

# Get Connected

## Flash Report



A project that aims to promote inclusion in young people with additional support needs (ASN) has been launched in East Lothian. The Get

Connected initiative will help promote access to mainstream services as well as clubs and activities.

A Get Connected survey found that 72% of parents found it difficult to find information on East Lothian ASN friendly activities online.

The project hosted a launch event called the 'Get Connected Breakfast' which gave 90 parents, activity providers and council representatives the opportunity to discuss inclusion.

This report provides a snapshot of that day and the ideas formed. It will also give you information on the Get Connected web project and on how activity providers can become...

**Get Connected  
Champions!**

**What do people think of what Get Connected is trying to achieve?**

"Positive and inspiring, hopefully we can all work together and support each other"

"Wonderful. Connection and conversation are ways to continue developing practice, provision, awareness and caring."

"Great initiative to get started with, communication is key."

"I'm totally behind Get Connected!"

"Excellent initiative. Very important there is equal opportunities for all"



## Why is East Lothian Getting Connected?

The Get Connected web source will offer a starting point for children to find their own social interests. It gives them the chance to try new opportunities.

It's important that all children are able to find an interest and try things out, meet friends and share activities - especially when you have additional communication or physical challenges.

Not only is Get Connected connecting organisations, it's helping children feel connected to their local community.



## "Being different brings people together"

Angus Langlands  
First Scottish Youth  
Parliament Member with  
an additional support  
need



### Email

**[Iritchie4@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Iritchie4@eastlothian.gov.uk) or  
call 01620 827 836 to sign up**

## **What is a Get Connected Champion?**

If you sign up and get involved you are  
championing inclusion.

A champion can be any East Lothian  
activity provider or council service.

If you believe that activity inclusion is  
important and are willing to convey  
your enthusiasm, we would like to  
speak to you.

There is a continued need for  
information and good signposting for  
services, so you will be part of an  
exciting online directory of local  
inclusive activities.



**Be part of an exciting directory of  
inclusive providers**



**Unlock possibilities for your  
organisation and thousands of  
children in East Lothian**

# Understanding integration is different from inclusion - Thoughts of Martin Donkin

Martin advocates spending time in standard leisure activity settings can help children with ASN better adapt to the rest of the world. That means easier friendships and work situations later in life, and less overall shock when it comes to adapting to the world later on.

Martin recently helped build Get Connected in Newcastle; he redesigned care to disabled young people in Newcastle to embed greater choice through personal budgets. The council created an access fund that provides over 100 children with an inclusive experience. Newcastle Council invests about £150,000 in inclusive services. About 300 disabled children now get a high quality offer of sport, arts, dance or music and about 10% go on to have a truly sustained inclusive path, some years much higher.

## Art connects with Newcastle communities

5 April 2017



Photo by Keith Mills: Sid Cuthbertson taking part in a dance lesson at Dance City as part of Arts Connect.

The free Newcastle-based initiative, Arts Connect, delivered by the Arts Development Team at Newcastle City Council, has just secured funding to ensure its crucial work can continue in the city for another three-years, by gaining an Early Intervention Grant through the Children with Disabilities

**Integration** means that people with ASN can be placed in mainstream settings with some adaptations and resources, but on condition that they can fit in with the pre-existing structures and unaltered environment. **Inclusion** means that people with ASN are part of mainstream services alongside their non-ASN peers. This is a setting where there is a commitment to removing all barriers to the full participation of everyone as equally valued and unique individuals.

**"Does discrimination lessen when people are segregated or included, hidden or visible, recognized or ignored?"**

-Martin Donkin  
In Control



# Ideas on being inclusive from our workshops:

## Be open to yes!



"If a child wants to take part, don't take no for an answer. Be willing to explore and get out your comfort zone "

"If we want to support a disabled child in an authentically personalised way, we need to understand who they are, what they enjoy, what they aspire to, what support is already available and how services work locally"

### An idea?

Children at a local youth group in East Lothian have produced an 'All About Me' booklet, which sets out a child's capacities and preferences. This is a simple format to share a specific child's best way of working to use for activities.

## Share information



"Young people and their families with ASN need to know what activities and options are actually out there"

"Parents want to be able to reach contact points that are open and approachable when discussing options for their children"

### An idea?

Well, that's where Get Connected will step in! If providers sign up as champions, they are giving themselves a clear message that they are inclusive and ready to listen.

## Consistency is key



"Inclusion takes time to build, but be consistent in support."

"By consistently working together, we can promote each other's opportunities, training opportunities, practical steps and volunteers"

### An Idea?

Children Inc is a charity that talks to families and takes the time to really understand. This gives them a much better chance of putting together the right support, Children Inc used some of their funding to set up personal budgets for families. This gave them more control over how their child's needs were met by local activity services.

## What was feedback for the event



99% enjoyed the event



99% thought it was a great idea



31 providers signed up to find out more



**"It takes a community to raise a child"**

-Sharon Saunders  
Head of Children Services