



Children, Young People and Families Brochure 2023/24

Support services for autistic and neurodivergent children, young people and their families.



Facilities

Our facilities at our 5.5-acre site, Calf Fallow Farm in Norton allow us to offer a variety of services and activities to the individuals and families who visit us on a weekly basis.

Day Centre

Our unique £1M day centre opened in 2010, the first comprehensive support facility that provides holistic support to autistic and neurodivergent children, young people and adults in the UK. Facilities within the centre include a soft play area, sensory rooms, art and craft room, offices and meeting space.



Farm

The Daisy Chain farm is a popular attraction for autistic and neurodivergent individuals and their families, and is home to a variety of animals. Services on offer include animal therapy sessions, interactive animal experiences and after school and holiday clubs. We also run a sponsor an animal scheme to help raise funds to care for the animals.



Sensory Play Area

Our redeveloped sensory play area was opened in 2016 and provides our children and young people with an opportunity to experience a genuine sense of adventure within a safe environment. The area includes a sand play area, slides, pods, swings and trampolines.

Wetlands

Our fascinating wetland area provides a safe area for autistic and neurodivergent individuals to learn about nature. We run a number of activities in our wetland area, including nature trails, bird watching, making wildlife homes and pond dipping.



Gardens and allotments

Looked after by a team of dedicated volunteers, our allotment area provides autistic and neurodivergent individuals with the opportunity to grow their own plants and produce, whilst working together to enhance their social interaction.



Retail

Our charity superstores, in Stockton and Gateshead, allow us to raise awareness and much needed funds, provide a base for our employability programme, which supports autistic and neurodivergent adults in developing employability skills and obtaining valuable work experience on the shop floor and coffee shop. We're delighted that our Stockton store won the Outstanding Social Enterprise Award at the North East Charity Awards 2022.

Services for Children & Young People

Daisy Chain specialises in strategies and approaches that are compatible with: Autism, ADHD, FASD, sensory processing differences, anxiety and social and communication differences. For a child or young person to attend they must be either diagnosed, on the pathway or have been identified by a professional as having a need relating to the listed neurodiversities.

After school clubs (term time only)

Daisy Chain offers a varied programme of after school clubs aimed at boosting confidence, improving social skills and facilitating friendships. Sessions on offer include social and teenage clubs, alongside animal therapy and forest school sessions. High needs sessions with 121 support are also available. These clubs are available to children and young people aged 5-17.



When: During term time (various days/times available).

How to book: Contact clubs@daisychainproject.co.uk

Cost: Varied depending on session. Funding may be available in your area, contact your local council for further details.

Holiday clubs

During the school holidays we offer a varied programme of activities which may include messy soft play sessions, day trips, family activities and high needs sessions with 1:1 support available.

Sessions are bookable via our website.

When: During the school holidays (various days/times available).

Cost: Varied depending on session. Funding may be available in your area, contact your local council for further details.

How to book: Visit www.daisychainproject.co.uk/holiday-activities-2



Services for Children & Young People

Performing Arts

We offer a range of performing arts clubs including improv, mixed performing arts, film and video and singing club.

Young people can experience the fun of staging, rehearsing and performing a musical – all abilities and experiences welcome. There are plenty of roles behind the scenes too, from props and costuming to choreography and set design!

When: Varied

Cost: Varied

How to book: Contact clubs@daisychainproject.co.uk



Saturday Activity Days

Activity Days welcome autistic children and young people and their families to come and enjoy our soft play, farm, sensory play area and other facilities. Hot and cold drinks are available to purchase and families are also welcome to bring their own picnics and refreshments.

Children are required to be supervised by their parents/carers at all times during these sessions.

When: Every Saturday, either 10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm.

Cost: £5 per child.

Parents/carers attend free of charge. Booking for these sessions is required - bookings open on our website at 7pm on the Monday of the week you wish to attend.

How to book: www.daisychainproject.co.uk/event/saturday-activity-day



Services for Children & Young People

Sensory Sundays

From hands on sessions involving brushing/handling our large farm animals to opportunities to relax and interact with a range of small animals and reptiles in our newly developed animal therapy room, this is the perfect experience for young animal lovers and their families.

Each 2-hour session incorporates 30mins outdoor play, 30mins large farm animal experience, 30mins sole use of interactive sensory room, 30mins small animal therapy room. Individual timetable is allocated on arrival.

When: 2 Sundays per month (the first and the third). Two slots per Sunday: 9:30am – 11:30am / 12:00pm – 2:00pm. You can only book for one.

Cost: £20 per family. Maximum two adults and three children under 18. If you fall outside of this criteria, please contact us directly for a conversation before booking.

How to book: Expressions of interest open on a quarterly basis on our website: <https://www.daisychainproject.co.uk/sensory-sundays/>

High Needs Sundays

High Needs Sundays are parent-led and are designed for children who cannot attend Saturday Activity Days due to the environment being unsuitable for them. The sessions are quieter and less busy due to a lower capacity.

3-hour session includes soft play, sensory activities, floor play, movie room, arts and crafts, outdoor play areas, farm (excluding barn).

*When: Fourth Sunday of every month (unless stated otherwise).
Session runs 11am-2pm.*

Cost: £5 per child. Maximum two adults per family.

How to book: Bookings open for each session at 9am on the 1st of the month they take place in. For example, for a session in October, the bookings would open on 1st October at 9am.



Services for Families

Links Parent Support Group

Links Parent Support Group is an opportunity for parents/carers of autistic and neurodivergent children to connect with each other and get advice from the Daisy Chain team.

- Weekly daytime sessions, attended in person at our main site in Stockton
- The group is free to attend
- Booking is essential
- Links is for parents/carers only, there is no creche facility available.



This group is suitable for you if you have a child who is diagnosed / going through the diagnostic process / has been identified by a professional as having a need relating to: autism, ADHD, FASD, Sensory processing differences, anxiety and social and communication differences. The name 'Links' represents the links we aim to create between peers, Daisy Chain and wider organisations.

<https://www.daisychainproject.co.uk/links/>

Virtual Support Sessions

As part of the Autism Central programme, Daisy Chain provides virtual support sessions to help support individuals and families. Sessions are an opportunity for parents/carers of autistic and neurodivergent children to connect with each other and get advice from the Autism Central team. Sessions are free to attend.

www.daisychainproject.co.uk/event/autism-central-virtual-support-sessions/

Stay and Play

Stay and play is a session designed for parents/carers to receive support from the experienced Daisy Chain team and benefit from meeting other people in similar situations whilst their children (0-5) enjoy the facilities including soft play, sensory activities and a variety of toys. This session is parent-led so an adult must stay with the child during the session

When: Thursdays during term time, 10am-12pm

Cost: £5 per child.

www.daisychainproject.co.uk/event/stay-play/



Services for Families

Tees Valley Sleep Service

Using a tiered approach, the service provides telephone support & resources, sleep workshops and one-to-one sleep assessments which, if all tiers have been accessed, can include bespoke sleep support. The service can be accessed by families who have a child with any additional needs between the age of 2½ and 18 years.

Get in touch via 01642 531248 or email sunderlandfamilysupport@daisychainproject.co.uk

<https://teesvalleysleepservice.co.uk/>



The Family Support Service, delivered by Daisy Chain - Tees Valley

The Family Support Service, delivered by Daisy Chain, provides support and services for children, young people and their families who display traits associated with neurodevelopmental diversity: autism, sensory processing, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

A young person does not need a diagnosis or to be on the neurodevelopmental pathway to access support from the team.

The service is needs based, and tailored to the requirements of each individual family. Support offered may include:

- Peer support drop in sessions
- Bookable 1:1 parent telephone support appointments
- Multi-agency drop-in sessions, where a range of professionals/services will be in attendance, providing a 'one stop shop' for families
- Children and young people sessions to support social communication and interaction.



Get in touch via 01642 531248 (option 1) or email family.support@daisychainproject.co.uk

Remember, you can also ask school, your health visitor or any other professionals involved with your family's care to share your details with us and then we can contact you.

<https://www.daisychainproject.co.uk/family-support-service/>

Services for Families

The Family Support Service, delivered by Daisy Chain - Sunderland

The Family Support Service, delivered by Daisy Chain, provides support and services for children, young people and their families who display traits associated with neurodevelopmental diversity: autism, sensory processing, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

A young person does not need a diagnosis or to be on the neurodevelopmental pathway to access support from the team.

The service is needs-based, and tailored to the requirements of each individual family. Support offered may include:

- Peer support drop in sessions
- Bookable 1:1 parent telephone support appointments
- Multi-agency drop-in sessions, where a range of professionals/services will be in attendance, providing a 'one stop shop' for families
- Children and young people sessions to support social communication and interaction.



Get in touch via 01642 531248 (option 1) or email sunderlandfamilysupport@daisychainproject.co.uk

Remember, you can also ask school, your health visitor or any other professionals involved with your family's care to share your details with us and then we can contact you.

<https://www.daisychainproject.co.uk/family-support-service-sunderland/>

Services for Families

Autism Central - North East & Yorkshire

Daisy Chain is the Regional Hub for North East and Yorkshire for Autism Central. This is a new programme designed and developed to deliver high-quality and accessible autism information, education and coaching for families, parents, carers, and personal assistants. Autism Central has been commissioned by NHS England's Workforce, Training and Education Team and is delivered by nine not-for-profit organisations.

Daisy Chain are able to offer family members, carers and personal assistants of autistic children and adults a variety of group and individual sessions. These will focus on meeting the needs of autistic people and on signposting to access to local and national services. Sessions will be offered in person and online. These sessions will be facilitated by Peer Educators who are experts by experience and have a good understanding of autism.

As part of the programme, Daisy Chain offers:

- Learning Workshops for parent/carers and personal assistants
- Links Parent Support Group
- Face-to-face peer drop in sessions



<https://www.daisychainproject.co.uk/autism-central/>

Gateshead Autism Hubs - Gateshead



Gateshead Autism Hubs offer parents and carers of autistic children and young people (0-25 years) information, advice and support on a range of challenges that can impact autistic young people and their families. The Hubs provide drop-in sessions, peer support groups, and training for parents, carers, and professionals.

The Hubs can also offer information and signposting on related co-occurring conditions, such as: FASD, ADHD, Sensory Differences, Social and Communication Differences, Mental Health, and Learning Disabilities. Gateshead Autism Hubs are free to access for parents and carers. An autism diagnosis is not required to access support.

<https://www.daisychainproject.co.uk/gateshead-autism-hubs/>

I want to register, what next?

Daisy Chain specialises in strategies and approaches that are compatible with: Autism, ADHD, FASD, Sensory processing differences, anxiety and social and communication differences. For a family to attend on child must be either diagnosed, on the pathway or have been identified by a professional as having a need relating to the listed neurodiversities.

If you have a child who fits the criteria above, and you want to access our services, please contact us at <https://www.daisychainproject.co.uk/contact-us/> and someone will be in touch.

Alternatively, you can contact the clubs and activities team on 01642 531248 or email clubs@daisychainproject.co.uk