



# Children, Young People and Families Brochure 2022/23

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. It also plays a part in our social enterprise, selling fruit and vegetables to local businesses.



## Superstores

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, sports 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](mailto: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](http://www.daisychainproject.co.uk/holiday-activities-2)*



# Services for Children & Young People

## Teen Community Connect

Teen Community Connect is a group where teenagers (ages 15-17) can learn and develop social skills and self-confidence in a real-world environment. The club will be based off site, accessing a range of activities and locations within the local area such as bowling and trips to the beach.

Through attending the group, we hope to offer teenagers the opportunity to gain experience of independence, budgeting and safety in the community with the support of our staff and their peers.

*When: Thursdays, 4-6pm, once a fortnight.*

*Cost: £10 per session, plus the costs of the chosen activity. Funding may be available in your area, contact your local council for further details.*

*How to book: Contact [clubs@daisychainproject.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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.

2-hour sessions including soft play, sensory activities, floor play, movie room, arts and crafts, outdoor play areas, farm (excluding barn).



*When: Fourth Sunday of every month. Two slots per Sunday: 10am - 12pm / 1pm - 3pm. You can only book for one.*

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

*How to book: Bookings open for each High Needs Sunday 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

Our Links support group is for parents/carers of a child who have a child with autism, ADHD, FASD, Sensory processing differences, anxiety and social and communication differences.

The programme is varied, with interesting speakers and an opportunity for an informal chat and light refreshments. Please note, your child does not need to have a diagnosis for you to access Links Parent Support Group.

*When: Links runs a morning session weekly during term-time, Thursdays 10am-12pm and a monthly evening session during term-time, Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm.*

*Cost: FREE*

*How to book: <https://www.daisychainproject.co.uk/links/>*

*Please note: Links group is for parents/carers only. If you have pre-school aged child/children and require parent support please book into our creche group (only available for morning sessions) to access similar advice and guidance. This runs simultaneously to the Thursday's Links group.*

## Creche

Our crèche group is for children of parents/carers who are attending Links group on a Thursday. Creche is not available on Tuesday evening Links sessions.

This group provides an opportunity for children to have fun in the soft play area and enclosed outdoor area whilst parents/carers access support through Links Parent Support Group.

Please note, the child attending crèche does not need to have any additional needs.

*How to book: <https://www.daisychainproject.co.uk/creche/>*

*When: Every Thursday during term time, 10am-12pm.*

*Costs: £5 per child, booking required. Funding may be available in your area, contact your local council for further details.*



# Services for Families

## The Family Support Service, delivered by Daisy Chain

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
- Parent learning opportunities around topics such as emotional regulation, visuals, understanding behaviour and puberty. Topics will vary depending on need, we are always open to suggestions if parents/carers have a specific subject they would like us to cover.
- 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](mailto: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.

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

# 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](mailto:clubs@daisychainproject.co.uk)**