



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026



**sensory
support
uk**

WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH?

- Health & Wellbeing
- Education & Safeguarding
- ADHD & Autism Report
- Avoid pension poverty
- Child Trust Fund - Scam
- What is Probate?

REBRAND

We are excited to announce that NRASS is now **Sensory Support UK**. Our name has changed, but our promise stays the same: to support people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind across Gateshead and beyond. Appointments can be made via our website, please use the direct booking link in this email.

Meet the Team



Jackie Wanless

Manager / Advocate



Kay Hewson

Advocate



Mandy Collins

Trainee Advocate

NEW

We are a small team, with Sarah Dobson in charge of our admin. We listen. If you need help, we will do our best to support you or point you to the right service.

WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH?



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Free “Swap to Stop” Vape Kits

If you smoke and want to try switching to vaping, we have free vape starter kits available.

Each kit includes:-

- A rechargeable vape device
- A 4-week supply of pods and e-liquids
- Up to 12 weeks of supplies



If you need more we can offer different strengths and flavours. If you're not sure what to choose, we can help you pick the right option.

This offer is for people who currently smoke and want support to stop.

EDUCATION

Children's Wellbeing & Schools Bill – Now Law

New law was agreed 29 April 2026 to help keep children safer and improve support in schools.

The law brings in 4 changes:-

- New child protection teams in every council area. These teams must work together across services.
- A 'Single Unique Identifier' (SUID) for every child. So services can share important information safely and quickly.



- Family group meetings must be offered to all families where a child may be at risk of going into care.
- A register of children not in school in every local authority, to help make sure children are safe and receiving education.

This law aims to improve safeguarding, communication between services, and early support for families.

ADHD & Autism

Healthwatch Gateshead has published a new report about the support people receive after being diagnosed with Autism or ADHD. The research looked at two age groups: 18–24 and 50+.

People told Healthwatch that:-

- there's big gaps in support after being diagnosed.
- the gaps make it harder to get the right health care, social care, and wellbeing support.

- Many people received a diagnosis but didn't get help afterwards.

The report says Gateshead needs a clear support so autistic and ADHD adults know what help is available and how to access it.





5 Ways to Reduce Your Risk of Pension Poverty



Many people are at risk of not having enough money when they retire. 'Which?' has shared five simple steps that can help people improve their pension income.

Check your State Pension record

Make sure your National Insurance contributions are correct. Missing years can reduce your pension.

Claim Pension Credit if you're eligible

Pension Credit can top up your income. It can unlock extra help, like housing support and free NHS dental care.

Look at your workplace or private pension

Even small increases in contributions can make a big difference over time.

Delay taking your pension if you can

Waiting longer before claiming can increase what you receive each week.

Get Free Advice

Go to 'MoneyHelper' and 'Pension Wise' online.



SSUK can help you understand your options.

Find out how to avoid scams. Check our June Newsletter for more information!

Fake letters are being sent out about Child Trust Funds. Some people have received letters that look official, but they're scams. The scammers pretend to help you "find" or "claim" your Child Trust Fund, but they are really trying to:-

Take personal information

Steal your money

Charge unnecessary fees

What you need to know:-

- You do NOT need to pay anyone to find your Child Trust Fund
- The Government has a free service to help you find it (this is the safest and official way)
- If you get a letter asking for money, bank details, or personal information, do not reply
- Always check the sender, scammers use names that sound real

Search "Find a Child Trust Fund GOV.UK" online (you will need your National Insurance number)



What Is Probate?

Probate is the legal process that happens after someone dies.

It gives a person the legal permission to deal with the money, property, and belongings of the person who has died.

Probate is important because it:-

- Proves a will is real (if there is a will).
- Shows who is allowed to sort out the estate (the estate means everything the person owned).
- Allows banks, landlords, and organisations to release money to the right person.
- Makes sure debts and bills are paid before anything is given to family.

Without probate, banks and other organisations cannot let anyone access the person's money or property.



Need Help?

Book an appointment with one of our Advisers.

Click the QR code here



We look forward to meeting you