



SOUTH WEST CANN COMMUNICATION
August 2025

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INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome to the latest South West CANN Update.

South West Children's Additional Needs Network shares information and helps to increase the reach of your services for children and young people in the region.

Regarding updates and information, if you have material or information that you would like forwarded to the members of the Network, or any updates, please ensure that you email it to Miriam on **EMAIL TBC**, before the end of the month.

Thanks to everyone who shared the information below for our latest update, which contains information and sessions for children and young people with additional needs and their parent carers.

You can find these Communications on the SWCANN Website at:
<https://www.cann-network.org/blog/>

SOUTH WEST CANN MEETING DATES

Future dates:
TBC

CHAIR COMMENTS

Welcome to the August 2025 SWCANN Update!

We're excited to share the latest from the South West Children's Additional Needs Network. This month's communication includes updates, events, and resources to support children and young people with additional needs, as well as their families and carers.

As SWCANN is still very new, we're just getting started—but there's lots more to come! Our website is currently under construction, and we'll be in touch soon with a link where you can share your details to be included. Watch this space!

In the meantime, please do feel free to send me any details you'd like shared with the network. A dedicated SWCANN email address will be available soon, but for now, you can continue to use this one.

Miriam

Co-Chair: Sarah Okoro
Co-Chair: Chereka Carty
Admin: Miriam Watson-Pratt
South West CANN

NEW MEMBERS

Go Kids Go



Go Kids Go have been running wheelchair skills training for young wheelchair users since 1990. The training is designed to enable independence and to help ensure that the young people are able to reach their full potential. We run workshops for manual and powered wheelchair users.

Some of the skills we teach on the workshop include back wheel balancing, road safety, manoeuvring skills and emergency evacuation as well as an introduction to wheelchair basketball. We bring extra wheelchairs so that parents, siblings and friends can join in with the activities. We also run disability/wheelchair awareness workshops in mainstream schools for pupils and staff. TV presenter Ade Adepitan MBE, learnt wheelchair skills with us as a young man and is now a patron of Go Kids Go.

<https://www.go-kids-go.org.uk>

If you know of any groups that may be interested, please get them in touch!

Please only use contact details that are for public use

LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION

RESEARCH

No new research this month

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - NATIONAL/ONLINE

Keep Connected: Understanding & living with an acquired brain injury (ABI) in children

This online support event is for parents and carers who suspect their child has an acquired brain injury (ABI) following meningitis.

Date: 16 September 2025

Time: 10.30 am - 12 pm

What topics will the course cover?

Does your child have long-term after-effects from meningitis, such as fatigue, memory problems, changes in behaviour, or sensory issues?

Do you think they have an acquired brain injury (ABI), but you are struggling to get this recognised? Do you need support to get a diagnosis?

What strategies can you give your child to help with their after-effects? And how can you get the support your child deserves in school?

We are delighted to have Dalia Chowdhury, Educational Service Manager at the Child Brain Injury Trust, join us for this online event, to talk us through the journey of getting an acquired brain injury (ABI) diagnosis and the issues your child might be experiencing.

Dalia will also discuss accessing support for your child in school and ways you can support them. Find out more about Dalia [here](#).

This online event, presented over Zoom, will be hosted by Community Support Officer, Paul Blackburn and a member of Meningitis Now staff as tech support.

Interested?

Please book [here](https://www.meningitisnow.org/get-support/support-events/online-support-events/keep-connected-understanding-living-with-an-acquired-brain-injury-abi-in-children/) and we'll be in touch after registrations close on 1 September 2025 to confirm your place.

<https://www.meningitisnow.org/get-support/support-events/online-support-events/keep-connected-understanding-living-with-an-acquired-brain-injury-abi-in-children/>

Any questions?

Email Community Support Officer and event lead Paul Blackburn at paulb@meningitisnow.org

Forever Weekend – Northampton

Join us for our Forever Weekend, a bereavement event for adults aged 18+ who have lost a loved one to meningitis, at Sedgebrook Hall, Northampton.

Event information

Date: Friday 10 October 2025 - Saturday 11 October 2025

Location: Sedgebrook Hall, Pitsford Rd, Chapel Brampton, Northampton NN6 8BD

Key Information

Date: Friday 10 to Saturday 11 October 2025

Time: 10am on Friday to Saturday afternoon

Location: Sedgebrook Hall, Pitsford Rd, Chapel Brampton, Northampton NN6 8BD

We are pleased to announce that our next Forever Weekend will take place at [Sedgebrook Hall](#).

Sedgebrook Hall is located in the picturesque village of Chapel Brampton, in the heart of the beautiful Northampton countryside. Set in idyllic country gardens, Sedgebrook Hall seamlessly mixes Victorian heritage with modern comforts. The hotel has a Gym and Pool which you can use and a beauty Spa which you can book.

Whether your loss happened recently or some time ago, by attending this event you will have the opportunity to:

- Have time away in safe and supportive surroundings
- Talk about your loved one
- Understand grief, bereavement and its impact
- Share experiences with others who understand
- Find comfort, hope and reassurance that you are not alone
- Access support from our Meningitis Now support team

Throughout the weekend you can join in the suggested programme of supportive discussion groups and creative activities – but also take time to relax and reflect with others who understand.

Please join us for this warm and supportive weekend

What's included?

Attendance; including your accommodation, full board and attendance to all sessions.

If you would also like to stay at the hotel on Thursday 9 October please let us know and we will provide your room and breakfast on the Friday morning. Please arrange your own dinner for Thursday evening.

If you are unsure about attending or have any aspects you would like to talk over, please contact the event lead Esme Lee (Community Support Officer) on esmel@meningitisnow.org or call 07468476068.

Travel is not included but if the cost of travel is a barrier to you attending, please contact us.

To register, please follow the link below

Please find terms and conditions [here](#).

<https://www.meningitisnow.org/get-support/support-events/forever-events/forever-weekend-nor-thampton/>

[Contact our meningitis Helpline | Meningitis Now](#)

[Meningitis support in the community | Meningitis Now](#)

Health Conference - Principles for Delivering Clinical Tasks in Education Settings for Children and Young People with EHCPs.

A conference from the Newcastle upon Tyne Pilot and other regional variations in partnership with MiSS (Medicines in Specialist Schools), Regional NHS England, ICB's, DfE.



Health Conference 21st November 2025

Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road,
Central London, NW1 2BJ - 9:30am - 3:15pm

Principles for Delivering Clinical Tasks in Education Settings for Children and Young People with EHCPs.

A conference from the Newcastle upon Tyne Pilot and other regional variations in partnership with MiSS (Medicines in Specialist Schools), Regional NHS England, ICB's, DfE.

£149
+VAT

A new Health Support Assistant Role for Specialist settings to deliver medications and enteral feeds with full job protection, training and clinical supervision.

"We want to share our journey in bringing Health Governance into an educational setting."

Principles

- The importance of the principles of Health delegation to schools.
- The interpretation of the current Children & Families Act 2014.
- The importance of developing the foundations, creating new systems, including governance, data and partnership working.
- The awareness that skills already lie in the people that are in the service and understanding what a change in the system can offer in terms of opportunity.
- The importance of partnership work agreeing and sharing responsibilities.

This conference is an opportunity for colleagues in Education and Health to learn from the Newcastle Pilot and other regional groups' journeys to meeting the Health Care Needs of our Children and Young People with EHCP's.

- How do we audit the Health needs in our EHCP's?
- How do we commission Health Care from the ICBs?
- How do we ensure Local Authorities provide governance of Health in Education?
- How do we secure job protection in new Health roles in partnership with the unions?
- How do we ensure clinical supervision remains with Health?

These and more questions will hopefully be answered.



Health Conference Programme

9:00

Registration, coffee and networking
Welcome and Introduction

9:45 - 10:15

Benedict Coffin (DfE SEND Unit)

Identifying the areas specialist settings are experiencing.
Separation of 'Supporting Children with Medical Needs' advice
vs entitlement.

10:15 - 11:00

Principles - The Newcastle Pilot - Sharing
one set of principles; one model.

11:00 - 11:20

Tea/Coffee and networking

11:20 - 11:40

Leeds

11:40 - 12:00

Bradford

12:00 - 12:20

Cumbria

12:20 - 13:10

Lunch and networking

13:10 - 13:50

MP for Newcastle upon Tyne North – Catherine McKinnell
Minister of State for School Standards

13:50 - 14:10

Greater Manchester

14:10 - 14:30

Pharmacy Team

14:30 - 14:45

Tea/Coffee and networking

14:45 - 15:15

MISS (Medicines in Specialist Schools)

15:15 - 16:00

Q&A and networking



For more information please contact admin@equalsoffice.co.uk

**Equals national conferences are usually oversubscribed so early booking is recommended.
To book a place, please email admin@equalsoffice.co.uk or you can ring using 0191 272 1222.
There is also an online form on the equals website at www.equals.co.uk**



DOING IT SOLO

Supporting lone parents of disabled children, young people and adults

Making time to acknowledge our achievements

Share experiences and learn together

Connect with other parents in similar situations

Doing It Solo Summer Support Sessions:

Mid Summer Drop in: Monday 4th August 2025 - 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Late Summer Drop in: Friday 29th August 2025 - 10.30am to 12.00noon

Transition to term-time: Monday 8th September 2025 - 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Funded by the Big Lottery 'Awards for All', our workshops and drop-in sessions aim to help lone parents think about and achieve their goals, learn what other support is available (especially in times of crisis), and to offer support for lone parents to self advocate.

We provide opportunities to learn practical life skills, focussing on emotional regulation and well-being. We want parents to connect and build confidence to help reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation. For info and booking email: tony@bringingustogether.org.uk

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for info email: tony@bringingustogether.org.uk

Communication Matters International AAC Conference



7-9 September 2025 at the University of Leeds

Registration is now open for the UK's only in-person event that brings together AAC users, their families, carers, researchers, professionals, and suppliers for four days of learning, networking, socialising, and celebrating Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). The conference is expected to welcome 500+ attendees from the UK and beyond.

Here's a glimpse of what you can expect:

Hear from keynote speaker Professor Bronwyn Hemsley, Head of Speech Pathology, University of Technology Sydney, speaking on "Identity and Connections: AAC, AI & Authorship"

80+ presentations and workshops covering research, clinical practice, and personal stories

Visit the exhibition featuring leading AAC and AT suppliers

Attend the biennial AAC Awards including dinner and dancing

Join the Research Study Day with parallel sessions on "The Future of AI in AAC" and "Becoming an Aided Communicator"

To learn more visit <https://www.communicationmatters.org.uk/conference/>

Changing Faces Workshop for Children and Families - Supporting your child

Our Supporting Your Child online workshop is full of advice and top practical tips to support parents and carers of children and young people, who have a scar, mark or condition on their face or body that makes them look different.

Read on for more details about the workshop and to find out how to register.

Key details

- Date: Tuesday 21st October 2025
- Time: 7.15pm – 9:00pm
- Location: Zoom
- Who is it aimed at? Parents and carers

About the day

The workshop will include:

- How to handle staring and awkward social situations
- Building confidence for you and your child
- The opportunity to listen to guest speakers talking about their own experiences of living with a visible difference

To make sure everyone feels comfortable, we will be capping attendance at around 22 parents or carers. Partners and co-parents are also welcome to attend together.

Once a participant has registered for the workshop, a member of our Wellbeing Team will get in touch to arrange a short, informal pre-workshop call on Zoom to meet you.

Register Here:

<https://www.changingfaces.org.uk/services-support/workshops-for-children-families>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - REGIONAL

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS:

Website: <https://www.cann-network.org> (Being built)
Email: TBC
Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/southwestcann.bsky.social> - TBC
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-west-cann>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/southwestcann>

Please share South West CANN links with your followers and encourage them to follow too.
Please add **EMAIL TBC** to your Contact list to stop it going into junk.