



**WYCANN COMMUNICATION**  
**December 2025**

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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](mailto: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*

Future Dates for 2026:

11<sup>th</sup> March

1<sup>st</sup> July

2<sup>nd</sup> December

Venues to be confirmed

### CHAIR COMMENTS

It was fantastic to come together last week for our termly WYCANN meeting at Phoenix Dance! The energy in the room was inspiring as colleagues from across the network gathered to share ideas, strengthen connections, and celebrate the incredible work happening in our region.

A huge thank you to our fabulous speakers who shared such valuable insights:

- LSLCS – Rosie Blagg gave an overview of LSLCS's vital support services for children, young people and families giving WYCANN members an incredible resource to be able to offer to our families, especially those in crisis.
- BRI Neonatal Unit – Jamie Steele spoke passionately about the incredible capital project at BRI Neonatal Unit creating a “home from home” for families whose babies are born prematurely. This was an inspiring lesson in how determination and hard work can achieve a much longed for but challenging goal.
- Refresh Carers – raised the important issue of parents and carers struggling during the school holidays and the members discussed partnership ideas to support families in need of a listening ear and practical help during those times.

These presentations sparked meaningful conversations and reminded us of the power of collaboration in tackling challenges and improving outcomes for children and families. It really is incredibly uplifting to be in a room with people striving for better for the families we all support, so thank you to everyone who came.

Our next meeting is planned for the 11th March 2026 - please do put it in your diary - we'd love to see you.

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

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## NEW MEMBERS

# YAMSEN

YAMSEN



A group of people dedicated to and expert in creating inclusive opportunities around music. Our members comprise teachers, volunteers, artists, musicians, non-musicians, and other participants with and without additional needs. We provide and support a range of activities for people with additional needs and those who work with them.

<https://www.yamsen.org.uk/>  
[dianeyamsen@gmail.com](mailto:dianeyamsen@gmail.com)

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

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

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

*Please only use contact details that are for public use*

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## RESEARCH

### **Participants Needed for Research Study – University of Leeds**

We're looking for children and young people aged **12–21 years** with **Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy** to take part in an exciting study exploring how **Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation (tSCS)** could help improve arm and hand movements.

#### **Who can join?**


- Age: 12–21 years
- Diagnosis: Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy
- Able to use hands in daily activities
- Stable health (no heart/lung problems, no seizures)

 **Exclusions:** Epilepsy, implanted devices, recent fractures, or recent clinical trial participation.

#### **Study Details**

- 2 sessions on separate days (each 60–90 mins)
- Includes warm-up, resistance-based exercises, and cool-down
- Randomised: one session with tSCS, one with training only
- Travel to University of Leeds required
- **£20 voucher, travel reimbursement, and parking provided**

**Interested?** Contact:  Prof. Sarah Astill – [s.astill@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:s.astill@leeds.ac.uk)

 Mr. Omar Nahas – [bsothn@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:bsothn@leeds.ac.uk)

Or scan the QR code in the image.

Help us make a difference in improving upper limb function for young people with cerebral palsy!







## Participants Needed for Research Study



### Title of Project:

**The Effects of Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation (tSCS) on Upper Extremity Function in Children and Young People with Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy**

### Study Goal:

We want to find out if stimulating the spinal cord with a low current can help improve arm and hand movements in children and young people with cerebral palsy. This electrical stimulation activates nerves to help them send signals to the muscles, and potentially improving arm and hand movements

### Who Can Join?

- **Age:** Children and young people aged **12 to 21** years.
- **Diagnosis:** children and young people with **Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy**.
- **Hand function:** Having difficulties using their hands in daily activities.
- **Stable Health:** Stable health conditions (no heart or lung problems, no seizures).
- **Exclusions:** Severe health issues (e.g., high blood pressure, cancer, untreated infections); neurological disorders (e.g., epilepsy: personal/family history); implanted devices (e.g., pacemakers); Botox injections in upper limb muscles (past 6 months); recent surgeries (past year) that could affect participation; ongoing complications (e.g., unhealed fractures, contractures); clinical research participation (past 3 months).



### Study Details

- The study includes **2 sessions** on separate days.
  - Each session lasts **60 to 90 minutes**.
- You will take part in two sessions:
  - one involving training alone and one involving training combined with transcutaneous spinal cord stimulation (tSCS)
  - The order is **randomised** (some start with tSCS, others with Training Only)
- Each session includes:
  - A **Baseline Assessment** (at the start of the session)
  - Either **tSCS + Training** or **Training Only** (depending on the session)
  - A **Post Assessment** (immediately after training)



The training will be adapted to suit your abilities. It will include warm-up exercises, practical tasks like gripping or daily activities, resistance-based exercises, and a cool-down period with stretching.

**Travel to the University of Leeds required; £20 voucher, travel reimbursement, and parking provided.**

### Interested?

Contact Professor Sarah Astill to learn more.

**Email:** [s.l.astill@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:s.l.astill@leeds.ac.uk)

Contact researcher Mr. Omar Nahhas to learn more or to sign up.

**Email:** [Bsothn@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:Bsothn@leeds.ac.uk) Or Scan the QR code



(IRAS ID: 345280, Version 1, dated 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025)

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## EVENTS AND INFORMATION - ONLINE/NATIONAL/REGIONAL

### Child Brain Injury and Early Years Education Conference

Guiding those who support children with birth and brain injuries through the early years' SEN and EHCP process.

Open to parents, families, and professionals. Free to attend.

Date:

Thursday, 29 January 2026

Venue:

Stewarts

5 New Street Square

London, EC4A 3BF

Schedule:

- Lunch: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
- Presentations & Questions: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
- Drinks & Discussions: 5:00 PM onwards

Additional Info:

- CPD points available
- Opportunity to network and gain expert insights

Speakers include:

- Dr Ruth Kent – Consultant in Neurological Rehabilitation
- Dr Angela Simcox – Consultant Neuropsychologist
- Emily Neal – Special Education Advisor
- Jennifer Wright – Solicitor from Roeb Irwin Sweeney
- Launa Randles – Headteacher, The Children's Trust

Registration:

[https://sites-stewartslaw.vuturevx.com/25/1542/landing-pages/rsvp-\(blank\).asp?sid=blankform](https://sites-stewartslaw.vuturevx.com/25/1542/landing-pages/rsvp-(blank).asp?sid=blankform)

STEWARTS

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Free to attend.*

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Lunch: 12pm – 1pm

Presentations and questions: 1pm – 5pm

Drinks and discussions: 5pm onwards

CPD points available.



**Speakers include:**

- Dr Ruth Kent, Consultant in Neurological Rehabilitation
- Dr Angela Simcox, Consultant Neuropsychologist
- Emily Neal, Special Education Advisor
- Jennifer Wright, Solicitor from Rook Irwin Sweeney
- Launa Randles, Headteacher, The Children's Trust



[Register Here](#)

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**Free guide to Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for parents and carers of autistic and neurodivergent children.**

Free guide to Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for parents and carers of autistic and neurodivergent children. The guide looks in detail at each question to help you effectively identify your child's needs.

<https://www.theautismpage.com/dla-guide/>

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## Over The Wall Camp Referrals Needed

Hello!

It's hard to believe a month has already passed since we opened applications for our 2026 Residential Camps!

We are now seeking referrals for our Residential Camps. We've caught up with the initial rush of applications, and with us offering more camps, we'd really appreciate receiving referrals as early as possible.

It only takes two minutes to complete our [Referral Form 2026](#). Once it's submitted, our team will contact the family directly, talk everything through, and support them with their application if needed. You don't need to provide any additional information. Better yet—there's no limit to how many families you can refer!

The dates for our Camps can be found here [Camp Calendar 2026 - Over The Wall Camp - A UK Children's Charity](#).

Would you like to hear more about our FREE camps?

Our team are happy to chat on the phone, Teams or Zoom or in person - just let us know when you're available.

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

We hope to welcome some of the young people you support at camp soon.

Warm regards,  
The Camper Recruitment Team  
Email: [campers@otw.org.uk](mailto:campers@otw.org.uk)  
Tel: 01332 977589 Option 1

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## Enter our Christmas card competition

As we prepare to deck the halls, we're inviting your child to capture the Christmas spirit by entering our card competition.

The lucky winner's design will feature on our e-Christmas card, and will also receive a new 128GB iPad Air. Two runners-up will each receive a £100 Amazon voucher.

We welcome entries from all children with additional needs. Please encourage them to get involved and to create their design on an A4 piece of paper, showing what Christmas means to them.


Next, take a picture of their drawing and email it to us at [christmascomp@irwinmitchell.com](mailto:christmascomp@irwinmitchell.com). Please include their name, age, where they're from, and what inspired their design.


Entries must be submitted by midnight on Sunday 7 December. The competition is only open to those aged 19 and under. One entry per child. Full Terms & Conditions are available here: <https://www.irwinmitchell.com/terms-conditions>


We can't wait to see what they come up with.

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### **ARDIF online information session**

 Online information session on Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID)

 Tuesday 2 December

 6-7pm

 Online - Microsoft Teams

 FREE

The NHS England North East and Yorkshire Regional Mental Health Team are hosting a free online ARFID information session on Microsoft Teams with an experienced panel of multi-disciplinary professionals including a speech and language therapist, occupational therapist, and dietitian.

This session will focus on children and young people, and is for parents, carers and family wanting to find out more about ARFID. Professionals are also welcome to attend.

To register: [ARFID Parent, Carer and Family Information Session - Registration Form 2 December 2025](#)

When you register you will have the opportunity to submit topics for consideration. Please do not ask questions about specific individual circumstances. The session is intended to be educational and is not direct clinical support.

If you experience any issues joining the session please email [england.ney-mh@nhs.net](mailto:england.ney-mh@nhs.net)

## Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID)

### Information session for parent/carers





# Parent, Carer/Family Free Online Information Session on the Key Themes of Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID) in Children and Young People

**2 December 2025, 6pm-7pm**

The North East and Yorkshire Regional Mental Health Team are hosting a **free online ARFID information session** on Microsoft Teams with an experienced panel of multi-disciplinary professionals including a Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist, and Dietitian.

This session will focus on **children and young people**, and is for parents, carers and family wanting to find out more about ARFID. Professionals are also welcome to attend.

**Please note: the session will be based on generic ARFID themes submitted in advance and will not include an opportunity for Q&A on the day or specific advice or guidance relating to individual circumstances. The session is intended to be educational and not direct clinical support.**

**To register, please click [here](#).** This also includes the opportunity for you to submit generic topics/themes for consideration. **We kindly ask that you do not detail specific individual circumstances.**

In the meantime, **helpful resources** are available on the CNTW [here](#) (available to all) or [ARFID Awareness UK](#).

If you experience any issues joining the session please email [england.ney-mh@nhs.net](mailto:england.ney-mh@nhs.net)

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## **Wakefield SEND Local Offer Newsletter Autumn 2025**

The Wakefield SEND Local Offer Autumn Newsletter is now out. You can read it by clicking on the link below or visiting the [Autumn 2025 Newsletter page on the Local Offer](#).

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## **Yorkshire Sports Festival**



# WHEELPOWER SPORTS FESTIVAL YORKSHIRE

29 JANUARY 2026

ENGLISH INSTITUTE OF SPORT  
SHEFFIELD



[wheelpower.org.uk/yorkshire](https://wheelpower.org.uk/yorkshire)

charity number: 265498



**WheelPower**

British Wheelchair Sport

West Yorkshire CANN  
[www.cann.network.org](http://www.cann.network.org)  
[westyorkshire@cann-network.org](mailto:westyorkshire@cann-network.org)

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## FREE Christmas Family Fun Day!

Join us for a magical festive celebration in partnership with **Irwin Mitchell** and **SYCANN**!



**Sunday 14th December**



**11am – 2pm**



**Niagara Centre, Niagara Road, Sheffield S6 1LU**

Expect a day full of joy and inclusive fun for families and children with additional needs, including:



Santa's Grotto



Face Painting



Sensory Activities



Boccia



Free Food & Refreshments



Plus, meet local charities offering support and resources!



**Book your FREE place now:**

<https://irwinmitchellandsycannfamilyfu.splashthat.com>

Let's make this Christmas one to remember! ✨

#ChristmasFunDay #SYCANN #IrwinMitchell #InclusiveEvents #FamilyFun #SheffieldEvents



# CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN DAY

In conjunction with Irwin Mitchell & SYCANN



You are invited to a free family fun day hosted by us at the Niagara centre in Hillsborough.

Come along and join us on the day, we will have lots of fun activities for you to enjoy, including Santa's grotto, face painting, sensory activities, Boccia and much more!

Food will be provided, and refreshments are available at the Niagara bar. We are delighted that a number of local charities who support families and children with additional needs will also be joining us on the day.

To confirm your place, sign up for free using the link below  
<https://irwinmitchellandsycannfamilyfun.splashthat.com/>

**SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup>  
DECEMBER  
11AM - 2PM**

**NIAGARA CENTRE, NIAGARA  
ROAD, SHEFFIELD, S6 1LU**

## 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

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## 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!

## **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 Certificate. 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](mailto:kidzteam@disabledliving.co.uk)

Kind regards

Carmel Hourigan  
Email Address - [carmel.hourigan@disabledliving.co.uk](mailto:carmel.hourigan@disabledliving.co.uk)  
Website - [www.kidzexhibitions.co.uk](http://www.kidzexhibitions.co.uk)

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

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





# H.I.E. CONFERENCE

**14<sup>th</sup> May 2026**  
The Lowry, Salford Quays

Kindly supported by:



**BoltBurdonKemp**



The theme is “Hear, Inform, Empower.”

Our first announced speakers are Nicholas Hamilton & Paula Abramson.

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

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

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

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## **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:

- 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](mailto:katie@visitsunlimited.org.uk) and follow us on social media @AccessibleCalderdale

For bookings contact [lorraine.accessiblecalderdale@gmail.com](mailto:lorraine.accessiblecalderdale@gmail.com)



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## EVENTS AND INFORMATION - LEEDS

### **SNAPS - Spaces Available for Next Term**

#### **Inclusive Football at Broomfield**

SNAPS offers friendly, inclusive football sessions for children with additional needs and their siblings, aged 4–16. All abilities are welcome, with a focus on fun! Sessions run every Saturday between 9:30am and 1:30pm at the Broomfield site, with four one-hour classes tailored to different age groups and abilities.

#### **Archery at Brierley**

Children can also enjoy archery using safe inflatable equipment. This session runs on Saturdays from 9:30am to 10:15am at the Brierley site.

For more information or to book a place, email Jo at [jo@snapsyorkshire.org](mailto:jo@snapsyorkshire.org).

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### **Next Sensory Open Day - Sat 6th December**

Winter is most certainly here, and we have a lovely cosy Sensory Open Day on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December based on the traditional tale of “The Elves and The Shoemaker”.

Come in from the cold to explore the shoemaker’s house, and the mischief within, in one of our drop-in sessions at either 11am - 12.30pm or 2pm - 3.30pm.

The flyer’s attached with all the information, and you can e-mail back or text to book.

Thanks,  
Robbie and the Sensory Youth Theatre Team

LS12 Creative Team  
Interplay Theatre  
Email: [takepart@interplaytheatre.org.uk](mailto:takepart@interplaytheatre.org.uk)  
Phone: 01132 638556 (ext. 104)  
Text: 07444 229628



**art**



**stories**



**play**

**To book your session,  
contact us via...**

**Email:**

**[takepart@interplaytheatre.org.uk](mailto:takepart@interplaytheatre.org.uk)**

**Call & Voicemail: 0113 263 8556**

**Text: 07444 229628**



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL

**Made With Music Accessible Mini-Gig**

**Made with Music** are hosting an accessible, family friendly Mini Gig on **Sunday 18th January, 12-3pm at the Brudenell Social Club (LS6 1NY)**. It is an afternoon of live music with real bands in a real gig venue. Made with Music prides itself on being inclusive and accessible and want more families to be able to attend live music events.

Here are **some** of the things they do to make their gigs accessible:

- Changing places trailer at each event (an accessible toilet with changing bench, hoist and attendant)
- Pre-information available including a photo guide
- Access to the space before the event to check it out
- Clear signage around the building
- Strict timings which are available before the event
- Level access, suitable for wheelchairs
- Variety of seating available (benches, mats, chairs, beanbags)
- Black out tent if you need to dampen all other senses but still want to listen to the music
- Ear defenders available to borrow
- Friendly staff around the room to answer any questions you have
- We keep some tickets back for families who can't decide until the day
- Offer a "Pay if you stay" ticket on the door if you want to try the gig but for any reason you or your young person can't stay for the whole thing.

If there is anything they can do to help you more specifically, please do get in touch on [hello@madewithmusic.co.uk](mailto:hello@madewithmusic.co.uk) or find them on social media.

If the event is shown as sold out, get in touch with them as they have a handful of tickets available on the door for families with additional access needs so please email if you would like, and cannot get, tickets.

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/made-with-music](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/made-with-music)

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## Aspire Newsletter

The New edition of the Aspire Newsletter is now available [HERE](#)

You can find a link to the PDF version at the bottom of the page, or simply click the Youtube play button, for those who prefer E-News!

We hope this newsletter illuminates just some of the many ways that Aspire have been supporting adults with learning disabilities to lead meaningful and fulfilling lives.

For regular updates follow us on: [X.com](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#).

## **Leeds City College Open Day**

Leeds City College are hosting an open event at their Joseph Priestley Centre on Saturday 6 December, 10am-12pm.

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

To book or ask any questions please email: [eventsmarketing@luminare.ac.uk](mailto:eventsmarketing@luminare.ac.uk)

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:eventsmarketing@luminate.ac.uk)  
0113 284 6680

A member of Luminate Education Group

## Little Hiccups Upcoming Events

Register interest:

[Trial for "Ready for Physio" Balance & Coordination Group](#)

[Wellbeing for Parents Yoga Course](#)

Wed 5th Nov - 17th Dec (Join in any time!)

[Dadlands](#)

15th Dec, 6pm

### **Laura The ND Nurse - *Funded by Leeds Parent Carer Forum***

Intro to Autism & the Autistic Community

[In person: Jan 14th, 10am >](#)

[Online \(daytime\): Jan 16th, 10am >](#)

[Online \(evening\): Jan 21st, 7pm >](#)

All Things Waking Up and the Morning

[In person: Feb 4th, 10am >](#)

[Online \(evening\): Feb 11th, 7pm >](#)

[Online \(daytime\): Feb 13th, 10am >](#)

Moving with Purpose: Understanding Dyspraxia and the Body–Mind Connection

[In person: 4th Mar, 10am >](#)

[Online \(evening\): 11th Mar, 7pm >](#)

[Online \(daytime\): 20th Mar, 10am >](#)

Rethinking Hygiene: Inclusive Strategies for Neurodivergent Wellbeing

[In person: 22nd Apr, 10am >](#)

[Online \(daytime\): 24th Apr, 10am >](#)

[Online \(evening\): 29th Apr, 7pm >](#)

Shifting Gears: Helping Young People Through Everyday Transitions and Routine Changes

[In person: 6th May, 10am >](#)

[Online \(evening\): 13th, 7pm >](#)

[Online \(daytime\): 15th, 10am >](#)

Tuning In: Building Interoception Together

[In person: 3rd Jun, 10am >](#)

[Online \(evening\): 10th Jun, 7pm >](#)

[Online \(daytime\): 12th Jun, 10am >](#)

Say it Differently: Using Declarative Language to Connect and Support

[Online \(evening\): 1st Jul, 7pm >](#)

[Online \(daytime\): 3rd Jul, 10am >](#)

[In person: 8th Jul, 10am >](#)

Speaking Up at School: Communication with Education Staff

[In person: 16th Sept, 10am >](#)

[Online \(daytime\): 18th Sept, 10am >](#)

[Online \(evening\): 23rd Sept, 7pm >](#)

Supporting Your Young Person in Distress & Reframing Challenging Behaviour

[In person: 7th Oct, 10am >](#)

[Online \(daytime\): 9th Oct, 10am >](#)

[Online \(evening\): 14th Oct, 7pm >](#)

Balancing Acts: Supporting Siblings and Finding Space for Self-Care

[Online \(daytime\): 6th Nov, 10pm >](#)

[In person: 11th Nov, 10am >](#)

[Online \(evening\): 18th Nov, 7pm >](#)

**Free Drop-In Legal Clinic with Stewarts** - Funded by Stewarts Solicitors

Tues 3rd March 2026

[Book a slot here >](#)

**Juniper Tree Therapy Sessions** - Funded by Juniper Tree

Online: Tues 3rd Feb 2026, 9.30am - [Better Bedtimes](#)

In Person: Tues 28th April 2026, 12pm - [Encouraging Eating](#)

In Person: Tues 30th June 2026, 10am - [Comfortable Care](#)

**Lunch & Learn** - Funded by Stewarts Solicitors, Clarion Solicitors & Positive OT

All sessions will be online 12pm-1pm

Tues Jan 20th: [Deputyship: Helping families understand how the Court of Protection works when financial decisions need to be made for children who lack capacity.](#)

Tues Feb 10th: [A Guide to Catastrophic injury Claims](#)

Tues Mar 17th: [Preparing for Adulthood – Employment Rights & Support for Young People with Additional Needs](#)

Tues Apr 21st: [Employing Support in the Home – What Parents Need to Know](#)

Tues May 19th: [Wills - How parents can make provision for children](#)

Tues June 16th: [Panel Discussion \(Q&A overview\)](#)

**Other Courses**

Tues Jan 13th 2026: [AAC: A Parent's Perspective – Online Workshop with Laura Brown](#)



Fri Feb 6th: [Paediatric First Aid Course](#)

Wed Apr 29th 2026: [Makaton Taster Session](#)

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## EVENTS AND INFORMATION - BRADFORD

### Holiday Activities and Food Provider Opportunity

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme has been extended for three more years, running from April 2026 to March 2029. This means even more opportunities to provide enriching holiday experiences for children and young people across the district. Bradford Council are now inviting applications from organisations to deliver face-to-face holiday activities and healthy meals to eligible children during Easter, summer and Christmas school holidays as part of the HAF programme for 2026/2027 to 2028/2029.

Who can apply?

- Sports and arts organisations
- Charities
- Community groups
- Voluntary sector organisations
- Other providers able to deliver engaging, inclusive programmes

Key details:

- Application window opens 17th November and closes Friday 5th December
- Age groups are from 4 to 16 (up to 18 for eligible SEND participants)
- Full guidance and application material on the Bradford Council website. They welcome applications from new and established providers and are particularly keen to see provision that supports underserved communities across the district. The HAF programme is funded by the Department for Education.

[Information for providers | Bradford Council](#)

Kind regards

Sarah Firth  
Communications and Insight Manager (SEND)  
Healthy Children and Families

Phone: 07974 124043

Email: [sarah.firth@bradford.nhs.uk](mailto:sarah.firth@bradford.nhs.uk)

LinkedIn: [Sarah Firth | LinkedIn](#)

Website: [www.bdcpartnership.co.uk](http://www.bdcpartnership.co.uk)

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## Guide to Eating Problems and Eating Disorders

We also have this guide with some info about eating problems and disorders on the SEND Local Offer website: [Bradford Local Offer | A One Minute Guide - Eating problems and eating disorders](#)

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## Try Ice Skating in a Safe, Inclusive Environment!

We're excited to share some fantastic opportunities for people with **Cerebral Palsy** to enjoy ice skating, thanks to our partnership with **Cerebral Palsy Sport**.

### Special CP Sport Sessions

- **Who can join?** Anyone aged 5+, including parents, siblings, and carers. Wheelchair users are absolutely welcome!
- **What's included?** British Ice Skating licensed coaches, adaptive equipment, and a supportive environment.
- **Sign up here:**  
<https://cpsport.justgo.com/Workbench/i/r/public/EventsAndBookingsPublic/details/27ECD4CAA9D11D15C6FC4A740D3AABBD7D8804F4/>

### Weekly Inclusive Ice Skating Sessions

If you'd like to try ice skating regularly, join our **disability-friendly sessions** in Bradford or Sheffield:

#### Bradford

- **When:** Every Tuesday at 2:00 PM
- **Duration:** 30 minutes on the ice + coffee catch-up in the café
- **Cost:** £7.50 per session
- **Booking:** Call **01274 733535**
- **Extras:** Qualified coaches and specialised equipment available

#### Sheffield

- **When:** Mondays (term time) 1:20 PM – 2:20 PM
- **Activities:** Skating, curling, and sledge hockey – all in one session!
- **Booking:** Call **0114 223 3900** for details



Everyone is welcome to give it a go in a safe, inclusive environment!

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## Join the conversation! - Annual SEND Parent/carers Survey 2025

Are you a parent/carer to a child or young person aged 0-25 with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), living in the Bradford district?

Complete this year's SEND Parent/carer survey and help influence improvements to local SEND services: <https://forms.gle/kVF4i6o9n1FuZeTq7>

You can also win a £30 Amazon gift voucher for taking part.

Closing date: 19th December 2025

Any queries? Email [mahum@pfba.org.uk](mailto:mahum@pfba.org.uk)

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### **Supporting dads with Bradford City Football Club's evening parenting sessions**

\*Register now - Starting 13 January 2026.

\*Evening session (6pm - 8pm) with light tea.

\*Taking place at Bradford City Football Club, Valley Parade.

The 'Time Out for Dads' programme in Bradford is a free parenting course for dads or male carers of children aged from birth to 19 years of age. It consists of weekly 2-hour sessions over five weeks, focusing on building confidence, developing positive relationships, and learning strategies for conflict and anger management in a supportive environment.

Topics include:

- Parenting goals, the impact of own fathers and aspirations of being a dad.
- Children's temperaments and needs along with building emotional security.
- The importance of time and family life.
- The power of words and recognising children's feelings.
- Discipline and setting boundaries.
- Different parenting styles and positive parenting.
- The importance for time for yourself, letting off steam and handling conflict.

For more information, email: [samantha.gamble@bradfordcft.org.uk](mailto:samantha.gamble@bradfordcft.org.uk)

Time Out for Dads is one of a number of parenting programmes, find out more and apply on Bradford Families and Young Person's website.

[https://fyi.bradford.gov.uk/practitioners/a-z-of-parenting-programmes?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery#timeout](https://fyi.bradford.gov.uk/practitioners/a-z-of-parenting-programmes?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#timeout)

## **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

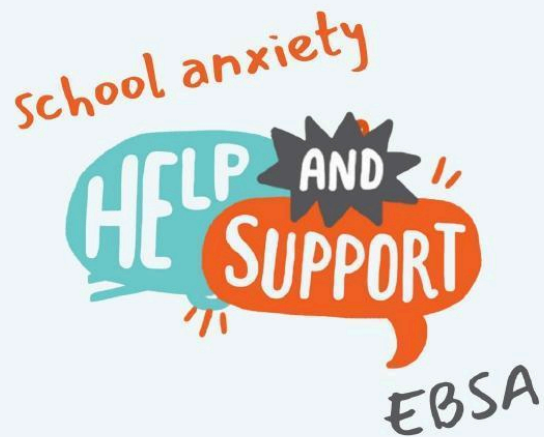
You will need to be able to attend all 4 sessions

Book: by e-mailing [EBSA@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:EBSA@bradford.gov.uk)

One Minute Guide to Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) : [Bradford Local Offer | One Minute Guides - Emotionally based school avoidance EBSA](#)

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](mailto:EBSA@bradford.gov.uk)



City of  
**BRADFORD**  
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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## 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 - Reeve Family Hub, BD6 3ST
- 👍 6 October - Gateway BD10 0JR
- 👍 15 October - Rainbow Family Hub BD22 6JB
- 👍 17 December - Rainbow Family Hub BD22 6JB

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## EVENTS AND INFORMATION - WAKEFIELD

### 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.**

**[Timeslots will be available to book at 8am on Wednesday 1 October.](#)** Slots are limited to maintain a relaxed atmosphere. This means you don't have to queue.

[Access at Wakefield Museum](#)



Sensory World Events



Sensory World  
Old Westgate  
Dewsbury  
WF 13 1NB.

*£90.00 per Person.*

**Paediatric  
First Aid Training.  
28th september 25 and 8<sup>th</sup>  
March 2026.**

Lunch and drinks  
available from the on-  
site 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.



BOOKINGS

**07801065589**

**Children £15.00 including play**  
**Adults £20.00**

*Sensory World*  
*Christmas dinner*

*or*  
*Caribbean*  
*Cuisine*

**Licenced.**



**DECEMBER 25,**  
**1:00 PM-5PM**

**Old Westgate**  
**Dewsbury**  
**WF 13 1NB**

**FREE  
Explores Club  
0-12**

Sensory world  
Old Westgate  
Dewsbury  
WF13 1NB

**FREE  
Teens Club  
13 - 25 yrs**

**SATURDAYS 11- 1 pm**  
**starts 1 st November**  
**with send or suspect.**

## **WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT**

- ✓ Fully disabled facilities.
  - ✓ Fantastic staff
  - ✓ Diversity
  - ✓ Wide range of activities
  - ✓ Safe and secure
- Outdoor garden**

**FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT  
SENSORY WORLD.**

**07801065589.**



To book  
07801065589

SENSORY WORLD  
OLD WESTGATE  
DEWSBURY  
WF13 1NB



Holiday Funded by  
the Government  
Activity and food  
program



Free for  
children on the  
free School  
meals register.

Holiday Activities  
for Children 4yrs to 12yrs  
22nd & 23rd December 29th &  
30th December  
10am - 2.00 pm





EVERYONE WELCOME

Don't feel  
isolated



Don't  
be alone.

# LUNCHEON CLUB.

Every Thursday 11.00 to 2pm

£5 for 2  
courses.

SENSORY WORLD CAFE.  
OLD WESTGATE  
DEWSBURY  
WF13 1NB.

All welcome

Sensory World  
Old Westgate  
Dewsbury  
WF16 7SX

Food and Drinks  
Available  
licenced bar.

S E N G S C R A B B L E  
O O R U P  
Y I P E E  
H O N

Every Friday 10am.  
07801065589

FREE



Sensory World  
Old Westgate  
Dewsbury  
WF13 1NB

Glueing

Mosaic

Crafts  
£4.00 pp

2 Course  
meal  
£5 pp

PAINTING

**CRAFTY**  
THURSDAY  
&  
LUNCHEON CLUB  
FOR ADULTS WITH  
LEARNING  
DIFFICULTIES.  
10.30 2PM

TO BOOK  
07801065589

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## SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Website: [www.cann-network.org](http://www.cann-network.org)  
Email: [westyorkshire@cann-network.org](mailto: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](mailto:chair.westyorkshire@cann-network.org)

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