SEND

Autumn Newsletter 2026

Welcome to this issue of the SEND Newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and you may even be inspired to share your own story as a parent carer.

This can be to raise awareness of something specific or to share information which may be useful to others – if so, please email us at: **find@lancashire.gov.uk.**

Anna Burkinshaw Children and Families commissioning.

www.facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer

SEND Roadshows Return This Autumn

Our SEND Roadshows are back this autumn, bringing together families, young people, schools and professionals from across Lancashire.

These free events provide an opportunity to meet local SEND services, learn more about the Lancashire Local Offer, access information and advice, and share feedback on what matters most to children and young people with SEND and their families.

Whether you're a parent, carer, practitioner or education professional, the roadshows are a great way to connect with services, explore available support and help shape future SEND developments.

Join us at a SEND Roadshow near you and discover the support available in your local area. If your organisation, service or group would like to book a stall at one of our events (free of charge), please complete this form: https://forms.office.com/e/yVjR4rwppk

Dates across Lancashire are:

23rd Sept 2026 9:30 – 1pm	Burnley Family Hub and The Zone, Burnley
23rd Oct 2026 1:30 – 4:30pm	Skelmersdale Family Hub and the Zone, Skelmersdale
13th Nov 2026 9:30 – 1pm	Nelson Family Hub and The Zone, Pendle
17th Nov 2026 9:30 – 1pm	Kirkham Family Hub and The Zone, Kirkham
9th Dec 2026 9:30 – 1pm	West Paddock Family Hub and The Zone, South Ribble
27th Jan 2027 9:30 – 1 pm	The Park Family Hub, Accrington
11th February 2027 9:30 – 1pm	Inspire Youth Zone, Chorley
25th Mar 2027 1:30 – 4:30 pm	Clitheroe Family Hub and The Zone, Clitheroe
21st April 2027 9:30 – 1pm	Lune Park Family Hub, Lancaster
12th May 2027 9:30 – 1pm	Rawtenstall Family Hub and The Zone, Rawtenstall
8th June 2027 9:30 – 1pm	Fleetwood Library and Family Hub, Fleetwood
7th July 2027 1:30 – 4:30 pm	Moor Nook Family Hub and The Zone, Preston

Please scan the following QR codes for more information:

Local Offer Family Hubs

Lancashire SEND Roadshow

Lancashire County Council

comms: 11009

Neurodevelopmental Pathway Update: Autism, ADHD and Right to Choose

Many families across the country continue to face long waits and uncertainty when seeking autism and ADHD assessments for their children. Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) recognises the challenges this can bring and is working closely with NHS providers and local authority partners to improve the neurodevelopmental assessment pathway and create a better experience for children, young people and their families.

NHS
Lancashire and South Cumbria
Integrated Care Board

Latest Pathway Update

The ICB has released a new update about the Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust (LSCFT) Autism and ADHD Pathway affecting children and young people in some parts of Lancashire.

To help reduce waiting times, additional assessment capacity has been commissioned, creating more appointments for children and young people who are waiting for autism and ADHD assessments.

The ICB is also working closely with Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust and Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to introduce new ways of delivering the service.

The aim is to make sure families get the right support at the right time, while continuing to improve the overall experience of the neurodevelopmental pathway.

SPRING NORTH

Families do not need to take an action. If you have recently received correspondence from LSCFT, a dedicated set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) is available to help explain what these changes mean for your family. Visit https://www.lancashireandsouthcumbria.icb.nhs.uk/our-work/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send/neurodevelopmental-pathway

New: Neu Way Support

Families across Lancashire and South Cumbria can now access Neu Way Support, a new service offering early help for children and young people aged 0 to 25 who may have autism, ADHD or other neurodevelopmental differences. The service is available based on need, meaning that you do not need a diagnosis or to be on an assessment waiting list to receive support.

Neu Way Support can provide:

- Advice and guidance
- Information about local services and support
- Practical resources and tools
- Help to identify next steps and develop a personalised plan
- Signposting to community, education, health and voluntary sector services

Every family's journey is different, so support is tailored to individual needs. Families can self-refer directly or be supported to access the service by a professional.

To find out more or access support, visit: https://springnorth.org.uk/projects/neu-way-support/ or call **0300 365 5030.**

Neu Way Support NW

Understanding Right to Choose and Private Autism and ADHD assessments

Families registered with a GP in England may be able to access autism and ADHD assessments through an alternative NHS-approved provider using the NHS Right to Choose scheme.

This option may provide an alternative route to assessment, depending on individual circumstances and eligibility. If you are thinking about using Right to Choose, it is important to speak with your GP so you can fully understand the process and any implications for ongoing support or treatment.

The ICB has developed some advice and guidance, along with some FAQs, regarding what families should look out for when requesting a Right to Choose or private assessment, which can be found on the ICB's Neurodevelopmental Pathway webpage.

Find Out More

For the latest pathway updates, information about Right to Choose, FAQs and details of local support services, visit the Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB Neurodevelopmental Pathway webpage https://www.lancashireandsouthcumbria.icb.nhs.uk/our-work/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send/neurodevelopmental-pathway

Spotlight on Lancashire's Teachers of D/deaf Children and Young People

Lancashire's specialist Teachers of D/deaf Children and Young People provide expert support to babies, children and young people with hearing loss from early years through to age 25 in education. They work closely with families, nurseries, schools and colleges to help children achieve their full potential.

The term **'Deaf'** (with a capital D) is used to refer to individuals who are born Deaf and identify as part of the Deaf community, while **'deaf'** (with a lowercase d) refers to those with hearing loss who primarily use spoken communication. Understanding these distinctions helps ensure that support is personalised and respectful of each child's identity and communication preferences.



The team offers specialist assessment, teaching and advice, supports the use of assistive listening technology, delivers deaf awareness training, and helps schools create inclusive learning environments. They also provide guidance to parent carers and run baby and toddler groups for D/deaf children.

Working alongside audiologists, speech and language therapists, educational psychologists and other professionals, the service ensures children and young people receive the right support at the right time. Referrals are made through audiology clinics, and support is available through SEN Support and Education, Health and Care Plans where appropriate.

This valuable service continues to make a positive difference to the lives of D/deaf children and young people across Lancashire, helping them participate, learn and thrive.

Right Support, Right Time, Right Place

From September 2026, **Experts at Hand** will bring specialist SEND expertise directly into schools, early years settings and post-16 providers across Lancashire. The new service will give education settings faster access to professionals such as educational psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and specialist teachers, helping children and young people receive support earlier and closer to home.

By making specialist advice, training and support more accessible, Experts at Hand aims to strengthen early intervention, improve collaboration between services and help children and young people get the right support at the right time.

Want to find out more?

We will continue to share updates about Experts at Hand as the service develops. Keep an eye on the Local Offer website and school communications for the latest information, opportunities to get involved, and details about how the new service will support children and young people with SEND



TAAG



Lancashire TAAG is a charity supporting neurodiverse children, young people and their families. We are run by dedicated volunteers and operate in **Chorley** and **South Ribble**.



Funding supported by:

Chorley Council

LOTTERY FUNDED

SPORT ENGLAND

TAAG

We meet up on a weekly basis

Our aim is to provide:

Multi-sports activities for children and young people aged from 5-25 years old

Rebound therapy on trampoline, indoor climbing wall, team building, social and life skills and parent support network

Regular parent/carer support meetings

Join us over coffee, chat with others, share useful information and signpost to other organisations

Information on training courses and workshops

Online support where you can chat to other members of the charity

To book places or for more information contact:

Email us: info@taaglancashire.co.uk

www.taaglancashire.co.uk

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@TAAG_Lancashire

Sponsored by

SIMPLE LIFE

Portage Home Visiting Service

Supporting your child's development at home

Portage is a free educational home-visiting service for young children with significant special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), from birth until they are eligible for funded childcare for 3-year-olds. The service is delivered by the Lancashire Specialist Teaching Service.

A specially trained Portage Home Visitor will work alongside you in your home, helping you support your child's play, learning and development. The service focuses on building your confidence and skills as a parent or carer, while helping your child make progress and achieve positive outcomes.

Who can access Portage?

Children from birth up to the age they become eligible for funded childcare for 3-year-olds who have significant special educational needs and disabilities may be able to access the service.

How to access the service

Parents and carers can refer their child directly to the Portage service using a referral form. For more information, please contact your local Inclusion Service Team. Children can also be referred with parental consent through an Early Help Assessment and Plan (EHA/EHP).

What happens after a referral?

Once a referral is received, it is reviewed to ensure the service is the right support for your child. Referrals are prioritised according to local guidance and factors such as safeguarding needs, current support arrangements, waiting times and the child's age.

Help us understand your child

When completing a referral, it is helpful to include information about:

- Your child's strengths and interests
- Things your child can already do independently
- Areas where they may need extra support
- Involvement from other professionals or services

This helps us gain a clear picture of your child's needs and determine the most appropriate support. Parental consent is required before a referral can be accepted.

Find out more

You can find more information about the Portage Home Visiting Service on the Lancashire Local Offer website.

Contact your local Inclusion Team

- **South Lancashire:** Inclusion.south@lancashire.gov.uk
- **North Lancashire:** Inclusion.North@lancashire.gov.uk
- **East Lancashire:** Inclusion.east@lancashire.gov.uk



Free Support for Children and Young People with Visual Impairment

Did you know that children and young people aged 0 to 25 with a visual impairment can access free low vision assessments and reading aids through local specialist services?

Both N-Vision and Galloways offer children's low vision services, helping young people make the most of their sight and build confidence and independence at home, in education, and in the community. Following an assessment, specialist low vision aids may be provided free of charge through NHS funding where appropriate.

The services support children and young people from birth up to age 25, and referrals can be made by anyone involved in their support, including parents and carers, schools, SENCOs and healthcare professionals. Families can also self-refer directly, meaning there is no need to go through a GP or eye consultant first.

Contact Details

N-Vision (Blackpool)
01253 362696
stephanie.connor@nvision-nw.co.uk

Galloways (Penwortham, Chorley, Morecambe and Accrington)
01772 744148
referrals.galloways@nhs.net
Make a referral to Galloways

LET'S TALK SCHEDULE

Here's what we have planned for the next few months...



October: **Family Support**	Parent carer wellbeing - recognising the pressures that come with caring for a child or young person with additional needs.
November: **Education Placements**	The different education and placement options available, how placements are considered and what to think about.
December: **Making Support Work / OAP**	Understand what ordinarily available provision (OAP) is, what support is available, and what to do if your child's needs aren't being met.

Lancashire
Parent Carer Forum
Empowering SEND families across Lancashire
www.lancashireparentcarerforum.org.uk

You can now book your spot directly through our website!

lancashireparentcarerforum.or.net/lets-talk-webnars

POWAR Programme; September to December 2026



POWAR is the youth voice forum for young people with SEND, aged 11-25, in Lancashire. POWAR provides a space for young people to explore issues related to them and to challenge and advocate on the services they receive.

We are here to make changes across Lancashire - to improve services for young people with SEND and to have fun!

Where, when, and what time

POWAR East: Burnley Central Family Hub and the Zone,
Whittam Street, Burnley, BB11 1LW.
Tuesdays
8th September, 23th September
6th October, 20th October,
3rd November, 17th November
1st December, 15th December
From: 18:00 - 20:00

POWAR Central: Ribbleton Family Hub,
Ribbleton Hall Drive, Preston, PR2 6EE.
Thursday
Weekly from 3rd September onwards
From: 18:00 - 20:00

POWAR North: Whitecross Neighbourhood Centre (Mill 14),
Quarry Road, Lancaster, LA1 3SE.
Friday
25th September 2026,
9th October, 23rd October,
6th November, 20th November
4th December, 18th December
From: 18:00 - 20:00

If you are interested in attending contact

Suliman Hussain (Suli)
Participation and Co-production Worker
Participation and Co-production Team;
Children and Families Commisioning Service
T: 01772 537481
M: 07775 221214
E: suliman.hussain@lancashire.gov.uk

Lancashire County Council
Lancashire SEND Partnership
Lancashire Family Hubs Network

Information and Resources

Lancashire Parent Carer Forum

The Lancashire Parent Carer Forum is a group of parent carers or grandparents of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities aged (0-25 years).

They are volunteers who provide a voice to support Lancashire's parent/carers and their families to create an independent forum.

Find out more: **https://www.lancashireparentcarerforum.org.uk**

Lancashire SENDIAS

Lancashire SEND Information, Advice and Support Service is a statutory service which is run at 'arm's length' from the Local Authority and provides free, confidential, impartial advice, guidance and support to parents of children with special educational needs and children and young people with SEND.

Find out more: **www.lancssendias.org.uk**

Lancashire Family Hubs Network

Find support for you and your family from local services both in person and online. Support is available for all stages of family life, from pregnancy through to 19 years old or 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Find out more: **www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/family-hubs**

SEND Helpline

The SEND helpline is there to help you get answers to your queries as quickly as possible.
You can contact the helpline to:
Ask how to request a statutory assessment
Find out who is writing your child's EHCP
Get advice on requesting a review of your child's plan
Ask general questions about SEND processes and support
SEND Helpline: 01772 533900

FIND Database

The FIND database includes information about disabled children and young people up to 25 years old in Lancashire.

Families are invited to submit details about their disabled child or young person to the database, which is used to develop an overview of the needs of disabled children across the county to assist with planning services.

The FIND service is strictly confidential - no individual information about any children or their families is shared with anyone.

Register for the FIND database: **www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND**

Lancashire Service Finder

An online directory that helps families, young people and professionals find local services, support and activities across Lancashire. It includes information on SEND services, childcare, health support, community groups and things to do, making it easier to explore what's available and how to access it in your local area.

https://servicefinder.lancashire.gov.uk