

# LOCAL AREA CASE STUDY

In Wakefield, The EHE-SEND Events Project aims to provide targeted support for Electively Home Educated (EHE) children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) and those with emerging SEND needs.

## Aim

The main aim of the EHE-SEND Events Project is to strengthen engagement, inclusion, and support for families in the Wakefield District who choose to home educate children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), particularly those with emerging SEND needs.

This aim is rooted in several key objectives:

- Commissioning three providers to deliver six family engagement events by March 2026.
- Ensure events are accessible, inclusive, and tailored to the needs of EHE/SEND families.
- Creating opportunities for families to network, share experiences, and access signposting information.
- Building trust with EHE/SEND families and increasing awareness of early help support.
- Encouraging engagement that could lead to reintegration into mainstream education where appropriate.

## Impact

The EHE-SEND Events Project is on track to achieve its objectives, with three strong providers in place and events scheduled across the district. Early engagement has shown that families feel listened to and are eager to participate, which is helping to build trust and reduce isolation among Electively Home Educated families. By creating safe, inclusive spaces, the project is laying the groundwork for increased awareness of available support services, stronger peer networks, and tailored pathways for reintegration into mainstream education where desired. While challenges remain - such as overcoming reluctance to engage with local authority professionals and ensuring good attendance - the project is already fostering positive relationships and setting the stage for sustainable support beyond its initial scope.



# LOCAL AREA CASE STUDY

## Activities

In Wakefield, we have been working closely with families to shape new opportunities through the SEND AP Change Programme. We started by holding two consultation sessions with families who home educate or have children with SEND, so their views could guide the application process. Following a competitive robust panel selection process, three providers were chosen to deliver exciting activities:

- **Camphill Wakefield** – Horse riding and animal handling.
- **Grow Wakefield** – Family Forest Explorers Programme.
- **SWS Sports** – Inclusive biking and roller skating.

The first events are planned for October and November 2025, and providers will share promotional materials, event plans, and evaluation surveys to make sure everything runs smoothly.

To build trust, the first events will be family-focused without professionals present, although information leaflets and signposting will be available. Families will also have the chance to say if they would like professionals involved in future events.



## Feedback

The feedback gathered so far reflects strong engagement and optimism from both families and providers. Families have expressed appreciation for being involved early in the process, which has helped build trust and confidence in the project. Providers are equally enthusiastic and committed to delivering inclusive, meaningful activities. Key insights and next steps include:

- **Positive Family Response:** Families felt their voices were heard during consultations and valued the co-production approach.
- **Provider Commitment:** Providers demonstrated creativity and dedication in planning activities tailored to EHE/SEND needs.
- **Key Lesson Learned:** Building trust and co-designing activities with families is essential; smaller, focused events are preferred over large gatherings.
- **Next Steps:** Evaluate the first round of events (October–November 2025) and use findings to refine the second round (January–March 2026).