



SYCANN COMMUNICATION
September 2025

INTRODUCTION	3
SYCANN MEETING DATES	3
CHAIR COMMENTS	4
ADMIN COMMENTS	4
Irwin Mitchell Christmas themed family fun day	5
NEW MEMBERS	6
Hackcessible	6
LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION	7
Barnsley CVS Newsletter	7
RESEARCH	7
Community Transport consultation	7
Share the consultation link here: https://www.southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/explore_community-transport-consultation	7
Disability Sport Survey for Parent Carers	7
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - NATIONAL/ONLINE	8
AIM online Choir	8
H.I.E. Conference - Thursday 14th May 2026	9
Bringing Us Together Upcoming Online Courses	11
Signposting Network of Inclusive Support	15
Film project for deaf/hearing impaired child	15
Helpful resource for autistic children's oral health	16
Direct Payment Support Group Some Dates for your diary 2025 - 2026	17
Keep Connected: Understanding & living with an acquired brain injury (ABI) in children	17
Health Conference - Principles for Delivering Clinical Tasks in Education Settings for Children and Young People with EHCPs.	19
Changing Faces Workshop for Children and Families - Supporting your child	22
Guide Dogs My Time to Play	23
Communication Matters International AAC Conference	23
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - REGIONAL	25
Sheffield Mencap Gateway Children's Groups	25
SYFAB & VAS - Funding Surgery - Chapeltown	27
Barnsley CVS Support for small voluntary and community organisations	29
Invitation to collaborate- Hackcessible 2025 Challenger Opportunity	32
Pathways to Work – Free Employment Support in Barnsley	33
Free training for VCSE sector	34
Move More Inclusive Sport Event - September 2025	34
New grants system plus more from South Yorkshire's Community Foundation	34

Offer from Interplay Theatre: Touring Drift Show	35
Sheffield SENDIASS Training Dates	38
Mental Health Matters Dates	38
SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS:	39

INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome to the latest South Yorkshire CANN Update.

South Yorkshire 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 southyorkshire@cann-network.org, 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 SYCANN Website at:
<https://www.cann-network.org/blog/>

SYCANN MEETING DATES

Future dates:

SY CANN Quarterly Meeting
Let's talk - Period (and beyond)
on Tuesday 9th Sept 2025 from 10am - 12pm

Hosted by Irwin Mitchell,
Riverside East House, 2 Millsands, Sheffield S3 8DT

Or Online
Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)
[Join the meeting now](#)
Meeting ID: 331 180 511 805 5
Passcode: ny7b4TN9

Please let us know if you need any support accessing the meeting

SY CANN Quarterly Meeting
The Voice of Our Youth
Tuesday 3rd December
10am to 12pm at Irwin Mitchell's offices in Sheffield

CHAIR COMMENTS

Hi SYCANN community,

We hope you've had a joyful summer with loved ones. As the new term approaches, many of us are in the thick of uniform and stationery missions—wishing you smooth transitions back to school!

We're excited to welcome you to our second hybrid meeting on **Tuesday 9th September**, which promises to be our best-attended yet. We'll be joined online by our friends from across the CANN's, as we continue to deepen our understanding of the challenges women face across their lifetimes—and how men can support the women in their lives.

Meeting Agenda:

- **Lightning Intro Round** – Please prepare a very brief update or share point. We want to hear from everyone, but time is tight!
- **Extended Intros from Karen Hoe and John Rowbotham** – Two members will share more detailed updates on time-sensitive projects (4–5 minutes each).
- **Speakers (x3)**
- **AOB - Any stories / good news to share?**
- **Next Meeting Date & Topic** – “The Voice of Our Youth,” featuring a continuation of our intro speakers and the brilliant women leading the Sheffield Children's Youth Forum.
- **Stretch & Laugh Session** – After we say goodbye to our online attendees, Kerryaane will lead us in a light workout/stretch. It might be mildly comical, but we'll give it a go!

If you're attending in person, handouts are very welcome. The clearer you can be about how we can support you, the better—we'll share all email contacts in the minutes so we can follow up meaningfully.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Warmest wishes,
Nina Rose and Maxine Beckett
SYCANN Co-Chair's
South Yorkshire CANN

ADMIN COMMENTS

Exciting News from The CANN Network!

As we continue to grow, we're moving from regional websites to a single national hub:
www.cann-network.org

South Yorkshire CANN
www.southyorkshirecann.org
info@southyorkshirecann.org

This means <https://www.southyorkshirecann.org> will soon redirect to our new site, and our email addresses are updating too:

- info@southyorkshirecann.org → southyorkshire@cann-network.org
- General enquiries → admin@cann-network.org

We're currently transferring all the information, so both sites will run side by side for a while. But it's a great time to update your mailing lists and contact details now. We'll send reminders as updates come through.

All social media links will remain the same as regional.

Thanks for being part of our journey—here's to expansion and better connection across the UK!

Miriam Watson-Pratt
Administrator
admin@cann-network.org

Irwin Mitchell Christmas themed family fun day

Dear SYCANN members,

We hope you're all well and enjoying the summer so far.

We're pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Christmas themed family fun day on the **14th December 2025**. Please see below for key info, with more details to follow in due course.

We would absolutely love to see as many SYCANN members attend the event as possible. As some of you will know, we've ran similar events like this in previous years, which have been well received by local families. The aim of the event is to provide a free and fun activity for all the family to enjoy. With this in mind, it would be much appreciated if you could let us know if you're able to attend with a stall and provide a fun activity for the children to enjoy. This can be anything you like, big or small, but it would be great if you could share what you'd like to do so we can help coordinate this (some ideas for inspiration are at the bottom of this email!). We are looking into hiring a 'Santa' and entertainment for the day, so will keep you updated in due course on this, but it would be great for the families to have a choice of activities to take part in. We would also really appreciate your support as CANN members in promoting the event with your own networks, to help this reach as many families and service users as possible – please do let us know if you're happy to support the event in this way. 😊

Key information:

- Venue; Niagara Centre, Niagara Road, Sheffield, S6 1LU

- Date; Sunday 14th December 2025
- Time; 11am – 2pm (set up time tbc)
- Cost; Free

Ideas for your stall:

- Nail painting
- DIY Christmas decorations
- Finger painting
- Christmas tree drawing stencils
- Giant connect 4
- Write a letter to Santa station
- Story telling corner (quiet room available)
- Sensory experience (if you have the equipment)

Please can you confirm your place as soon as possible by emailing Nicole.quinn@irwinmitchell.com, so we can T up the venue in plenty of time. Any questions please do let us know and thank you in advance for your support.

Anna.Stacey@IrwinMitchell.com

NEW MEMBERS



Hackaccessible

An annual student-lead initiative in the University of Sheffield where we invite students across different studies creating innovative solutions for individuals with

disabled needs. Hackaccessible is a 6 week long competition where we find people with disabled needs, known as challengers, to share their problems and propose a challenge to students to build an assistive device or prototype to help with their needs. Hackaccessible has been running since 2018. It has brought challengers, engineering students, designers together to co-develop impactful solutions.

hackaccessible@sheffield.ac.uk

<https://hackaccessible.co.uk/>

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

South Yorkshire CANN
www.southyorkshirecann.org
info@southyorkshirecann.org

If you are not yet on the SYCANN website, you can be added by completing this form:

<https://www.southyorkshirecann.org/member-registration>

Please only use contact details that are for public use

LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION

Barnsley CVS Newsletter

Here is our newsletter full of sector news, events, funding and training opportunities and all the latest from Barnsley CVS.

https://old.barnsleycvs.org.uk/civicrm/ mailing/view?reset=1&id=1587&cid=6106&cs=50dd2dee61f538ad6fb4708ec4f04eae_1755782529_168

RESEARCH

Community Transport consultation

SYMCA are consulting with registered users and non-users of Community Transport to help us, and the local Community Transport operators, understand how customers use Community Transport and the potential barriers to using Community Transport.

Community Transport Services are for people who are unable to use public transport due to disability, age, frailty or geographic location.

Share the consultation link here:

https://www.southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/explore_community-transport-consultation

Disability Sport Survey for Parent Carers

Dial Barnsley teamed up with Grassroots Sports Academy to find out how they can make physical activity and sports more accessible and inclusive for Barnsley families. In order for them to provide tailored sports sessions, they need to find out what parent carers think.

Please share the survey below with your networks. Anyone who completes the survey could be in with a chance to win a brand new Nintendo Switch!

Survey here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebm_6JTEVRPyznxAxY3hvsTnmTAEJitN2EXXP_VMDMSna8kw/viewform

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - NATIONAL/ONLINE

AIM online Choir

Online choir starts back FREE Tue 9th Sept

Inclusive Choir

Tuesday 5pm online
(term time only)

Scan to join us for
FREE

SCAN ME



Registered charity: 1203866



Singing

Using Makaton

Moving your body

Making Sounds

**Using an
Eye-gaze/switch**



Accessible Inclusive Music (AIM)

Contact us



accessible.inclusive.music@gmail.com



[@accessibleinclusivemusic](https://www.facebook.com/accessibleinclusivemusic)



[@accessible_inclusive_music](https://www.instagram.com/accessible_inclusive_music)



[@aimwestyorks.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/aimwestyorks.bsky.social)



www.accessibleinclusivemusic.org.uk

Registered charity: 1203866



H.I.E. Conference - Thursday 14th May 2026

Tickets are on sale for our first H.I.E. Conference, taking place on Thursday 14th May 2026 at The Lowry, Manchester.



H.I.E. CONFERENCE

14th May 2026
The Lowry, Salford Quays

Kindly supported by:



BoltBurdonKemp



The theme is “Hear, Inform, Empower.”

Our first announced speakers are Nicholas Hamilton & Paula Abramson.

South Yorkshire CANN
www.southyorkshirecann.org
info@southyorkshirecann.org

"Nicolas is a disability ambassador and hugely inspiring speaker. Born with Cerebral Palsy, following an H.I.E. event at birth, Nicolas and his parents were told that he would never walk, or talk, but this did not stop him for achieving his dream of becoming a successful racing driver."

Paula Abramson will be joining us on the 14th May 2026, and we hope you will too. Paula is a psychotherapist and training facilitator, specialising in providing bereavement support to families and training for professionals, following the death of a baby or child.

Conference tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hie-conference-tickets-1434277846649>

Bringing Us Together Upcoming Online Courses

Bringing Us Together

Workshops for Individual Employers and those receiving Direct Payments

We welcome you to our new series of FREE online sessions on Zoom delivered by Bringing Us Together and Adult Social Care Warriors with Guest Speakers. Funded by Skills for Care.



**Wednesday 3rd September 2025
at 1.30pm to 3.30pm**

**Welfare Reform – Managed
Migration and Universal Credit**

Guest Speaker : Gail Ward

Gail Ward is a disabled activist with many years of experience in campaigning for a fairer system for disabled people and their families.

In this session, Gail will be providing an overview of :

- The process of Managed Migration to Universal Credit.
- Transitional Protection
- An update on recent changes to the Universal Credit Bill.

Attend this workshop to make sure you're clear how the changes may affect you and what you need to do about it.

Learn together, share ideas, and meet other like-minded people who employ Personal Assistants/Carers. Resources will be provided.

for info and booking email: karen@bringingustogether.org.uk



**ADULT SOCIAL
CARE WARRIORS**



South Yorkshire CANN
www.southyorkshirecann.org
info@southyorkshirecann.org

Doing it Solo



A Bringing Us Together lone parents project for parents of disabled children, young people and adults

Transition to term time workshop



Date:

Monday 8th September 2025

Time:

7.00pm - 9:00pm

Our next workshop will be a relaxed conversation all about the transition back to term time.

Led by Steering group member Noreen, this will be your chance to share the highs and lows of the first week back, what's worked well and any challenges you'd like help with. Our team will share their top tips and we'd love to hear yours so we can all learn from each other.



For more info and booking, email tony@bringingusttogether.org.uk

Doing it Solo



*A Bringing Us Together lone parents project for
parents of disabled children, young people and adults*

Summer 'Drop-in' session

A Conversation with The Doing It Solo team.

*Sharing our journeys and our learning
so far*



Date:

Friday 29th August 2025

Time:

10.30am - 12 midday



Our next drop-in session will be an opportunity
for everyone to share our tips for keeping going.
How do we find real support that works for us?

Chat to our team about some of the challenges
we all face and how we can avoid burnout by
coming together.



*For more info and booking, email
tony@bringingustogether.org.uk*

Signposting Network of Inclusive Support

We would like to build an inclusive network of support for the families and patients with congenital heart defects, whilst delivering our family support service we have identified that often there is so much more that our families need support with and this is something we can help with on our own and want to call on the other fabulous services across our region to build a safe and reassuring network of support and guidance

Would you be happy to share our “ASK” project flyer with your contacts please, those who are interested can be as active as they are able all we ask is that we can share their service logo along with website and contact details on our website, this would illustrate and inform our families of the partnerships we have to ensure they have a safety net of support and services they can contact to meet their individual needs

We may also ask those services to attend events share resources and support us to identify ways we can be more inclusive as a service, but this is not a requirement

All professionals need to do is email me at – sarah.cherry@chsf.org.uk with their logo, names contact and service contact details

I am more than happy to chat about this further

Very best wishes

Sarah



Sarah Cherry
Head of Family Support
sarah.cherry@chsf.org.uk
07929 509227

Film project for deaf/hearing impaired child

We are casting a beautiful film set in present-day Scotland, where far-right vigilantes patrol rural communities and enforce their ideology with violence, a 10-year-old deaf girl is torn from her protective older brother during a brutal raid. Escaping into the wilderness, she must navigate an unforgiving, dystopian landscape — relying on her senses, her wits, and the memories of their shared games — to find her way back to him. But when she finally reaches their secret meeting place, the reunion she’s fought so hard for will shatter her heart forever.

We are trying to find a young deaf actor / hard of hearing for the role of

Amna - ethnicity would be Asian/Mediterranean or mixed ethnicity.

South Yorkshire CANN
www.southyorkshirecann.org
info@southyorkshirecann.org

Below I have some more details about the character:

Amna

Female

Playing age of 10-12 years old (actual age must also be above 10)

Must be deaf / hard-of-hearing

Fluent in BSL (Basic or Intermediate considered)

Please email hello@thedramamob.com

Let me know if you need any further information.

Shoot dates: SEP 29th - 3rd Oct.

Helpful resource for autistic children's oral health

A new useful resource regarding autistic children's oral health toothPASTE which is now live:
autismtoothcare.com.

toothPASTE is a free, online resource developed with parents and professionals to support autistic children's oral health and also relevant to many children with additional needs.

It includes small, practical steps to help with toothbrushing, reducing sugary foods and drinks, and attending dental appointments.

The resources are autism-informed, non-judgemental, and easy to use.

(Just to clarify, toothPASTE and autismtoothcare.com are the same project. The website name was chosen based on likely search terms and input from the research).

Sarah Firth

Communications and Insight Manager (SEND)

Healthy Children and Families

Email: sarah.firth@bradford.nhs.uk

LinkedIn: [Sarah Firth | LinkedIn](#)

Website: www.bdcpartnership.co.uk

Direct Payment Support Group Some Dates for your diary 2025 - 2026

Liz Leach from Imagineer Development UK CIC & Support Brokerage Network and Katie Clarke from Accessible Calderdale are pleased to announce a new series of workshops.

Our workshops are for people who already receive a Direct Payment or Personal Budget, or those people who are interested in this option.

These sessions help people to develop a greater understanding about the assessment process, financial assessment, support planning and recruiting and training of Personal Assistants.

Workshops will help attendees know their rights as a Direct Payments recipient.

Our sessions are a safe place to come together with like-minded people, learn together and share what works, what doesn't work and what we can do to make employing our own team/s easier.

Thanks to Skills for Care we are running the following sessions:

- 16th September at the Kings Centre, Halifax 10am to 3pm Recruitment Top Tips
- 15th October online 6pm to 8pm Guidance and Legislation
- 12th November online 6pm to 8pm Not Another Assessment
- 3rd December online 6pm to 8pm Support Planning for Individual Employers
- 12th January online 6pm to 8pm Managing your own PA/s
- TBC February online Disability Related Expenses workshop
- 2nd March full day workshop 10am to 3pm What Does Good Support Look Like?

We will be running 3 outreach workshops for family and disabled led organisations so do get in touch if you want us to join one of your sessions.

We run a closed group for anyone receiving Social Care to share ideas, knowledge, and support.

For more information on the Direct Payment Support Group please contact katie@visitsunlimited.org.uk and follow us on social media @AccessibleCalderdale

For bookings contact lorraine.accessiblecalderdale@gmail.com

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-norhampton/>

[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.

South Yorkshire CANN
www.southyorkshirecann.org
info@southyorkshirecann.org



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



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>

Guide Dogs My Time to Play



Guide Dogs My Time To Play Virtual Sessions 2025 for children with a vision impairment aged 0-4

We offer fun and supportive group sessions to help your child develop the practical skills and confidence to explore their world – all through the power of play. You will meet other parents and pick up skills from our expert staff that will help you support your child's early development with confidence.

Sessions run for seven consecutive weeks starting dates are:

Friday 31st January 10.00-11.00 a.m. - with Heather & Maria
Monday 3rd March 10.30-11.30 a.m. - with Imogen and Lauren
Friday 2nd May 10.30-11.30 a.m. - with Maria & Celina
Wednesday 2nd July 10.30-11.30 a.m. - with Sophie & Victoria
Friday 5th September 10.00-11.00 a.m. - with Sharon & Abbie
Friday 23rd October 10.30-11.30 a.m. - with Rebecca, Alice and Machala

Give them the best possible start in life and sign up for our My Time to Play virtual programme by calling 0800 781 1444 or by using the online enquiry form <https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/getting-support/getting-in-touch-form/>



Guide Dogs is a working name of The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Registered Office: Hillfields, Burghfield Common, Reading, Berkshire RG7 3YG.
A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (291646) and a charity registered in England and Wales (209617),
Scotland (SC038979) and Isle of Man (1334).

Communication Matters International AAC Conference

South Yorkshire CANN
www.southyorkshirecann.org
info@southyorkshirecann.org



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/>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - REGIONAL

Sheffield Mencap Gateway Children's Groups

Saturday Stars (School term- time only)– 10am to 11am and 11:15am to 12:15pm.

Our Saturday Stars groups children are supported to progress towards their own personal goals within 5 areas: relationships, social skills, independence, confidence and mental health/wellbeing. At the end of each term children receive a star certificate to celebrate their achievements.

Fitness -Thursdays in school term-time only. 5pm – 6pm

Kid's Fitness is a great way to try out lots of different sports and games. The group is led by specialist fitness instructors who are able to safely coach children of all abilities and levels of need. Children will enjoy getting fitter as they try out a range of activities, including Boccia, dance and team games.

Gateway Youth Club - Thursdays in school term-time only. - 5:30pm – 7pm

Gateway youth club is suitable for children with a mild learning disability and/or autism and their siblings.

The wide range of activities on offer are planned collaboratively with members, including sports, games, art and crafts, films, quizzes and cooking. There are regular themed activities too, such as Halloween and Christmas parties, Easter Egg hunts and sports-themed days. Children may also choose to just relax and enjoy spending time with other young people. Gateway youth club is a great place to meet new friends and develop social skills.

All sessions are for children aged 5-17 years and are £4 per session, with spaces booked for the term and paid monthly. A free taster session is offered for all activities.

If interested, please email: childrensprojects@sheffieldmencap.org.uk or call 0114 2767757



Gateway Youth Club

A relaxed social club for children with a learning disability, autistic children and their siblings. Optional activities include sports, games, quizzes, crafts and cooking plus party nights.

Thursday
5pm - 7:30pm

Fitness

Have fun getting fitter! This group tries out a wide range of sports, team games and activities. Suitable for all levels of fitness.

Thursday
5pm - 6pm



About Us

Sheffield Mencap and Gateway has been providing specialist groups for children with a learning disability and autistic children for over 70 years. We pride ourselves on building lifelong relationships with families and supporting every child to thrive. Our groups enable children to interact socially, developing communication and confidence. Children build independence through the group environment, led by caring, experienced staff. We ask that families provide any 1-2-1 support that is needed.

Get in touch to find out more about our services - we are happy to arrange a tour and free trial session, or just have a chat about which of our services would be best for your family.

Contact Us

- 01142 767757
- childrensprojects@sheffieldmencap.org.uk
- @sheffieldmencapgateway
- @SheffieldMencapAndGateway
- www.sheffieldmencap.org.uk/childrens-services
- Norfolk Lodge, Park Grange Road, Sheffield S2 3QF.



Children's Groups

For children with a learning disability and autistic children aged 0 - 17.



Parent Carers

We offer a range of free support for parents and carers. A designated 'Parent Carer Room' is available during all our children's groups, where parent-carers can meet, socialise and support each other. Our 'Caring for Carers' service runs a programme of groups for carers in communities across Sheffield, with activities designed to support better wellbeing. We also have a 1-2-1 Carer Support Worker who is available for specialist advice and emotional support, alongside delivering workshops.

Are you the parent/carer of a child aged 14+? Do you know they should have an Annual Health Check (AHC)? We can support you throughout the AHC process from booking to attending the appointment.

Please contact us to find out more about all of the support we have available.

Baby & Toddler

This inclusive group welcomes all children aged 0 - 5. The session is open to children with and without a diagnosis of neurodiversity or disability. Meet other parents and carers while your child enjoys social time, activities, toys and sensory play.

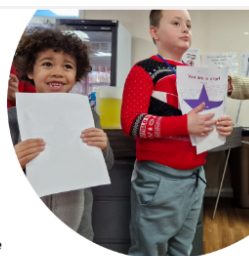


Tuesday
9:30am - 12:30pm

Saturday Stars



Saturday Stars groups run every Saturday morning during term-time. All groups are suitable for children from their reception year at school up to age 17. Children are supported to progress towards their own personal goals within our core values: **relationships, community, independence, confidence and wellbeing.** At the end of each term children receive a star certificate to celebrate their achievements.



Social Stars

Children develop communication and fine motor skills through largely seated activities including arts and crafts, storytelling and board games.

**Group 1: 10am - 11am
Story Stars**

This group suits children who are less socially confident, providing extra support to settle in and feel comfortable in the group.

**Group 2: 11:15am - 12:15pm
Speaking Stars**

This group suits more socially confident children, supporting speaking and listening skills and building positive relationships.

Sports Stars

Children improve their fitness, co-ordination and teamwork through a range of inclusive sports and active games.

**Group 1: 10am - 11am
Stretching Stars**

This group is an introduction to being active and participating in team games for children who benefit from more support.

**Group 2: 11:15am - 12:15pm
Squad Stars**

This group suits children who already enjoy being active and taking part in team sports and games.

Shining Stars

Children express their creativity through drama. They can create and perform their own shows as well as making props, costumes and scripts.

**Group 1: 10am - 11am
Scene Stars**

This group is aimed at children new to drama. They will learn performance skills and build confidence expressing themselves.

**Group 2: 11:15am - 12:15pm
Stage Stars**

For children who are more confident to develop their drama skills as they create and perform shows.

SYFAB & VAS - Funding Surgery - Chapeltown

Just a quick email reminder about our next Funding Surgery which is to be held at Chapeltown Methodist Church on Thursday 17th September. The appointments will be between 1:00pm and 7:00pm. Many thanks to Mark Hible at North LAC for arranging this venue for us.

I have attached a leaflet with the details – would you be able to promote it round your networks?

If a group can't attend, please ask that they get in touch with me direct and I can make separate arrangements to chat with them about their funding needs.

One of the CDWs (Jan at Woodhouse) has asked to observe on the day, but if any other CDWs are interested in observing, please get in touch with me and we can try to facilitate that.

Thanks in advance of your promotion of this.

All the best.

Karen
karen@syfab.org.uk



SYFAB

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FUNDING ADVICE BUREAU

vas

supporting community action

SHEFFIELD FUNDING SURGERY for Voluntary & Community Groups

Date: Wednesday 17th September 2025

Time: 1.00pm - 7.00pm

**Venue: Chapeltown Methodist Church
Netherley Avenue, Chapeltown
Sheffield S35 1AE**

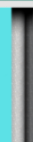
**With South Yorkshire Funding
Advice Bureau & Voluntary
Action Sheffield**

Free Advice on



- How to find funding
- Choosing the right funder
- Putting together a good application
- Including support from Voluntary Action Sheffield (VAS)
- Booking essential

FUNDING →



**Book a FREE 45 minute
appointment**

contact Karen Walke
Email: karen@syfab.org.uk
or call 07529 323 342
syfab.org.uk



SYFAB

vas
supporting community action



More information email: enquiries@syfab.org.uk or call 0114 261 5141

SYFAB is part of the South Yorkshire's Community Foundation and funded by Sheffield City Council

Barnsley CVS Support for small voluntary and community organisations

Calling all small voluntary and community organisations - come and meet our team over coffee and cake!

If your organisation has an annual income of under £100k per annum, we would love to meet you.

We will have our staff there ready to chat with you about:

- Community Accountancy, Payroll, and Book keeping
- Volunteer recruitment, selection and retention
- Marketing, publicity and communications
- Applying for grants and monitoring
- Basic finance
- Governance
- Funding

When: Tuesday 23rd September 2025, 11am-3pm

Where: Houghton Road Community Centre, Thurnscoe, S63 0JY

How to book: There's no need to book, just turn up and we'll do our best to answer your queries.

Parking is limited, but additional parking is available across the road.

You will also get the opportunity to network with like-minded organisations from your local area.

Please come along and meet our team and find out how we could support your organisation.



**Do you run a local
voluntary or
community group?**

**IS YOUR
ORGANISATIONAL
INCOME UNDER
£100K?**

MEET AND CHAT WITH OUR TEAM



When:
Tuesday 23rd
September 2025

Time:
11am-3pm
(drop in at
any time)

Where:
Houghton Road
Community
Centre S63 0JY

More information can be found on our website:
<https://barnsleycvs.org.uk/events-and-training>

Who are we?

We are Barnsley CVS and we are here to support voluntary and community groups across Barnsley.

Our advice and guidance is completely FREE and we would love to get to know the local groups in the Dearne!

How can we help you and your organisation?

We will have staff available ready to chat to you about:

- Community Accountancy, Payroll, and Bookkeeping
- Volunteer recruitment, selection and retention
- Marketing, publicity and communications
- Applying for grants and monitoring
 - Basic finance
 - Governance
 - Funding



Invitation to collaborate- Hackcessible 2025 Challenger Opportunity

Hello,

I am writing on behalf of Hackcessible, a student-lead initiative in a university in Sheffield where we invite students across different studies creating innovative solutions for individuals with disabled needs. I am writing to explore the possibility of partnering with your organisation to find a 'challenger' for our upcoming Hackcessible programme and we would really appreciate it if you can pass on this invitation to the relevant person or department.

Here is an overview of Hackcessible. It is a 6 week long competition where we find people with disabled needs, known as challengers, to share their problems and propose a challenge to students to build an assistive device or prototype to help with their needs. Hackcessible has been running since 2018. It has brought challengers, engineering students, designers together to co-develop impactful solutions. In the last Hackcessible, we had 67 participants, 8 challengers and all of them finished with a functional prototype where 5 of them are classified as ready-to-go.

Challengers can be individuals with disability, their carers, friends or representatives of charities. Where a specific need can be addressed by one of our student teams by designing and creating a customised prototype. They have to be okay with having the nature of their disabled need shared with students along with their first name or a pseudonym and to be okay with working with us to nail down a brief for the students. They may withdraw from the project at any time and we will provide assistance with travel costs if they would like to visit the university. By participating, challengers are not only contributing to a more accessible world but may also receive a functional prototype to help them with their daily lives. While we aim to complete a functional prototype, we cannot guarantee that one will be complete by the end of the event.

If you know anyone who might be interested, we'd be grateful if you could share the invitation with them or point us in the right direction. Alternatively, if they have decided to take part in Hackcessible as a challenger, can they please fill out this form? If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or contact us at hackcessible@sheffield.ac.uk. Thank you for your time and consideration, we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,
Latisha
Secretary, Hackcessible

I asked for a little more info:

Hackcessible is a 6 week long event, which will run from October to February. There are 2 events that we would highly encourage challengers to be on campus with us, the opening event and the final make-a-thon. The opening event in October where challengers and students taking part in Hackcessible meet and talk about their specific needs and their challenge. (We are more than happy to help challengers to shape their challenge proposal.) As for the final make-a-thon, it is

South Yorkshire CANN
www.southyorkshirecann.org
info@southyorkshirecann.org

planned to take place in February. This is when students should have their prototype completed and it is challengers' to take home if they are happy with the prototype. Travel cost will be covered by Hackaccessible for challengers to attend our events on campus. In between those 2 events, it would be ideal if the challenger can keep in touch with student teams to provide feedback to their designs every one or two weeks, either online or in-person.

In terms of age range, we welcome any age. If the person themselves do not feel comfortable joining us, they can have their carer/friends joining on behalf of them. We did have one challenge in this format last year.

Regarding maximum numbers, for previous years, we typically have 8-10 challenges. This year, we are aiming for about the same number with the potential to stretch to 12 challenges. If the response is more than we can accommodate, we will have to look into the complexity of challenges. (Hackaccessible is limited due to it is only 6 weeks long event. Majority of student teams are formed by undergraduate students and each team usually have around 400-600 pounds budget to complete their prototype. The attached pdf is examples of what is possible through Hackaccessible, hopefully that will give a better idea of what level of complexity we can explore.) Another possibility is we will narrow down by the variety of challenges. For example, if we have 2 challengers with hearing impairment who have similar needs, we will discuss with them to explore the possibility of having them together on one challenge. Moreover, Hackaccessible is run annually. If anyone is keen to join us, there will be chances again next year. We try our best to accommodate all challengers, it will be very unfortunate if we have to turn any challengers away.

I am more than happy for people to contact me (yylchau1@sheffield.ac.uk), please feel free to share my contact info. They can also email hackaccessible@sheffield.ac.uk for more information. Alternatively, if they would like to become a challenger, they can fill out the google form, through [this link, https://forms.gle/XJu1WUVAuVFxDEWE6](https://forms.gle/XJu1WUVAuVFxDEWE6) After filling out the form, generally our lead and I will be in touch through email/ phone to understand more about their needs and to discuss their challenge proposal with them.

Pathways to Work – Free Employment Support in Barnsley

This service helps people in Barnsley find and keep a job. It's open to:

Young people (16–24)
Adults with health conditions
Adults with caring responsibilities
Support includes:

1-to-1 help with job searches, CVs, and interviews
Access to a Health at Work Coach
Ongoing support once you're in work
Help with finances and signposting to other services

Call 0114 2900 218

South Yorkshire CANN
www.southyorkshirecann.org
info@southyorkshirecann.org

PathwaysReferrals@syha.co.uk
findgoodwork.co.uk/refer

Free training for VCSE sector

Vita Health Group have put on free training over the next year for the VCSE sector.

The training includes topics such as;

Mental Health Awareness
Suicide Awareness
Diet and Nutrition
Financial Wellbeing
and so much more!!

You can find all the training opportunities on our website here:

<https://barnsleycvs.org.uk/events-and-training>

Free Places on SYFAB Fundraising Training Courses for Voluntary & Community Barnsley Groups

South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau is now offering free places on all its courses for volunteer led community and voluntary groups in Barnsley

The full menu of courses is here <https://www.syfab.org.uk/events.aspx>

If you have queries about whether you qualify for a fully funded free place email

andy@syfab.org.uk

Move More Inclusive Sport Event - September 2025

On Thursday, 11th September 2025 Employment is for Everyone are supporting the Move More event in Sheffield, which is for anyone with a disability over 16. The event will be held from 9.30 to 2.30 at the English Institute for Sport.

Book on here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciMy7Aq19OqIC23E6X0_kM_fy-UnNTvm1CnyVPXeKYuExR0w/viewform

New grants system plus more from South Yorkshire's Community Foundation

A new and improved grants management system is being introduced by South Yorkshire's Community Foundation (SYCF) to make it easier and more efficient for individuals and organisations to apply for funding.

South Yorkshire CANN
www.southyorkshirecann.org
info@southyorkshirecann.org

Read the press release here:

<https://www.sycf.org.uk/our-impact/news/sycf-set-to-launch-new-grants-system>

Offer from Interplay Theatre: Touring Drift Show

Interplay Sensory Theatre have some available dates on our tour for £800 a day, and groups can get in touch with me to find out more. There's also a QR code there to recommend us to a school.

Kirsty Pennycook
Interplay Theatre
Artistic Director / CEO
E: kirsty@interplaytheatre.org.uk

You are invited to book...

DRIFT



THE INTERACTIVE ARCADE INSPIRED SHOW FOR
AUDIENCES WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES, PMLD
AND/OR AUTISM

We tour into Charity Settings and Schools nationally,
and have availability in South Yorkshire

Contact kirsty@interplaytheatre.org.uk for more
information

Cost: £800 per day
Shows: 2 shows per day
Capacity: 30 people max
Space required: 6m x 6m
Discounts available for
consecutive days

If this show isn't right for your
setting, but you'd like to
reccomend us to an SEN
School, please send them this
flyer, or give us their contact
information here:



Dates available in South Yorkshire:
Tuesday 16th September
Wednesday 17th September
Thursday 18th September
Monday 20th October
Tuesday 21st October
Wednesday 22nd October

Sheffield SENDIASS Training Dates

Our online Parents Information Sessions are running through the holidays and into the new term
SEN Support in Schools - 30th September 2025

What is a Needs Assessment for EHC Plan - 21st October 2025

Checking a Draft EHC Plan - 31st July, 4th August, 12th August 2025 and weekly throughout the year

Keep an eye on our website for more sessions!

Events and Training: <https://sheffieldsendias.org.uk/training-events-webinars>

Mental Health Matters Dates

Good evening,

Please see group sessions for September attached.

We are constantly striving to improve and develop the service that we offer. One of the ways we do this is by gathering feedback from our clients.

Please take a moment to complete our feedback questionnaire:
<https://forms.office.com/e/tsGkMm1YQz>

Kind regards
Almarie (Blossom/Purple)
Leigh (Forest/Green)
Alex (Dice/Red)
Peta (Seashell/Blue)
Adult Autism and ADHD Support Hub

Mobile Number: 07811 589909
Website: [Mental Health Matters \(mhm.org.uk\)](https://mhm.org.uk)

Adult Autism and ADHD Support Hub - September 2025

Monday – 01/09/2025 Drop-in 1:2:1 support @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS - 10:00 – 14:00	Monday – 01/09/2025 12:15 – 13:30 @ 44 Bank Street Zones of Regulation (5 & 6/6)	Wednesday – 03/09/2025 Drop-in 1:2:1 support @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS 10:00– 12:00	Wednesday – 03/09/2025 12:00 – 14:00 @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS Dungeons & Dragons – Group 2 Please let us know if you would like to join
Monday – 08/09/2025 Drop-in 1:2:1 support @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS – 10:00 – 12:00	Monday – 08/09/2025 12:00 – 14:00 @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS Dungeons & Dragons – Group 1 Please let us know if you would like to join	Wednesday – 10/09/2025 Drop-in 1:2:1 support @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS 10:00 – 14:00	Wednesday – 10/09/2025 12:15 – 13:30 @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS Zones of Regulation Sessions 1 & 2 of 4 Face-to-face and virtually Please book in advance
Monday – 15/09/2025 Drop-in 1:2:1 support @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS - 10:00 – 14:00	Monday – 08/09/2025 12:15 – 13:30 @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS Art session Express yourself through Art - Share your creativity with the World Welcome to bring your own art material/equipment or make use of our art material/equipment	Wednesday – 17/09/2025 Drop-in 1:2:1 support @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS 10:00 – 12:00	Wednesday – 17/09/2025 12:00 – 14:00 @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS Dungeons & Dragons – Group 2 Please let us know if you would like to join
Monday – 22/09/2025 Drop-in 1:2:1 support 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS - 10:00 – 12:00	Monday – 15/09/2025 12:15 – 13:30 @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS ADHD – Peer support group Can you identify with the video clips ? Love ADHD	Wednesday – 27/09/2025 Drop-in 1:2:1 support @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS 10:00 – 14:00	Wednesday – 17/09/2025 12:15 – 13:30 @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS Peer support group Theme: Rejection Sensitive Dysphoria
	Monday – 22/09/2025 12:00 – 14:00 @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS Dungeons & Dragons – Group 1 Please let us know if you would like to join		Wednesday – 24/09/2025 12:15–13:30 @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS Zones of Regulation Session 3 of 4 Face-to-face and virtually
	Monday – 22/09/2025 12:15 – 13:30 @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS Peer support group Theme: Sensory processing disorder		

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS:

Website:	www.southyorkshirecann.org / www.cann-network.org
Email:	southyorkshire@cann-network.org
X:	https://x.com/CannSouth
Bluesky:	https://bsky.app/sycann.bsky.social
LinkedIn:	https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-yorkshire-cann
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/southyorkshirecann

Please share SY CANN links with your followers and encourage them to follow too.

Please add southyorkshirecann@cann-network.org to your Contact list to stop it going into junk.