

SEND

Welcome to the Winter issue of the SEND Newsletter, 2025.

As the year draws to a close, we're excited to share updates, news, and stories that support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) across Lancashire.

Inside you'll find a special feature written by the Lancashire Parent Carer Forum. 2025 has been a huge year for them as they have evolved, gained new members and created the "Round Table," made up of a number of SEND support group leaders from around Lancashire. You can read more about the work they have been doing and their upcoming plans inside.

If you don't already, please do follow us on Facebook by searching "Lancashire Local Offer". We're sharing useful information about things to do for families over the Christmas period, especially SEN-friendly events and activities. Please tag us in anything you'd like us to share!

You can read Miranda and Logan's story inside this edition. It's a wonderfully inspiring story written by a parent carer which will be relatable to some of our readers and brilliantly engaging for anyone who reads it.

Following on from the SEND newsletter survey earlier this year, we have listened to your feedback and you will notice some changes to the newsletter in 2026. There will be additional publications with fewer pages and a different format. We hope you like it and will be seeking feedback from you following the first couple of publications.

Have a Happy Christmas and a wonderful start to 2026!

Anna Burkinshaw

Policy, Commissioning and Children's Health



www.facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer



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SEND DRAMA SESSIONS


JUNIOR CONNECT
For Ages 5-11
Thursdays, 4.15pm-5pm

YOUTH CONNECT
For Ages 11-18
Thursdays, 5pm-6pm

ADULT CONNECT
For Ages 18+
Tuesdays, 11:30am-12:30pm

Weekly Creative SEND workshops for ages 5-18
Only £4.50 per Workshop!

Book your FREE taster session:
info@burnleyyouththeatre.org



UNITE

SEND YOUTH GROUP (12-25)
WEST PADDOCK FAMILY HUB
& THE ZONE
MONDAY 6:30-8:30

A SOCIAL GROUP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS.

★ YOU CAN MEET WITH FRIENDS, TAKE PART IN GAMES AND ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS GET SUPPORT FROM YOUTH WORKERS

CONTACT SOUTHRIBBLE.TYS@LANCASHIRE.GOV.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION



Signature BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE COURSES

Hybrid and Face-To-Face
BSL Levels 1, 2 & 3

Learn with a qualified Deaf teacher.

Contact sordasigns@gmail.com
for more information

Chorley, Lancashire




YOUTH BSL Group

Starting Saturday 18th October, our Deaf Village Youth Group will run **every Saturday for Deaf children aged 8-12 years old**. A great chance to meet, have fun, and make friends.

First Session Starts
SAT 18th OCT, 01.30-04.00 PM

**Jubilee St,
Blackburn BB1 1EP**

www.trybooking.com/uk/F1EE

Scan for BSL



Book Now!

Donna@deafvillage.org

+44 07875 679175





In our last issue we gave details of some indoor activities suitable for children with SEND which may be useful to know about in these colder and wetter months.

One of our readers recommended some sessions in Preston which were missing from the list, and here are details.

If you have had any great experiences or days out in Lancashire which you'd like us to share with our SEND newsletter audience, please do get in touch by emailing FIND@lancashire.gov.uk.

Thank you!

Flip Out, Mercer Street, Preston, PR14LQ

Autism Awareness Sessions

From £10

Up to 1 hour on the arena

1 parent or carer goes free

Please check with us before booking

<https://www.flipout.co.uk/locations/preston>



Wacky World, Campbell Street, Preston, PR15LX

ASD & DISABILITY FRIENDLY SESSIONS

Suitable for Ages 0-12+ (with supervising adults)

We turn down the music and turn the lights on for our disability friendly Wacky sessions. Perfect for anyone wanting to explore our Wacky Fun under a more controlled environment. Your carer is free

Lights On

Music Off

Quiet rooms (if required)

Fully trained staff

£7.95 PER PERSON // 1 HOUR SESSION

<https://www.flipout.co.uk/locations/preston>

Jungle World, Tomlinson Road, Leyland, PR52DY

ASD & DISABILITY FRIENDLY SESSIONS

We turn down the music and turn the lights on for our disability-friendly Wacky sessions. Perfect for anyone wanting to explore the Jungle under a more controlled environment. Carers will get free entry to the arena.

Lights On

Music Off

Quiet Rooms

Fully Trained Staff

<https://www.jungleworldpark.com>

Please note – these details are correct at the time of publishing.

Please check with venues ahead of sessions to confirm times, dates, prices and availability.



Break Time

Fun group activities for children and young people with SEND in Lancashire

Don't forget!

Registrations will be open from

Monday 27th October 2025

to

Sunday 18th January 2026

Both new and current members must register!

www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND



or scan:



lancashire.gov.uk/SEND

Lancashire
County Council



Who are we and what do we do?

SENDIAS is a statutory service and operates confidentially from the Local Authority to provide impartial and unbiased support to children and families across Lancashire.

The service offers free information, advice, and support regarding SEND across the spectrum of education, health and social care, for example: EHCP processes, paperwork, communications with schools, and tribunal's.

Empowering families

- The SENDIAS goal is to empower families to make informed decisions and have their voices heard throughout the SEND journey.

Service changes:



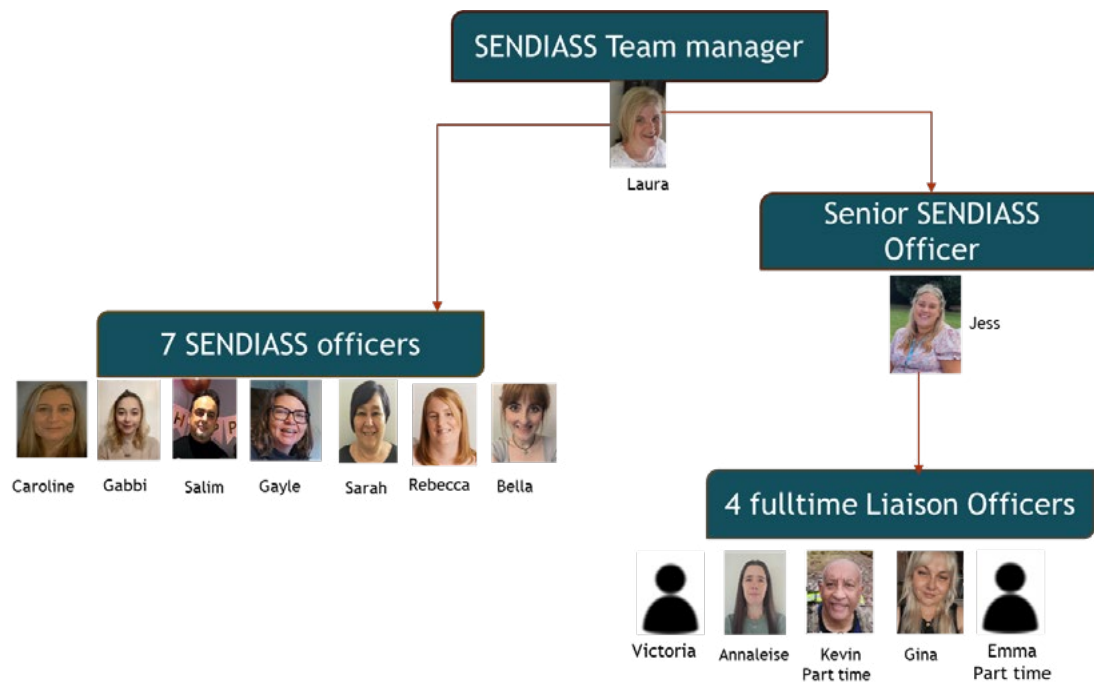
The team has recently expanded and we are currently reviewing the service offer following service user feedback to make it more flexible, accessible and empowering for families across Lancashire. These changes allow us to reach more families and offer consistent, high-quality accessible information advice and support across county.



Our Website with further details can be found here:

<https://www.lancssendias.org.uk/>

Team structure:



How SENDIAS can support Families:

- Practical Guidance will be available at one stop shops in family hubs.
- SENDIAS can provide advice on preparing meetings, understanding reports, and managing appeals effectively.

Contact can be made by families by phone, referral form or email to our helpline— referrals from professionals **MUST** come through our contact form which you can find on our website in the “Contact Us” section.

Community and Peer Networks Peer support groups and local networks help families share experiences and find reassurance.

Guidance Through EHCNA request

SENDIAS provides crucial guidance to parents during EHCP applications, helping to resolve school placement disputes successfully through groups and drop in's or in the future using digital options.



Parent story; Miranda and Logan

The last couple of weeks my son has shown what perseverance, resilience and a massive SEND journey full of aspirations can do.

From the little boy born with a severe kidney condition who made no noises at all, no babbling, nothing at all. He had severe anxiety and attachment issues literally wrapped round me so close it seemed pointless going to toddler groups as he couldn't leave me to play. He was terrified of everything and took months to get used to new toys till he could touch them or play with them.

He was too scared to access even SALT group sessions specifically aimed at non/pre verbal kids with only about 4 in the room so weren't offered it again after only half a term cos it was pointless.

They referred us to portage which were absolutely amazing and taught us both loads of makaton. He was so quick she actually had to go away and learn new signs cos he quickly exhausted hers.

Amazing for a child who didn't even have any ability to communicate and seemed to have learning difficulties at this young age! Help went into nursery as well and we applied for his statement at 3 ready for starting school.

As a late summer baby he started reception at 4 years old and one of the very youngest in his year group. He was in a taxi from day one, still non verbal but grunting with his signing at a specialist educational resource facility for speech issues and full time from the beginning. This was actually better for him as he met half the class in the morning and half in the afternoon so wasn't overwhelmed when they started full time either.



His end of year one IEP (individual education plan) which were updated regularly, read '**Logan** is starting to use 2 words, try to encourage a third'. So he was almost 6 and still not properly talking. **Logan** always engaged well with the speech therapist (who came in 4 times a week) and by the end of year 2 he was speaking well where he had to move school as the unit was only for infant school. He coped so well and found the most lovely friend who got him so well and for the 1st time in his life had a true friendship he created by himself. His first friend, who is still his friend he's known since he was born!

The new school were so amazing with regular occupational therapy (3 times a week), physical therapy (3 times a week), loads of adaptations and equipment and a whole staff understanding of his needs he did well but had loads and loads of support and obviously still SALT input and sessions regularly.

However it quickly became apparent that though he was thriving here he wouldn't in a large mainstream style high school so with schools help we lodged a tribunal for placement at an alternative mainstream school locally called St Annes College Grammar school. Sadly despite it being pre agreed that Lancashire would fund this place for him they wouldn't finalise things and so we found ourselves at the actual tribunal. Me all on my own with no new reports against Lancashire County Council and tribunal wiped the floor with them. I actually really felt sorry for the SENDO involved as we both expected to be able to withdraw but the court wouldn't allow it. What an education they gave me in a couple of hours.

Everything was finalised just in time for him to start on the first day of year 7. Though he had always struggled to find the geography of the previous schools this was a tiny school with only 8 in his year group so they were always together. Staff knew each child well and for the first time I actually saw him chasing a girl round in the playground (previously he had always stroked a local cat and pretty much kept to himself at playtime).

This school gave him time to grow and thrive as they nurtured and supported all the children in a manner that can only be done in such a small environment. His disability was respected and appreciated.

My personal limpet slowly started to detach and grow as he matured there.



However, his writing, which had always been difficult had never improved so by year 10 (he had been learning to touch type for years) I arranged his move from writing to typing and he could finally show how bright he truly was released from this ongoing burden.

Obviously he did brilliantly in his GCSEs even passing one that they hadn't had time in his schedule for so the lovely Ian taught him at home! He had already decided which college he wanted to go to and despite all my nerves went on the bus there.

The college was again actually the smallest one in the area and again he blossomed even more embracing the help his EHCP brought him and volunteering at every opportunity. He helped at virtually every open evening showing people round and being generally amazing. All reports were seriously glowing.

Must point out he still can't write legibly, do shoe laces, bangs himself so much and so many more things but with support and help and a hell of a lot of determination from **Logan** he does anything he sets his mind to.

Parallel to all this he has always swam at Fylde Sharks Swimming Club and at 16 started volunteering for them. He asked to do his Level 1 swimming badge and passed so was given his own clients. Again, amazing since it took a year to get him in the water properly and another 5 after that to learn to swim!

He desperately wanted to do some acting and got himself a job at Blackpool Pleasure Beach scaring people over the halloween season and was great at it.

He also joined a thing at college called career ready and had a paid!! internship over the first summer. What was meant to be a 2 week thing actually lasted the whole summer and he was well paid for it. Me thinking they probably all were offered further weeks was wrong and it really was just **Logan**! He even got an award at the celebration evening. All this from the child who couldn't move much (not gone into that side but at one point they were looking at muscular dystrophy so another whole part of his journey), couldn't talk and was a virtual limpet!

The next year brought the lovely **Kate** into his life and it as if they've been together forever.

Last week he started his Level 2 swimming course and it was results day for his A levels and BTECs.

Really proud to make the huge announcement that he's smashed both with a B in his a level, double distinction star in his BTEC and he's passed his course (so an automatic pay rise too).

We've had to push him along the way. Had so many medical appointments with goodness knows how many specialists and therapists. There have been tears, real pain and so much heartache to get him through. **Logan** has always tried hard even when things have been pretty overwhelming for him. He now fancies retraining to become an electrician and so is off back to college but a much bigger one to do the right course to get him a place on an apprenticeship and I have no doubt he will do brilliantly and achieve what ever he really wants.



Supported Internships



What is a Supported Internship?

A Supported Internship can help you to gain employability skills and hands-on experience in a work environment, transitioning from education into employment. They are for young people aged between 16 – 24 who wish to go into work. The full eligibility criteria, and list of programmes, can be found on the Local offer: **Supported internships - Lancashire County Council**

For the majority of internships you will need to apply to the education provider (usually a college), but you can contact **sendemploymentforum@lancashire.gov.uk** if you are unsure where to start and would like some advice and guidance from our SEND Employment Officer.

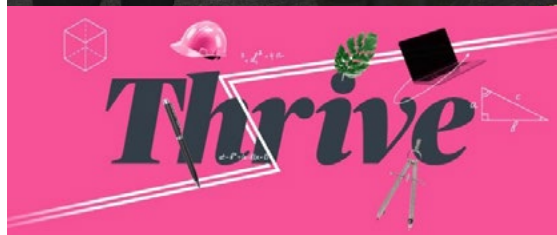
News

64 young people have begun their Supported Internship since September, with some incredible progress already being made. We also saw the expansion of the offer, with Myerscough College, working in partnership with Ribby Hall, opening their doors to a new programme this September. We would like to thank all the people and organisations involved across Lancashire who support our interns not only during their programme, but those that employ our graduates and ensure they are supported in the workplace.

Exciting Launch for Our Supported Interns at Places for People

We are thrilled to announce the successful launch of our Supported Internship programme at Places for People! Towards the end of September, we welcomed five dedicated interns who are embarking on this incredible journey with us. The launch event was a fantastic opportunity to introduce our interns to the team, share insights about their upcoming roles, and celebrate the start of this important initiative.

Before they begin their work placements, all five interns have been enrolled in a Level 2 Manual Handling course. This essential training will equip them with the practical skills they need to stay safe and efficient in their roles. The course will be delivered in-house by our brand-new training academy, PFP Thrive.

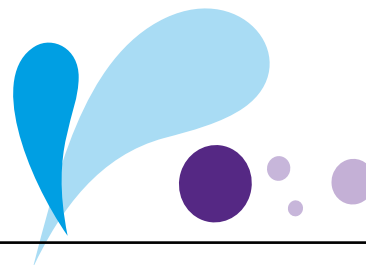


PFP Thrive is designed to provide high-quality, tailored training across the UK, covering everything from technical skills to Customer service and complaint handling. Discover more about our courses, resources, and tools on our new website: **<https://bit.ly/3XCizx4>**.

We're delighted that our interns will be some of the first to benefit from this initiative as the manual handling course is a key stepping stone for them as they prepare to contribute meaningfully to their placements.

We're looking forward to seeing the impact these bright individuals will make and are excited to support them throughout their journey. A big thank you to everyone involved in making this programme a success!

Stay tuned for updates on their progress and experiences!



Break Time

Break Time provides fun group activities to children and young people aged 4-18, living in Lancashire, who have a special educational need and/or disability (SEND). Activities take place after school, at weekends and during school holidays and give parents and carers a short break from their caring role.

Register now for Break Time!

The registrations for 2026/27 memberships are now open and will close on Sunday 18th January 2026. Please remember, if your child is already a Break Time member, their hours will expire on 31st March 2026, so you must re-register now if you wish to continue their membership from April.

The registration form is on the Local Offer at:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/things-to-do/break-time/>

When you submit the form, you will receive an automatic email reply to confirm it has been received. Check your spam/junk folder if you don't see this.

A letter confirming the outcome of your application will be posted to your home address by the end of February. If you need any help to complete the form, please ask at your child's school, your local library or Family Hub who can offer support.

Summer Holiday survey

Thank you to everyone that took part and shared your views. Your feedback helps us to identify any areas that need improvement and make sure the service develops to meet the needs of more children, young people and families.

From those that completed the survey, 97% told us that their child enjoyed the Break Time activities and 94% said that the provider was able to meet their individual needs. While 75% of parents said they got to have a break themselves, others told us they worked while their child was at the activity.

A summary of the survey results will be published on the Local Offer, including the actions we will take to further improve the service.

New Break Time Providers

One of the issues that parents often raise is the limited number of Break Time providers in some districts. We are therefore really pleased to announce that five new providers have been awarded contracts from December 2025!

More details will be shared on the Local Offer website and facebook page very soon.

Additional benefits for Break Time members

Spectrum Gaming offer online activities to autistic young people aged 10-17 who are Break Time members. This service can be accessed in addition to the 78 hours of face-to-face activities.

Families that have a Break Time membership can also request a FREE Max Card which offers discounts on family days out. Discounts are offered per family, so you only need to apply once, even if you have two or more children with Break Time membership.

Contact Us

For any queries on the Break Time service, please contact us at **breaktime@lancashire.gov.uk**

If you feel your child needs more support than Break Time provides, you can request a Child & Family assessment, so we can fully understand and identify the best way to meet their needs. Call **0300 123 6720** to request an assessment.

If you have any feedback on Break Time, or any short breaks service in Lancashire, please complete the online form at **www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/things-to-do/short-breaks-feedback**



WINTER WONDERS; INCLUSIVE, RELAXED AND ACCESSIBLE OPTIONS IN LANCASHIRE THIS WINTER

Here are a small selection of ideas for families in Lancashire this winter.
You can find more by following us on Facebook or checking out
<https://www.visitlancashire.com/> for ideas.

*Please note – all details correct at time of printing.
Please do check with venues for suitability prior to booking.

Santa's Grotto

at Astley – Saturday Relaxed session
Astley Hall Chorley PR7 1XA

Access to Santa's Grotto is by pre-booked tickets only and the
grotto will be open on
Saturdays and Sundays, 29 November to 21 December,
10am – 4pm

Ticket price includes entry to the Hall to view the festive decorations
around the ground floor
In addition, 9am to 10am, of each Saturday will be a relaxed session
in the Great Hall which will be quieter with reduced noise and
increased lighting.

<https://checkoutchorley.com/santas-grotto>



Family Film and Craft:
Arthur Christmas
 Horse & Bamboo, Rossendale,
 BB4 7HB

Join us for our relaxed, family craft session from 11am, where we'll be making a Christmas craft!
 Followed by film screening of
 Arthur Christmas (U)

The film tells the story of Santa Claus' family as one of his sons works to deliver an overlooked bicycle to a little girl in Trelew, Cornwall, England

When Santa's gawky son Arthur learns that owing to a technical malfunction a little girl's Christmas gift has been misplaced, he sets out on a mission to deliver the present before it is too late.

<https://horseandbamboo.org/whats-on/arthur-christmas-u-christmas-craft/>



Phoebe's Green Christmas

- a digital, sensory Christmas series
 Online event

This year, lovable puppet Phoebe is on a mission to give her friends the best and kindest Christmas ever. Inspired to help the planet, Phoebe explores ways to reduce, re-use, and recycle, putting a creative spin on classic traditions and making special gifts for her friends. The eight-part digital adventure is packed with music, puppetry, colourful visuals, and plenty of festive fun.

Accessible, Inclusive, and Free

Digital Format: The show is available online, so children and families can enjoy it in spaces where they feel most safe and supported.

Sensory Focus: Designed for sensory learners, the production is interactive and accessible, bursting with opportunities for engagement, communication, and positive memory-making. Phoebe's Green Christmas is available now:

Please visit <https://www.embracingarts.org.uk/christmas-for-kids> to sign up.
 Episodes will be released every 4 days from 3rd November 2025 and available to view until 9th January 2026.





Lancashire Parent Carer Forum: Who We Are

Lancashire Parent Carer Forum (LPCF) is a collective of parent carers working together to improve services and outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) across Lancashire.

We are an independent, volunteer-led organisation that represents the voices of families at both local and strategic levels. Through collaboration with education, health and social care partners, we ensure that parent carers are actively involved in shaping the policies and practices that affect their lives.

Our work includes:

- Collecting and amplifying parent carer voices in decision-making spaces
- Building a strong parent carer volunteer group.
- Building partnerships with professionals and services
- Sharing updates and opportunities through weekly round-ups, our website and Facebook
- Creating new platforms, like our upcoming podcast, to foster dialogue and connection
- Supporting inclusive initiatives like the PINS project in schools
- Advocating for better training, communication and data use across SEND services

Whether you're a parent carer, professional or ally, LPCF is here to connect, inform and empower. Together, we're building a stronger, more inclusive SEND community in Lancashire.

Weekly Updates and Podcast Launch: New Ways to Stay Connected

At LPCF, we're always looking for new ways to keep our community informed, inspired and involved. That's why we're excited to announce two new initiatives designed to strengthen our connection with parent carers across Lancashire.

Weekly Updates: Keeping You in the Loop
We've launched a new series of weekly updates to share highlights from our work, whether it's strategic meetings with service leads, grassroots projects like PINS, or progress on SEND transformation. These updates offer a snapshot of the conversations, collaborations and changes happening across the SEND landscape and they're available on our website and social media channels.

Coming Soon: The LPCF Podcast

We're also preparing to launch the LPCF podcast! This new platform will feature conversations with professionals, service leads and parent carers, diving into the topics that matter most to our community. Our trial run took place on 13th October and we're currently gathering ideas for the future topics and conversations and we need YOUR help.

- ~ **What topics would you like us to explore?**
- ~ **Which services or individuals would you like to hear from?**

Your feedback will help shape the podcast and ensure it speaks directly to the needs and interests of parent carers across Lancashire.

How to Share Your Ideas

You can email your suggestions to:

secretarylpcf@lancashireparentcarerforum.org.uk

Or comment on our Facebook posts, we'd love to hear from you!



Lancashire Round Table: Strategic Voices in Action

On 9th October, LPCF participated in a successful and productive Lancashire Round Table meeting with five of the senior leaders from the SEND Partnership:

- **Paul Turner** – Director of Education, Culture and Skills
- **Cerys Townend** – Head of Inclusion
- **Jacqui Old** – Executive Director of Education and Children's Services
- **Vanessa Wilson** – Director of Children, Young People and Maternity
- **Peter Chapman** – Interim Associate Director of Children Services (SEND and Complexities)

This meeting gave leaders of local parent carer groups the opportunity to take their questions and suggestions directly to those in decision-making roles. The discussions focused on the real issues affecting families within their communities and the collaborative tone of the meeting marked a significant step forward in ensuring that parent carer voices are not only heard but acted upon.

Events Across Lancashire: Connecting with Families

We've been busy running events that bring parent carers together across the county.

- SEND Roadshows are now up and running, offering face-to-face engagement and information sharing in local communities.
- Family Hub Drop-In Sessions are scheduled throughout the year, giving families the chance to speak with LPCF volunteers and access support in a relaxed setting.
- Let's Talk Sessions are held online every month, with three different time slots across the week to make them as accessible as possible for busy families.

These events are all about listening, connecting and making sure parent carers feel supported and heard -wherever they are in Lancashire.

ARFID Pathway: Starting the Conversation

On 22nd September, LPCF volunteers joined a workshop alongside around 35 professionals and stakeholders to begin meaningful discussions around the development of an effective pathway for ARFID (Avoidant/ Restrictive Food Intake Disorder).

At present, there is no formal ARFID pathway in Lancashire and South Cumbria. LPCF feels strongly that co-producing this pathway with parent carers who have lived experience is vital to ensure children and families across the region can access useful and relevant support.

The workshop began with foundational input from those with lived experience, exploring key questions such as:

- How does ARFID present in children and young people?
- Which services may need to be involved in the early stages?
- What could a joined-up pathway look like in practice?
- If escalation is needed, how should that happen?

Participants moved between discussion tables to explore these themes in depth. The outcome of the workshop is that the Integrated Care Board (ICB) will now collate and review all the insights and ideas shared throughout the day. It's a significant task, but it marks the beginning of implementing simple, impactful changes that can immediately benefit families.

Parent carers also asked ICB representatives to share what they learned with colleagues across the region, to spread awareness and drive forward the changes that are so urgently needed.

Together, we're building a stronger, more inclusive SEND community - one update, one conversation, one connection at a time.

Please get in touch with us via our

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/LancashireParentCarerForum/>

Our website:

www.lancashireparentcarerforum.org.uk

or by emailing:

secretarylpcf@lancashireparentcarerforum.org.uk





Lancashire
Parent Carer Forum

Dec 25 - Jun 26 Webinars



Empowering SEND families from Lancashire



ND Pathway
Health



Support at School
STS & Inclusion



Short Breaks
Lisa Taylor LCC



Local Offer
Local Offer



Support at School
OAP & Reasonable
Adjustments



Community Activities
Inclusion Development
Officer & DCSO

www.lancashireparentcarerforum.org.uk



Lancashire Positive Minds Parent/Carer Support Group

Supporting a child, whatever age, with Neurodiverse and Mental Health difficulties and needs can be really challenging, isolating, emotionally, physically and mentally exhausting.

You are not alone!

Join our parent-led support group and connect with other parents and carers in similar situations, and receive peer support in a confidential, safe environment. Get advice, guidance, practical tips, and enjoy listening to guest speakers, all while having a cup of tea or coffee.

Difficulties may include Anxiety, Obsessions and Compulsions, Depression, Self Harm, Eating Disorders, Psychosis, Suicidal Thoughts, Autism. Low Mood, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Borderline Personality Disorders, Self Esteem and confidence issues and many more.

Leyland Group meet - First Monday of the month from 6.30 – 8.30pm

Preston Group Meet - Third Monday of the month from 6.30-8.30pm

Chorley Group – Second Thursday of the month from 6.30 – 8.30pm

Contact the below number or email for further details.

Email: Lancashirepositiveminds@gmail.com

Telephone– 07824 042908/07713 337182

Instagram:Lancashire_Positive_Minds

Twitter:Lancashirepositiveminds@lancashireminds

www.Lancashirepositiveminds.co.uk

Facebook Closed Group: Lancashire Positive Minds

**All Facebook requestors will receive a message in messenger prior to approval, please check your spam messages. This is a safe, confidential space purely for Parents and Carers.*

Lancashire **SEND** Roadshows

2025/2026

Our SEND Roadshows are well underway and have received fantastic feedback from all those who have attended.

To date, the Roadshows have taken place at Kirkham Family Hub, Skelmersdale Family Hub and Burnley Football Club.

They will continue into 2026 all the way through to summer.

The purpose of the SEND Roadshows is to provide an opportunity for parent carers to find out about SEND services available to them, how to access support, and to ask questions and collect information.

So far, we have had representatives at the Roadshows from:

- **SENDIAS**
- **NHS**
- **LCC Inclusion Service**
- **Lancashire Parent Carer Forum and Round Table**
- **School Nurse Service**
- **Educational Psychology Service**
- **CAHMS**
- **Break Time and Lancashire Local Offer**
- **Specialist Teaching service**

...and many more!



Anyone can attend a roadshow at any venue; there is no need to book on and you can drop in at any time.

You can speak to our service representatives for advice and guidance...or just collect leaflets! There's always a brew and a biscuit on offer and you are more than welcome to bring children and young people or other family members with you.

Some of the feedback we have received includes:

"The best thing about today is being able to put a face to those people involved in my child's SEND journey"

"I didn't think there was anything available locally to help me and my child but it turns out there is lots!"

"I didn't know where to start looking for help...it's been so useful to have all these services together in one place and now I know who to contact."

We look forward to seeing lots more families at our upcoming SEND Roadshows in 2026!



Lancashire
SEND
Roadshow

Dates across Lancashire are:

25th Sept 2025 9:30 – 1 pm	Kirkham Family Hub
22nd Oct 2025 9:30 – 1 pm	Skelmersdale Family Hub and The Zone
3rd Dec 2025 9:30 – 1pm	Pendle and Burnley 1882 Lounge Burnley Football Club
28th January 2026 9:30 – 1 pm	The Park Family Hub Accrington
4th February 2026 9:30 – 1 pm	Inspire Youth Zone Chorley
26th March 2026 9:30 – 1 pm	Clitheroe Family Hub
15th April 2026 9:30 – 1 pm	Lune Park Family Hub Lancaster
6th May 2026 9:30 – 1 pm	Rawtenstall Family Hub and the Zone
16th June 2026 9:30 – 1 pm	Fleetwood Library
1st July 2026 1:30 – 4:30 pm	Moor Nook Ribbleson Family Hub



Please scan the following QR codes for more information:



Local Offer



Family Hubs

Building Strong Foundations: Educational Psychology

In Lancashire, we recognise that the early years are a critical time for emotional development, learning, and wellbeing. That's why our Educational Psychology Service is committed to supporting children, families, and practitioners with a comprehensive offer from the very beginning.

Early Identification and Support

When concerns about a child's development or emotional wellbeing arise, early years practitioners work closely with SENCOs and parent carers to assess needs and plan targeted support. Using tools like the EYFS tracker and the Teaching and Learning Toolkit settings can implement high-quality, inclusive strategies that make a real difference.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/supporting-children-and-families/send/education-workforce-development-send/teaching-and-learning-toolkit-ordinarily-available-provision-for-send-0-25/>

If further support is needed, external specialists such as speech and language therapists or specialist teachers may be involved. Group consultations facilitated by educational psychologists offer a collaborative space for SENCOs to problem-solve and share expertise. <https://clickdelegate.lancashire.gov.uk/conferenceDetails.asp?eid=8172>

Workshops That Empower

Our Wednesday Workshops are free, online sessions open to all early years professionals and parent carers. Topics range from emotional regulation and adult wellbeing to autism support and trauma-informed practice. Each session includes a pre-reading handout, live Q&A and opportunities to share good practice.

Upcoming sessions include:

- **14th January 2026 - Voices before words** <https://clickdelegate.lancashire.gov.uk/conferenceDetails.asp?cid=65868>
- **4th March 2026 - Effective early years intervention in supporting autism** <https://clickdelegate.lancashire.gov.uk/conferenceDetails.asp?cid=65869>
- **29th April 2026 - Play Matters** <https://clickdelegate.lancashire.gov.uk/conferenceDetails.asp?cid=65870>
- **24th June 2026 - Collaborative Journeys** <https://clickdelegate.lancashire.gov.uk/conferenceDetails.asp?cid=65871>

FAQ's

Q: Is the early years offer just for nurseries or does it include Reception in mainstream schools?

A: Reception practitioners are welcome to attend our Wednesday workshops and advertise our parent carer sessions but we ask only nursery practitioners and child minders attend our group consultations.

Q: Who can attend Wednesday Workshops?

A: Everyone is welcome to attend our Wednesday Workshops including Parent Carers with an Early Years child, EY practitioners, health visitors, childminders and wider colleagues.

Q: Can Early Years settings attend the evening Parent Carer workshops?

A: These are just for Parent Carers to ensure they have a space to explore, learn and reflect on child development with each other and Education Psychologists. We ask that practitioners do not attend.

Q: How do we check if we are on the mailing list for the EYFS offer?

A: Our assistant educational psychologists spent the summer updating our Early Years contact list to ensure we have the right points of contact. If you believe you are not receiving information about this offer or believe the details we hold may not be current, please email: **naomi.boswell@lancashire.gov.uk**.

Q: How do we express interest in Early Years Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) training?

A: We will be piloting EY ELSA training with a small group of nurseries based on need and are not taking expressions of interest at this time. We will share further information about this pilot and offer developments later in the year.

Q: Can we access group consultations for children who are in their preschool year attached to a school?

A: Yes, you are welcome to bring them to the early years group consultation. We ask that discussions around reception class needs are brought to the school-age district meetings.

Q: Will there be action plans from EY consultations?

A: No formal record will be made during the EY group consultations but you are welcome to make your own notes. You can use any reflections or actions from the sessions to inform your own school records, e.g. SEND plan, TLPs.

Q: Will the resource bank be available to parents and staff?

A: The resource bank will be developed across the year but all resources made will be suitable for practitioners and Parent Carers.

Growing Together: Empowering Parents for Early Childhood Success

As children grow their experiences, relationships and surroundings fundamentally shape their future. Lancashire Educational Psychology Service are hosting a range of free events for all Parent Carers living in Lancashire to support them in shaping the lives of their little ones. Sessions will include take-home ideas on practical activities to do with your child. Events will take place online using Microsoft Teams to increase accessibility for Parent Carers across the county.

Sessions are available to all Parent Carers in Lancashire with a child aged 0 to 5.

28.01.2026 6pm -7pm - Supporting big emotions

Struggling with your child's big emotions? Our upcoming workshop is here to help! We will equip you with effective strategies for supporting your child through emotional highs and lows. Learn how to create a calm environment, teach coping skills, and improve communication. This session will provide you with the tools to help your child navigate their feelings confidently.

Book your place here: **Growing Together: Empowering Parents for Early Childhood Success. Topic: Supporting big emotions**

18.03.2026 6pm – 7pm - Promoting kindness and co-operation.

Learn new practical ways to foster empathy, teamwork, and positive social interactions in your home and in your child.

Book your place here: **Growing Together: Empowering Parents for Early Childhood Success. Topic: Promoting kindness and co-operation**

29.04.2026 6pm - 7 pm - Technology in Early Years

Join us in a practical and reflective space to explore the role of technology in Early Years development. We will share how digital tools can be used to support learning and play in childhood as well as strategies for balancing screen time and promoting healthy digital habits

Book a place here: **Growing Together: Empowering Parents for Early Childhood Success. Topic: Technology in Early Years**

01.07.2026 6pm – 7pm - Preparing children for the transition to school

Is your child starting primary school soon? This session is designed to help you and your child make a smooth transition! Learn practical tips and strategies to prepare your little one for this exciting new chapter. Discover how to build confidence, develop essential skills, and create a positive attitude towards school.

Book your place here: **Growing Together: Empowering Parents for Early Childhood Success. Topic: Preparing children for the transition to school**





Basically Cheer CIC is an inclusive community health and wellbeing hub that opened in Sept 2024. We offer a range of different activities and events for both children and adults.

When we opened, we were keen to develop and grow our SEN provision, and ensured that we had activities on our timetable that were suitable for those with SEN to get involved in. Shortly after our launch I received 2 phone calls in the same week from parents who were reaching out for support and advice, it was then that I knew we needed to consider a support network for parents.

Rachel Loftus (now our SEN Support) got in touch with me to introduce herself and express her interest in becoming a volunteer, she had a passion for wanting to support parents and give them a voice. Being an SEN parent herself, Rachel had lived experience and knew first hand the struggles that many people were facing.

We decided to launch a monthly SEN parent support group initially just as a safe space for parents to have peer support.

Rachel then began inviting external organisations in to be guests and deliver talks and advice, to date we have been joined by: Lancashire FASD, Harrys Hub, Burnley Family Hubs, Oral Health Team, New Era, Tapping session with Claire Chadburn, Lancashire Mind, Social Prescribers, Spring North and Sendias.

Our SEN parent support groups run on **Wednesdays 9:15-11:15am**

Quote - 'Amazing opportunity to meet other parents & be able to share experiences and access a new support system as a parent'

By starting this group, we met Cathy Parkinson (Lancashire FASD) who we are now working in partnership with to raise awareness and create a support network for those who have been impacted by FASD (Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder). FASD is a lifelong neurological disability caused by prenatal alcohol exposure. Cathy is incredibly passionate, and we are proud to be supporting her on this journey.

We also met Amber Glasgow founder of Harrys Hub which is an Autism support group. We are excited to be working in partnership to launch a second monthly SEN parent support group which will run on the **3rd Saturday** of every month. This session will run alongside our Cheerful Kids activity club so any parents that want to bring their children can book them on this session if they wish.



Cheerful Kids is our weekly activity club that runs every

Saturday 10am – 12:30pm.

Children take part in different activities including games, arts and crafts and more. This is the perfect opportunity for them to make friends and have fun in a safe environment. Parents are welcome to stay or they can drop off and collect if appropriate. The session costs just £2 and includes a snack (usually toast, crumpets, yoghurt and fruit).

We are currently also seeking volunteers for this group so if anyone is interested, please get in touch.



We also run adult SEN activities which include:

Unity Stars – competitive cheerleading team (£24.50 per month subscription)

Fridays 10am-10:55am

SEN Fitness (£5.50 per week)

Fridays 11am-12pm

Arts & Crafts for wellbeing (£6 per week)

Fridays 12:30pm-2pm

Contact:

Basically Cheer CIC

Former Parkside Methodist Church,
Cog Lane, Burnley, BB11 5AH

hello@basicallycheercic.com

07766 743934

www.basicallycheercic.com

Follow us on Facebook:

@BasicallyCheerCIC,

@HarrysHub, @LancashireFASD

SEN ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS

EVERY FRIDAY

Basically Cheer

Cheerleading Competition Team
10-10:55am **£24.50 PER MONTH**

Dance & Fitness Class
11am-12pm **£5.50**

Arts & Crafting for Wellbeing
12:30-2pm **£6**

BASICALLY CHEER CIC
FORMER PARKSIDE METHODIST CHURCH, COG LANE, BURNLEY
07766 743934

SEN ACTIVITIES FOR ALL

INCLUSIVE | SUPPORTIVE | ADAPTIVE

Basically Cheer

Unity Stars (Competitive Cheerleading Team)
Friday's 10am - 10:55am

SEN/Disability Fitness
Friday's 11am - 12pm

Adult Arts & Crafts
Friday's 12:30pm - 2pm

SEN Monthly Parent Support Network Coffee Morning
Wednesday's 9.15am - 11am

Cheerful Kids Activity Club
Saturday's 10am - 12.30pm

Monthly Book Club
1st Monday of every month
6pm - 7pm

Basically Cheer CIC
Former Parkside Methodist Church
Cog Lane, Burnley
BB11 5AH
07766 743934
hello@basicallycheercic.co

Partnerships with:

Lancashire Combined County Authority

Funded by UK Government

BURNLEY PENDLE ROSENDALE COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Burnley.gov.uk

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW A YOUNG CARER?



We support young carers under the age of 18 who provide regular, ongoing care and emotional support to a family member who has a disability, a long-term illness (physical or mental wellbeing) or a problem with alcohol and/or drugs and are significantly affected by their caring role. We accept referrals from all organisations, services, schools, training providers, health & social care, and self/family referrals.

Referral forms can be obtained by contacting us directly to receive a paper document via post or email. You can also download our referral form using the QR code below.

For more information, or to chat anything through before referring, please don't hesitate to contact us by phone on:
01772 641 002
or email :
lancashireyoungcarers@barnardos.org.uk

You can also find our social media, service information, and helpful services page by scanning our QR code:





SEND Survey 2025 – What Families Told Us

Thank you for taking the time to fill in the SEND survey, your feedback is so valuable to The SEND Partnership and one way we can learn and improve.

We've listened to your voices - from children, young people, and parent carers across Lancashire. Here's what you shared and what we're doing next.

Children and Young People

- **272 responses** 2024-5 – mostly aged 12–14.
- **Top priorities:**
 - Making friends and having a social life
 - Looking after mental health
 - Education or work
- **What's going well:**
 - 92% feel safe and happy at home
 - 74% enjoy time with friends
 - 84% have fun away from school or work
- **Where we need to improve:**
 - Only 43% feel listened to
 - 38% feel they get enough support
 - Mental health remains a concern
- **Your messages:**
 - "Teachers need to listen more and be more understanding."
 - "Waiting times for assessment are very long and no support."

Parent Carers

- **556 responses** between February and August 2025.
- **Key concerns:**
 - Communication and feeling listened to (36% agreed)
 - Delays in EHCP processes and assessments
 - Lack of mental health support
 - Limited transition planning for post-16 and adulthood
- **What's working well:**
 - Supportive schools and SENCOs
 - Charities and community groups
 - Direct payments for personal assistants
- **What needs to change:**
 - More funding for schools and therapies
 - Better signposting and clearer communication
 - Inclusive clubs and activities
 - SEND-specific training for professionals

Next Steps

Your feedback shapes our SEND Priority Action Plan. We're committed to:

- **Improving communication and reducing waiting times**
- **Strengthening mental health support**
- **Increasing inclusive opportunities for children and young people**
- **Supporting families through every stage of life**

Find out more and get involved:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/lancashire-send-partnership/>



CHEERFUL KIDS

BASICALLY Cheer

This is our SEN specific activity club.

The sessions are open to everyone, but adapted for children with additional needs!

Join us for a fun, inclusive session where families can explore a variety of activities together.

Whether it's sensory play, crafts, or games, each week offers something new for you and your little ones to enjoy in a supportive environment.

**Weekly on a Saturday
10.00AM - 12.30PM**

£2

LOCAL COMMUNITY
HEALTH AND WELLBEING HUB

COMMUNITY FUND

BASICALLY CHEER CIC, COO LANE, BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE BB11 5AH
MOBILE: 07766743934 EMAIL: HELLO@BASICALLYCHEERCIC.COM






Colourful Footsteps "Mini"

Colourful Footsteps "Mini" welcomes all children 0-5 who have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities or are awaiting assessment and would benefit from our calm and supportive space.

The group offers free and structured play to help with development plus a supportive atmosphere for parents and carers.

Siblings also welcome.

**Join us at
Duke Street Family Hub
Duke Street
Chorley
PR1 3DU
Every Thursday
10am - 11.30am
(term time only)**

FREE Snack provided!



ONE STOP SHOP

Preston West

Monthly Drop In -

Families can access free advice & support

- Community Gateway
- Citizen Advice
- Employment advice - DWP
- Relationship advice
- Runshaw College Apprenticeships
- Community Education Sexual Health
- Debt Advice/Support
- Free Funded Nursery Places
- School Nurse team

This is a Warm and Welcome Session

Come along and enjoy a hot Drink and bite to eat.

No Appointment Needed

Second Thursday of the month, 2pm-4pm

Wellbeing

Lancashire County Council

Preston West Family Hub
Ashton Primary School Site, Ainsdale Drive,
Preston, PR2 1TU
Telephone: 01772 536419






FREE snack provided

Every Wednesday 3.15 - 4.45

COLOURFUL FOOTSTEPS

FREE GROUP SUITABLE FOR PRIMARY AGED CHILDREN WITH SEND @ DUKE STREET FAMILY HUB

This group aims to provide a space for children with SEND to develop social and emotional skills along with building their confidence and resilience.

The session provides lots of engaging activities both physical and emotional for the children including soft play, games and arts & crafts.

Are you a parent or carer of an adult with a learning disability? (18+)



Lancashire
Learning Disability
Partnership Board

The Lancashire Learning Disability Partnership Board would like to:

- **connect** with parents and carers
- **understand** their lived experience
- **support** them to have a **voice**

If you're supporting your loved one to navigate health and social care systems, friendships and relationships, transition, benefits, housing, transport, employment or accessibility...

we'd love to hear from you.



Scan to find out
more about our
work



01228 474479



maria.lord@wearepeoplefirst.co.uk

CONNECTED MINDS

Connected Minds, a facilitated peer support group for people who are neurodivergent or have a family member who is.



30th September; 22nd October; 26th November 2025
13th January; 11th February; 10th March; 14th April; 12 May 2026
@6pm-7.30pm, The Coach House, Rhyddings Park

Booking each session via
www.friendsofrhyddingspark.com/shop



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SEND

LANCASHIRE
FAMILY
HUB
NETWORK

Peer Support Drop In

With Community Seniors/Family Hub Navigator

Every 3rd Wednesday
of the month

9:30am – 11:30am
West Paddock Family
Hub
PR25 1HR

Peer Support drop in
for parents/carers
of children with SEND

Partner agencies will
join some of our drop ins, such as

SENDIAS, Key,
Primary Mental
Health Workers,
ASD Pathway Navigator,
Educational Psychologists,
Barnardo's, Lancashire Positive
Minds and
Lancashire Parent
Carer Forum



Lancashire County Council – contact details

www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/get-involved/contact Email: enquiries@lancashire.gov.uk

	Service	Number
Corporate Services	Signposting / General enquiries	0300 123 6701
	Libraries	0300 123 6703
	Library Service Automated Renewal Line	0300 123 6704
	Registration and Certification Service	0300 123 6705
	School Admissions	0300 123 6707
	School Appeals	0300 123 6708
	Lancashire Adult College	0300 123 6709
Care Connect	Social Care	0300 123 6720
	Safeguarding Adults	0300 123 6721
	Emergency Duty Team	0300 123 6722
Travel and Transport	Blue Badges	0300 123 6736
	NoW Card	0300 123 6737
	Schools Transport	0300 123 6738
Local Inclusion Offices	South (Preston, Chorley, South Ribble, West Lancashire)	01772 531 597
	East (Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Pendle, Burnley, Rossendale)	01254 220 553
	North (Lancaster, Fylde, Wyre)	01524 581 200
Other Useful Numbers	Family Information Service	0300 123 6712
	Carers Lancashire	0345 688 7113
	SEND Helpline	01772 533 900
	SEND Information, Advice and Support Team	0300 123 6706
	Children & Family Wellbeing Service	0800 511 111

Changes to the Lancashire SEND Directory – What You Need to Know

We want to let you know about some changes we are making to the Lancashire SEND Directory.

Before the end of the year we'll be moving to a new supplier for the directory, which means from December it will look a little different but will still contain all the information you currently access and more. You'll also still be able to access the Directory in your usual way.

The SEND Directory is an important tool for families, carers and professionals and we know how much you value it, which is why these changes are part of a wider project to make things even better for people looking to find services and support in Lancashire. The SEND directory will form part of the broader Lancashire Service Finder which has been designed to bring together information about council and community services in one easy-to-use place, and help you find services and support that meets your and your family's needs, whether that's advice, activities or specialist help.

We're excited about these improvements and will keep you updated as we move through the changes. Thank you for your continued support as we make the directory even better for everyone in Lancashire.

Your Help Is Essential

We would welcome contributions from Children, Young People, Parent Carers, Voluntary and Statutory Agencies:

- Are you involved with a project or group you would like to promote
- Details of forthcoming diary dates
- Opportunities for Children and Young People with SEND
- Any ideas, views, letters, poems, etc, you would like to share
- Useful websites that you would recommend to other families

Contributions for future issues – please contact us.

Email: **FIND@lancashire.gov.uk**

Tel: **01772 538077**



Do you have anything to share in the SEND Newsletter? We would love to hear from you!

Editorial Group

Lancashire County Council

Anna.burkinshaw@lancashire.gov.uk

Sarah.deady@lancashire.gov.uk

Parent Representatives*

Lucy Ellis – Lancaster

Amy Blackburn – Pendle

If undelivered, please return to:
Room CH1:42, County Hall, Preston,
Lancashire PR1 8RJ

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter in a different format, or if you no longer require a copy, please call **01772 538077** or email **FIND@lancashire.gov.uk**

*Parent carers from other areas interested in joining the group, please contact us (details above).

Voluntary Organisation

Miranda Hyman – Joint Chair, Lancashire Parent Carer Forum

Health

Clair Martin – Designated Clinical Officer, North Locality



We also have a facebook page.

For regular updates, please 'like' our page at: www.facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer

Get this free newsletter sent to your door

If families would like to have a free copy of the SEND Newsletter delivered to their home 4 times a year, please register online at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/getting-help/send-newsletter

To Professionals – please email **FIND@lancashire.gov.uk**

You are welcome to photocopy, display and distribute this newsletter

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