

Education Inclusion Services

Social Communication & Interaction (SCI) Team

Training events 2025-2026

Parents/Carers of Barnsley children and young people with social communication and interaction (SCI) needs, a diagnosis of Autism or those who are on the Autism pathway (ASDAT), we welcome you to attend any of the following courses. You can book all of these courses via our EventBrite page:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/barnsley-social-communication-interaction-team-88988186193>

Thinking Differently

This is a parent only workshop, specifically designed to support the families of pupils who have social communication and interaction needs.

27/11/25 ~ 9:30-12pm, Library@TheLightbox (booking opens 1/9/25)

03/03/26 ~ 9:30-12pm, MS Teams (booking opens 1/1/26)

30/06/26 ~ 9:30-12pm Library@The Lightbox (booking opens 1/4/26)

If you have a question, please contact: melaniebooth@barnsley.gov.uk



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Cygnets Autism Support (4th Edition)

This is a parent only workshop with seven weeks of face to face sessions for parents of children and young people (5-18 years) who have received a diagnosis of autism. Two places can be allocated to a family with the second place being given to a second parent/family member or significant other person within the child or young person's life. **You will need to book one ticket and then email Louise Stringer (see below) to specify if you need two places.** Group members will learn about different aspects of autism, have opportunity to relate this learning to their own situation and have opportunities to network together throughout the 7 week course.

Course 1 – 29/09/25, 06/10/25, 13/10/25, 20/10/25, 03/11/25, 10/11/25 and 17/11/25 ~ 10-1pm, Worsbrough Common Primary School (booking now open)

Course 2 – 21/04/26, 28/04/26, 05/05/26, 19/05/26, 02/06/26, 09/06/26 and 16/06/26 ~ 10-1pm, Worsbrough Common Primary School (booking opens 1/3/26)

If you have a question, please contact: louisestringer@barnsley.gov.uk



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Teens Workshop

This is a parent only workshop, specifically designed to support the families of teenagers who have a diagnosis of Autism. This workshop runs once per year in person, but a webinar is also available for access all year round and at your convenience.

16/03/26 ~ 9:30-12:30, Barnsley Town Hall (booking opens 1/1/26)

If you have a question, please contact: christophergoodchild@barnsley.gov.uk



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LEGO Therapy

This workshop will be attended by parents and carers, schools/ settings, other professionals. The session explores using Lego to help develop the child's knowledge, understanding and application of social skills and problem solving.

13/10/25 ~ 1pm - 4pm, Barnsley Town Hall (booking opens 1/9/25)
27/01/26 ~ 9:30 – 12:30pm, Barnsley Town Hall (booking opens 1/11/25)
17/06/26 ~ 9:30 - 12:30pm, Barnsley Town Hall (booking opens 1/4/26)



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If you have a question, please contact: louisestringer@barnsley.gov.uk

Makaton Taster

This workshop will be attended by parents and carers, schools/ settings, other professionals. The Taster Session gives you a general introduction into what Makaton is, and who uses it, with the opportunity to learn a few signs and symbols too. This Taster has a focus around signs that we use in the early stages of communication.

30/09/25 ~ 9:30-11:30, TESCO Stairfoot Community Room
27/01/26 ~ 9:30-11:30, TESCO Stairfoot Community Room
16/06/26 ~ 9:30-11:30, TESCO Stairfoot Community Room

Contact: gemmawhitfield@barnsley.gov.uk for further information or to book a place.

Makaton Signing for Babies and Families

This workshop will be attended by parents and carers, schools/ settings, other professionals. Makaton Signing for Babies and Families training is a series of sessions designed to encourage the development of communication and language skills in babies and children. No previous experience is needed, the sessions are interactive and give you the opportunity to learn up to 100 signs and symbols using songs, games and activities. Some of the signs and symbols include; names of family members, signs related to eating and drinking, animals, transport and play. There is no particular age range specified for babies and young children, as children vary in their developmental milestones. Parent/carers you may have their child at home with you and you can have fun and learn together. They may even want to come and join in on screen!

This course is delivered termly and consists of five weekly 1 hour 15 minute sessions delivered via Microsoft Teams. Places are limited therefore priority is given to parents of children with communication needs.

Contact: gemmawhitfield@barnsley.gov.uk for further information, dates and/or to book a place.

Exploring Autism and Anxiety

This workshop will be attended by parents and carers, schools/settings, other professionals. Join us to consider how autism and anxiety impacts on individuals. We will share good practice and supporting strategies.

30/06/26 ~ 9:30-1:30, Barnsley Town Hall (booking opens 1/4/26)

If you have a question, please contact: hayleyaudin@barnsley.gov.uk



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Early Identification of SCI Needs in the Early Years

This workshop will be attended by parents and carers, schools/ settings, other professionals. The aim of this session is to help Early Years practitioners and teachers to be able to identify SCI needs in children, at the earliest opportunity. A webinar of this course will also be available if the below dates are not suitable.

21/10/25 ~ 1-3pm, MS Teams (booking opens 1/9/25)

21/03/26 ~ 1-3pm, MS teams (**Please note this is a Saturday course*) (booking opens 1/1/26)

If you have a question, please contact: hayleyaudin@barnsley.gov.uk



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An Introduction to Autism

This workshop will be attended by parents and carers, schools/ settings, other professionals. This course introduces an understanding to autism. You will take away strategies that can be used to support and meet the needs of children and young people with autism in the setting. A webinar of this course will also be available if the below dates are not suitable.

06/10/25 ~ 9:30-12:30, Barnsley Town Hall (booking opens 1/9/25)

23/02/26 ~ 9:30-12:30, Barnsley Town Hall (booking opens 1/1/26)

04/06/26 ~ 9:30-12:30, Barnsley Town Hall (booking opens 1/4/26)

If you have a question, please contact: christophergoodchild@barnsley.gov.uk



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An Overview of Using Social Stories and Comic Strip Conversations

This workshop will be attended by parents and carers, schools/ settings, other professionals. We provide an introduction to how and why using Comic Strip Conversations and Social Stories can support children and young people with SCI needs. Learn how to write meaningful Social Stories within the session.

24/11/25 ~ 2 - 4pm, MS Teams (booking opens 1/9/25)

20/04/26 ~ 3:30 - 5:30pm, MS Teams (booking opens 1/1/26)

If you have a question, please contact: heathercollin@barnsley.gov.uk



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Autism and Girls

This workshop will be attended by parents and carers, schools/ settings, other professionals. The aims of the session are to be aware of how girls with autism may present. To recognise how their differences impact them in school and to be able to use strategies that will help staff to support in schools/settings.

09/10/25 ~ 9:30-12:00, Barnsley Town Hall (booking opens 1/9/25)

02/03/26 ~ 9:30-12:00, Barnsley Town Hall (booking opens 1/1/26)

09/06/26 ~ 9:30-12:00, Barnsley Town Hall (booking opens 1/4/26)

If you have a question, please contact: loramoore@barnsley.gov.uk



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Analysing and Managing Behaviour for Children with SCI Needs (with the use of STAR and Iceberg)

This workshop will be attended by parents and carers, schools/ settings, other professionals. The workshop allows you to build an individual profile for a young person you are working with, so that you can recognise the possible underlying reasons for behaviour. You will learn how to analyse the behaviour you see in terms of Autism.

10/11/25 ~ 9:30-12, Barnsley Town Hall (booking opens 1/9/25)

09/03/26 ~ 9:30-12, Barnsley Town Hall (booking opens 1/1/26)

15/06/26 ~ 9:30-12 Barnsley Town Hall (booking opens 1/4/26)

If you have a question, please contact: christophergoodchild@barnsley.gov.uk



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An Overview of Music Interaction

This workshop will be attended by parents and carers, schools/ settings, other professionals. We provide an overview of the 'Music Interaction' approach which is an interactive approach primarily for developing children's social communication and interaction skills.

11/11/25 ~ 9:30-12pm, Barnsley Town Hall (booking opens 1/9/25)

22/04/26 ~ 10-12:30pm, Library@TheLightbox (booking opens 1/1/26)

If you have a question, please contact: gemmawhitfield@barnsley.gov.uk



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Understanding and Using Visual Structure to Support Children with SCI Needs in Early Years settings and Schools

This workshop will be attended by parents and carers, schools/ settings, other professionals. We will offer you the opportunity to look at why visual supports are important and help you to understand how to use and embed visual supports in your setting. The workshop focuses on Objects of reference, First and Then, Choice boards, Visual Timetables and Workstations.

06/11/25 ~ 9:30 -2:30pm, Barnsley Town Hall (booking opens 1/9/25)

29/04/26 ~ 10 - 3pm, Library@TheLightbox (booking opens 1/1/26)

If you have a question, please contact: gemmawhitfield@barnsley.gov.uk



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