

# Gateshead SEND Network News

Gateshead  
**LOCAL OFFER**

Issue 11 | March 2023

## Hello!

Welcome to the Gateshead SEND Network Newsletter.

In Gateshead we believe that the voice, opinions and experiences of children and young people with SEND should be at the heart of everything we do. For more information go to [www.gateshead-localoffer.org](http://www.gateshead-localoffer.org), follow the Gateshead SEND Local Offer [Facebook page](#) or visit the [Gateshead Local Offer YouTube channel](#).

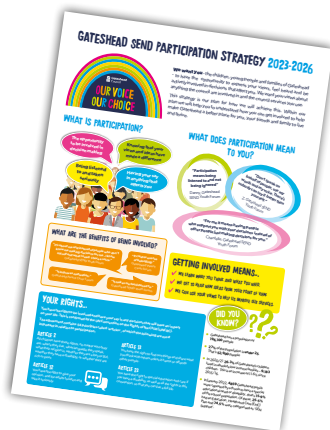
An easy read version of this newsletter can be found at <https://gateshead-localoffer.org/gateshead-send-network-newsletter/>

## Gateshead SEND Participation Strategy

Gateshead Council is launching its 2023-2026 SEND Participation Strategy this Spring. The strategy has been co-produced by Gateshead Council's SEND Team, the Gateshead SEND Youth Forum, Gateshead Parent Carer Forum and Gateshead's SEND Strategic Board.

The strategy aims to improve engagement and participation in the important decisions that impact the lives of children and young people with SEND in Gateshead. To ensure it is as accessible as possible, Gateshead's strategy has been developed in partnership with local SEND children and Young People, and has three distinct versions – the written strategy, an easy-read version and an inclusive, animated version.

"Our vision is that all children and young people have equal opportunity to meaningfully participate in the decisions that affect them", says



Councillor Gary Haley, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. "We aim to embed participation across Gateshead and are consistently striving to improve our communication with children and young people who want to have a say on the issues that affect their daily lives."

"We're really proud of this strategy and hope that it can help to make a real difference in the lives of SEND children and young people across the borough."

To access the strategy, visit <https://gateshead-localoffer.org/gateshead-send-participation-strategy/>

# Gateshead's New SEND Youth Ambassador

Hi, my name is Harry and I'm the new Youth Ambassador within the SEND department. I joined the team in late December 2022 with the ambition to develop my skills, meet and work with inspiring people and to give back to the community.

My role will have the opportunity to work with young people in Gateshead with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and I want to hear opinions and concerns about lived experiences and the support young people receive.

I want to provide the best support possible in the form of information, advice, and guidance about the needs that people have and where and how they can pursue their ambitions. I work Monday to Friday based at Gateshead Civic Centre and I can't wait to get involved and see what is round the corner.

I wish to make a real difference in the lives of the young people I will be working with and hope that supporting positive change for others will be a rewarding career to dedicate my time and efforts towards.



I really enjoy riding bikes and building Lego.

This is a new post supporting the local NHS ICB and Gateshead Council. For more information visit

<https://gateshead-localoffer.org/send-youth-ambassador>

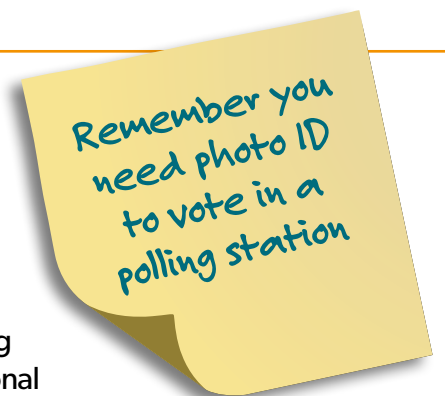
or email [harryvincent@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:harryvincent@gateshead.gov.uk)

## New Rules for Voter ID

**Local government elections are due to take place on Thursday 4 May 2023.** From May 2023 the law is changing to ensure that everyone who votes in UK elections will have to show photographic ID. Voter identification will require voters to prove their identity by showing a form of photographic identification before being given their ballot paper in a polling station across Great Britain at national UK-wide elections, and at local elections in England.

A broad range of documents, both in date and expired, will be accepted in order to prove your identity to vote. The Electoral Commission have created an easy read document to help those with SEND understand these changes: [Voter-ID-Resource\\_Voter-Booklet-Easy-Read\\_May-23\\_Group-6\\_0.docx \(live.com\)](#)

**Details of all of the help and support available to you can be found at [Voter ID - Gateshead Local Offer SEND 0 to 25 years \(gateshead-localoffer.org\)](#)**



**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD...**

# GATESHEAD SEND YOUTH FORUM

**IF YOU ARE 12-25 YEARS OLD, LIVE IN GATESHEAD AND HAVE ADDITIONAL NEEDS, WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO GET INVOLVED IN GATESHEAD COUNCIL'S SEND YOUTH FORUM.**

**CONTACT ME VIA E-MAIL:**  
[ALEXTHOMPSON@GATESHEAD.GOV.UK](mailto:ALEXTHOMPSON@GATESHEAD.GOV.UK)

SCAN TO VISIT WEBSITE

# Activities, Information and Resources

**Four times as many boys are diagnosed autistic as girls.** This is not an accurate picture and frequently, for many reasons, girls are diagnosed later, missed or misdiagnosed, causing long term mental health problems with too many girls feeling too anxious to attend school as a result. The Autistic Girls Network aim to raise awareness of autism in girls with health, social care and educational professionals and to bring change. [Visit Home - Autistic Girls Network](#) for more information.

**Children North East are inviting those aged 11-17 to join their steering group and become a Young Advisor.** Successful applicants will gain leadership, communication and teamwork

skills and benefit from free training in listening and confidence. It will be a chance to meet people across the region and develop a range of skills including leadership, communication and teamwork. **For more information, contact [louis.browning@children-ne.org.uk](mailto:louis.browning@children-ne.org.uk)**

**Gateshead SEND Information and Support Service (SENDIASS)** can help you with a range of SEND-related issues. For more information, visit [Gateshead SENDIASS | Barnardo's](#) or email [daiss@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:daiss@barnardos.org.uk). Service users of Gateshead SENDIass have made a [YouTube video](#) explaining what the service offers and how they can help you.

## Gateshead SEND Local Offer

In Gateshead, we want to make sure that children and young people (from birth to 25 years) with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND) and their families get the best possible support and help when they need it.

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## Contact us:

Special Educational Needs and Disability Team  
Gateshead Council

[senteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@gateshead.gov.uk)

0191 433 3626

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We value your feedback and to help us improve our newsletter we have created a short survey which you can access by clicking <https://forms.office.com/r/HFRHE6EHmd>