

Name of service/organisation:

North Kirklees Autism Support Group & Friends

Description: The support group was set up in 2005 with approximately 30 members and in the last three years we have grown to over 120! Our members are from the Kirklees area and wanted to belong to an **INCLUSIVE** support group.

We aim to:

- Provide opportunities for children with autism, Asperger syndrome, Down's syndrome, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, hearing and visual impairments, a range of genetic disorders and their siblings to socialize and interact by integrating them at least once a month and more during the school holidays.
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers to share experiences enabling them to support each other by listening to each others' concerns and giving advice when required.
- Provide relevant contacts that parents/carers may be unaware of who can provide help, advice and/or support, e.g. Parent Partnership, Carers Gateway, Autism Outreach, etc.
- Keep parents/carers informed of activities in writing by providing a regular newsletter.

Intended client group: Families of children with autism, Asperger Syndrome, Down's Syndrome, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, hearing and visual impairments and a range of genetic disorders who live in the Kirklees area.

Contact Kath Woodhouse on 0777253 4625 for a membership pack!

Phone number: 07772 534625

Main Contact: Kath Woodhouse

Further Information

Clearly the main aim of the group is to support the children in gaining life skills and confidence (**and having fun**) through attempting and participating in a wide range of activities. The funds we have raised have meant we have been able to run a full programme of varied activities for members throughout the last five years including: monthly Krazy Kids sessions, an annual Halloween party, an annual Christmas party, sledging at X-scape, ice-skating, rock-climbing, bowling, swimming parties at Batley Baths, an annual pantomime trip to see the productions of Carlinghow Theatre players at Batley Town Hall, a trip to Knowsley Safari Park, a fun filled day at Camelot, a trip to Lightwater valley theme park and Flamingoland, weekly fitness training with Total Sports and the parents' Christmas meal and buffet as part of National Carer's week.

