



# POSSIBLE DESTINATIONS FOR PUPILS

This leaflet contains information for some of the possible destinations for pupils who are age  
16 years+ and 18 years+

## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Table of contents

#### **16yrs+**

Page 2	Northumberland College
Page 3	Newcastle College
Page 3	Tyne Coast College
Page 4	Azure Garden Centre
Page 5	Kirkley Hall
Page 6	Northumberland Skills
Page 7	Smile for Life - Café Beam

#### **18yrs+**

Page 8	Downs Syndrome Association - Workfit
Page 9	Brightside
Page 10	Journey
Page 10	Hepscott Park Horticulture Unit
Page 11	Sleekburn Horticulture Training Unit
Page 11	Northern Butterflies
Page 12	Café Beam @ Ouseburn Farm
Page 12	The Hub @ Parkhead
Page 13	Border Links
Page 13	Mowbray Day Centre
Page 14	Blyth Riverside Day Care Centre
Page 15	Northstar Performing Arts Centre, Berwick
Page 16	Pottergate Centre, Alnwick
Page 17	The Tynedale Centre, Haugh Lane, Hexham
Page 17	The Centre of Recycling Enterprise
Page 18	Blyth Star Enterprises – The Steamboat
Page 18	Blyth Star Enterprises – The Woodfuel Centre
Page 19	Blyth Star Enterprises – Stakeford Nurseries
Page 20	Gateway
Page 21	HFT
Page 22	Headway Arts
Page 23	Key Enterprises
Page 24	Natural Ability
Page 25	ReDress
Page 26	Twisting Ducks
Page 27	The Hextol Foundation

## **Possible Destinations for Pupils 16yrs+**

**Please see information below on some of the possible provisions for pupils aged 16 years and above.**

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### **Northumberland College**



16yrs+

#### **What they offer**

- Functional skills math and English.
- Level 1 > Level 2 in:

IT and Business, Health & Social Care, Catering & Hospitality, Construction, Sport, Hair & Beauty and Motor Mechanics, Welding

- BTEC Courses

County transport is not guaranteed.

**jenny.nicholls@northumberland.ac.uk**  
**Jenny Nicholls Phone: 0300 7706000 ex 07642**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Newcastle College



16yrs+

#### What they offer

- Functional skills math and English.
- Vocational Courses.
- Level 1 > Level 2 in:
- Catering & Hospitality, Construction, Sport, Hair & Beauty, Digital Art, Vehicle Accident & Repair / Maintenance & Repair, Child Care, Travel & Tourism.
- BTEC Courses
- Specialized ASD Hub.

County transport is not guaranteed.

[Lisa.auton@ncl.coll.ac.uk](mailto:Lisa.auton@ncl.coll.ac.uk)

Lisa Auton / Tom Goundry Phone: 01912266365

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### Tyne Coast College



16yrs+

#### What they offer

- Vocational Courses.
- Entry level 1 > Entry level 2 > Entry level 3 > Level 1 courses
- Specialised facilities and support for SLD pupils
- Independent living pathways
- Functional skills math & English
- Employability pathways (Work Exp., WRL and supported internships)
- County transport is not guaranteed.

[billtyler@tynecoast.ac.uk](mailto:billtyler@tynecoast.ac.uk)

Holly McGrath / Bill Tyler Phone: 01912295312

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Azure Garden Centre



16yrs+

#### What they offer

- Skill Builder
- Stepping Stones Entry Level Independent Living Skills
- BTEC Catering Course
- Hospitality E3 to Level 1
- Horticulture E3 to Level 1
- Functional skills Maths and English
- Retail E3 to Level 1
- Daily living skills, training catering kitchen
- Possible supported internship and supported employability

**Helen.cambell@azure-charitable.co.uk**  
**Helen Campbell Phone: 01670 733966**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Kirkley Hall



16yrs+

#### What they offer

Foundations is Northumberland College's specialised department for students with Special Education Needs and disabilities and students with Learning Disabilities.

Our Independence pathway supports the development of the person through a curriculum which promotes independence skill both in college and at home. The use of an Independence classroom with a kitchen will develop skills that will last a lifetime. To support this, students will also develop personal resilience and work skills to ensure their readiness for the next step.

Our Carousel program allows students the opportunity to taste the practical element of courses, opening opportunities and allow for information-based decisions on what they would like to do next. Currently the carousel program runs sessions in Animal Care, Catering and Horticulture, all based within the college with access to extensive resources i.e., Zoo.

The Supported level 1 program allows students the opportunities to study a dedicated course within the specialised SEND environment. Specialist Animal Care, Catering and Horticulture Lecturers will deliver a fully inclusive program, which allows for the individual needs of each learner to support them through the qualification.

**[Jenny.nicholls@northumberland.ac.uk](mailto:jenny.nicholls@northumberland.ac.uk)**  
**Jenny Nicholls Phone: 0300 7706000 ex 07642**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Northumberland Skills



Northumberland County Council

16yrs+

#### What they offer

We are committed to offering an inclusive curriculum to ensure the best possible progress for all Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities learners. The curriculum offer is to ensure our learners develop the necessary skills, knowledge and attitudes to prepare each learner for their life beyond education.

Pathway 1 - Pathway to Personal Progress (Foundation Life Skills)

Pathway 2 - Promoting Independence (Developing Life Skills)

Pathway 3 - Foundation in Occupational Pathways (Securing Life Skills)

Pre-Internships - To boost confidence and work-ready skills to enable learners to progress to a full Supported Internship

Supported Internships - For 16-25 year olds with an EHCP

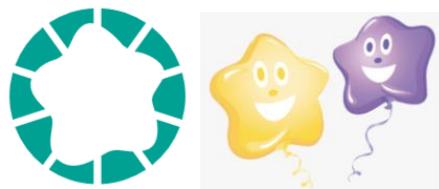
We provide support to help learners into: Apprenticeship opportunities or Further Education or Employment.

**Shona.richardson@northumberland.gov.uk**  
**Shona Richardson Phone: 01670 623691 or 01670 626108**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Smile for Life - Café Beam



16yrs+

#### What they offer

Work experience placements – a beautiful café/bistro which is run by a team of young people with a variety of disabilities and learning difficulties.

Prepare all the produce, serve customers, operate tills and handle money as well as welcoming many different members of the community both volunteers and customers.

**lauren@smileforlife.org.uk**  
**Phone: 0191 2844166**

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## **Possible Destinations for Pupils 18yrs+**

**Please see more information below for some of the possible provisions for pupils aged 18 years and above.**

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### **Downs Syndrome Association – Workfit**



18yrs+

#### **What they offer**

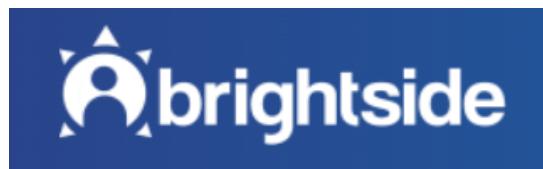
- Supported voluntary work
- Work experience
- Supported apprenticeships/ internships
- Paid work

**Alison Thwaite Phone: 07973 612720**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Brightside



18yrs+

Social services referral

No lift to upper floor

No personal hygiene facilities in some services

Everyone should have the opportunity to continually learn and develop meaningful skills and friendships, in their own communities and with peers of a similar age. We want to help to maximise this potential by offering diverse and fun opportunities to learn, grow and thrive.

The Low Needs Service is based in our large residential property in Ashington, this innovative service is designed to maximise the independence of group members, while learning new skills in a real-life home environment.

Medium Needs Service incorporates elements from each of our service in order to cater for those with a moderate level of need, this service offers opportunities to have fun, grow social relationships and explore developing further independence in a safe, structured and supportive environment.

High Needs Service offers a highly structured programme of activities, that is particularly beneficial to those who thrive on routine and consistency. High levels of experienced staff, along with the appropriate environment supports individuals to engage in stimulating experiences while minimising anxiety as much as possible.

The Specialist Service supports those with complex needs in a predominantly 1-1 staffing ratio, this sensory based service provides safe and interactive spaces to feel safe, explore and learn.

**brightsideinfo@brightsideadultservices.co.uk**

**Cheryl Wade Phone: 01670 857484**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Journey



18yrs+

Social services referral

#### What they offer

- Based at the Buffalo Centre in Blyth
- Supported visits to local gyms, sports centre, theatre, shops and the beach
- Trips out using public transport
- Emphasis on client independence
- (No personal hygiene – Helping Hands agency used)

**adam.bird@journeyenterprises.co.uk**  
**Adam Bird Phone: 01434 605188**

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### Hepscott Park Horticulture Unit



18yrs+

Social Services referral

#### What they offer

- Development of skills and work experience in horticulture to adults with learning disabilities living within Northumberland
- Promote independence and pride in achievement
- Each individual is fully supported to use the service by our experienced staff and allocated a key worker
- The needs of the person and support given are detailed in a comprehensive care plan and personal risk assessment.

**hepscottparkhsu@northumberland.gov.uk**  
**Clive Moon Phone: 01670 623911**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Sleekburn Horticulture Training Unit



18yrs+

Social Services referral

#### What they offer

This Unit provides places per day for adults with learning disabilities.

The main focus of the unit is growing vegetables and plants for sale to the public. Sales take place on site.

The available work will change depending on the time of year, the weather, the rate of sale, yields and the needs/interests of those working that day.

**sleekburntu@northumberland.gov.uk**  
**Clive Moon/Venita Kanwar Phone: 01670 530111**

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### Northern Butterflies



18yrs+

Social Services referral

Northern Butterflies is based in Cramlington with activities taking place across two sites, the studio and a community garden space. The programme is run with the help of volunteers and supports between 15-25 people each session.

Northern Butterflies runs a variety of arts-based wellbeing sessions and workshops each week. This includes fine art painting, crafts, music, dance, performing arts, horticulture, yoga and mindfulness sessions. Sessions and workshops are also held in the Northern Butterflies community garden space.

**Sam6production@hotmail.co.uk**  
**Sam Goodlet Phone: 07919852010**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Cafe beam @ Ouseburn Farm



18yrs+

#### What they offer

Ouseburn Farm is a community led project located in the Lower Ouseburn Valley, just a mile from Newcastle city centre. The farm has farm animals, reptiles, a café, orchard, garden, retail space, small animal room and more. The farm is open to visitors and offers workshops and volunteer placements.

They support people with learning difficulties or disabilities, autism or people with mental health problems, to take part in farming activities, volunteer placements and creative activities.

**[andrea.haynes@ouseburnfarm.org.uk](mailto:andrea.haynes@ouseburnfarm.org.uk)**  
**Phone: 0191 232 3698**

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### The Hub @ Parkhead



18yrs+

Social Services Referral

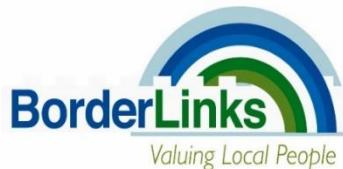
Parkhead is a friendly day resource centre for adults with learning disabilities. They have a flexible programme of stimulating activities and opportunities which are designed to promote independence and help to develop self-esteem and build confidence. Independent travel; cooking skills; healthy eating awareness; arts and crafts; dance group; current affairs; language, literacy & numeracy; gardening; volunteering; fundraising and events planning.

**[claire.graham@stcuthbertscare.org.uk](mailto:claire.graham@stcuthbertscare.org.uk)**  
**Claire Graham Phone: 01670 855 56**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Border Links



18yrs+

Social service referral

Amble

#### What they offer

- Monday, Tuesday and Friday
- Moving on Sessions
- Personal Interest Groups
- Make friends
- Person centred Service
- Supported visits
- (No personal hygiene – Helping Hands agency used)

[Borderlinks@btconnect.com](mailto:Borderlinks@btconnect.com)

Phone: 01289 305423/07900 252894

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### Mowbray Day Centre



18yrs+

Social Services referral

Northumberland County Council

#### What they offer

The centre offers a welcoming, relaxing environment which provides therapeutic, recreational and work activities.

People are supported to participate and contribute to their fullest ability, enjoying new experiences and learning new skills. Activities include arts and crafts, music, cookery, gardening, new age curling, switch fit and armchair exercises.

[www.facebook.com/mowbrayDC](http://www.facebook.com/mowbrayDC)

Phone: 01670 536230

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### **Blyth Riverside Day Care Centre**



18yrs+

Social Services Referral

Northumberland County Council

#### **What they offer**

Blyth Riverside Resource Centre offers service users the opportunity to take part in a range of group activities including gardening, music, cooking, arts and crafts, games and sensory activities, as well as day trips, centre-based discos, "Wacky" sport days, pantomimes, bowling and Christmas Fairs.

Blyth Riverside also has a multi-sensory room and an offsite accessible allotment.

Service users organise events and are involved in an annual football competition at the local leisure centre.

The service can provide shared transport for service users who are unable to travel independently and has three wheelchair accessible vehicles.

**Christina Watson Phone: 01670 353276**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### **Northstar Performing Arts Centre, Berwick**



18yrs+

Social Services referral

Northumberland County Council

The Northstar Centre supports adults with learning, physical and sensory disabilities. Activities include Makaton (Silent Sounds) communication with sign language, performing arts including music, dance, and drama, fashion shows, health and wellbeing sessions and yoga.

We welcome visits to the centre and offer taster sessions to those interested in attending

**[www.facebook.com/NorthstarCentre](https://www.facebook.com/NorthstarCentre)**  
**Phone: 01289 305105**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### **Pottergate Centre, Alnwick**



18yrs+  
Social Services Referral  
Northumberland County Council

The Pottergate Centre supports adults with learning, physical and sensory disabilities.

Staff and service users take part in a range of events throughout the year at Alnwick Gardens and many seasonal events.

Activities include arts and crafts, music, sensory and relaxation, creative design and fashion shows, the Rhythm Stix drumming group, as well as karaoke, bingo, quizzes and coffee afternoons.

#### **Pottergate Pantry**

Pottergate Pantry provides training and work experience to service users with different abilities. The pantry supplies a number of outlets in the community and specialise in frozen meals, cakes biscuits and tray bakes.

#### **The Potting Shed**

The Potting Shed offers work experience in gardening and other related activities. The main focus is growing plants and vegetables and maintaining the Pottergate Centre gardens. In 2023 the gardening group was awarded the level 5 outstanding award from RHS It's Your Neighbourhood.

**[www.facebook.com/PottergaterCentre](https://www.facebook.com/PottergaterCentre)**  
**Phone: 01665 602181**

## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### **The Tynedale Centre, Haugh Lane, Hexham**



18yrs+

Social Care Referral

The Tynedale Centre offers variety of educational, social, therapeutic and employment opportunities to broaden life experiences and enable service users to have a real presence in their community and participate in local community facilities.

Activities include arts and crafts, music, gardening, ten pin bowling, walking, cookery and Makaton sign language, as well horse riding at RDA Pegasus stables in Morpeth and swimming at Wentworth leisure centre.

**Phone: 01434 605245**

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### **The Centre of Recycling Enterprise**

The Centre of Recycling Enterprise (CORE) was established in 2006 and is a social firm specialising in the recycling of furniture and electrical goods. The enterprise provides essential training, work experience and paid employment to service users and volunteers with different abilities.

**[www.com/COREfurnitureHexham](http://www.com/COREfurnitureHexham)  
Phone: 01434 605245**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Blyth Star Enterprises – The Steamboat



18yrs+  
Social Care referral

Our social care day service at The Steamboat in Blyth supports adults at risk of social isolation and mental health deterioration by providing a programme of engaging activities that promote social integration and independent living skills. Operating alongside this service, we have two community enterprises – Stakeford Nurseries and The Woodfuel Centre. Our day services at Stakeford Nurseries and The Woodfuel Centre provide training opportunities and simulated work experience for those who need vocational support and would otherwise find it difficult to enter competitive employment.

[c.boyd@blythstar.org.uk](mailto:c.boyd@blythstar.org.uk)  
Phone: 01670 355421

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### Blyth Star Enterprises – The Woodfuel Centre



18yrs+  
Social Services Referral

#### What they offer

The Woodfuel Centre produces sustainable wood products, such as logs and kindling, for residential and commercial heating.

Working alongside our trained staff, service users have the opportunity to learn about and get involved in all stages of the woodfuel production process in a sociable and supportive environment that replicates as closely as possible, a real workplace setting. Service Users can learn how to do log processing, operate machinery, fork lift truck operations, warehousing, making deliveries, woodwork, joinery and wood-based crafts and participate in social events.

[n.hedley@blythstar.org.uk](mailto:n.hedley@blythstar.org.uk)  
Phone: 01670 857138

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### **Blyth Star Enterprises – Stakeford Nurseries**



18yrs+  
Social Services Referral

#### What they offer

The service operates a small retail outlet which stocks the produce grown on site for sale to the general public. Service users are encouraged to develop their social and employability skills by spending time working in this retail-style environment, greeting customers, advising on horticulture and operating the till.

Stakeford Nurseries, with its network of polytunnels, greenhouses and outdoor plots is the perfect place for individuals to learn about horticulture and gain new skills in a relaxed and friendly environment. From the basics of sowing seeds and watering plants to more complex work such as preparing soil, planting seasonal vegetables and managing crop rotation, there are lots of different activities for service users to get involved with.

**[g.carr@blythstar.org.uk](mailto:g.carr@blythstar.org.uk)**  
**Phone: 01670 855130**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Gateway



18yrs+  
Social Services Referral

#### What they offer

They have a dedicated Day Service, Individual Support and special interest groups, successful sports projects and healthy living, create and chatter, performing arts, computer, older persons', youth and adult social groups. The members also enjoy the regular discos throughout the year that are eagerly anticipated and well attended. Health and happiness is at the heart of everything they do at Gateway.

They have developed a garden which is located on a local farm. They have provided an outdoor classroom/workshop used for small woodwork projects and learning opportunities, as well as a sensory flower garden and raised planters where members can grow and harvest produce.

**info@gatewayintothecommunity.co.uk**  
**Hexham**  
**Phone: 01434 607653**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### HFT



18yrs+  
Social Services Referral

#### What they offer

HFT is a national charity, that provides various support services for adults with learning disabilities, Hft's services are designed to empower individuals to live their lives to the fullest, with a focus on person-centred support and flexibility.

- Family Carer Resources - Stay up to date with the latest resources from the Family Carer Support Service.
- Short breaks & Respite - We have different short breaks and respite services to help you or your family to enjoy some well-deserved time for yourself.
- Personalised Technology - At Hft we define personalised technology as any device or equipment that can enable you to live as independently and safely as possible.
- Supported Living - We support learning disabled people to live however and wherever they choose. We can then provide support in a way that suits each person.
- Day Opportunities - Take part in activities that interest you with Hft day opportunities. We'll match your interests and find activities in your local community.
- Residential - Residential care may suit you if you need full-time, specialist care. In our homes, trained staff support you to live the best life possible.

Luv2meetU - Luv2meetU is a friendship service for learning disabled and autistic adults. It can help you improve your health and well-being.

**HftNewcastleArea@hft.org.uk**  
**Phone: 01670 500690**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Headway Arts



18yrs+

Social Services Referral

#### What they offer

Headway Arts is a multi-award-winning professional arts company, registered charity and National Portfolio Organisation led by people with experience of disability and their allies.

Dance - Dancing makes us feel good! It helps us to be more confident, fit and healthy. A professional dance artist leads these expressive and enjoyable dance and creative movement sessions which explore different ways of making a move.

Creative Arts - explore a galaxy of arts! Including: Painting, drawing, collage, photography, music-making,

Drama Days - These sessions help us to Creatively express ourselves, communicate, explore new situations, try out ideas, be inspired, build confidence. Drama days are great for beginners and are led by professional drama workers.

Theatre Skills - Creative writing, actor training, performing, puppetry, set costume, make-up.

**hello@headwayarts.co.uk**  
**Phone: 01670 351962**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Key Enterprises



18yrs+  
Social Services Referral

#### What they offer

Wood - Service users learn to produce beautiful, bespoke items from wood on the scroll saw. Create designs for our laser engraver, learn the ins and outs of circuitry or maybe work on some of our bigger group projects and help create a solar-powered go-cart!!

Bikes - In our Bike Department, you can learn to do exactly that! With the support of our bike supervisor, you can develop skills in bike maintenance, learn about the importance of recycling and explore the region on one of our weekly bike rides.

Gardening - We also carry out a range of gardening services in the wider community, cutting grass and strimming hedges for local businesses and members of the public.

Metalwork Department, service users can learn exciting new skills, such as grinding and welding. We upcycle, turn old bike chains and bits of scrap into beautiful new objects, such as garden furniture, fire pits and more!

We run a range of weekly activities from our site and further afield, including badminton, film club, guided walks, gaming club and whatever else our service users can think up!

Creative Arts a variety of activities each week, including band, choir, music therapy, theatre, art and creative writing workshops.

Key Skills sessions, service users are given the tools to develop their independent living skills, from travelling on the metro to cooking a healthy meal, all with the support of a qualified teacher.

**Reception@keyenterprises.com**  
**Phone: 0191 2701138**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Natural Ability



18yrs+  
Social services Referral

#### What they offer

Natural Ability's Day Farming service provides opportunities for people to work outdoors, learn new skills, gain qualifications and play a valuable role in the community. Activities can include land-based skills, horticulture, environmental work and animal care.

As a walking group, the attendees are given a choice of where to walk, and after taking into account the weather - set off in our Natural Ability vehicle to their chosen location. The walking group is a chance for attendees to make friends and develop socially in a fun and engaging group.

The Orchard is a day service centre dedicated to adults with learning disabilities. The Orchard provides a welcoming environment where individuals can engage in a variety of activities, build skills, learn, and participate in social circles and events. Each group session accommodates up to 10 individuals, ensuring a supportive and inclusive atmosphere.

**Phone: 01434 618149**  
**info@naturalability.org**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### ReDress



18yrs+

Social Services Referral

#### Taster Days

We are based on the Earth Balance site in Northumberland, on the outskirts of Bedlington. Our unit is an accessible single story building with partitioned training and retail areas.

People can be introduced to ReDress by means of four Taster Days, arranged to suit the requirements of the individual. Potential Group Members will work one-to-one with a named Key Worker and have opportunities to get to know other Group Members, learn about what we do and how we do it and carry out a range of practical and business activities, before deciding whether they would like a permanent place.

**redressltd@hotmail.com**

**Phone: 01670 828383**

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## *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

### Twising Ducks



Charity registration No 1170354

18yrs+

Social Services Referral

Join our weekly Academy sessions to achieve your goals, whether you want to DJ at a club night, act on stage, or perform in a live band, our Academies are the place to come!

Band Academy - Work with professional musicians to develop your music skills, to write your own songs, and to perform live at gig nights and events.

Performing arts Academies - Develop your skills in writing, acting and directing. Produce your own plays and perform live at theatres.

DJ Academy – Learn DJ`ing skills with the help of a professional DJ and DJ live at FRESH club night.

**sue@thetwistingducks.co.uk**  
**Phone: 07925167775**

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### The Hextol Foundation



The Hextol Foundation was founded in 2006. Our purpose is to offer working opportunities to people who find their post-school options limited.

We are unique to the area - no other organisation offers the range of choice and flexibility that we do, without any charge to the beneficiary, and without imposing "joining criteria" such as asking for a diagnosis, upon the people who need our help.

Our 5 businesses are all real working environments, which allow beneficiaries to experience the challenges and rewards that only work can provide. Some people use us as a mental health recovery process, whilst others are looking for practical experience to spring-board them into paid employment. For others, we are a safe, non-demanding place where they can come to meet with colleagues and work on meaningful tasks, gaining a real sense of achievement at the end of the day. Our offer provides structure and support - and this allows us to empower our beneficiaries with the self-confidence and self-esteem to be able to reach their potential.

We have businesses in gardening, catering, The Hextol Tans cafe, our warehouse and pack & post services. At The Hextol Foundation we will support you to do real work for real customers. We also hold several social events which happen throughout the year. People from all our business areas attend the events so you can meet the whole team and make new friends.

**contact@hextol.org.uk**  
**Phone: 01434 605253**  
**Address: 14C Gilesgate, Hexham NE46 3NJ**

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### *Possible Destinations for Pupils*

**There is a lot more information on the websites of these services and service staff are always pleased to talk to parents and invite them in to see the provision. Other destinations are always coming up and you could look at the Northumberland County Council local offer for Post 16 placements.**