



# **INFORMATION**



## **HARTLEPOOL SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP**

*FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:-*

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JULIE CARTER—SECRETARY  
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## **Introduction**

Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group was established in 1989 and is a Registered Charity No. 1031151 and is governed by its Constitution.

Over the years we have become recognised as a specialist provider of services in our field and although it is difficult to quantify, it is very apparent that our young people have an enhanced quality of life, are growing in confidence and are gaining the firm foundations and experiences upon which they can build in order to enjoy future opportunities.

## **Aims and objectives.**

To alleviate the needs and advance the education of children-young people with various profound physical-learning disabilities with varying complex needs, including life limiting conditions, and to support their families-carers. An essential part of our service is to raise public awareness and change preconceptions about disability by encouraging inclusive activities through taking part in activities set in the public domain.

## **The services that we provide and regular activities**

Group members and their families can enjoy participating in a very wide and varied programme of activities and services throughout the year, there is something for everyone. The following is a small taster of recreational opportunities on offer.

### **Resource Centre**

- Support and information sessions for parents and carers.
- Parent, carer, baby, toddler group-Thursday, 10-12am, term time.
- Children's Fun Club, once a week term time plus extra outings—5.30—7.30pm
- Youth Club once a week plus occasional outings—6-8pm
- Get Together Club, once a week during term time—11am—3pm
- Drama group "Constellation" , once a week 6—8pm plus extra sessions, events & outings.
- Friends regular sessions and events.
- Multi-sensory room - on site.
- Members own use for private parties etc.
- Training, speakers and awareness sessions.
- Parents and associated group's use.
- Own fundraising events.
- Members and professionals appointments welcome for support, chats, and information.

### **Out of school-college activities, trips, parents and carers social events**

#### **Out in the wider community**

In all school-college holidays we organise various trips and activities e.g. theme parks, leisure centres, theatre, bowling cinema, horse riding, BBQ's, swimming, social events, etc.

#### **Summer Social Programme**

Crafts, cold cookery, specialized bicycles, children's entertainers, fire engines, ice creams, snooker, computer games, swimming, beauty and music sessions plus lots more.

#### **Mini Breaks**

These include accommodation, meals, activities and specialized transport. With our help and support families can have a wonderful and relaxing time.

#### **Parent –Carers**

Have the opportunity to access social and recreational activities, information sharing and meet other families in similar situations helps reduce isolation . Enables parents-carers a little free time to do their own things, meet friends, relax and enjoy.

## **Working together**

We work closely with the voluntary and statutory sectors. The group has gained a lot of credibility is well known and respected locally and in the wider community.

## **Funding**

We will never be solely self funding and depend greatly on applying to grants-trusts, own Fundraising, individuals access self directed support and any other donations. Our Core Fundraising Group plan and organise various social and fundraising events.

## **STAFF & VOLUNTEERS**

Our group has a team of well trained staff and volunteers who specialise in working with children who have a disability and are trained in a multitude of areas and all have DBS checks. We rely heavily on our volunteers and support and care staff and currently have the support of a dedicated team. Their commitment and time spent with the group is outstanding and it is a great pleasure working with them. We are committed and motivated in supporting children-young adults, to have an enhanced quality of life, grow in confidence and gain the firm foundations and experiences upon which they can build, in order to enjoy future opportunities and experience a fulfilled life. including supporting siblings and their parents-carers in many ways. We always welcome new helpers. In appreciation volunteers will be recognised for hours worked by receiving various awards.

**Services are organised for beneficiaries to attend as a family, or children & young adults on their own, support & care provided by Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group.**

## **Policies and Procedures**

We adhere to our policies and procedures in place, the following is an example:-

**For the purpose of some policies children and vulnerable young adults will be defined as members.**

- Admissions
- Behaviour
- Child & Vulnerable Young Adults Protection
- Concerns, Complaints or Issues
- Environment
- Equal Opportunity
- Health & Safety
- Lost Members & Social Inclusion
- Uncollected Children & Vulnerable Young Adults
- Annual Report and Accounts

File placed in office for all to view

## Additional Information Re: provision for over 18's

We aim to provide the adults and those who remain as members after the age of 18 with profound physical-learning disabilities with recreational and social activities which are age appropriate and suit specific needs and as an ancillary thereto provide an element of respite for the immediate families and carers of these adults.

We are committed to promote the overall wellbeing of all individuals accessing our services and encourage health and development.

A number of adults have accessed our services with their families for many years and as they have matured they have broke away from this and continued to independently access a number of services with the group. Providing the collective support individuals have needed this enables many of them to participate in varied recreational and social activities out in the public domain.

Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group is a big part of some individuals lives and would like this to continue. We also signpost them to other providers, enabling them to have varied choices.

We support our over 18's accessing self directed support (In Control). This allows people to assess their support needs and gives them the freedom to approach a range of different providers of which Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group are one, enabling people to live their own lives as they wish.

**The following list is an example of some of the services that the adults access independently.**

- **Drama Group**—The aim is to showcase their talents by creating shows to perform. Meet regularly.
- **Youth Club**—To meet and generally hang out and organise what they would like to do i.e. pool, beauty, computer games, food tasting, outings etc. Meet weekly 6pm—8.00pm.
- **Get Together Club**—To meet and complete some work tasks and also chill out by participating in social activities. Wednesdays 11am—3pm term time.
- **Outings**— Visits to cinema, bowling, social lunches, theatres, nature reserves, boat trips, theme parks etc.
- **Short Breaks**—Mini overnight stays, usually hotel accommodation and planned activities 2-4 days, destinations e.g. Blackpool, activity centres etc.
- **Evening Social Events** — In local licensed venues, 7pm - 10.30pm.
- **Work Experience**— From 2-6 hours per week.