



North Lancashire Directions Group Parent Carer Network

Event report 2014

FREE

Saturday
1st March
2014

11am-4pm

Crafts



North Lancashire
Directions Group
Family Fun &
Information Day

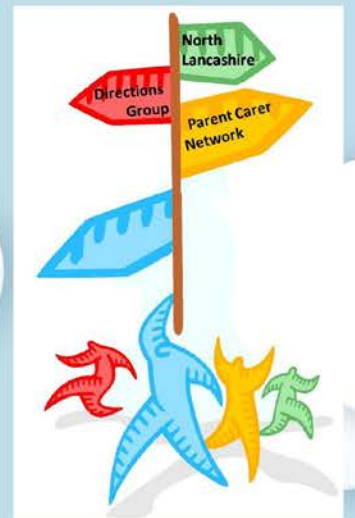
For children
with additional
needs and their
families

Salt Ayre Sports
Centre Lancaster

Doris Henderson Way,
Salt Ayre Lane, Lancaster, LA1 5JS.

Stall holders and speakers
from local and national
support groups, providers and
charities

For details and to pre register for
tickets and seminar places go to
www.nldg2014.eventbrite.com



**Sure Start
Children's Centres**



Number of families attended - 126

Parent carers - 205

Children / dependents - 208

Students - 2

Volunteers from Uni of Cumbria - 12

NLDG Organisers - 4

Stall holders - 87 individuals representing 41 organisations

Total attendance 518 individuals

www.nldg2014.eventbrite.co.uk

Eventbrite registration - 400 pre-registered individuals of which 278 checked in on the day with another 135 registering on the day at Salt Ayre.

The 2014 Information day was a fantastic success running at Salt Ayre Sports Centre with the support and some funding from Lancaster City Council. Their support every year is brilliant. The staff who were involved with setting up and cleaning up on the day also deserve a huge thank you!

R Leisure Hire very kindly offered us a special rate for the use of their inflatable and soft play equipment. Twisted Genius Balloon Modeller also gave us a special rate and created some amazing balloons for the kids (and not so grown ups!).

Thanks also to Preston City Trampolining Club who came up to run the trampoline sessions for us. The smiles on the children's faces were amazing!

The mini beasts from Williamson's park mini zoo were a very welcome addition to the event this year. Snakes and lizards for people to hold and admire as well as other creatures to look at.

We used the treasure hunt maps again this year kindly organised by Joan Bill from Parent partnership. These are a brilliant way to get the families around all the stalls and various activities on offer on the day. Wicked Workshops came to help the children find the letters for the map. The Captain was very entertaining and answered lots of questions and even showed off his sword wielding skills! Blackburn and East Lancs Model railway society made some children very happy with their Thomas the Tank layout. It was very generous of them to come and support the event.

We had planned to hold a number of seminars but this didn't quite work out in the end but it is something we will try and organise a bit better for next year.

The group decided to use the eventbrite website to promote the event again this year and also to encourage families to pre register their families details before arriving at the venue. This proved successful again this year and enables us to monitor the numbers of people attending. It also helps us to show how very much needed this event is!

University of Cumbria provided volunteers to support the event yet again this year which was very much appreciated by the event organisers, stall holders and families on the day. Without their help, the event would be extremely difficult to run.

Huge thanks must go to the team of organisers who pulled out all the stops this year to support the event and enabled so many people to come along and find information as well as

have fun in a safe and understanding environment. Even now 2 weeks after the event, we are still receiving feedback and messages from families saying how much they enjoyed the event and can't wait for the next one!

In order to run the event again, NLDG will need to do some fundraising. I am planning to organise 1 or 2 fun days this summer with bouncy castles and fun stuff for the kids as well as stall holders from local businesses. There will be a raffle and possibly a car boot sale. Details to follow. If there is anyway you can support these fundraising activities please get in touch as soon as possible with your offers of help.

To all the stall holders, local services, local businesses and individuals who gave up their time or donated something to support this event, a HUGE thank you on behalf of all the parents, carers and children who attended and benefitted from the day.

To all the parents, carers and children who came, thank you SO much for coming and making the day fun, exciting and worthwhile!

We have a few things we need to do differently next year and a list of new organisations and activities we would like to include. Each year we find different groups and services to include, we hope to provide something for everyone and try our best to make it as fun as possible! On the whole the day was a resounding success and the weather even brightened up for us!

Thank you for all your support, for answering the questions, filling out the forms, giving your suggestions. Most of all thanks for your kind words of thanks and making it all worth it.

Lucy Ellis
On behalf of
North Lancashire Directions Group

Louise Taylor - Lancaster City Council
Joan Bill - Parent Partnership
Emma Egglestone - University of Cumbria
James Meeks - Firbank Children's Centre
Trisha Wilkinson - Lune Park Children's Centre
Claire Rogerson - Lune Park Children's Centre
Tracy Duffy - Parent / carer
Debbie Callendar - Parent / carer
Gillian Mann - Parent / carer
Lucy Ellis - Parent / carer
Emma Askew - Parent / carer (chief cake maker and volunteer feeder)

Ages of attending children with additional needs or disabilities

Age range	No. of children
0-2	31
3-5	53
6-11	99
12-16	28
17-19	3

*Not all ages of children were disclosed by families,

Additional needs / disabilities of attendees

Diagnosis	Number of children
Autistic Spectrum Condition	76
Cerebral Palsy	8
Down's Syndrome	12
Epilepsy	8
ADHD	14
Global Development Delay	9
Tuberous Sclerosis	3
Dyslexia	4
Dyspraxia	4
Hypermobility	10
NF1	2
Other	18

*It should be noted that not all families gave the diagnoses of their children so details in the report are based on what information was collected from attendees on the day or prior to the event via the eventbrite website registration. Some children have multiple diagnoses / conditions too.

Attendee Location

Area	No. of families attended
Lancaster	44
Morecambe	33
Heysham	15
Preston	1
Carnforth	5

Other areas including Burton In Lonsdale, Bentham, Kendal, Chorley, Cabus, Blackburn Gateshead, Rochdale Northwich, Keighley and Austwick - 25 families

Stallholders - 41 organisations and services represented

A family's Best Friend - specialist childminding service
A Stitch Different
AOK - Peer Support Group Lune Park Children's Centre
Carers Point / N-Compass
Contact A family
DWP Carers Allowance Unit
Difference:Enabled - Enactus Lancaster University
East Lancs Deaf Society
F-ASD Forum for Autistic Spectrum Disorders
Hate Crimes Police Liaison Officer
Healthwatch Lancashire
Help Direct
Hypermobility Syndromes Association
Karl Dixon Photography
Lancashire County Council Employment Support Service
Lancashire Football Association - Inclusion and Disability
Lancaster and Morecambe Model engineering Society - Cinderbarrow Train Track
Lancaster Tennis Club
Longlands Child Development Centre
Making Space - Mental Health Charity
Morecambe Children's Centres
Morecambe Road School - Mo-Ro's
National Autistic Society - Furness Branch
NHS Occupational and Physio Therapists
North Lancashire Directions Group
North Lancashire Down's Syndrome Support Group
Parent Partnership Service
PCDS - parents + Children with Disabilities Support group Lancaster and Morecambe
Pelican Sensory
Preston City Trampolining Club
R Leisure Hire - Inflatable's and soft play equipment
Salt Ayre Sports Centre
Scope
Space Centre - Sensory centre Preston
Tuberous Sclerosis Association
Twisted Genius Balloon Modeller
Unique kidz and Co - Specialist After school and holiday club providers
Waves Swim School
Wicked Workshops
Williamson's park Mini Zoo
Witherslack Group

Feedback from parents on the day

- The info/fun day was blinking brill!! Cerebra were amazing and are offering lots of support including a sleep specialist who will come and offer advice at home ... We didn't know most of these services were available to us.... Can't thank all those involved enough..... For the first time I felt completely relaxed taking Harry to a fun day..... Nobody batted an eyelid as he spun, hummed oh and had a Harry meltdown over the man with the balloons Can't wait for the next one xx
- 10X better this year, well done guys!
- We came from outside the local area and found the event very informative and was signposted to lots of very useful support agencies. A great day.
- Everybody has been very helpful
- Some stalls were only staffed by one person so if they were busy we couldn't get the stickers for the treasure hunt. This upset the children. - [we plan to put the stickers in a pot/ wallet on the front of the tables for families to help themselves next year.](#)
- Excellent experience well done
- Everything was organised in an organised manner.
- Got all the info I could have hoped for and more!
- Maybe include more info for adults. - [we plan to invite more adult services next year](#)
- The only problem is that it was difficult to speak to stall holders and contain the children!! Maybe next year we should bring someone to look after the children.
- Sports hall was cold - [we plan to make sure main doors will be closed well in advance to letting the public in.](#)
- Stalls were packing up early, not fully open til 4. - [we plan to officially end the day at 3 instead of 4 so families arrive in time and stall holders have enough time to get home afterwards.](#)
- Had a lovely chat with the lady from Cerebra and got lots of info off her on allsorts even an application for carers to get a free will wrote it was a fantastic day, looking forward to next year
- The lovely people from Hyper mobility were really helpful for me.
- Couldn't stop long but there was lots of great information about so many different groups and services as well as fun activities which the kids really enjoyed and it also is a chance to meet people who you talk to on Facebook but you haven't met before. Great for parents of newly diagnosed children who don't know where to start, well done Lucy and team
- Fabulous as usual, kids loved the mini beasts, trampolines and face painting. Lots of new info there and useful contacts made - so good to know you are not alone
- We thought the day was great for both children and parents my son loved seeing everyone and the use of apparatus very useful information we learned you can have a specialist swimming instructor.
- I LOVED the sensory area in the projectile hall. Great to be able to see/feel the things for sale and for kids to try them out as they can be expensive and I've bought things in the past which Henry has shown no interest in. I also love seeing so many familiar faces in one venue - every corner I turned there was someone to chat to I hadn't seen in ages and meeting their kids as well because we hear so much about each other's children but sometimes don't get to meet them. I managed to give advice to a few new parents and, as a stall holder, feeling you are doing something worthwhile and helping people...even if it's just 1 family...is a great feeling. Also loved the fruit stall.

Is there anything you would like to see in the Lancaster / Morecambe area?

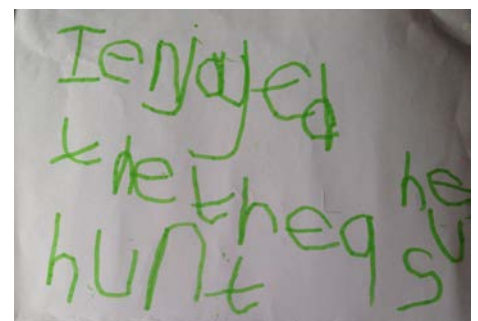
- More to do with the kids
- More fun days - we are planning 2 family fun days this summer to raise funds for next years information day
- A trampoline club in Morecambe / Lancaster - Information on the Uni Of Cumbria sessions has been passed on to this family
- Support groups for people with bi-polar and their carers family
- Easy access support
- Support groups
- Bikes
- More respite / days out for kids in the holidays - details on Lancashire Break Time and Unique Kidz services have been passed on to this family.
- More drama based activities - We are approaching the Dukes Theatre and the Grand Theatre in Lancaster to discuss this further.
- Bit more information for disabled sports in Morecambe - We are approaching the local council to see what they can offer by means of a guide / more groups
- More information for partially sighted children - we are approaching the local Galloway's Society for the Blind charity for information on services for children.
- More events like this one - we are planning a family fun day or 2 this year to raise funds for next years Information day.
- ADHD Support Group - Information on ADHD Northwest and ADHD Lancashire as well as local support groups has been passed on to this family.

What helped me the most about today?

- Understanding that there is help out there X2
- Talking to other families x2
- Explaining how the system works and breaking things down into concrete steps so I don't feel so overwhelmed.
- Realising I am NOT ALONE!
- Support groups
- Friends, courses
- Parent Partnership
- Finding Information
- Friends and talking!

What have you liked about today?

- Informative stalls
- Great to have so much help together in 1 place
- Everything!
- Good to see what others are providing
- Trampolines
- The kids liked doing the treasure hunt
- Seeing so many people in a similar situation, so left feeling less alone
- Eye opener!
- All of it FAB!



My biggest worry?

- When my child goes to secondary school
- The future
- The damage that challenging behaviour is doing to all my family
- He's already falling behind at school. What can I do to help him concentrate?
- What happens in the future
- Finding work after leaving school
- Transition to high school

What I need for my child now?

- School and professional health support
- Turning advice into practical, concrete help at home and school - ACTIONS NOT WORDS!
- More support
- A carer's assessment
- Support for his emotional needs
- An appointment at Longlands for CARE
- Direction for leaving school and finding work
- Specialist teaching in mainstream to be more available

What I think I might need for the future.

- Emotional support
- Help with transition to high school and being more independent
- Transition into high school
- More courses X5
- Emotional support for child and family
- More help and advice for children
- Better access to services in our area
- More help and advice on sensory issues
- Need information on the new EHCP
- More Autism based courses for parents
- Better access for our kids to life skills training
- Our voices to be heard

