

WYCANN COMMUNICATION October 2025

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West Yorkshire CANN www.westyorkshirecann.org info@westyorkshirecann.org

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INTRODUCTION

West 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 info@westyorkshirecann.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 WYCANN Website at: https://www.cann-network.org/blog/

WYCANN MEETING DATES

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

Wed 19th November 2025 10am-12pm Phoenix Dance Theatre, St Cecilia Street, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7PA

South Yorkshire Irwin Mitchell Christmas themed family fun day

Dear WYCANN 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 **14**th **December 2025 in Sheffield**. Please see below for key info, with more details to follow in due course.

We would absolutely love to see as many WYCANN members that might also support the Sheffield area, attend the event as possible. As some of you will know, we've run 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

CHAIR COMMENTS

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the October edition of the West Yorkshire Children's Additional Needs Network (WYCANN) newsletter! As the leaves turn and we settle into autumn, we're excited to bring you a vibrant mix of updates, opportunities, and events designed to support children and young people with additional needs—and the incredible families and professionals who care for them.

This month's newsletter is packed with information that celebrates community, connection, and creativity. From inclusive festivals and free workshops to exciting conferences and support groups, there's something for everyone. Whether you're a parent, carer, educator, health professional, or community advocate, we hope you find inspiration and practical support in these pages.

What's New?

- WYCANN is growing! We're transitioning to a national hub at www.cann-network.org, so
 please update your bookmarks and contact lists. This move means better access to
 resources and a stronger voice across the UK.
- Christmas Family Fun Day in Sheffield Mark your calendars for 14th December! We're
 inviting all members to join us for a festive celebration filled with activities, stalls, and
 smiles.
- New Members Welcome Know a group that should be part of WYCANN? Invite them to join us via our registration form.

Get Involved

- Bradford's SENDiVERSE Festival is calling for creative contributions—whether it's a
 workshop, coffee morning, or inspirational talk, your ideas can help make this celebration
 shine.
- Cost Pressures Survey Help us advocate for the VCSE sector by sharing your organisation's experiences. Your voice matters.
- Direct Payment Support Workshops Learn, share, and connect with others navigating personal budgets and care planning.

Spotlight Events

- Kidz to Adultz North returns to Liverpool with a focus on transitions and independence—plus CPD seminars and festive fun!
- H.I.E. Conference 2026 Hear, Inform, Empower. Join us in Manchester for a powerful day of learning and connection.
- Changing Faces Workshop Supporting children with visible differences through confidence-building and shared experiences.

Local Highlights

• Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, and Kirklees are buzzing with inclusive activities—from sensory clubs and accessible playgrounds to parent drop-ins and youth-led workshops. Be sure to check out what's happening near you!

Let's Stay Connected

We love hearing from you! If you have updates, events, or resources to share, please email Miriam at westyorkshire@cann-network.org by the end of the month. And don't forget to follow us on social media to stay in the loop.

Thank you for being part of our growing network. Together, we're building a more inclusive, supportive, and joyful future for children and young people across West Yorkshire and beyond.

Lucy, Carmel and Miriam
WY CANN Co-Chairs and admin
chair.westyorkshire@cann-network.org

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

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

- info@westyorkshirecann.org → westyorkshire@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

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



Stripes - The West Yorkshire ADHD Charity

Stripes provides a comprehensive range of support services for individuals and families affected by ADHD. The charity provides vital services across some of the most deprived communities in West Yorkshire, where

families affected by ADHD often face additional barriers to accessing support and resources. Our Mission Statement is "To empower and support neurodivergent individuals and their families across West Yorkshire, building an inclusive community where everyone can thrive."

support@wyadhd.org.uk
http://www.stripes.org.uk

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

RESEARCH

Inclusive mainstream practice: survey for parents and carers

This survey aims to gather feedback from parent and carers about their experiences with the support provided to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in mainstream educational settings. Your responses will help us understand what is working well and where improvements can be made.

This year we plan to launch our Inclusive mainstream practice guidance. This survey will be repeated annually to help measure the impact.

It should take you about 5 minutes to answer all the questions. The last day that you can respond is Friday 10th October 2025.

click here to complete the survey

Are you interested in finding out more about health research?

Would you like to know how you can get involved?

Carers Leeds is supporting a Lunch and Learn event in partnership with the NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre. Join us on Thursday 30th October, 11am—1pm at NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, Chapel Allerton Hospital, Chapeltown Road, Leeds, LS7 4SA. Learn how health research is improving treatments, meet researchers, ask questions, and take part in an informal, interactive session. Lunch will be provided, and transport and access support are available. Register at PIBRC@leeds.ac.uk or call Sharanjit on 07935 34188.

New Project: Belonging in young people with Down Syndrome

We have been contacted by Trainee Psychologist and Researcher, Maggie Rose at the University of Birmingham about a new project "Sense of Belonging in Adolescents with Down Syndrome".

Maggie is working closely with the Down Syndrome Association's 'Our Voices' group to think about and create resources for her research project. Whilst research shows how important belonging is for the mental and physical health of adolescents, no-one has spoken to adolescents with Down Syndrome about this. She is hopeful that this research project will enhance understanding of what belonging is like for adolescents with Down Syndrome and potentially lead to the development of interventions that may enhance belonging for young people with Down Syndrome.

Maggie is interviewing 11–25-year-olds either at the university or via zoom. If you would like to find out more information, contact Maggie or see the project poster, you can find it here:

Sense of Belonging in Adolescents with Down Syndrome - Downs Syndrome Association

Everyone who takes part will be thanked with a £15 One4All voucher.

Babble Play Project

Can an app help your baby babble?

The University of York is running a study for babies with Down Syndrome aged 7-15 months based in the UK.

You can help them find out the answer to this question if:

- Your baby has Down Syndrome
- Your baby is aged 3-13 months
- You are an English-speaking household
- Your baby can see shapes on a screen
- You are not enrolled in another speech and language research project

Please contact them to take part - Email <u>babbleds-project@york.ac.uk</u> Phone 07861 361831

You will receive a £95 voucher and a See and Learn kit voucher as a thank you.

*If you are unable to take part at this time, they will be recruiting again up until Spring 2026.

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - ONLINE/NATIONAL/REGIONAL

Forum Central Bulletin - Monday 22 September 2025

News and opportunities for Leeds health and social care third sector.

https://mailchi.mp/b2c9f21141fd/fc-bulletin-21540829?e=3cc01135a5

Report by Youth Music - Excluded by Design

Just sharing in case you haven't seen this great report by Youth Music, Excluded by Design; mapping inequalities in the arts for disabled children and young people. I've attached a copy, but accessible versions can be found here:

https://www.youthmusic.org.uk/excluded-by-design

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

Rebranding for The West Yorkshire ADHD Charity

We have some news that you might want to include as we are re-branding from 1st October and will then become known as Stripes - The West Yorkshire ADHD Charity.

This change reflects our significant growth and evolution over recent years - we've expanded far beyond our original remit as a support group and now offer a comprehensive range of services and support to the ADHD community across West Yorkshire.

The name "Stripes" is inspired by the zebra analogy that's particularly meaningful within the neurodivergent community. It speaks to the importance of understanding and celebrating our differences rather than viewing them as deficits. Just as zebras aren't failed horses but magnificent creatures in their own right, people with ADHD aren't broken neurotypical individuals - they're neurodivergent people who thrive when they are understood and supported appropriately.

Regards Louise Berry Administrator 0113 856 3459 (Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm)

Polar Express train for local children in care, with disabilities and/or SEN at the Embsay & Bolton **Abbey Steam**

I am Adam and as part of the volunteering work I do for Young Rail Professionals (a not-for-profit organisation that supports apprentices and graduates within the rail industry), we like to put on an annual Christmas steam train for children in care, with disabilities and/or with SEN needs. This includes their carers too.

This year, our Christmas train will be The Polar Express at the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway, in which is taking place on Saturday 15th November (11.30am – 1pm). During the journey, the children and carers will get to experience being onboard The Polar Express (like in the film) and will also be given a hot chocolate and cookie.

The form to apply for the ballot for at least 100 FREE tickets on this train is now open, in which the form closes on October 20th.

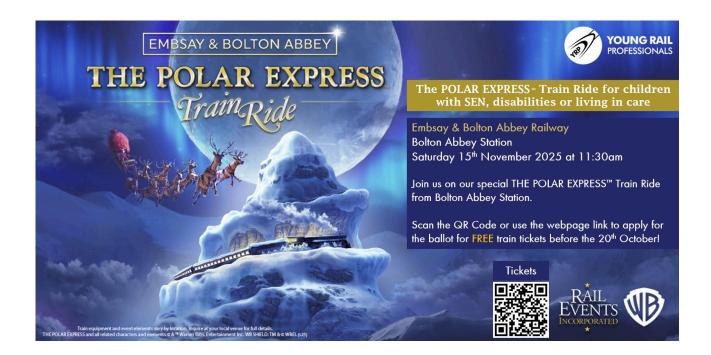
We have done two previous Christmas trains in Leicestershire and Hampshire in which were really successful and even featured on TV. Santa Express - ITV and BBC

If possible, could this upcoming event please be shared with your members. I have also attached the poster for the event.

Event Webpage - Young Rail Professionals Signup Form - Polar Express Signup Form

If there are any questions, please let me know.

Adam.Sergent@networkrail.co.uk



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 wop 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

Counselling Offer from WYCANN Member

I have set up some private practice counselling and I'd like to offer it to the people of WYCANN! I have attached my marketing flyers and would also like to offer 4 counselling spots per week to low waged people in need of help.

I hope you are well With thanks Katy Raven Projects & Fundraising Manager Counsellor 07966161299

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Face to face, telephone or video call service in Ilkley and Skipton
Working with people age 16 and up.

Specialising in:

Trauma

Abuse

Depression & Anxiety

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Life can be messy, complex, and challenging, and we don't always have the resources or capacity to tackle things alone.

Talking with a skilled practitioner can help in holding and navigating through the distress. Long term it will support you respond in healthy ways and gain understanding of yourself and the world you live in.

My approach is Mindful to your specific challenges.

I work from a person centred prospective using my skills in CBT, psychodynamic, and humanistic work to be flexible with your needs.



www.guidanceforlife.co.uk



Katyraven@gmail.com

07966 161 299



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/

Kidz to Adultz North heads to Liverpool with a bigger focus on transition and brilliant prizes to be won

I'm Carmel from Disabled Living. We're a charity that's been supporting people of all ages with disabilities and additional needs across the UK since 1897. Alongside our services and helplines, we also run the Kidz to Adultz events, which I think could be really valuable for you, your colleagues, and the people you support, please do feel free to share.

Wednesday 3rd December 2025 | ACC Liverpool Port of Liverpool, Kings Dock Street, L3 4FP | 9.30am – 4.00pm

Free entry | Parking available | Fully accessible

One of the UK's largest free events dedicated to children and young people with disabilities and additional needs, supporting people across the whole of the North West is returning to the North this winter.

Kidz to Adultz North will take place at ACC Liverpool on Wednesday 3rd December 2025 — welcoming families, carers and professionals from across the region for a day of expert advice, practical support and inclusive fun. Kidz to Adultz exhibitions offer a unique opportunity to connect with over 100 exhibitors — from mobility and seating to education, employment, funding, sensory products and more.

A bigger focus for 2025: Navigating transition

Alongside the usual paediatric elements of the event, this year's event will spotlight an important new area of support across all Kidz to Adultz exhibitions: helping young disabled people and their families navigate life's key transitions – whether that's preparing for adulthood, accessing further education, moving into employment or gaining greater independence. Parents, carers, and professionals will be able to explore dedicated information and services to help make these transitions smoother and more informed.

Expert-led seminars – CPD certified

Our CPD-certified seminars are a key highlight of the event. Covering all the hot topics, they're free to attend, expert-led, and packed with useful insights for parents, carers, and professionals. Just turn up on the day and scan at the end of the presentation to collect your CPD Certficate. The full timetable is available on our website.

Alongside the exhibition and seminars, there will also be:

A fun-filled soft play area to keep little ones entertained A magical Santa's Grotto bringing festive cheer for all ages Join in the Bubble Ology experience And much more......

Competition time

To mark the return of Kidz to Adultz North to Liverpool, all visitors attending the event will have the chance to enter an exclusive competition with exciting prizes kindly donated by Premium at M&S Bank Arena including:

Four accessible tickets to see ELF the Musical – a festive treat for the family Two premium tickets to see James Arthur at the M&S Bank Arena, Liverpool Two premium tickets to see Jimmy Carr at the M&S Bank Arena, Liverpool Full competition details will be available at the event.

This event is ideal for parents, carers, healthcare professionals, SENCOs, therapists, and anyone supporting a child or young adult with a disability or additional needs. With a wide range of companies providing specialist equipment and organisations offering support and services, whether you're seeking practical solutions, expert advice, or the opportunity to connect with others, you'll find it all here.

Register for free now and find out more: https://www.kidzexhibitions.co.uk/kidz-to-adultz-north-1/

Interested in being more involved? We would love to hear from you... do get in touch kidzteam@disabledliving.co.uk

Kind regards

Carmel Hourigan
Email Address - carmel.hourigan@disabledliving.co.uk
Website - www.kidzexhibitions.co.uk

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.



14th May 2026 The Lowry, Salford Quays

Kindly supported by:



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

SENDIVERSE Festival 2025 - Get involved!

SENDIVERSE is set to become the first Bradford district-wide celebration of creativity, imagination and inclusive expression for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families and carers.

The LEAP want to see a range of inclusive activities and events for SEND children, parents and carers. The activity you offer might be something you are already planning, or you might like to create something specially for SENDiVERSE. Rap workshops, art class or drama workshop – we need a range of activities to inspire young people to participate during the week. This is a celebration of all things SEND. If you are a sports organisation you might want to put on introductory sessions, if you are a support organisation you could run a coffee morning and chat for parents/carers or if you are supporting young people into work and independent living you might like to host an inspirational talk, tour or activity. It's entirely up to you what you offer.

- Do you have a creative idea for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities SEND and their families in the Bradford district?
- Awards of up to £500 available to join Bradford's SEND celebration from The LEAP
- Activities must take place between 27–31 Oct 2025

Apply to The LEAP now and help make Bradford shine with inclusive creativity!

Website: <u>sendiverse</u> — THE LEAP



Awards available up to £500 To join Bradford's SEND celebration

Available for arts, creativity and culture related activities for children, young people, and families. **Activities must take place in Bradford District** between 27th to 31st October 2025.

TO JOIN AND MORE INFO VISIT

THE-LEAP.ORG.UK/SENDIVERSEFESTIVAL

SUPPORTED BY

















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







cknowledging differences





indness and consistency

familysupportteam@chsf.org.uk | 0113 831 4810

·

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

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Free Interactive Workshop Opportunity for Young People Aged 14–25

The West Yorkshire Youth Commission is excited to offer free, peer-led workshops focused on Violence, Exploitation, and Accessing Support Services for young people aged 14–25.

These workshops are both educational and empowering, giving young people a platform to share their experiences and ideas directly with the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership and the Mayor of West Yorkshire.

Through engaging activities such as games, quizzes, and group discussions, participants will explore key issues, highlight the barriers they face in accessing support, and contribute valuable insights on how services can better prevent and respond to violence and exploitation.

Each workshop lasts approximately 1 hour and can be tailored to meet the needs of your group.

If you're interested in bringing this session to your organisation or would like more information, we'd love to hear from you. Please email me on amber@leaders-unlocked.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 <u>Sedgebrook Hall</u>. 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 <u>here</u>.

https://www.meningitisnow.org/get-support/support-events/forever-events/forever-weekend-northampton/

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.



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 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 3^{rd} March 10.30-11.30 a.m. - with Imogen and Lauren Friday 2^{nd} May 10.30-11.30 a.m. - with Maria & Celina Wednesday 2^{nd} July 10.30-11.30 a.m. - with Sophie & Victoria Friday 5^{th} September 10.00-11.00 a.m. - with Sharon & Abbie Friday 23^{rd} 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 3YC A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (2791646) and a charity registered in England and Wales (209617), Service and Island Science (27918797) and Island Science (27918797).

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - LEEDS

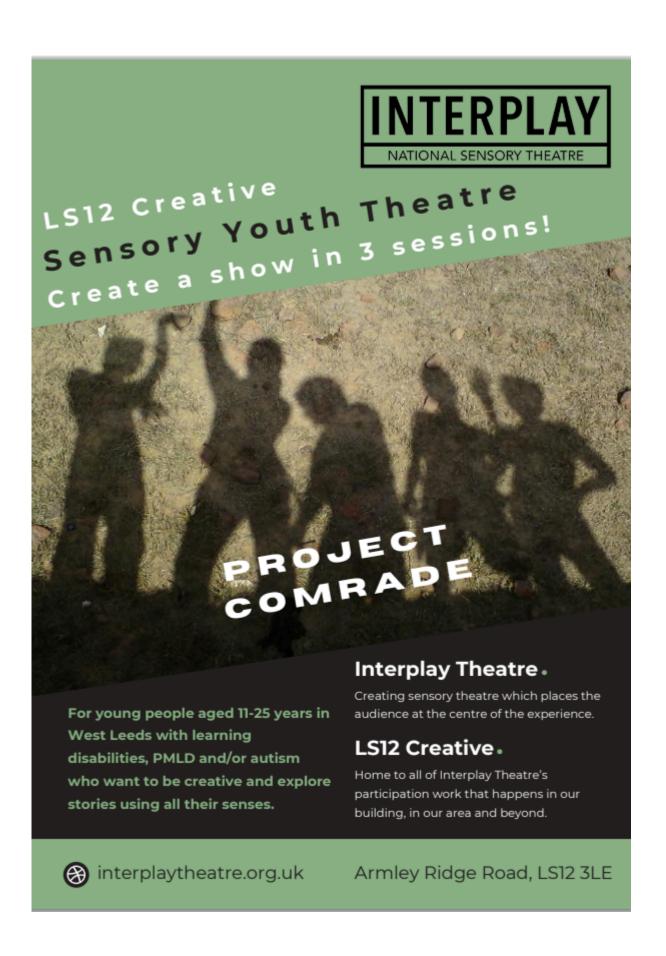
Interplay Events

We are really looking forward to our Sensory Open Day on Saturday 4^{th} October, themed on the elements! Please let us know if you'd like to book a slot at 11am - 12.30pm or 2pm - 3.30pm. Robbie, Sedia and Sarah will be here to welcome you and set up a fun sensory space for everyone.

We are also taking bookings for Sensory Youth Theatre - Project Comrade, for young people with learning disabilities aged 11-25, which will look at the concept of friendships and strangers in lots of different ways. This project will run mornings of 29th, 30th and 31st October 11am - 12.30pm.

Get in touch if you'd like to book! takepart@interplaytheatre.org.uk

Best,





Leeds City Museum - Sensory Room for SEND Families

Wed 29 Oct, various times, booking required

Pop-up sensory room for families who might find a visit to the museum overwhelming. This event is for families with SEND, neurodiversity, autism and/or anxiety. Pop into our sensory room with dark tents, light-up toys, squishy floor tiles, dens and a bubble tube.

You can come and go as you need to, and there'll be no need to queue. Please contact us if you'd like to find out more about the museum/event or if you'd like to discuss how we can best support your family on the day, city.museum@leeds.gov.uk.

This event is Give What You Can. We don't want price to be a barrier to a great experience. Simply pick the price you can give when booking your place, and enjoy your visit.

Booking required. Please book a ticket per child. Accompanying adults don't need a ticket. You can come and go from the room as you need to, and there'll be no need to queue.

https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/whats-on/sensory-room-for-families-with-additional-ne eds-tszc

Autisticon Event



Leeds SEND Youth Council

The Leeds SEND Youth Council is a group of fifteen young people aged 11 to 25 years old with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who live in Leeds or attend school in Leeds.

What is involved?

- A group of young people aged 11 to 25 years old with special educational needs and disabilities in Leeds.
- They meet twice a month online or in person.
- They work on campaigns and projects they are passionate about.
- Different teams and services from across the city visit the group, provide information and seek their views about what is happening in Leeds for young people with SEND.
- There are opportunities to take part in other youth voice opportunities to influence SEND services in Leeds.

What are the benefits?

- Learn about and contribute to improving SEND services for young people in Leeds.
- Learn new skills and build new friendships.
- Share ideas and experiences with decision makers.
- Have your say and make a difference!

To get involved email VIC@leeds.gov.uk

More information about the SEND Youth Council can be found here.

Parent carer support group network event – book your place now!

- Thursday 23rd October 2025
- 10am till 12.30pm
- Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawsons Corner, Stanningley, LS28 5TA

The parent carer support group network is coordinated by the Leeds Parent Carer Forum and Voice, Influence and Change Team, LCC. The network comprises of representatives from SEND parent carer support groups in Leeds.

This event is parents and carers in Leeds to:

- Hear from the Leeds Parent Carer Forum.
- Hear about the new Family Hubs.
- Hear about RADAR and Short Breaks.
- Network with other parent carer support groups and hear about their groups, activities and events for families.

Book your place at https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/PCFEvent/

Careers Fair at Leeds City Museum As part of Discover Creative Careers week Leeds City Museum will be hosting a careers fair on Friday 21st November 10am till 2.30pm. Students can meet professionals from creative industries, education settings and support services, all of which have a focus on resources for learners with additional needs. This will include, Leeds City Council Employment and Skills, Through the Maze, Pyramid, Careers for All and Mind the Gap To make the event more accessible, groups will book onto 30-minute slots with a maximum capacity of 40 students. Students may also explore the museum (it's free) and attend a workshop or question and answer session to fill their day. A visual story of the event and an info pack covering all the stalls will be sent out prior to the event to allow students to familiarise themselves with the building and exhibitors before they attend. If you wish to book a group to attend, please email carl.newbould@leeds.gov.uk **Doing Good Leeds September Round-Up** https://mailchi.mp/val/doing-good-leeds-sept-2023-round-up-4723933?e=2d3ba2f646

Leeds Funding Support Network Newsletter – September/October 2025

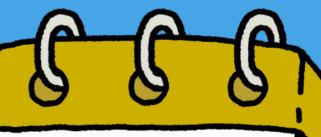
https://mailchi.mp/fa18ef29e7f9/agenda-and-papers-for-leeds-funding-support-network-meeting-5-december-2-4pm-4724000?e=c5f1f3f0d9

Upcoming Events with Leeds Parent Carer Forum

to name but a few.

Workshop for parents and carers





Leeds Teaching Hospitals Learning Disability and Autism Team

Date: Thursday 9th October 2025

Time: 11am till 12pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

We will be recording the session, if you are unable to attend but would like to submit a question please

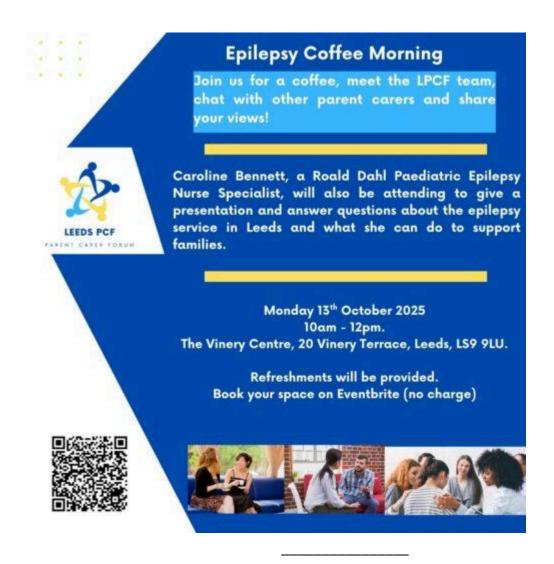


The team supports all people with a diagnosis of a Learning Disability or Autism that need to come to Leeds teaching Hospitals for healthcare. Join the session to find out more about the service, health passports and how the team can support your child in preparing to come to hospital and during their visit.

Book your free place

https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/HealthWorkshop/





Nominate in the Child Friendly Leeds Awards 2026!

The <u>Child Friendly Leeds awards</u> will be coming back to the iconic City Varieties Theatre in July 2026, and it's time to <u>start nominating</u> the people, places and organisations that live and breathe the Child Friendly Leeds vision! We are accepting nominations in 6 categories, with an additional 'Children's Choice' category which is a children's only vote, also live now! The categories are:

- Child / Young Person of the Year
- Youth Group of the Year
- The Sue Rumbold Award Adult Making a Difference
- Inspiring Creativity through Play, Arts & Culture
- Champion of the Child Friendly Leeds 12 wishes
- Overall Contribution to making Leeds a Child Friendly City
- PLUS the Children's Choice Award Best Place in Leeds

The full description for each category can be found on the <u>nomination form here</u>.

Harewood House Feedback on Accessible Playground Signage

We're sharing a fantastic opportunity from our friends at Harewood House to help shape the future of accessible play.

They're looking for feedback on accessible playground signage—your insights will help make play more inclusive for all children and families.

Take the survey here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HarewoodPlayscapeSurvey

Let's help make outdoor spaces more welcoming and accessible together!

#AccessiblePlay #InclusiveDesign #HarewoodHouse #CommunityVoices #CANNNetwork #PlayForAll

PHAB are looking for Volunteer Drivers!



Volunteer Minibus Drivers Needed!

We're seeking friendly, reliable volunteer drivers to transport members, both able-bodied and those with disabilities, to the PHAB Club at Prince Philip Centre Leeds 7. If you enjoy driving, making a positive impact, can spare a few hours each week, this opportunity is perfect for you!

What you'll do:

Drive a fully accessible minibus
Help passengers board safely
Provide essential transport for social outings
Join a team of dedicated volunteers

Requirements:

Commitment to some Friday evenings Valid clean driving license Fit, aged 25-75

PHAB provides Safeguarding and Basic First Aid Training.

Join us, help others stay connected, enjoying meeting friends and having fun. Make a difference - apply today!

Contact Ann Hart on 01937 573 722 or email ann.hartphab@btinternet.com



Volunteer Window Display in Leeds Market

My name is Jordan and I'm based at the Volunteer Centre in Leeds Market (run by Voluntary Action Leeds).

Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day is on 8th October, and we'd like to create a window display to showcase the volunteering opportunities at organisations across Leeds.

Do you have any volunteering posters we could share? If so, please send them back to me at this email address, and I'll put them on display.

There are a multitude of ways that we could help:

Social media

Please tag us in any posts about volunteering, and we'll like and share. We are:

- @VolunteerLeeds on Twitter
- Volunteer Centre Leeds on Facebook
- volunteercentreleeds on Instagram

VC Takeovers

You can set up a stall and spend the day (or a few hours over lunchtime) with us here at the market, talking to passers-by about your volunteering opportunities (we have tables and chairs you can use). Please let me know if you'd like to come down, and I'll get you booked in.

Doing Good Leeds

You can share your roles on our website, <u>Doing Good Leeds</u>, which gets viewed by around 7000 people per quarter, looking for volunteering opportunities across the city.

Please let me know if there are any other ways we can support you. Please also share with any partners or colleagues who might be interested.

Kind regards, Jordan Armitage Volunteering@Val.org.uk

Leeds City College Leaflets for Sept-Oct

Leaflet 1 - Leeds City College Quieter open event provides the time and space for anyone to have detailed conversations about starting college. We have multiple campuses open across different dates, you can find out more and book with details on the leaflet.





Leaflet 2 – The Vine, in Burmantofts, is Leeds City College's specialist, purpose-built centre for learners with profound and multiple learning difficulties. You can find out more and arrange a visit by contacting us on the details on the leaflet.



The Vine PMLD Provision

A specialist PMLD provision for those learners with education, health and care plans and/or SEND.

The Vine provides personalised learning programmes to meet the needs of learners with severe and complex learning difficulties. Specialist support staff lead on behaviour and intervention, personal and medical care, mental health and wellbeing, physiotherapy & hydrotherapy.

Students will also be allocated smaller class sizes and a personal tutor who will provide them with pastoral support, information advice and guidance and help them to progress through their learning journey.

If you would like to book an individual tour and visit to The Vine please email: vine-stakeholdervisits@leedscitycollege.ac.uk



Highlights of our Ofsted report include:

- Learners with special educational needs and/or disabilities are well supported by qualified staff.
- Learners with high needs benefit from inclusive and personalised learning pathways which enable them to develop their knowledge and skills alongside their resilience and their independence.
 Consequently, they are prepared well for further study or employment, including supported internships.
- Learners with profound multiple learning disabilities receive well-coordinated specialist support, including speech and language therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, that meets their needs and enables them to engage fully in their learning.

For more information contact:

vine-stakeholdervisits@leedscitycollege.ac.uk 0113 284 6680



A member of Luminate Education Group

What will the course offer?

Our bitesize curriculum offer supports with sensory stimulation and is split into the below strands:

Social Emotional Development

For young people with SLD, PMLD and CLDD who experience a range of social emotional difficulties, which impact how they learn and interact with others. This curriculum develops; personal wellbeing, communicating needs and wants, making choices and expressing thoughts and feelings.

· Communication (Speech & Language)

Our communication curriculum is devised to encourage the development of; responding to social events and activities, interacting with others and intensive interaction.

Sensory & Cognition

Helps learners explore their senses for learning and sensory stimulation that encourage the development of; motor/ gross motor skills, physical sensory skills, tactile awareness, position tolerance, sensory integrations and visual & auditory skills.

· Physical Interaction

Designed to allow learners who are physically impaired, or who are still learning to move, to engage in physical interaction in order to develop; body awareness, positional changes, mobility, grasping/releasing and standing/walking.

As many of our learners have special educational needs or profound and multiple learning difficulties the offer of education is around appropriate learning to support life outcomes. This personalised approach is driven by the EHCP outcomes and their chosen pathway for learning.

In addition to their chosen pathway students will also benefit from English and maths sessions that will allow them to develop communication and number skills appropriate to them.

Leaflet 3 - Joseph Priestley Centre, situated in the suburb of Beeston and is the home to Leeds City College Foundation Studies (Preparing for Adult Life). We have 2 upcoming open events where you can find out more and book your place by contact us on the details on the leaflet.



Foundation Studies Preparing for Adult Life

A specialist provision for those learners with Education, Health and Care plans and/or SEND.

Our Foundation Studies provision at Joseph Priestley Centre provides personalised learning programmes to meet the needs of learners with severe and complex learning difficulties.

Learning programmes are created around the individual learners EHCP outcomes alongside the development of life skills, communication and independence.

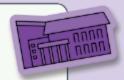
We support each learner to reach their potential and encourage them to be as independent as possible through a preparation for adulthood framework of delivery.

Visit us at one of our open events:

- Saturday 25 October, 10am-12pm
- Saturday 6 December, 10am-12pm

Joseph Priestley Centre, Beeston, Burton Avenue, Leeds, LS11 5ER

To book or ask any questions please email: eventsmarketing@luminate.ac.uk



Specialist Support

We understand that all learners' skills and needs vary and recognise that it is likely that learners will need a higher level of support throughout their lives. Foundation Studies benefits from a specialist 'Care Team' who support learners with varying levels of personal and medical care.

Students will also be allocated smaller class sizes and a personal tutor who will provide them with pastoral support, information advice and guidance and help them to progress through their learning journey.

Highlights of our Ofsted report include:

- Learners with special educational needs and/or disabilities are well supported by qualified staff.
- Learners with high needs benefit from inclusive and personalised learning pathways which enable them to develop their knowledge and skills alongside their resilience and their independence. Consequently, they are prepared well for further study or employment, including supported internships.
- Learners with profound multiple learning disabilities receive well-coordinated specialist support, including speech and language therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, that meets their needs and enables them to engage fully in their learning.

What will the course offer?

Our curriculum is split into strands of support with a bite size curriculum offer. The key strands are:

Independent Living and Community Inclusion

A skill-based curriculum that allows you to develop a sense of who you are, whilst experiencing the wider community. Develop your basic cooking skills, learn household tasks, take part in enrichment events, manage a personal budget, and develop your communication skills for personal and social development.

Work/Employment

Take part in real-life work experiences, both individually and in small groups. These courses include aspects of independent living, community living and working with others with a focus of progressing into voluntary or paid work.

Vocational Stepping Stones

A destination led curriculum exploring vocational skills and knowledge, equipping you with the entry requirements to progress into wider college vocational courses.

Exploring and Securing Future Opportunities

A skills-based curriculum where you explore the opportunities available post-college. You will visit communities and organisations, and take part in activities and/or work experience that will allow a smooth transition into your chosen destination.

For more information contact:

eventsmarketing@luminate.ac.uk 0113 284 6680

A member of Luminate Education Group

STARS training (parent and professionals)

These workshops aim to provide information for parents to support their autistic child at home. Training sessions will be delivered through Teams

For parents to book please email send@leeds.gov.uk with your name, email and training date you would like to be booked on.

Preparation for adulthood: person centred planning tools Wednesday 1st October 2025, 9.45 till 11.15

This session is suitable for parents and professionals who are currently supporting children and young people to plan their pathway to adulthood using their strengths and interests as a starting point. This session will focus on planning from Early Years through to Year 13 (Key stage 5) and will explore a range of resources, strategies and approaches to aid understanding of needs and ongoing support.

Sensory support in the home Wednesday 5th November 2025, 9.45 till 11.15

This session will give a brief introduction to sensory processing and regulation, exploring its importance in supporting the wellbeing of autistic children and young people. The session will also offer advice around sensory support strategies that can be implemented in the home.

Preparation for adulthood: friends, relationships and community Wednesday 3rd December 2025, 9.45 till 11.15

This session is suitable for parents and professionals who are currently supporting children and young people to develop healthy friendships and relationships. We will be exploring the factors that can present challenges for autistic and ND children and young people and how to effectively promote positive social inclusion, consent and how to navigate the social world safely in the early years through to early adulthood.

We will be exploring and sharing key resources and approaches to promote healthy social opportunities for children and young people.





@Leeds Local Offer

LLO@leeds.gov.uk

SEND PARENT CARER INFORMATION DROP IN

Speak to services and receive information and advice:

- Leeds Local Offer
- SENDIASS
- Carers Leeds
- Child Health and Disability Team (CHAD)
- Leeds Parent Carer Forum
- Speech and Language Therapy Service

There will be a workshop available at each drop in

Date	Time	Venue
Wed 17 Sept	10.30 till 12.30	Plus Net, 17 Marlborough Street, Leeds, LS1 4PE
Wed 15 Oct	10.30 till 12.30	Otley Social Club, Hollin Gate, Otley, LS21 2DP
Wed 19 Nov	10.30 till 12.30	The Welcome Centre, Belle Isle Rd, Belle Isle, Leeds, LS10 3DN

Let us know if you will be attending the drop in





https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/InfoDropIn/









Little Hiccups Upcoming Events

Lunch and Learn:
Welfare benefits and other sources of funding
Tues Oct 21st, 12pm

Parent Carer Halloween "Thriller" Theatre Workshop Wed 22nd Oct, 10.30-12.30

Book Now >

Relaxed Family Session at Bianco Lounge Sun 2nd Nov, 3pm Book here >

Wellbeing for Parents Yoga Course Wednesday 5th Nov - 17th Dec Book here >

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - BRADFORD

Down Syndrome Training and Support Services are celebrating their 25th Anniversary



SENDIVERSE Sculpture Competition

Dear Children, Young People, Families, Schools and Community Organisations,

We are delighted to invite you to take part in the **SENDIVERSE Sculpture Competition** as part of this year's SENDIVERSE Festival.

This is a fantastic opportunity for **children and young people aged 4–25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)** across Bradford & Keighley to showcase their creativity.

What's it all about?

The winning sculpture design will be transformed into a large outdoor artwork, decorated in vibrant Pakistani-style truck art and glowing with lights for everyone to enjoy at the SENDiVERSE Festival Big Bang on Saturday 1st November 2025.

Prizes

1st Prize: £50 voucher

• 4 Runners-up: £25 vouchers

Key Dates

- Entries close: 12 noon, Friday 18th October 2025
- Finalists announced and celebrated at the Festival

Competition Details Attached

Please see the attached competition document for:

- Step-by-step instructions on how to create and submit your sculpture idea
- Entry requirements
- Terms and Conditions

Entries should be submitted by email to info@the-leap.org.uk with the subject line: Sculpture Competition.

We can't wait to see the bold, brilliant and imaginative designs that Bradford's SEND children and young people create!

Warm regards,

The SENDiVERSE Festival Team

info@the-leap.org.uk



COMPETITION



Calling All Children & Young People aged 4-25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Bradford & Keighley!

Get creative and design your very own sculpture idea for the SENDIVERSE Festival this October!

FUN, CREATIVITY AND TOGETHERNESS

The winning design will be transformed into a big, real-life sculpture and could be decorated. with stunning Pakistani-style truck art and lit up with glowing lights. It will be shown. outdoors for everyone to enjoy.

1ST PRIZE: £50 Voucher 4 X RUNNERS-UP: £25 Vouchers

for more info visit www.the-leap.org.uk/sendiverse-competition

SUPPORTED BY

















Does your child struggle to go to school due to feelings of worry or stress?...

Have you heard of the Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) support groups led by the friendly and supportive Educational Psychologist Team.

You'll find a safe space to:

- Share and listen to other parents and get ideas to help
- Learn more about what you can do to support your child, and what you can expect from school

Autumn Term 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd Oct, 10-11.30am, Shipley library Autumn Term 12th, 19th, 26th Nov and 3rd Dec, 1-2.30pm, Online

You will need to be able to attend all 4 sessions Book: by e-mailing EBSA@bradford.gov.uk

One Minute Guide to Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) : <u>Bradford Local Offer | One Minute Guides - Emotionally based school avoidance EBSA</u>

Is your child struggling to go to school due to feelings of worry or stress?

Are you unsure about what to do?



Why not join a parent support session for Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA), delivered by our friendly and supportive Educational Psychologist Team.

You'll find a safe space to:

- Share and listen to other parents and get ideas to help
- Learn more about what you can do to support your child, and what you can expect from school

Location: Shipley Library, 2 Well Croft, Shipley, BD18 3QH

Dates: From Wednesday 1st October to Wednesday 22nd

October at 10.00am to 11.30am

You will need to be able to attend all 4 sessions

Book: by e-mailing EBSA@bradford.gov.uk









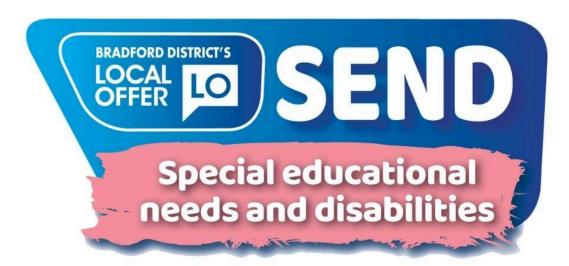
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Bradford Local Offer SEND Newsletter

The latest SEND Newsletter has landed!

The SEND Local Offer team are here to help with lots of information and advice about SEND services and support.

<u>Bradford Local Offer | Local Offer Email Newsletters</u> Sign up link: <u>https://bit.ly/BfdSENDNewsletter</u>



This month's SEND newsletter



- Attendance and EBSA support
- Settling into a new class or setting
- Toilet training workshops
- Family Hubs timetables

...and quick links to information, advice and support...

www.localoffer.bradford.gov.uk

Bradford SEND Local Offer News

Quick links:

- Bradford district family hubs from accessibility to sensory rooms, read more <u>here.</u>
- Bradford district family hubs <u>latest timetables</u>. SEND activities highlighted in orange.
- SEND Service Standards Charter improving levels of service. Share your <u>feedback.</u>
- From 25 October to 2 November it's <u>Bradford Science Festival.</u>
- Pre-school courses Oct start Bradford district family hubs. Incredible Years.
- Further details coming soon about <u>SENDIVERSE</u> festival.
- BD is LIT light installations and performances (7 & 8 Nov) 5pm to 9pm. Read more.
- Sculpture competition for children and young people <u>SENDIVERSE festival</u>.
- HM Revenue & Customs has made changes to the Child Benefit eligibility criteria.
- New leaflet about what you can expect from the <u>Bradford SENDIASS service</u>.
- From January 2026 young children will be able to get a free <u>chickenpox vaccination</u>.
- New National 'Best Start in Life' branding and a <u>new website</u> for early years support.
- Interested in Film and TV? Free two-day training course opportunity! Read more.
- Find out what's on with Bradford 2025 events.
- Bolling Hall's spook-tacular family Halloween evening, 29 Oct, Free entry. Read more.

The Children's Community Support Team (CCST) are now open for referrals

The team provide behavioural assessments and offer strategies for parents/carers whose children with Special Educational Needs (SEND) or a diagnosed disability show behaviours that challenge. The team also run a sleep clinic and sleep assessment for children who have a severe sleep disturbance. Read more about the <u>CCST team</u> on the Bradford district's Local Offer website.

Starting reception, a new school or college

Starting something new can feel exciting but it might feel stressful, especially if your child has additional needs. If your child needs additional support, especially with settling in, make sure you share as much information as possible with their new teacher or Special Needs Coordinator (SENCo). They can work with you to find strategies to support your child. Helpful information:

- Bradford Local Offer <u>Getting ready to start reception</u>.
- A resource for neurodivergent students moving from Year 6 to Year 7.
- Barnardo's <u>SENDIASS service</u> has developed <u>animations</u> alongside young people aimed at children in year 6 and year 11 to help ease the anxieties when starting a new setting.

Free wheelchair skills course in Keighley

Tues 16 Sept to Tues 21 Oct

Experience Community are a not-for-profit Community Interest Company who help physically disabled people enjoy the benefits of outdoor and green spaces. They are offering a free wheelchair skills course for users of all abilities generally aimed at 16+ but you can get in touch to discuss further if your child is younger and you feel they could benefit, email: info@experiencecommunity.co.uk

Morning or afternoon sessions are available at Victoria Hall, Hard Ings Road, Keighley BD21 3JN. Please note: Sessions on 7 and 14 Oct will be held next door at Keighley Leisure Centre. Join a safe and supportive course to improve wheelchair skills, manoeuvres, and journey planning. Book a space now.

Join the the Friends and Family Hub - Bradford, Menston and Keighley

Friends and Family Hubs have a great programme of sessions this autumn, starting with September's session 'how to support your own mental health and wellbeing'. October's session will focus on toileting, and November will focus on occupational therapy.

Join any of the free monthly sessions in Bradford, Menston or Keighley and connect with other parents/carers of young people aged 0-25 with Special Educational Needs or disabilities (diagnosed or not).

To find out more, email: friendsandfamily@thinkingbiguk.org

Health and wellbeing events for people with learning disabilities and/or are neurodivergent (aged 18+)

The NHS, <u>People First</u> and <u>Mixed Ability Sports</u> have organised two health and wellbeing events for young people. Learn about healthy eating, bowel, breast and cervical screening, stopping smoking, dental care, and how to get involved in mixed ability sports.

Keighley event - book here.

Wednesday 10 September (10am-4pm) (talks from 10.30am) at Central Hall, Alice Street, Keighley BD21 3JD

Bradford district event - book here.

Wednesday 17 September (10am-4pm) (talks from 10.30am) at Bradford Bulls, Odsal Stadium BD6 1BS

Toilet training workshops from the special needs school nurses

The Bradford District Special Needs School Nursing Service is offering toilet training workshops for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Children with SEND may take longer to achieve toilet training and need more support. The workshops will be delivered at Bradford district family hubs. The workshops are limited to 20 parents. To book email your name, your child's name and school and the date you wish to book, email: sendtoilettraining@bdct.nhs.uk

Courses run from (9.30am to 11.30am) apart from the 19 Aug which is (1.30pm - 3.30pm).

11 September - Reevy Family Hub, BD6 3ST

6 October - Gateway BD10 0JR

15 October - Rainbow Family Hub BD22 6JB

🍐 17 December - Rainbow Family Hub BD22 6JB

Coleman Training Development - open day!

Coleman's Training Development are inviting young people aged 16 to 24 years of age and their families to an open day on Thursday 13 November, 1pm to 3pm. Learn about their courses and supported internships. Coleman training are based in Bradford City Centre - Floor 2, 1 The Interchange, Nelson Street, Bradford BD1 5AX.



October Short Breaks - Specialist Inclusion

Day trips will take place during the October holidays for children and young people supported by the Specialist Inclusion team. Young people need to be aged between 8 and 18 years, have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or Individual Education Plan (IEP) and not be getting support from an allocated social worker. Read more or if you have any questions or to book, email: zahra.hassan3@bradford.gov.uk.

ADHD Awareness Month - helpful resources

Newly diagnosed with ADHD - <u>One Minute Guide</u>. Assessment for ADHD - <u>One Minute Guide</u>. BREATHE (Autistic / ADHD) <u>support group</u>. West Yorkshire ADHD parent/carer <u>support group</u>.

PFBA Transition report

Part of our transition project, focusing on children moving from primary to secondary school.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xuULF-j 1zUGCbOdLycLNu3ULC CU0Cv/view?fbclid=IwY2xjawNB -TlleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFPaEVvaW1GNENPTGcwc1VTAR487TH86FPQPxBOLnUVgnTBaWZs7J kWdsFe95cFMKa0fY8tv1w6SE7Wbjgk9g aem dQHRr5PM4sKHCWxErhj2JQ

Adele and Julie from PFBA have been working tirelessly for the past year on the transition project. They've been recruiting parent carers to take part in this brilliant piece of research examining the experiences of children transitioning from primary school to secondary school!

Their report (out now!) highlights the barriers children and parents face when transitioning as well as the varied experiences of those with and without an Educational Health & Care Plan (EHCP).

This is one of the many ways we gather parent carer voice and raise important issues that concern SEND families in the Bradford District.

If you have a story to share, please get in touch at supportnews@pfba.org.uk
Thanks,
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EVENTS AND INFORMATION - WAKEFIELD

New website launched for Wakefield Museums & Castles.

Main website link – <u>Home - Wakefield Museums and Castles</u> Link to What's On page - <u>What's on - Wakefield Museums and Castles</u>

Wakefield Museums & Castles Event

Medieval Monsters Pop-up Books
Castleford Museum
27, 28, 30 and 31 October
10am to 3pm
Free – no booking required

Step into the medieval mythology of Thomas de Castleford. Discover the monsters and legends in his poems.

Create your own stories and turn them into a fantastic pop-up book.

Let your creativity loose. Be inspired by objects in the museum to create unusual poems of your own.

Part of #WordFest with Wakefield Libraries

*Fridays are relaxed SEND sessions. These will have more open-ended activities and a relaxed atmosphere.

Access at Castleford Museum

Witches and Wizards at Pontefract Castle

Pontefract Castle 29 October – 1 November 11am – 3pm Free

It's the return of our frighteningly popular October half term Witches and Wizards week at Pontefract Castle!

Take part in witchy outdoor activities. Learn to mix magical potions. Magic up fun themed crafts. Join our resident witches on the bandstand for potions demonstrations! Sessions at 11:15, 12:15 and 13:30.

Dressing up not required but always encouraged!

It'll be spooktacular!

There is also a relaxed SEND version of the Witches and Wizards activities each day at 10am. The SEND sessions need to be <u>booked in advance</u> to keep numbers at a relaxed level.

Access at Pontefract Castle

Colour Chemistry from Nature's Rainbow

Pontefract Castle
Monday 27 October
10am (SEND session) and 1pm
£2.50 per child, accompanying adults free.
Find out more and book tickets.

Did you know that there are so many amazing colours that can be created from plants? In this session, we'll learn about natural colours used in food. Have a go at decorating biscuits using naturally coloured icing sugar.

Be inspired by the medieval garden and the plants that were grown there in the past.

This STEM workshop is funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Access at Pontefract Castle

Fairytale fun

Pontefract Museum Wednesday 29 October 10:30am to 3pm

Free - no booking required

Visit our family-friendly for a look at the Oh Yes it Is! exhibition. Join in with activities inspired by the magic of pantomime.

Help our fairytale characters find the missing pieces of their story in a treasure hunt with a difference.

Build a fabulous fairytale castle. Make a sparkling magical wand to take home.

Access at Pontefract Museum

Animal masks and legends

Wakefield Museum

Wednesday 29 October 10:30am – 3pm

Free, no booking required.

Discover fascinating facts and fantastic folklore about our native species.

Follow a trail and discover the myths and legends about badgers, birds and foxes. Make an animal mask and tell your own stories.

Part of #WordFest with Wakefield Libraries

Access at Wakefield Museum

Woodland Tales (ages 2 to 5)

Wakefield Museum

Wednesday 29 October

10:30am - 11:30am

1pm – 2pm Relaxed session with reduced numbers.

£2.50 per child, accompanying adults free. Booking required.

Join us for a special woodland story for your little bookworms.

Play with animal puppets. Explore magical crafts and activities all about nature in Wakefield.

This event is part of #WordFest with Wakefield Libraries.

The workshop will start and finish in the Learning Zone located on the Upper Ground Floor within the main Wakefield Library space.

Access at Wakefield Museum

Cosy bird houses (ages 12 to 16)

Wakefield Museum

Thursday 30 October

10:30am - 12pm and 1:30pm - 3pm

£2.50 per teenager, accompanying adults free. Booking required.

Felted bird pods are a cosy home to keep birds warm through the winter. Learn how to make felt and shape it to create something special.

Give a handmade gift to nature this autumn!

This workshop is designed for teenagers aged 12 to 16. Accompanying adults are welcome, but not essential.

The workshop will start and finish in the Learning Zone located on the Upper Ground Floor within the main Wakefield Library space.

Access at Wakefield Museum

Let's Make Autumn Bunting (ages 5+)

Wakefield Museum

Friday 31 October

10:30am - 12pm and 1:30pm - 3pm

£2.50 per child, accompanying adults free. Booking required.

Learn new handy skills together as a family and celebrate autumn!

Explore how natural forms, patterns and colours have been used to decorate old objects.

Learn basic sewing and embroidery skills to design your own pieces. Create special seasonal strings of bunting inspired by nature together.

Each family group will work together on one piece of bunting to share together. No sewing experience needed!

This workshop has been designed to encourage multi-generational learning and creativity. It is delivered in partnership with the Families and Community Team at Wakefield Council's Adult Education Service.

The workshop will start and finish in the Learning Zone located on the Upper Ground Floor within the main Wakefield Library space.

Access at Wakefield Museum

Whilst not October related I also wanted to share our Christmas at the Museum activity day in December:

Christmas at the Museum (for SEND families)

Wakefield Museum

Saturday 13 December

10:30am - 3pm

Free

Booking required for Father Christmas visit. No booking required for drop-in crafts.

Relaxed family festive fun and a visit from Father Christmas!*

Join us this Christmas season for a relaxed day of free festive activities and crafts for SEND families. Explore the sights, smells and texture of Christmas.

Craft some colourful Christmas decorations to decorate your home.

No booking is required for the drop-in crafts and activities.

All activities, including meeting Father Christmas, are free.

*You will need to book a timeslot in advance to Father Christmas in his cosy museum grotto. <u>Timeslots will be available to book at 8am on Wednesday 1 October</u>. Slots are limited to maintain a relaxed atmosphere. This means you don't have to queue. <u>Access at Wakefield Museum</u>

SEND Futures and 'Next Steps' Careers Event in Wakefield

Save the date! Wed 1st Oct

SAVE THE DATE - Wednesday 1 October 2025 - 10:00-18:00
SEND Futures and 'Next Steps' Careers Event
WX Wakefield Exchange, Union Street, WF1 3AD



EVENTS AND INFORMATION - KIRKLEES

Sensory World Events



Sensory World Old Westgate Dewsbury WF 13 1NB.

£90.00 per Person.

Paediatric First Aid Training. 28th september 25 and 8th March 2026.

Lunch and drinks available from the onsite cafe.

To book your place ring or Message Linda ⁰⁷⁸⁰¹⁰⁶5589.

On successful continuous assessment delegates are awarded a certificate valid for three years and is in line with EYFS and meets the needs of Ofsted.

Suitable for Childminders.







New Sensory Club with Xmas Party

To book: Linda Holmes Tel: 01924 456152

www.SensoryWorldPlayCentre.co.uk FB Page: SensoryWorldDewsbury

FB Group: SensoryChat



SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Website: <u>www.westyorkshirecann.org</u> / www.cann-networg.org

Email: westyorkshire@cann-network.org

X: https://x.com/CannWest

Bluesky: https://bsky.app/wycann.bsky.social

LinkedIn https://www.linkedin.com/company/west-yorkshire-cann

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/westyorkshirecann

Co-Chairs: Lucy Owen and Carmel Gallagher: chair.westyorkshire@cann-network.org

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