



SOUTH WEST CANN COMMUNICATION
November 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

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

Future dates:
TBC

CHAIR COMMENTS

We're delighted to welcome you to the November edition of the South West CANN Communication.

This month marks an exciting milestone for the Network — our very first member, **Cerebral Palsy Plus**, is now featured on the website! Based in Bristol, they do incredible work supporting children and adults with Cerebral Palsy, and we're proud to have them onboard.

If your charity or organisation supports children and young people with additional needs and would like to be listed on the CANN Network website, we'd love to hear from you.

Simply complete our member registration form here:

<https://www.cann-network.org/member-registration-form>

Together, we're building a truly inclusive, UK-wide community of support — and we'd love you to be part of it.

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

NEW MEMBERS



Cerebral Palsy Plus

They are a Bristol area charity working with children and adults with Cerebral Palsy, their families and their carers. We support our members to fulfill their potential, no matter what their circumstances or needs, and create opportunities for connection, fun and personal development.

Their focus is on social inclusion and peer support. They aim to give people the chance to try new things and meet people. They are very aware that many of our members experience isolation and aim to tackle this in a variety of ways.

<https://cerebralsyplus.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

RESEARCH

No new research this month

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - NATIONAL/ONLINE

Online creative art sessions for siblings

Sibs is a charity supporting brothers and sisters of disabled children and adults.

They are running online creative arts sessions on Saturday 22 November for young people who care for a disabled, neurodiverse, or seriously ill sibling. Delivered in partnership with Artpod, each session will include support from a member of the Sibs team, ensuring a welcoming and inclusive space for sibling carers to connect and create.

Join via Zoom on Saturday, 22 November 2025:

South West CANN
www.cann-network.org

● Ages 4 to 10 years (10am - 11.30am)

● Ages 11 years + (1pm - 2.30pm)

https://www.sibs.org.uk/sibs-workshops-and-training/art-sessions-for-young-siblings?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Navigating legal change: What charities need to know

Thursday 06 November, 12.00pm - 1.30pm - Virtual

As the legal landscape continues to evolve, charities must stay informed to protect their operations, assets, and legacy.

This webinar will provide a practical overview of key developments affecting the sector, including recent changes to UK data protection laws, updates in employment legislation, essential guidance on intellectual property management, and strategies for safeguarding legacy income amid rising inheritance disputes.

Join us to gain expert insights and actionable advice to help your charity stay compliant, resilient, and future-ready.

Throughout the session we'll explore:

Legacy income and inheritance disputes

Engaging donors to grow legacy income involves long-term stewardship. Disputes such as contested wills or unclear intentions can threaten these gifts. We'll help you to understand the types of dispute which might arise and how evidence of the donor journey can help in contentious probate disputes.

Intellectual property awareness

Many organisations lack a clear understanding of intellectual property (IP), especially regarding how to protect it. This can lead to complications when collaborating with third parties on content creation, as inadequate IP management may result in unexpected financial demands from those partners. We'll address the type of IP rights which can protect your organisation and its activities, how to protect those rights and common pitfalls and how to avoid them.

Employment law changes

The Employment Rights Bill will see employers grapple with the biggest set of legislative changes we've had for years. We'll explain what to expect and why, giving you some key action points for ensuring resilient to the changes ahead that are tailored to the charity sector. Expect day-one unfair dismissal rights, changes to the way in which you can use low level contracts, the need to take all reasonable steps to prevent third party harassment such as service users, donors, and volunteers.

UK data protection laws

2025 has seen the biggest changes to UK data protection laws since GDPR. The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 is now on the statute books and will both introduce new requirements and change existing ones. We will look at some of the key reforms and what they mean for charities, what you should do and when.

Please RSVP to secure your place.

<https://events.irwinmitchell.com/charities>

We hope you are able to join us.

Kind regards

Irwin Mitchell

For events queries contact events@irwinmitchell.com

Residential Camp Applications for Over the Wall 2026 are OPEN!

Hello!

Applications for 2026 camps are open and you can [refer now!](#) 🎉

We also have some exciting updates to tell you.....

England Camps

2026 sees the opening of [Over the Wall Camp at Ockbrook](#) near Derby!

As part of this exciting new chapter, we have relocated our head office to Ockbrook and are currently renovating the site to transform it into our permanent camp home. From July 2026, all of our residential camps in England will take place here, giving us a wonderful new place to welcome children, young people, and families.

In our first year of operation at Ockbrook, we'll be running smaller camps across more weeks of the year as we gradually scale up our onsite accommodation. Each camp will welcome up to 50 campers, allowing us to deliver the same great experience while continuing to develop our site capacity for future seasons.

We're excited to return to our pre-COVID model of running separate Health Challenge and Siblings Camps. We appreciate the unique benefits this structure offers, allowing us to tailor programming more closely to each group's needs, and we're eager to bring this core element of our camp experience back in 2026.

Each camp session will also be split into age groups, so there will be dedicated weeks for:

- Children aged 8–12 years
- Young people aged 13–17 years

This way, we can make the best use of our space to deliver the best possible experience for our campers.

A new addition to the calendar is our Home Educated Camp, taking place during term time. This combined Health Challenge & Siblings Camp is designed specifically for campers aged 8–17 who are home educated and meet Over the Wall Camp's eligibility criteria. We know that home educated children often have unique learning journeys and social experiences, and we're excited to pilot this new programme.

Family Camps and Partnership Camps

Our Family Camps will be running on weekends throughout September and October, and applications have opened now for these too. We will be announcing in the New Year which will be partnership camps (run with other charities and organisations and usually illness group specific) and which will be our generic Over The wall Family Camps for all illness groups covered in our criteria.

You can find details on all camps and their dates here: [on our website](#)

Share the Magic of Camp!

Many families haven't heard of OTWC until someone like you shares it with them. Your referrals make all the difference — and they only take a few minutes!

If you know a young person or family who could benefit from the magic of camp, you can refer them easily using this short online form: [Refer a Family Now](#).

Once you've made the referral, we'll take it from there! Our team will reach out to the family, chat about camp, and help them apply if they'd like to join in the adventure.

Why should you refer? Here's what one of our wonderful referrers says:

"I have witnesses first-hand what a difference these camps make to our patients. The patients I support are often advised of what they can't do, rather than what they can. Over The Wall gives them the opportunity to take part in activities with other children with similar conditions whilst being cared for by experienced healthcare professionals and staff."

- Hayley, Family Support Worker

'Who can come to camp?' and other FAQs

You can find our eligibility guidance here: [Who can come to camp?](#)

Want to know more about things such as the food, accommodation, and activities? Our FAQs page covers these topics and more. You can find it here: [Camp FAQs](#).

Or, you can get in touch by phoning 01332 977589 or emailing us campers@otw.org.uk. We'd love to help!

Don't forget to refer a family now: [Short online referral form](#).

We hope to see some of the young people you support at camp soon!

Camper & Families Team
Email: campers@otw.org.uk
Tel: 01332 977589 Option 1

Meet Grandad Wheels

Brian Abram is '*Grandad Wheels*'

I'm 68, retired and from Halifax. After a serious cycling accident in 2013, I was left paraplegic and a full-time wheelchair user. I started writing stories to amuse my Grandson Charles, but I was encouraged to share them with a wider audience. I have now self-published six books in the series '*The Adventures of Grandad Wheels!*' – exciting tales of the crazy things I get up to with my grandson Charles (Charlie in the stories). Each story gives the reader some appreciation of the challenges that face wheelchair users. But the main objective is to show that a Grandad in a wheelchair (or anyone in a wheelchair for that matter) can still have a whole lot of fun!

All the proceeds from my books are donated to charity, divided equally between the **Spinal Injuries Association** and **Back Up**. Both these charities work to improve the lives of people like me who have suffered a spinal injury. I've now raised **£90,000**.

As at September 2025, I've visited **200 schools** and met almost **40,000 children**. I raise awareness of the challenges disabled people face whilst entertaining the children and encouraging them to interact with me in a fun way.

Grandad Wheels is available to visit schools and charities in South and West Yorkshire, and can offer **online sessions** for groups further afield. If you're interested in booking a visit, please get in touch!

Brian Abram
brianabram@btinternet.com
07770 643562
www.grandadwheels.com

Excluded by Design? New report and Shift the Scene fund

A new fund for disabled young people in all art forms, Shift the Scene (that I contributed to the design of) will be released on 1st October. Made with Music have a similar fund for early years work and we have learnt so much from it, so I'd really encourage applications. I would be happy to talk to anyone about it, as would love to see an organisation in Yorkshire funded. You can sign up for updates, here: <https://mailchi.mp/youthmusic.org.uk/shift-the-scene-fund-signup>

Please share with any relevant organisations, as it would be great if the reach was nationwide and reached organisations outside of music too.

Thank you
Kathryn

Made with Music
www.madewithmusic.co.uk
Registered Charity 1177738

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 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.

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>

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.



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>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - REGIONAL

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.