



SOUTH WEST CANN COMMUNICATION
October 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 **southwest@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 SWCANN Website at:
<https://www.cann-network.org/blog/>

SOUTH WEST CANN MEETING DATES

Future dates:
TBC

CHAIR COMMENTS

In a world where families of children and young people with additional needs often face complex challenges, connection and collaboration are more important than ever.

The South West Children's Additional Needs Network (SWCANN) exists to bring together charities, community groups, and statutory organisations who share a common goal: supporting families and improving outcomes. Whether you're a small grassroots group or a large national charity, your voice matters — and together, we're stronger.

This newsletter is a space to share opportunities, celebrate achievements, and learn from one another. We hope it inspires you to reach out, build new partnerships, and continue the incredible work you do every day.

If you are not yet signed up on our website, we'd love to welcome you.

👉 Join the Network and help us grow a truly inclusive, UK-wide community of support by completing this form: <https://www.cann-network.org/member-registration-form/>

Let's keep connecting, sharing, and supporting one another.

Co-Chairs: Sarah Okoro and Chereka Carty
South West CANN

NEW MEMBERS



Everyone Active Charitable Trust

Our services have always been provided for the health and wellbeing of communities, and for the less advantaged groups within those communities. Together, we strive to support our communities to live healthy and happy lives.

Our strategy outlines how we will support the delivery of the Sport England objectives, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, NHS long term plan, Office of Health Improvement and Disparities and UK active's vision for a decade of change, to address

inequalities in healthy life expectancy across our communities.

<http://www.slmcharitabletrust.com>

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

RESEARCH

No new research this month

INFORMATION

No new research this month

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - NATIONAL/ONLINE

Incoming B&A Online events December 2nd and 3rd 2025

Registrations are live for our next online B&A events for 11–25-year-olds.

Open for any young person 11-25 years old who has been impacted by Meningitis. This event is open to the young person who has experienced the disease and their siblings

Our 11–17-year-olds will take part in a creative session with The Crafty Hen and our 18–25-year-olds will enjoy a practical session looking at their personal strengths and how to use them to move forward positively in their lives, with Morissa from Family Action

Please do share the links far and wide and let's make this our most successful online ever!

<https://www.meningitisnow.org/get-support/supporting-young-people/believe-achieve/events-weekends/>

Communication Matters Study Day - 21st November London

'Inspiring New Ways of Thinking About Access to Technology for People with Intellectual Disability' Study Day - Registration Now Open

21st November 2025, 9.30-4pm, Irwin Mitchell Offices, Temple, London, EC4Y 0AY

Communication Matters are delighted to partner with a range of leading academic and clinical experts in cognitive disability to host this exciting event.

Following on from our previous Study Day in November 2019 ('Where Next for People with Cognitive Disabilities & Electronic Assistive Technology?'), we will offer delegates a range of plenaries and workshops to explore the state of play around existing technology for people with cognitive disability as well as the opportunity to (re)consider how to activate current and future technologies in creative and innovative ways. This is a standalone event and, although drawing on learning from the 2019 event, there is no need for delegates to have attended the previous Study Day to benefit from this one.

Attendance: £100 for non-members, £90 for members and £75 for AAC users/PAs/family members. Lunch and refreshments included.

Learning objectives, full programme and booking details can be found [here](#). Register your place now!

<https://www.communicationmatters.org.uk/what-we-do/study-days/>

Down Syndrome UK - PADS Professionals Webinar for October & November

We are delighted to advise that PADS offers free informal monthly lunchtime webinars, aimed at supporting and training all healthcare professionals around best practices to improve the maternity experience of parents of a baby with Down syndrome.

Created and delivered by parents, experts in the lived experience of pregnancy and life with a child with Down syndrome, the sessions will provide you with a chance to learn from our experiences, to seek advice and ask questions. At PADS we believe that every woman with a high chance or confirmed result of baby having Down syndrome has the right to enjoy a pregnancy free from discrimination and not be subjected to any prejudicial language or attitudes.

The Lived Experience of PADS Dads

Tuesday 21st October - Midday

In terms of maternity experiences the dads can often be overlooked especially if the mother and baby need a bit of extra care. We are very grateful to 3 proud PADS dads who are going to share with you a dad's perspective on having child with Down syndrome.

Click here and add details to register for this event:

<https://downsyndromeuk.my.site.com/community/s/maternitywebinars>

Cultural perspectives – how we support families across different cultures

Monday 17th November - Midday

In this webinar we are joined by parents of children with Down syndrome who share their Lived Experiences of their culture, their difficulties and triumphs as well as how PADS supports them in their parenting journey.

Click here and add details to register for this event:

<https://downsyndromeuk.my.site.com/community/s/maternitywebinars>

Royal Society for Blind Children - Connecting Families sessions

Tuesday 14th October 7-8pm

[Connecting Families Online: Personal Care for Young People with a vision impairment · Luma](#)

From washing and dressing to toileting, periods & shaving to home adaptations and life hacks. Join us for a session with Rosie, our Habilitation Specialist to discuss how small wins around the home can empower your children and boost their wellbeing and confidence. This is a relaxed, judgment-free space where you can ask questions – big or small! Our group understands the unique challenges you're facing.

Additionally, head over to our website to find out more about other activities for families, children and young people with VI <https://www.rsbc.org.uk/whats-on/>

Cauldwell Children Impact Report

We Changed Lives In 2024!

Every child deserves the chance to thrive, thanks to our supporters that's exactly what we've made possible.

Our 2024 Impact Report is now live, and it's filled with powerful stories and heartfelt moments that show just how far your generosity has gone. From life-changing autism assessments to fun-filled inclusive events and vital service grants.

Download The Full Report - <https://www.caudwellchildren.com/this-is-us/impact-report>

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.

"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>

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](#)

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

New Posts from The Autism Page:

This month Jade and her boys have been reviewing AAC Communication devices & Montessori busy boards from Joyreal Toys. The AAC devices have been particularly useful for her non speaking son.

Joyreal AAC Communication device review - www.theautismpage.com/joyreal-aac/

Joyreal Montessori busy board review - www.theautismpage.com/joyreal-busy-board/

Jade Page

The Autism Page

www.theautismpage.com

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS:

Website:	https://www.cann-network.org
Email:	southwest@cann-network.org
X:	https://x.com/CannSouthWest
Bluesky:	https://bsky.app/profile/cannsouthwest.bsky.social
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 **southwest@cann-network.org** to your Contact list to stop it going into junk.