

nt

information
support



11th July 2025
Introducing the
SpLinter Group



We are a 'user led
and user -run' group
for young
neurodivergent
adults 18+



What does user run and user led mean, and how does it contribute to improving employment chances?

- We plan and run our own activities and events
- We believe in and expect co-production
- We believe in the social model of disability
- We try to influence services to recognise our needs
- We bring together people with lived experience to raise awareness and promote positive attitudes to neurodivergent people and their skills

THESE ARE ALL TRANSFERABLE SKILLS FOR WORK



How we contribute
to neurodivergent
young adults finding
work and keeping it





Pizza
Parties
at home

Residentials
and trips

Walks and
sports

Peer led

Sunday
Online
Games
Night

**Social
Inclusion**

Monthly social
event at
venues around
the county

Running
Holiday
Activity Days
for younger
people





SpLinter Sisters

Holistic trauma-informed support

- Social opportunities for the women in the group
- Lunch meet-ups in Blyth and Alnwick
- Well-being session
- Residentials
- Personal Relationships support
- 1-2-1 support to progress



**SOCIAL
INCLUSION**

SpLinter Group membership has become much more diverse

- **We have members from all over north, central and south-east Northumberland and a few in Tyne and Wear**
- **We have two meeting spaces in Amble and Ashington**
- **We run our monthly get-togethers in premises around the county to make sure everyone can take part.**
- **We aim only to use accessible venues.**
- **We meet people 1-2-1 to start with, to help them feel welcome and get involved**
- **We use a range of ways of running sessions so that everyone feels included**



**Social
Inclusion**

If we can be accessible
and inclusive, so can
everyone!



Business Experience

Waffling On

- Waffling On trailer, cooking crepes and waffles, serving customers and inviting them to try our quiz app (which reached the final in the iDEA award for tech business ideas).
- Attending fairs and festivals and providing lunches for Holiday Activity schemes
- Handling money, stock, health and safety, risk management, customer service

You can hire us!



Will I Ever Drive Project

An award - winning partnership with NE Mobility Centre



Barriers to Driving

- Not knowing if levels of coordination and perception will allow for it
- Opposition from family who are nervous about the level of risk
- Requirements of taking a theory test
- Cost

SO.... We

- ✓ Negotiated dedicated time and space at the NE Mobility Centre, trying out driving skills and even driving a car, leading to a full assessment for anyone the Mobility team felt was capable
- ✓ Ran driving theory support session
- ✓ Outcome - 3 of the 10 participants passed their test and are driving!
- ✓ The rest received support for independent travel on public transport

Travel with Confidence

SpLinter Group has teamed up with Adapt NE to support 10 members taking part in this new regional project.

Five SpLinter Group members have been successful in achieving paid jobs within the Northumberland element of the project, Frank as Project Worker, and Dennis, Lucy, Andrew, Emily, Callum as Travel Champions



Why has this project come about?

Research has shown for transport to be a recurring barrier for people with learning disabilities. The following barriers emerged-

- Communication challenges
 - 24-hour timetable inaccessible for many people.
- A digital by default system that precludes those without digital skills from engaging with online travel information.
- Fear of harassment / hate crime when using transport.
- Fear of getting lost / getting off at the wrong stop.
- Additional barriers for those in rural areas, such as Northumberland, due to limited transport networks.
- Young people with learning disabilities lose access to local authority financed taxis
 - Often family are reluctant for the young person to use public transport.
- Travel concession schemes complicated for people without support
 - E.g. evidence needed for bus pass application.

These barriers often result in limited opportunities and a lower quality of life.

Travel with Confidence- Overarching aims

- Deliver targeted travel training for adults with learning disabilities.
- Tackle travel barriers at a grassroots and strategic level
 - Through the provision of accredited travel training, one-to-one travel support, and volunteer travel buddying.
 - Support people with learning disabilities to form a regional Travel Champions Network.

How will these aims be achieved?

Through conducting **travel audits** to assess individuals with learning disabilities-

- Travel confidence
- Local transport knowledge
- Travel skills
- Travel support needs
- Identify travel goals that these individuals want to achieve

How will these aims be achieved?

Deliver an accessible **travel training** programme

- Level 2- **Travel with support** (broadly equivalent to a GCSE).
 - Delivered over 2 months (roughly).
 - Mix of theory and practical.

OR

- Level 3- **Travel independently** (broadly equivalent to an A-level)
 - Delivered over 3 months (roughly).
 - Mix of theory and practical.

How will these aims be achieved?

Recruit 5 people with learning disabilities on a part time basis, to form a regional Travel Champions Network, which is used to-

- Build peer to peer travel support.
- Promote benefits of travel and information about travel options.
- Carry out quality checks of local transport and facilities.
- Work with the transport sector to co-design solutions to transport and improve inclusive practice.

Recruit and train 'travel buddy' volunteers to-

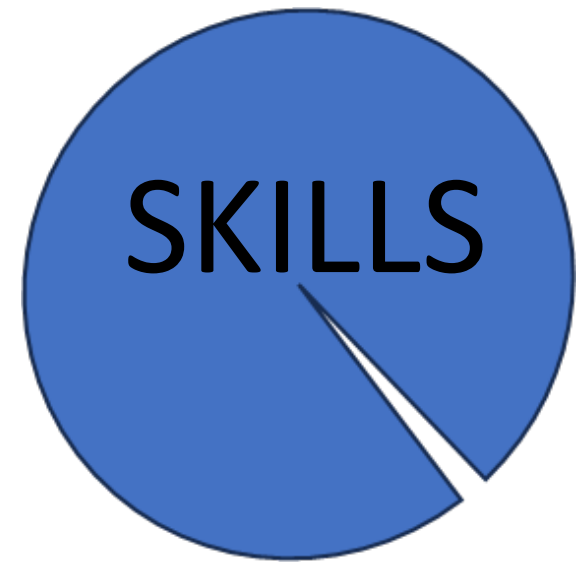
- Develop travel skills and build travel confidence.



In the last three years:

20 members have achieved accredited Level 2 qualifications

- 4 people in Youth Work
- 3 people in Community Development
- 6 people in Information Advice and Guidance
- 10 people in Food Hygiene



Other useful skills courses have included

- Using Canva
- Understanding Climate Change

As Trainers...

Safe Places

- Our Safe Places team of five are recruiting places around Northumberland to join the nationally recognized Safe Places scheme
- We train their staff to know how to cope with people who may become lost or anxious when out and about
- One of us becomes their mentor to stay in touch and make sure they have what they need.



SKILLS



Personalised Support

1-2-1 meetings to help move towards independent living

Advice on
Benefits, housing, health,
money management,
relationships

Identity issues

Support in real time, not just in
'preparation'





**Practical information
and support**

help for neurodivergent adults get access to the
information and support they may need.

<https://splintergroup.org.uk/pointA>

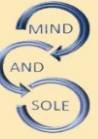
- A web-based resource with information organized accessibly and regularly updated
- Info support volunteers receiving referrals and requests for help
- Advocacy support for more complex requests
- Referring people to other specialist services



Practical information and support

Here for you:

- on your terms
- online or in person
- in your time and your location



WHAT WE DO



Relevant

We aim to provide the info and support you need, when and where you need it.



Up to Date

We make sure the info on our online resource is regularly updated.



Run by us

We have real, trained autistic adults to hand with lived experience to offer peer support.



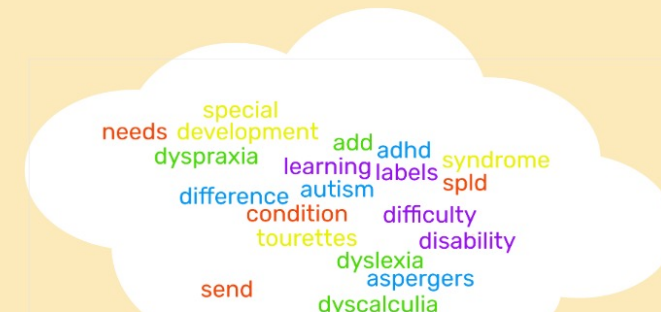
Check Progress

We check in with you about whether things are moving

POINT A INFO HUBS

Young adults with lived experience are offering YOU practical information and support for whatever is worrying you.

We are doing this because not everyone is in touch with education or care services and might need some help in their own community.





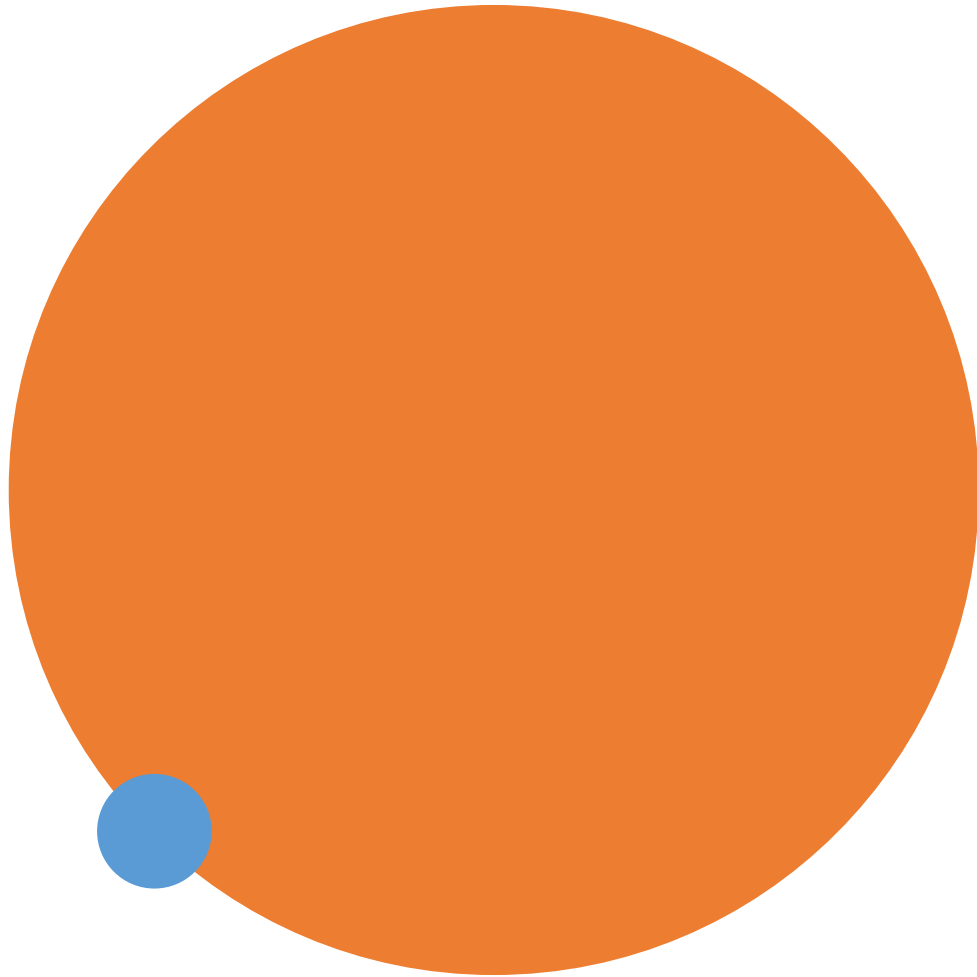
Practical information
and support

- We created a team of workers and trained them in Information, Advice and Guidance

- *Information and Support Workers*

- *Admin and Communications Worker*





- **Supported by Advocacy Worker**

- Julia – giving 1-2-1 supervision to team members and coordinating team meetings, helping with more complex issues



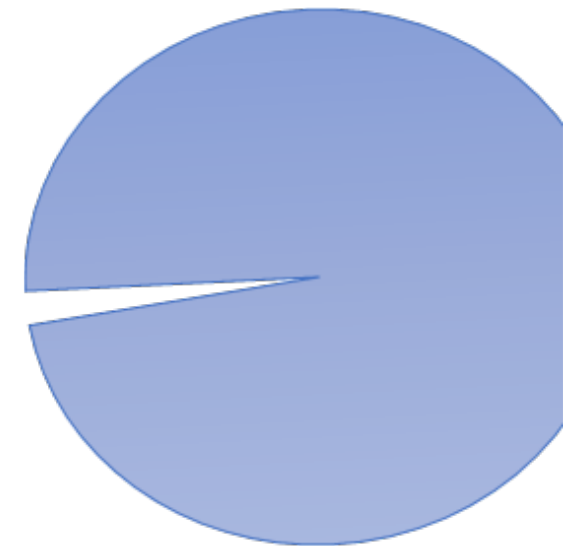
LEADERSHIP THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

Recruiting and training Safe Places venues

Participating in Strategy groups and Boards

Designing awareness-raising content –

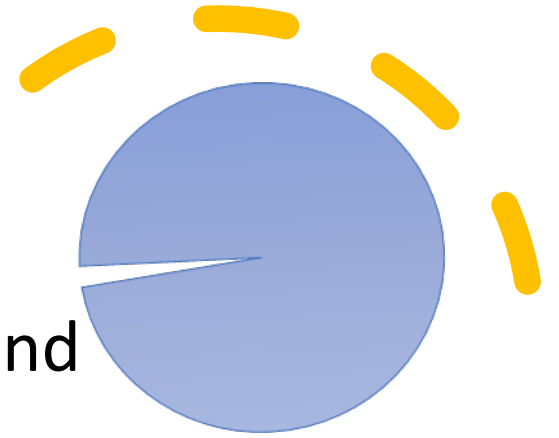
- Pokémon Jargon Buster
- Dilemma of Difference
- Leading a User-led Network for Thriving Together





Using our
Lived
experience
to help
improve
services

- Autism Partnership Strategy Group
- Learning Disability Partnership Board and its co-production group
- Working with Clinical Psychologist towards inputting into psychologist training
- NENC NHS Lived experience groups
- Co-production group on Transition to Adulthood
- Thriving Together User Led Network Lead



- **Dennis's contribution to Jargon busting.....**

Our Successes and Achievements in moving young neurodivergent adults towards work in the last four years:

- **8 in-house jobs created for members**
- **8 members supported into work**
- **40 supported 1-2-1, on setting and achieving goals for independent living**

Our current and recent funders:



Funded by
UK Government



Northumberland
County Council



Community
Foundation
North East

Our request from you....

For more information or to
contact us :

julia@splintergroup.org.uk

- Please have a look at Point A
for useful information for
young adults!

www.splintergroup.org.uk/pointA

