
• Face painting
• Children’s games
• Arts & Crafts Activities

Everyone Welcome!

Find us on Facebook:
Central Lancashire
Deaf Children’s Society
central.lanc.dc@outlook.com

National Deaf Children’s
Society
Registered Association

Early Years ‘Stay and Play’ Family Sessions at Lancashire’s ‘Outstanding’ school for Deaf Children.

For deaf / hearing impaired and their families.

A chance to come along and meet some of the staff and children of Royal Cross and make links with other parents of young deaf children.

Wednesday 6 March @ 13:00 - 14:30
Tuesday 7 May @ 13:00 – 14:30
Tuesday 18 June @ 10:00 – 11:30

Please phone school to confirm your attendance

For more information about our school please visit our website:
www.rovalcross.lancs.sch.uk

Royal Cross Primary School
Elswick Rd Ashton Preston PR2 1NT T: 01772 729703

ASIAN
DEAF COMMUNITY

ALL ARE WELCOME TO CELEBRATE WITH US IN AN EXCLUSIVE EVENT HELD BY LDS

SATURDAY 6TH APRIL 2019

TIME
5PM - 12AM

VENUE
STAVELEY HOUSE
PICKUP STREET
BLACKBURN
BB1 5DW

DRESS CODE
ASIAN THEMED CLOTHING

For more information, please contact us at:
ASAD.MAHMOOD@ELDS.ORG.UK | TEXT: 07583193761

Three Course Meal
Speakers
BSL Interpreter provides
Paint Face
Photo Booth
Henna
Bouncy Castle
Chocolate Fountain
Kashmiri Chaai - Pink Tea

PERFORMANCE & DANCING
Bhangra Empire Dance
Visual Vernacular

PRICE
ADULT (OVER 18)
£25
CHILD
£10
UNDER 4’s FREE
Outstanding – all areas (OFSTED March 2015)
Provision from (Nursery); pre-school – year 6.
• Specialist school for primary age deaf children from all over the Lancashire area.
• Specialist support to mainstream schools in the support of HI/Deaf pupils within a mainstream setting.
• Specialist support to mainstream schools for training & curriculum support.

What we offer…
Early Intervention
• Nursery/assessment places for HI/Deaf pupils.
• Pre-school places for HI/Deaf pupils
• Free pre-school ‘Stay & Play’ sessions
• Specialist pre-school provision
• Targeted support for communication & language acquisition
  o SALT professionals support within school
  o BSL trained assessor to deliver early BSL language intervention
  o ELKLAN trained TA3’s work with early language intervention

Staff Expertise
All classes led by Teachers of the Deaf with Sign Language. We have on site
• Deaf Instructor & qualified BSL assessor
• Specialist HLTA’s & TA3’s.

Specialists in Communication
• Deaf peer group
• Total Communication environment – full access to all aspects of school life – Speech; BSL & Sign Supported English
• Opportunities to interact with other children on equal terms without relying on adult support
• Individual communication targets
• Specialist language assessment
• Speech/language therapy
• Deaf instructor - BSL assessment

Specialised Curriculum & Strategies
• Deaf adult role models
• Deaf peer group
• Deaf Studies curriculum taught by a deaf instructor
• Access to a curriculum modified pace and style of delivery
• Teaching delivered through sign language & sign Supported English
• Creative curriculum approach
• Specialist intervention programmes (Visual Phonics)
• Personalised learning packages – multi agency working
• Audiological management – specialist staff manage equipment to ensure access to curriculum.
• Access to specialised equipment – FM radio systems & sound field systems.

Notice of Intention: Provision of a Specialist Nursery at Royal Cross Primary School for deaf/ HI children.

We are delighted to share with parents and carers our intention to provide a specialist nursery at Royal Cross for deaf/HI children from September 2019.

Our aim is to provide families and children with specialist early intervention by qualified Teachers of the Deaf alongside specialist support staff. This will guarantee that deaf/HI children get the very best start to their communication and language development, vital when accessing the curriculum.

We are at the early stages of setting up the provision and will be working closely with the Governing Body and Local Authority to ensure that our provision is the very best that we can offer and that all statutory procedures and policies are in place.

I would like to thank all the staff at Royal Cross who have been supporters of this exciting new development and are enthusiastic about the prospect of developing our specialist provision.

Updates to follow as we work towards September 2019!

Bev Hennefer
Headteacher
The Autism Show
The National Event for Autism

London
14-15 June 2019 | ExCeL

Birmingham
21-22 June 2019 | NEC

Manchester
28-29 June 2019 | EventCity

Learn New Strategies & Approaches
Hear the UK’s Leading Autism Professionals
Access One to One Specialist Advice
Listen to Adults on the Autism Spectrum
Interact with Innovative Features
Discover 100s of Products & Services

Book your tickets now and save 20%
www.autismshow.co.uk
World Autism Awareness Day 2019

Stay & Play Party

Tuesday 2nd April 4.15-6pm
Playmates, Coppull Mill, Chorley, PR7 5BW

£2 per child

All activities must be booked and are on a first come first served basis. On all our activities a parent must stay and supervise your own child/children. High Five do not have paid staff or volunteers to help.

www.facebook.com/HighFiveLancashire

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SPARKLING STARS
ASD Parent/Carer Support Group

Morning meetings at
Simply Wicked
43 Albert Road, Barnoldswick

Wednesday 16th Jan · Wednesday 6th Feb
Wednesday 13th March · Wednesday 3rd April
Wednesday 15th May · Wednesday 6th June

Time: 9.15am to 11.15am

This is a free parent led support group, children welcome.
For further information please visit us on Facebook

sparklingstars2017@outlook.com

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clip’n climb
PRESTON

AUTISM / SEN
CLIMBING SESSIONS

CLIMBING SESSIONS
ONLY £8.50 per person

BOOK ON-LINE AT: www.clipnclimbpreston.co.uk
FOR MORE INFORMATION TELEPHONE US ON: 01772 655220
OUR LOCATION: MILLENNIUM CITY PARK, PRESTON. PR2 5BW

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Science Hunters

Minecraft Club
In association with Lancaster and Morecambe National Autistic Society

Lancaster University Campus
Every other Thursday
18:30-19:30
Free of charge
Places limited

To find out more and book a space please email sciencehunters@lancaster.ac.uk

Science Hunters is a Lancaster University outreach project which uses Minecraft to help children explore science topics. For more information please see www.lancaster.ac.uk/sciencehunters
Busy Bees
A support group for parent/carers, with pre-school children who have additional and/or behavioural needs. Busy Bees can offer the concerned parent a relaxed non-judgmental atmosphere, one to one support and a stimulating, fun and positive play experience for the child.

- Building positive friendships
- One to one support for parents from our volunteers
- Fun positive play experience

The Family Tree Centre, Brierfield
Mondays 12.30pm – 2.30pm
info@homestartpendle.plus.com
or call 01282 690536/01200 443827
You can also text Joanne on 07715 635749 or Rachael 07702 555078
Dear Parents and Carers,
Help Lancashire County Council improve services for children and young people with additional needs.

If one or more of your children receives extra help at nursery, school or college then we would really value your contribution to our survey.

The extra help your child receives could be for support with reading, writing or language, often arranged by a Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) through SEN Support. Or it could be for more complex additional needs delivered through an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

To complete the survey, visit: www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND and click ‘2019 POET Survey’. Alternatively, call 01772 532509 or email FIND@lancashire.gov.uk for a paper copy.

The survey takes less than 15 minutes to complete and has the potential to significantly shape the future of SEND services across Lancashire. You do not need to give any personal details and there will be no way of identifying individuals.

Practitioners from education, health and social care involved in supporting families are also being asked to complete the survey.

We will use the results to monitor how we are doing and identify where we can make further improvements to our services. The information you give us will also be used in a national report to help improve service in other areas of England.

We will publish the results and our action plan on the Local Offer later this year.

Thank you for helping us in this very important piece of work.

Yours sincerely,
David Graham
Head of Inclusion Service

Drumming and Music Workshops

Our drumming, music and creative dance workshops are for young people and adults of all ages with disabilities and/or autism. They are facilitated by a professional musician, alongside our qualified dramatherapists and experienced performing arts team. As the sessions develop, we are planning to produce some truly original performance pieces.

Interested?
Sessions take place on Thursdays from 4.30pm to 6.30pm at Unit 2 The Edge, Pottery Terrace, Wigan, WN3 5AB. Cost is just £5 per person.

To book, phone 01942 735426 or email info.mtwadvoc@gmail.com

Music therapy is a psychological therapy that aims to create positive changes in emotional wellbeing and communication through the engagement in live musical interaction. It’s based on the idea that all individuals have the ability to respond to music and sound and that this can lead to positive changes in behaviour and improved social and communication skills, especially in people with autism.
Inclusive Clubnights

Tuesday 5th March 2019
Tuesday 2nd April 2019
Tuesday 7th May 2019

7pm to 10pm at Reflex Nightclub, King St, Wigan
Tickets £2 each - must be bought in advance, contact
My Life - 01257 472900
Wigan & Leigh People First - 01942 728748
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signposting / General enquiries</td>
<td>0300 123 6701</td>
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<td>Libraries</td>
<td>0300 123 6703</td>
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<td>Library Service Automated Renewal Line</td>
<td>0300 123 6704</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration and Certification Service</td>
<td>0300 123 6705</td>
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<td>School Admissions</td>
<td>0300 123 6707</td>
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<td>School Appeals</td>
<td>0300 123 6708</td>
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<td>Lancashire Adult College</td>
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<td>Care Connect</td>
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<td>Social Care</td>
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<td>Safeguarding Adults</td>
<td>0300 123 6721</td>
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<td>Emergency Duty Team</td>
<td>0300 123 6722</td>
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<td>County Benefits Service</td>
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<td>Care And Urgent Needs</td>
<td>0300 123 6735</td>
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<td>Blue Badges</td>
<td>0300 123 6736</td>
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<tr>
<td>NoW Card</td>
<td>0300 123 6737</td>
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<td>Schools Transport</td>
<td>0300 123 6738</td>
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<td>Welfare Rights</td>
<td>0300 123 6739</td>
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<td>Environment</td>
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<td>Anti-social behaviour on buses</td>
<td>0300 123 6782</td>
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<td>Local Inclusion Offices</td>
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<tr>
<td>South (Preston, Chorley, South Ribble, West Lancashire)</td>
<td>01772 531 597</td>
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<tr>
<td>East (Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Pendle, Burnley, Rossendale)</td>
<td>01254 220 553</td>
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<td>North (Lancaster, Fylde, Wyre)</td>
<td>01524 581 200</td>
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<td>Other Useful Numbers</td>
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<td>Family Information Service</td>
<td>0300 123 6712</td>
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<td>Carers Lancashire</td>
<td>0345 688 7113</td>
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<td>SEND Information, advice and Support Team</td>
<td>0300 123 6706</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children &amp; Family Wellbeing Service</td>
<td>0800 511 111</td>
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Do you need to access the toilet urgently?

Bladder and Bowel UK (BBUK) have launched a new Just Can't Wait Card

Recognised and supported by many retail and service organisations, giving you access to toilets not normally available to the general public.

- FREE pocket sized plastic card
- BBUK confidential helpline
- Available from BBUK - a charitable service

Get your card from:
bladderandboweluk@disabledliving.co.uk

www.bbu.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 224742
Your Help Is Essential
We would welcome contributions from Children, Young People, Parent Carers, Voluntary and Statutory Agencies:
- Are you involved with a project or group you would like to promote
- Details of forthcoming diary dates
- Opportunities for Children and Young People with SEND
- Any ideas, views, letters, poems, etc, you would like to share
- Do you know of any useful websites to include in FIND

Contributions for future issues – please contact FIND.
Email: FIND@lancashire.gov.uk
Tel: 01772 538077 or 01772 532509

Editorial Group
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Sarah.deady@lancashire.gov.uk
Pauline.mansley@lancashire.gov.uk

Parent Representatives
Nannette Holliday – Chorley
Lucy Ellis – Lancaster
Hayley Monk – South Ribble
Trish Dobson – West Lancashire
Parent carers from other areas interested in joining the group, please contact FIND.

Voluntary Organisation
Tom Harrison – Community East Lancashire Health

Health
Catherine Howson – Lancashire Care
NHS Foundation Trust

We also have a facebook page.
For regular updates, please ‘like’ our page at: www.facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer

Get this free newsletter sent to your door
If families would like to have a free copy of FIND delivered to their home 4 times a year, please complete this slip and send it to the address shown. We will then send you a membership form.

Name
Address
Postcode
Tel. No.

Professionals – please contact FIND, details above.

You are welcome to photocopy, display and distribute this newsletter
The FIND Newsletter is produced by Lancashire County Council. The views expressed in signed articles do not necessarily represent those of Lancashire County Council. The newsletter cannot accept any responsibility for products and services advertised within it.

Summer issue – deadline for articles
29th March, published June 2019

Autumn issue – deadline for articles
28th June, published September 2019

Winter issue – deadline for articles
27th September, published December 2019

If undelivered, please return to:
Room CH1:53, County Hall, Preston, Lancashire PR1 8RJ

Would you like to receive the FIND Newsletter via email? Please email: FIND@lancashire.gov.uk to update your details.