

Bradford Portage Service

Issue 10
July 2022

Welcome to the summer edition of the Portage Newsletter

We have been super busy as always. Since September 2021 we have received 273 referrals which is almost double from the previous year!

Which gives us the exciting news to announce that the Portage Team has recently grown and we have welcomed three new lovely members to the team—see below a little hello from them.

For those who are starting their new nursery provisions in September, we wish you all the best of luck and hope you have lots of new fun experiences whilst making new friends along the way

We would love to see some of your 'first day photos' that we could share in our next newsletter or on our Portage Facebook Page.

Enjoy the Summer!

The Portage Team



Hello, thank you for the warm welcome to Bradford Council.
My name is Christine Browne.

I am delighted to have joined the Bradford Portage Team in April. I have always loved working in early years and took a special interest working closely with children who have SEN.

After finishing my studies in Scotland over 25 years ago, my first job and work experience was camp America. The camp was residential based in Washington DC for children who have SEN. This experience gave me the travel bug. I wanted to continue traveling and working with children. I then secured a job working as a children's holiday rep, which led me to working in an international school in Spain for many years.

While on my travels I met a Yorkshire man who swept me off my feet, we got married and have now been living and working in Bradford for the last 12 years.

I was first introduced to Portage 6 years ago when my daughter was referred to the Bradford Portage service at the age of 2. Portage was such a supportive, positive experience for my daughter and our family, it's a wonderful early intervention service. I feel privileged to be part of a fantastic team and will love the challenge of providing a positive approach to fun based home education for young children and support families around Bradford.



My name is Lucy Collins, I'm a new Portage Home Visitor working three days a week.

I first trained as a Portage Home Visitor in 2007, became accredited in 2009 and loved doing this role as part of my Children's Centre work until 2012. More recently I have worked alongside the Health Visitors and Perinatal Mental Health Services across the Bradford district.

Portage has remained close to my heart and I'm very much looking forward to supporting children and their families once again.



Useful Websites & Information

Family Fund - A charity that provides grants to support families providing things such as sensory toys or family breaks.

Bradford Inclusive Disability Service—Based at CDC St Luke's, this is a place for children with additional needs to loan a range of sensory toys and join the community on days out, activities and groups.

Cerebra—A charity to support families that include children with brain conditions and other useful information and grants.

Newlife - Another fantastic charity that loans sensory play packs and grants for children with additional needs.

Shabang—Based in Huddersfield Shabang provide shows for children with additional needs using sensory and makaton to bring them to life. They have lots of support groups for families to attend.

The Down syndrome support and training group Bradford—A charity run by parents and carers of children who have Down syndrome. They offer support and training for parents and professionals.

AWARE - A parent run group supporting families with children and young adults on the autism spectrum.



National Portage Association
Partners with Parents and Children



Hello, my name is Sarah Jamieson, I've just become officially part of the Portage family after many years of working alongside them. I was an Early Year's Specialist Practitioner in the Autism team for eight years, as part of this role I ran a group for the Portage team for a number of years which I loved doing.

Following this I worked for the Access and Inclusion team as part of the Social Communication Interaction Learning Team supporting children and settings to access their early education.

This year will be my 33rd year of working with children and families in Bradford.

Portage has always been at the heart of what I do and when a fulltime position came up it was an opportunity I could not let slip by. I look forward to meeting and making a difference to families and children in Bradford.



We are excited to announce our newest Portage Group at Tadpoles Nursery every Thursday (term time only), supported by Sarah and Lucy. We are lucky to be able to share the wonderful resources, outside area and sensory room they have available. Thank you Tadpoles.

A reminder that these places are via a Portage referral only.



PORTAGE EDUCATION GROUP AT
Tadpoles Nursery
Newlands House BD10 0JE

An education group for children with additional needs aged under 5 who and their families supported by experienced Portage home visitors.

The group is fun, free flowing and offers;

Singing and Signing

Messy Play Activities

Snack Time

Signposting to any other support services/ events and grants etc.

It is a great opportunity to chat with professionals, other parents and make new friends!



Every Thursday morning 10:00am-11:30am
Places are limited and a referral is required



Please contact Sarah Jamieson on
07582102323 further details.



Here is Marley enjoying his first session at group in the sensory room

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▶ A Portage Service registered with
the National Portage Association.



We had a lovely evaluation from Nina who received Portage for her daughter.

My daughter was referred to portage by her consultant due to some learning difficulties. Where she really warmed to Wakhida from Portage who instantly gave my daughter the time to really explore new things and learn at her own pace. Wakhida had a massive impact on our family during the lockdown as she kept in regular contact during the pandemic and was always there to support and give us guidance through those difficult times.

My daughter is now in nursery and is always showing signs of improvement within her development and she continues to gain confidence in what she is learning each day.

I would highly recommend portage to all families that need support with their child's development. And lastly I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wakhida for everything she had done for us as a family.

The Portage team are always keen to hear about the service you received. This will help us understand what we do well and what we can improve.

Please see the links below to complete our evaluation.

Portage Group - <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/ju5ez3>

Portage Home - <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/rci2mz>



Portage Workshop

Thank you to all of the 25 practitioners and parents/ carers that attended our Portage Workshop in June, which was our first workshop since Covid. We hope you enjoyed the 3 days and gained new knowledge to implement the Portage model into your settings and with supporting your children.

We hope to be running another workshop before the end of the year—keep a look out on our Facebook page and Bradford Schools Online for more information.



Portage Summer Fun Day

Thank you to all the families that joined us for our Summer Fun Day at Shibden Park.
Also a HUGE thank you to the wonderful Shabang for entertaining us.
We hope you all had as much fun as us!



Fun on the train ride!



For those of you who do not know about Shabang!
Shabang Inclusive Learning is an award winning, specialist charitable arts organisation based in West Yorkshire delivering projects to children with additional needs and their families.
They create and deliver events for families and perform accessible shows with music and songs which they sign in Makaton.

They make books for teachers and create DVDs and CDs from their original, quirky and imaginative performances.

They believe that the arts should be accessible to all and that the beauty of the world lies in the diversity of its people.

Visit www.shabang.org.uk for more information.



SHABANG!

Makaton

Makaton is back with the Bradford Portage Service. We have already delivered two Makaton Taster Sessions to our families receiving Portage and our team over the last few months. We have plans for a refresher day for our Team to develop and update our signing skills together at the beginning of next term. We have arranged for another Makaton Taster Session in October next term at Margaret McMillan Tower, Bradford for our families receiving Portage to attend. Portage Home Visitors will share this information with their families and groups.

We are also going to start delivering Makaton Signing for Babies and Families sessions before Christmas to our families. We will share details of this when we have them.

We would like to congratulate our Portage Home Visitor, Charlene Hamilton, on becoming our newest qualified and licensed Makaton Trainer in our team. Charlene will be delivering the Makaton Signing for Babies and Families course sometime soon.

Well done Charlene from us all.



Summer Holidays

The Bradford Local Offer has lots of Summer holiday events and activities, especially for children with additional needs and their families.

AWARE have also created a great school holiday guide you can access through the Bradford Local Offer page.

[Bradford Local Offer | AWARE School Holiday Guide 2022](#)

We will keep sharing anything exciting we come across on our Facebook page too.

Please find and like us on
Facebook:
Bradford Portage Service



We would still love parents/ carers, siblings and professionals to contribute to the newsletter too. If you have any celebrations, exciting news or stories, activities or handy hints you would like to share with us please email

Portage.Team@bradford.gov.uk or let your Portage Home Visitor know.

Singing Hands

Singing Hands are coming to Kings Hall Theatre, Ilkley on Saturday 2nd October.

Their shows are always fun and interactive with Makaton signing throughout.

There will be activities before and after including the opportunity to meet Tracy and Suzanne.

LS29 Special Needs Group Presents 'Singing Hands' Tickets, Sun 2 Oct 2022 at 11:00 | Eventbrite

A promotional poster for 'Singing Hands'. At the top left is the LS29 logo with the text 'YOUR LOCAL SPECIALIST SERVICE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS'. To the right is the 'Singing Hands' logo with two women's faces. Below this is a photograph of a woman in a red t-shirt and jeans leaning against a wall, with a child in a red t-shirt sitting on the floor in front of her. At the bottom left, the text reads 'SINGING HANDS ARE COMING TO YORKSHIRE!' followed by 'SUNDAY 2ND OCTOBER KINGS HALL ILKLEY 11AM'. At the bottom right, there is a small text box with details: 'LS29 Group are very excited to be welcoming Tracy and Suzanne back to the beautiful Kings Hall theatre opposite the bus station in Ilkley. Doors open 10.15 with refreshments, activities and meet the stars. Plenty of chance after the show for photos too :). Tickets only £9 each (plus booking fee). https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ls29-special-needs-group-presents-singing-hands-tickets-379887853797'.