



IWYCANN COMMUNICATION
February 2026

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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

Future Dates for 2026:

11th March

10am - 12pm

Guide Dogs, Unit 4 Bramley Grange, Skeltons Ln, Thorner, Leeds LS14 3DW

1st July
2nd December
Venues to be confirmed

CANN Conference
April 30th
Save the date - details to be confirmed

CHAIR COMMENTS

Dear WYCANN members,

As we step into February, with spring on the horizon and the darkest ten weeks of the year now behind us, this feels like the perfect moment to look ahead with renewed energy.

I have two very important dates to share with you—one for our wider national network and one to celebrate a massive milestone for us here in West Yorkshire.

National CANN Online Conference

Please add **Thursday 30th April, 10:00am–12:30pm** to your diary for our first national online CANN conference. We're excited to bring together charity and statutory leaders and professionals for a line-up of inspiring speakers who will help us look at new ways to survive the current difficult climate and flourish into the future. More details will follow soon!

WYCANN Quarterly Meeting: Celebrating 10 Years

This year marks a special milestone as we celebrate **10 years of WYCANN** (first launched as Leeds CANN). We hope to use this anniversary as a chance to deepen our connections, support one another more meaningfully, and continue strengthening our network for the years ahead.

- **When:** Wednesday 11th March 2026
- **Time:** 10:00am – 12:00pm
- **Where (Hybrid):** Guide Dogs, Unit 4 Bramley Grange, Skeltons Lane, Thorner, Leeds LS14 3DW (or join us online)

A note on the venue: We hope to tempt you there with the promise of biscuits and hopefully a lovely guide dog to distract us! However, please note that **Guide Dogs have restricted numbers for the physical space**. Because of this, please only confirm a "Yes" for in-person attendance if you are certain you can make it. We may need to limit numbers if interest is high, but we'd love to see as many of you as possible.

We can't wait to celebrate a decade of support with you all.

NEW MEMBERS



Astor Bannerman

With over 30 years' experience, Astor Bannerman are experts in the design and manufacture of specialist bathing and care equipment. We provide solutions to cater to the complex care needs of your family, and clients both within the home, schools, care homes or hospices etc. We

offer in-depth knowledge and technical expertise is used to design and manufacture innovative products that can be customised to suit your individual requirements.

karen.hoe@astorbannerman.co.uk
<https://www.astorbannerman.co.uk>

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

RESEARCH

Help Shape the Future of Adaptive Clothing!

We've been contacted by a final-year student at the University of Leeds who is conducting vital research into the need for more adaptive clothing for children on the UK high street.

As many of our families know, finding accessible and affordable clothing for children with additional needs can be a real challenge. This dissertation project aims to bring attention to this gap and advocate for positive change.

Can you help? The researcher is looking for parents, carers, teachers, or anyone working with children (aged 7-16) with a disability to share their experiences.

What: A short, anonymous survey about your experiences and needs.

Time: Approximately 15 minutes.

Privacy: Fully anonymous and GDPR compliant via JISC (University of Leeds approved).

Your insights could help ensure that future clothing ranges are more inclusive and available right on our high street!

Have your say here: 

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/leeds/dissertation-survey-z2nt4j7ccy6xeu78npurga6lc>

(Note: This research is being conducted independently by a student at the University of Leeds. We are sharing this on their behalf to help amplify the voices of our community!)

#AdaptiveClothing #Inclusion #UniversityOfLeeds #AdditionalNeeds #UKHighStreet #LittleHiccups
#CANNNetwork #Accessibility

HELP IMPROVE ADAPTIVE CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY

Are you a parent, caregiver, teacher or healthcare professional supporting children with a disability (aged 7-16)?

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SHORT, ANONYMOUS SURVEY



I am a final year student at the University of Leeds conducting my dissertation on how high street retailers can create fashionable adaptive fashion for children with a disability. Your experiences will help shape future designs that are comfortable, functional, and fashionable.

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS.
HELP HIGHLIGHT UNMET NEEDS, GUIDE FUTURE DESIGN AND IMPROVE
CLOTHING OPTIONS FOR CHILDREN ON THE HIGH STREET**

Please pass on to anyone you know who may be suitable to take part

This study is part of a university dissertation. All responses are anonymous & voluntary
Contact : sd22ib@leeds.ac.uk for more information

Save our children's rights - what's at risk, why it matters and how you can take action!

The campaign to "Save Our Children's Rights" focuses on protecting the legal rights of children with SEND from potential government reforms that threaten their access to essential support and education.

The following groups are behind the campaign: Special Needs Jungle, IPSEA, SOS!SEN, SEND National Crisis, SEND Rights Alliance and Learning Disability Today.

These reforms may include restricting access to Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), with worrying indications that rights could be weakened or removed in an effort to cut costs. If implemented, these reforms could leave some children and young people without a legally enforceable right to an accessible education that properly meets their needs.

Save our Children's Rights demand that any such plans are halted, and all education reforms work in the interests of children and families, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

What you can do:

- Go to: www.saveourchildrensrights.org.uk for more information on the campaign and subscribe to the campaign mailing list.
- Follow, share and join the campaign: www.saveourchildrensrights.org.uk, Instagram: @saveourchildrensrights, Facebook: Save our Children's Rights, #SaveOurChildrensRights #DefendSEND
- Write to your MP, using this template: www.ipsea.org.uk/write-to-your-mp-protect-the-legal-rights-of-children-and-young-people-with-send
- Join the photo campaign and share the positive impact of your child's legal rights: www.saveourchildrensrights.org.uk/photo-campaign

My first 1000 days project - Free parent and baby sessions

My First 1000 Days is a three year project set up by the University of Leeds, which aims to have significant positive impacts on the health and long-term outcomes of children and their families in Leeds. Sunshine and Smiles has been involved in the design of the project, to ensure the sessions are inclusive and welcoming for families with children with additional needs.

As part of this research project, the University of Leeds are running four free, topic-based sessions, for parents and carers of babies up to 12 months old. These sessions are designed to be flexible and accessible, allowing families to attend one or more sessions depending on their interests, circumstances, and their baby's age or stage of development. There is no expectation to attend all four sessions. All sessions are free to attend, and families will receive a goodie bag and lunch.

The sessions combine practical guidance, opportunities for discussion, and signposting to local services and support. The sessions/topics include:

- **Sleep, Self-Care & Support**- Tuesday 24th February
- **Connecting with your baby**- Tuesday 3rd March
- **Starting Solids & Staying Active**- Tuesday 10th March
- **Safe Spaces and Early words**- Tuesday 17th March

Time: 10am - 2pm

Venue: The Vinery Centre, Leeds, LS9 9LU

Booking is via Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/my-first-1000-days-70988141753

For further info please email: myfirst1000days@leeds.ac.uk

Places limited to 20 families. Pre-booking only – no walk-ins on the day. Families are welcome to attend even if they choose not to take part in the research element of the project.

Have Your Say: Take part in our Unpaid Carers Survey

A quick reminder that our Annual Unpaid Carers Survey is still live. We want to hear from carers aged 16+ about their health and wellbeing, money and work, social life, and access to services. Your feedback helps shape what we do and influences support for carers across the city. You could also be in with a chance to win one of six £25 Marks and Spencer vouchers! [Last year](#), 536 unpaid carers took part. Your responses highlighted ongoing challenges:

- 60% of unpaid carers were most worried about their own health and wellbeing
- 62% said caring negatively affects their physical health, 72% their mental health
- 38% often or always feel lonely
- 45% of working carers said an understanding employer would help them manage work and care

We know there are at least 61,500 unpaid carers in Leeds. Please help us reach as many as possible by sharing the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JFTMW99>

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - ONLINE/NATIONAL/REGIONAL

Upcoming Events: NWY ASBAH

We are excited to share the latest calendar of events from our friends at **NWY ASBAH**! Whether you are looking for family fun, teen challenges, or a quiet space for parents to connect, there is something for everyone over the next few months.

Here is what's coming up:

- **8th Feb:** Family & Teens Social – 10 Pin Bowling at Hollywood Bowl, Bradford.
- **18th Feb:** Family Social (Under 10s) – Soft play and heart-themed crafting at The Vinery Centre, Leeds.
- **25th Feb:** Adults Social – Craft + Connect at Shipley Library. A perfect chance for parents and carers to switch off.
- **7th March:** Teens Social – Escape Room challenge at Escape Hunt, Leeds.
- **12th March:** Parents/Carers Social – Coffee and chat at Tiffin Coffee, The Wool Exchange, Bradford.
- **28th March:** Family Social – A relaxed trip to the cinema!

How to Book

Bookings usually open closer to each event date. To see the full details and secure your spot, head over to the NWY ASBAH website:

 www.nwyasbah.org/upcomingevents

Please note: Events may be cancelled if minimum booking numbers are not met, so be sure to register your interest early!

Upcoming Events

NWY ASBAH

Head to our website for all the details and to book!



Family and Teens Social

February

08

Join us at Hollywood Bowl, Bradford for 10 Pin Bowling. Fun for all the family with prizes for the highest scores on the day.

Family Social

February

18

Stay, Craft and Play at The Vinery Centre, Leeds. Soft Play, Sensory Play and Heart-themed crafting. For our under 10's

Adults Social

February

25

Our regular craft + connect sessions at Shipley Library. For adult members including parents/carers to need to take some time out and switch off.

Teens Social

March

07

Ready to beat the clock? Put your problem solving skills to the test in our Escape Room challenge. A fun social session for Teens at Escape Hunt, Leeds

Parents/Carers Social

March

12

Make friends, share experiences and support one another in a relaxed welcoming space. Find us at TiffinCoffee, The Wool Exchange, Bradford

Family Social

March

28

Enjoy a trip to the cinema and enjoy a family film with oth A relaxed easy way to unwind and connect. Just add popcorn!

and much more...

www.nwyasbah.org/upcomingevents

Events may be cancelled if minimum booking numbers are not met.

Accessible Easter Egg Hunt with Club Wilber

We are sharing an upcoming event from **Club Wilber (Wilberforce Trust)**. Their annual Easter Egg Hunt is designed to be fully accessible and inclusive for children with visual impairments.

This is the **only** activity in the Club Wilber calendar open to families who are not currently signed up to their service.

What to expect:

- **Beeping Eggs:** Young people use hearing rather than sight to locate the hidden eggs.
- **Inclusive Fun:** Sighted siblings are welcome and can join in using sleep shades.
- **Accessible Prizes:** Every child leaves with a prize—chocolate or Easter toys for those who do not eat orally.
- **Easter Crafts:** Free themed crafts will be running indoors.
- **Refreshments:** The cafe will be open all day for food and drink.

Event Information:

-  **Date:** 28th March
-  **Location:** Yorkshire (Check the attached poster for venue details)
-  **Cost:** FREE
-  **Eligibility:** Families based in Yorkshire with a child or young person (0-25) who has a visual impairment.

How to Register: To book a place or for further enquiries, please contact the organisers directly at: [✉ clubwilber@wilberforcetrust.org.uk](mailto:clubwilber@wilberforcetrust.org.uk)



Easter Egg Hunt



For young people with a visual impairment and their siblings aged 0-25



**March 28th, 2026
Hunt from 11:30am-1:30pm
Easter themed activities from
10:30am-2:30pm
Cafe open throughout!**



**The Wilberforce Trust,
The Grove, Dringhouses,
York, YO24 1AN**

**Email:
clubwilber@wilberforcetrust.org.uk
to book and for further information!**



Wilberforce Trust



**CLUB
WILBER**

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

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



H.I.E. CONFERENCE

14th May 2026
The Lowry, Salford Quays

Kindly supported by:





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>

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 and follow us on social media @AccessibleCalderdale

For bookings contact lorraine.accessiblecalderdale@gmail.com

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - LEEDS

Calling parents and carers of children with SEND to join us for the Inclusive Mainstream Practice (IMP) Launch!

 Date: Monday 23rd February 2026
 Time: 10am till 12.30pm
 Venue: Pudsey Civic Hall, LS28 5TA

The Leeds Parent Carer Forum and Voice, Influence & Change Team invite parents and carers of children with SEND to the launch of Inclusive Mainstream Practice (IMP).

What is IMP?

- Guidance to help schools support all children, especially those with SEND.
- Spot when extra help is needed.
- Explain how schools support your child's learning.

In Leeds, we focus on each child's strengths and needs, not just a diagnosis.

Book your free place here: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/PCFEvent/>

INCLUSIVE MAINSTREAM PRACTICE (IMP) LAUNCH

Join Us for the IMP Launch!

The Leeds Parent Carer Forum and Voice, Influence & Change Team invite parent carer support group representatives to the launch of Inclusive Mainstream Practice (IMP).

What is IMP?

- Guidance to help schools support all children, especially those with SEND.
- Spot when extra help is needed.
- Explain how schools support your child's learning.

In Leeds, we focus on each child's strengths and needs, not just a diagnosis.



LEEDS PCF



Monday 23rd February 2026



10am till 12.30pm



Pudsey Civic Hall, LS28 5TA

[REGISTER NOW](#)

<https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/PCFEvent/>



Circle of Support Course for Professionals working with Learning Disabled and Autistic People:

Date: Thursday 26th Feb 2026
Arrive at 09.15 for a 09.30 start.
Light lunch will be provided.

Should last until about 13.30, including time for lunch.

Please get in touch with any questions, or to sign up, on 0113 244 3729 or contact al.mayes@peopleinaction.org.uk

Thank you very much,

The People in Action Healthy Lifestyles Team

Healthy Lifestyle Project

New!
For Support Workers and Family Members!

Circle of Support Training Session

PEOPLE IN ACTION
Registered Charity
No: 701434

COMMUNITY FUND

People in Action is running a **FREE** training session for **family members, support workers, and other people who support learning disabled and autistic people.**

Learn how to more effectively support people to:

- Eat a healthy diet**
- Be more active**
- Manage their weight**
- Explore emotional wellbeing**

This session runs both online or in person, whichever works for you.
If you're interested, please contact AI on 0113 2443729 or email al.mayes@peopleinaction.org.uk

SEND parent carer information drop

- Date: Wednesday 4th February 2026
- Time: 10.30am till 12.30pm
- Venue: Horsforth Library Building, Town Street, Horsforth, LS18 5BL

Speak to services and receive information and advice:

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

Let us know if you will be attending the drop in here: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/InfoDropIn/>

If you have any questions please contact LLO@leeds.gov.uk



www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk
[@Leeds Local Offer](https://www.facebook.com/LeedsLocalOffer)
LLO@leeds.gov.uk

SEND PARENT CARER INFORMATION DROP IN

Date	Time	Venue
Wed 4 th February	10.30 till 12.30	Horsforth Library Building, Town Street, Horsforth, LS18 5BL

Services in attendance:

- Leeds Local Offer
- SENDIASS
- Carers Leeds
- Child Health and Disability Team (CHAD)
- Leeds Parent Carer Forum
- Little Hiccups
- Speech and Language Therapy Service
- SEND Coordinators, Family Hubs

Let us know if you will be attending the drop in

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



If you would like more information about the drop in sessions email LLO@leeds.gov.uk



Health workshop for parents and carers: Overview of health carer services

Workshop for parents and carers of children with SEND

Date: Tuesday 10th February 2026

Time: 11am till 12pm

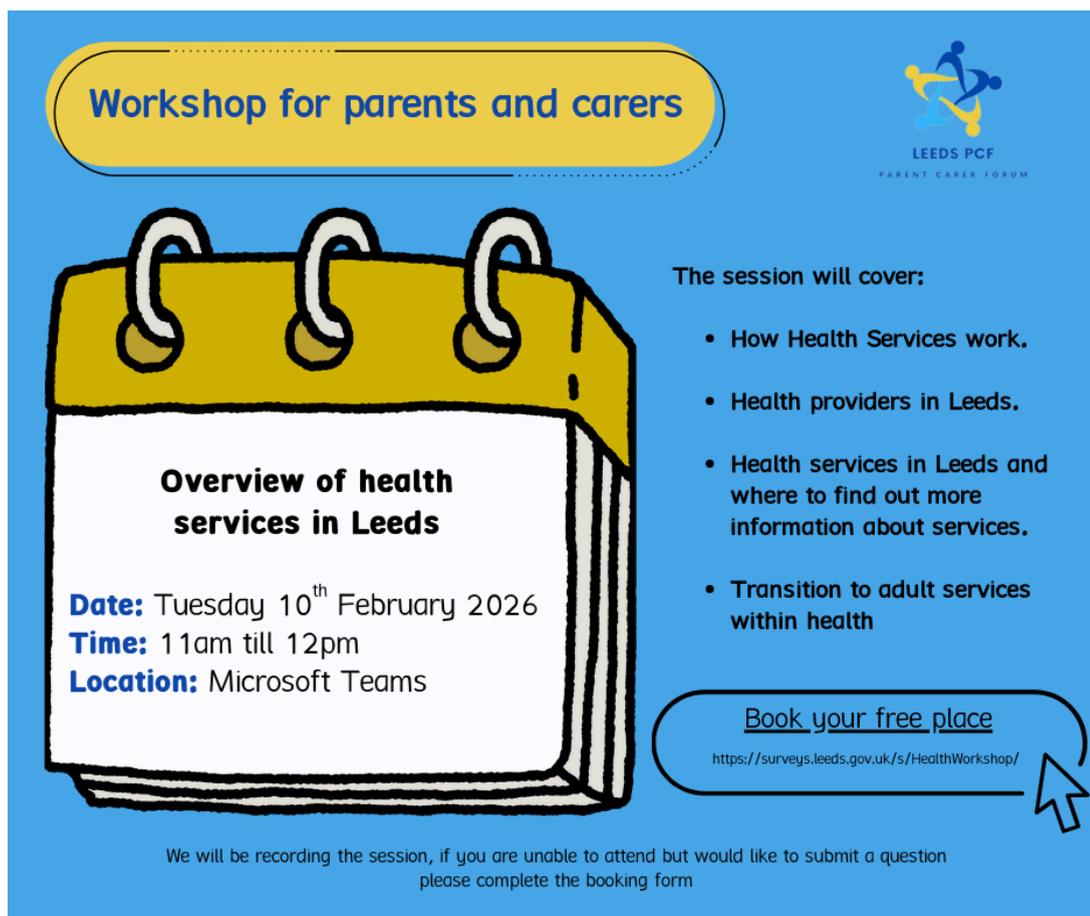
Venue: Microsoft Teams

The session will cover:

- How health services work.
- Health providers in Leeds.
- Health services in Leeds and where to find out more information about services.
- Transition to adult services within health.

a recording of the session will be made available after.

Book your free place here: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/HealthWorkshop/>



The poster features a blue background. At the top left, a yellow rounded rectangle contains the text "Workshop for parents and carers". To the right is the Leeds PCF logo, which consists of three stylized human figures in blue and yellow, with the text "LEEDS PCF PARENT CARER FORUM" below it. In the center is a yellow and white calendar icon with three rings at the top. The calendar page displays the title "Overview of health services in Leeds" and the details: "Date: Tuesday 10th February 2026", "Time: 11am till 12pm", and "Location: Microsoft Teams". To the right of the calendar, the text "The session will cover:" is followed by a bulleted list of topics. Below the list is a white rounded rectangle with the text "Book your free place" and the URL "https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/HealthWorkshop/". A white mouse cursor arrow points to the URL. At the bottom of the poster, a line of text reads: "We will be recording the session, if you are unable to attend but would like to submit a question please complete the booking form".

Workshop for parents and carers

LEEDS PCF
PARENT CARER FORUM

Overview of health services in Leeds

Date: Tuesday 10th February 2026
Time: 11am till 12pm
Location: Microsoft Teams

The session will cover:

- How Health Services work.
- Health providers in Leeds.
- Health services in Leeds and where to find out more information about services.
- Transition to adult services within health

Book your free place
<https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/HealthWorkshop/>

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

Arts Together Newsletter

Hello Arts Together Partners!

We are getting in touch to let you know about our upcoming meetings. Our next meeting will be an informal reflection of the year, where we hope to gather feedback regarding your experience of the Arts Together Network and find out what you need from the network in future. Please get in touch if you would like to attend and we will add you to the register.

Date/ Time: 29th January 2026, 11am - 12.30pm

Location: Howard Opera Centre, Bramall Studio, 8 Harrison Street, Leeds, LS1 6PA

Refreshments provided!

Further dates for your diary...

March Arts Together Network Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday 24th March 3pm-5pm

Venue: GIPSIL The Old Fire Station Gipton Approach, Gipton, Leeds, LS9 6NL, UK

Theme: TBC

May Arts Together Network Meeting

Date/ Time: Tuesday 26th May 10am - 12 noon

Venue: Bramley Baths Broad Lane Bramely Leeds LS13 3DF

Theme:TBC

Further details to follow.

Here is a link to the Arts Together website.<https://artstogetherleeds.co.uk/registration/>

PHAB is looking for voluntary drivers.

It is the first time we have been in this position. The following regular voluntary drivers joined after 'early retirement' and now must retire. One is 81 at Christmas, one 79, one 78 and the other 'in his 70's. They bring PHAB members in from all over Leeds using the three PHAB vehicles.

ann.hartphab@btinternet.com

Community club appealing for new volunteer drivers to 'take the wheel'

by Jennifer Cartwright



A Leeds community centre which has been supporting people with disabilities and life-limiting illness for 56 years has issued a public appeal for new volunteer drivers.

The Prince Philip Centre in north east Leeds needs new volunteers to drive their minibuses so people from across the city can attend their PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied) club on Friday evenings.

Ann Hart MBE, honorary secretary of the Leeds PHAB Club, said: "People really do rely on our transport. We don't see them if we don't bring them in. If we can't provide the transport, they simply can't come."

At PHAB, members of the community with and without disabilities, participate in social, educational and recreational activities, from arts and crafts to socialising with friends and listening to guest speakers.

Ann said: "It's the most wonderful group of people. Over the years it's changed but there's still some who come who have been there from when the group first started. Then

there's youngsters who come from the sixth forms and schools who are just as important too."

PHAB currently has three minibuses which transport people to and from the Prince Philip Centre in Scott Hall Avenue.

However, as three of the club's regular drivers are in their 70s and due to retire, the community centre needs a new generation to take the wheel.

Volunteers have to be between 25 and 75, in good health, and possess a full clean driving licence. They need to be available on some Friday evenings and occasional other days to take PHAB members on day trips.

PHAB chairman Michael Ball, who has been a volunteer driver at PHAB since 2001, reckons the group needs new drivers now more than ever before.

He said: "We are desperately struggling for drivers. When I first joined the club, we had four mini buses and two drivers for each minibus - one did pick-ups and the other took people home."

"Now I haven't had a back-up driver for 10 years. One day, I would like to be a passenger but I don't think that will happen."

In his role as a volunteer driver, Michael sees PHAB as an "extended family" where club members become "not clients but



PHAB's Easter Bonnet parade back in 2024.

“
I haven't had a back-up driver for 10 years

friends". Anyone who signs up to be a volunteer driver, will be given training so they can transport passengers who need additional support.

They're also invited to attend PHAB on a Friday evening to meet members and hear what the role entails. Members meet every week at the Prince Philip Centre from 7pm-9pm.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer driver, or you'd like to learn more about the club, visit the PHAB website: <http://www.phab-leeds.org.uk>.



Many PHAB members across Leeds need the minibus transport.

Fridays are phab!

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
- Enjoy taking PHAB members on interesting outings.
- Join a small team of voluntary drivers

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



Leeds Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair 2026

Leeds Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair returns to first direct bank arena Leeds on Wednesday 11th February 2026. Free tickets are available to book anytime between 1pm-7pm.

You'll have the chance to talk to major employers from a wide range of sectors, including accounting, business and administration, catering and hospitality, construction, creative design, care services, digital, education, engineering, finance, hair and beauty, health, law, protective services and many more.

Over 100 exhibitors will be there on the day offering information, advice, guidance and live vacancies. You'll have the opportunity to find out about apprenticeships, including what they involve and how they work, as well as higher and degree apprenticeships.

You can find out more about the event [here](#).

Free tickets can be booked via this link: <https://bit.ly/larf26>

If you have any questions please email esemployers@leeds.gov.uk

EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS LEEDS

LEEDS
APPRENTICESHIP
RECRUITMENT FAIR

Wednesday 11 February, first direct arena Leeds
Looking for an apprenticeship?



Book today: www.bit.ly/larf26



first direct bank arena

Little Hiccups Upcoming Events

Register interest:

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

Relaxed Family Session at Bianco Lounge

[Feb 1st - Bookings Open Jan 5th >](#)

Online (daytime): Juniper Tree with Better Bedtimes

[Tues 3rd Feb 2026, 9.30am](#)

All Things Waking Up and the Morning

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

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

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

Dadlands

[Mon Feb 9th, 6pm >](#)

Lunch and Learn: A Guide to Catastrophic injury Claims

[Online: Tues Feb 10th](#)

Carer's Chill Night

[Feb 10th - Bookings Open Jan 1st >](#)

Musical Theatre Workshop: Wonka – The Golden Ticket Takeover

[Feb 18th \(Half Term\), 10.30am - 12.30pm >](#)

Parent Carer: Slime and Wine

[Feb 21st: Bookings Open >](#)

Kid's Chocolate Party

[Feb 22nd: Bookings Open Jan 5th >](#)

Parent/Carer Drama for the Heart

[Feb 27th - March 27th >](#)

Join us at Leeds Local Offer Live!



Wednesday 25th March 2026



10:00 AM – 3:00 PM (Drop-in)



Pudsey Civic Hall, LS28 5TA

Come along to find out about services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Leeds – all in one place!

Leeds Local Offer Live is our annual marketplace event, bringing together families, professionals, and service providers to share information, resources, and support.

✨ Workshops

- Attend workshops to learn about Supported Internships in Leeds.
- Hear inspiring stories directly from students.

Book your FREE ticket today:
<https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/LLOLive2026/>

For more details, email us at LLO@leeds.gov.uk.

Don't miss this chance to connect, learn, and explore the SEND support available in Leeds!

LEEDS LOCAL OFFER LIVE 2026



The Leeds Local Offer has information about services that help children and young people with SEND. It also helps parents and carers find support in one place.

Leeds Local Offer Live is an event where you can meet different SEND services and learn what they do.

This year, the workshops are about Supported Internships. Come along to find out more about this pathway.



Wednesday 25 March 2026 

10am till 3pm (Drop in) 

Pudsey Civic Hall, LS28 5TA 

BOOK YOUR PLACE 

[Complete the booking form here](#) 



EVENTS AND INFORMATION - BRADFORD

WHAT'S ON: Down Syndrome Training & Support Service

We are delighted to share these upcoming events and projects from our partners at the **Down Syndrome Training & Support Service**. Whether you are looking for family fun, fitness, or professional support, there is something for everyone!

February Family Saturday: Meet George Webster!

Come along and meet the all-round superstar, George Webster! He'll be reading from his new book and signing autographs.

- **When:** Saturday 14th February | 10am – 12pm
- **Where:** Bingley Methodist Church, BD16 4JS
- **Note:** Transport is available if required—please contact their office to arrange.

Gym Taster Session

Join Irene for a fun taster session at Pinnacle Performance.

- **When:** Wednesday 18th February | 2pm – 3.30pm
- **Where:** Pinnacle Performance Fitness Gym, Bradford, BD1 5AX
- **Book here:** https://form.jotform.com/wendy_uttley/gym

Adult Support Projects: Places Available

The 'I CAN WORK' and 'INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS' projects currently have openings.

- **Focus:** Travel training, shopping, cooking, and cleaning.
- **Funding:** Can be funded through direct payments.

Expectations of Behaviour & Down Syndrome

A 6-week workshop starting **25th March** for a 'Team Around the Child' (parents, family, and school staff).

- **Cost:** £100 per team (consistent approach for home and school).
- **Focus:** Understanding learning profiles and modifying difficult behaviours.

Intro to Down Syndrome: FREE Training

- **When:** Tuesday 21st April | 9.30am – 12.30pm
- **Where:** The Pamela Sunter Centre, Bingley
- **More info:** Visit www.downsyndromebradford.com

 **HOW TO BOOK / CONTACT:** For all queries, please contact the **Down Syndrome Training & Support Service** directly:

- **Phone:** 01274 561308
- **Email:** office@downsyndromebradford.co.uk
- **Web:** www.downsyndromebradford.com

#CANN #WestYorkshireCANN #DownSyndromeAwareness #BradfordFamilies #SENDSupport
#GeorgeWebster #IndependentLiving

Update from PFBA

On 12th January, PFBA Manager Julie Bruce met Minister Gould with over 100 parent carer forums to discuss the upcoming SEND reforms.

The online meeting was hosted by the National Network of Parent Carer Forums.

Using the five key principles of the DfE SEND Reform: Early, Local, Fair, Effective and Shared; we facilitated a solution-focused discussion exploring:

- ◆ What accountability is needed in a reformed system to support an effective, inclusive mainstream education system?
- ◆ What are the key foundations for building parent carer trust across the system?

Alongside the live discussion, Parent Carer Forums shared extensive additional feedback through the chat and written comments.

Together, this rich insight, lived experience, and practical solutions will be fed directly back to the Minister to inform ongoing SEND reform work.

The Minister also acknowledged the challenge and constructive contribution that NNPCF has provided throughout her various meetings with us, recognising the strength and impact of the collective parent carer voices through Parent Carer Forums.

This highlights PFBA's work not just locally but also on a national scale, including views of parent carers they support.

PFBA HIGHLIGHT



Minister Gould and Parent Carer Forums

PFBA Manager Julie represented Bradford District, along with over 100 other forums on a national conversation around SEND reforms. This highlights our work on a larger scale as well as representing parent carer voices locally.

SEND drop-in events at your local Family Hub on the last Monday of every month...

Are you concerned about your child's education or development? Then come along to a Family Hubs SEND Marketplace event, every month across the district.



Monday 23rd February



9.30 am - 12.30 pm



Rainbow Family Hub, Braithwaite Grove, BD22 6JB @KeighleyandShipleyFamilyHub



Monday 30th March

 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm
 Barkerend Family Hub, 365 Barkerend Road, BD3 8QX @BradfordEastFamilyHub

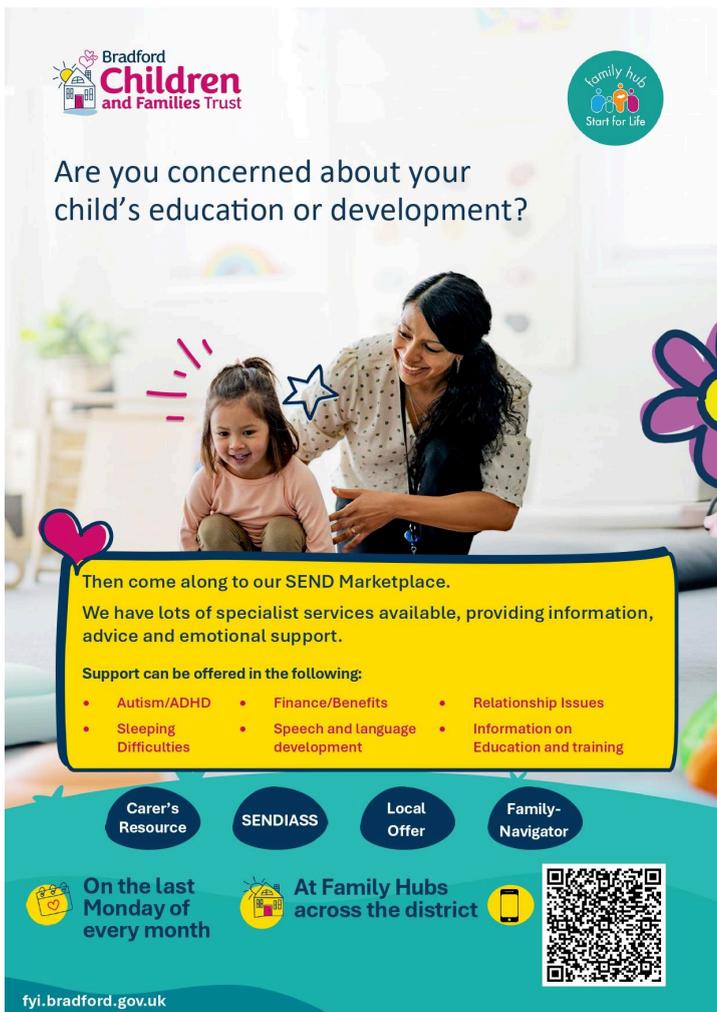
 17 Monday 27th April
 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
 Farcliffe Family Hub, 56 Toller Lane, Bradford. BD8 8QH @BradfordWestFamilyHub

There will be lots of specialist services available, providing information, advice and emotional support.

Support can be offered in the following:

- Autism/ADHD
- Sleeping difficulties
- Finance/benefits
- Speech and language development
- Relationship issues
- Information on education and training

Stalls include the SEND Local Offer, the SENDIASS independent advice service, Carers Resource and Family Navigators.



Bradford Children and Families Trust

Family Hub
Start for Life

Are you concerned about your child's education or development?

Then come along to our SEND Marketplace.
We have lots of specialist services available, providing information, advice and emotional support.

Support can be offered in the following:

- Autism/ADHD
- Finance/Benefits
- Relationship Issues
- Sleeping Difficulties
- Speech and language development
- Information on Education and training

Carer's Resource SENDIASS Local Offer Family-Navigator

On the last Monday of every month At Family Hubs across the district

fyi.bradford.gov.uk

Mind The Gap Academy Open Day

We are excited to be opening our doors to you for our upcoming Academy Open Day. It's on Saturday 07 February, 12pm-4pm.

This Open Day is for any learning disabled or autistic people who are ready to take the next steps in their performing arts journey and want to know what Mind the Gap can offer!

This will be a fantastic opportunity for you to learn more about how our Academy runs and to see a glimpse of some of the work we make.

It's going to be a jam-packed day where folks can come down to our fantastically accessible building and:

Meet our friendly team

Join interactive workshops

Have a go at arts and crafts

Sit back and enjoy a range of live performances

Have a cuppa, a biscuit and find out what courses and sessions Mind the Gap puts on!



ACADEMY OPEN DAY



Saturday 07 February 2026
12:00PM - 4:00PM



Mind the Gap
Silk Warehouse
Patent Street
Bradford
West Yorkshire
BD9 4SA

Book your place here:



academy@mind-the-gap.org.uk



01274 487390

ACADEMY OPEN DAY SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY
7TH FEBRUARY
2026
12PM-4PM**

12:30 PM - 1:15 PM	1:30PM - 2:30PM	3PM - 4PM
<p>PERFORMANCES FROM Theatre Academy Dance Academy Performance Academy</p>	<p>WORKSHOP ONE 20 minutes in each art form; Theatre, Dance and Music. Led by Matt, Jack, Karen, Loz and Sarah</p>	<p>WORKSHOP TWO 20 minutes in each art form; Theatre, Dance and Music. Led by Matt, Jack, Karen, Loz and Sarah</p>
<p> Studio 1</p>	<p> Studio 1</p>	<p> Studio 1</p>



Holding the Space - Neurodiversity/ Employment/Health Inequalities

Good Morning everyone, and welcome to 2026.

It's Kayle here with a great opportunity for Bradfords Neurodivergent adults to gain experience in the Arts world.

The programme is running Jan - March 2026.

This new programme is being designed and facilitated in Partnership with Turnways Therapies in Bradford. This is funding coming from the VCS Alliance on behalf of The Bradford Council, WYCA, WYICB..

We are offering face to face arts sessions, freelance business and work workshops, Large group celebrations, informal meet ups, and 6 week Arts Psychotherapy group sessions (facilitated by Turnways Therapists): plus chances to explore what working freelance or for a creative organisation may look like and feel like in 2026.

We have already held several group meetings comprising of our Neurodivergent Professional artists and Neurodivergent members from previous programmes and projects. We are programming the face to face sessions and will have a time table of place and times very soon. Please see the attached posters- there is also an online form to share with anyone interested. It would be great to receive referrals to both parts of the programme from you also. The data captured here will be used to grow and design future elements of the programme.

Click the link:

<https://forms.gle/Ckc3tfjKtk2JeRgL8>

We would really appreciate you sharing the programme with any Neurodivergent members who may be looking for work, thinking about working, and willing to share their personal feedback around work (and working in neurotypical environments). We will be designing a work strategy that is more supportive, inclusive of individual needs and makes those reasonable adjustments - requested by the participants.

Please get in touch with me (Kayle) for a chat 07818743740. Myself and Amanda at Turnways are in weekly contact and I will be sharing and signposting to her where necessary.

If you would like to talk to Amanda directly then please email her:

amandastrevett@turnwaystherapies.com

FOLLOWING ON FROM THE 2023 AUT ART PROJECT

HOLDING THE SPACE

NEUROSPICY ART SPACES IN BRADFORD



WANT A PROTECTED SPACE
DEDICATED TO ART AND ARTISTIC EXPRESSION?
WANT TO HONE YOUR CRAFT, AND MEET OTHER
ENTHUSIASTIC ARTISTS?

WANT TO SEE WHAT IT COULD BE LIKE TO
MAKE YOUR OWN WORK IN THE ART WORLD?
WANT TO MEET AND LISTEN TO OTHER N-D
PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS AND LEARN?
TELL US WHERE YOU ARE AND WE WILL

COME TO YOU!

17yrs+ and Adults



18 SESSIONS AVAILABLE + MORE TO COME IN 2026

REFERRALS TO: INFO@UNITEDARTPROJECT.CO.UK



FOLLOWING ON FROM THE 2023 AUT ART PROJECT

HOLDING THE SPACE

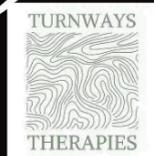
A NEUROSPICY SELF-CARE SPACE IN BRADFORD

YOU ARE INVITED TO SIGN UP FOR
PROJECT SHINE

A 6-WEEK ARTS PSYCHOTHERAPY GROUP FOR
NEURODIVERGENT ADULTS WHO ARE NOT IN
EMPLOYMENT AND WHO WOULD LIKE TO:
CONNECT, EXPLORE, QUESTION, PLAY, FEEL, THINK
AND SEE.

DESIGNED TO MAKE FRIENDS, TRY SOMETHING NEW,
GAIN CONFIDENCE IN SOCIAL SITUATIONS AND
DEVELOP YOUR COMMUNICATION
SKILLS

17yrs+ and Adults



STARTING IN FEBRUARY 2026

FOR MORE INFO / SEND REFERRALS TO:



AMANDASTREVETT@TURNWAYSTHERAPIES.COM



EBSA support Groups for the Spring Term

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

Get involved with 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

Spring Term 14th, 21st, 28th Jan and 4th Feb , 1-2.30pm, [@BradfordEastFamilyHub](#) 365 Barkerend Road, BD3 8QX

You will need to be able to attend all 4 sessions.

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

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, 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: Barkerend Family Hub, 365 Barkerend Road, Bradford, BD3 8QX

Dates: Wednesday 14th January to Wednesday 4th February at 1.00pm to 2.30pm. **You will need to be able to attend all 4 sessions**

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

Save the Date - Bradford district's 'SEND One Plan' parent/carers engagement sessions

Bradford's SEND and Inclusion Partnership has created a clear and joined-up plan called the [SEND One Plan](#). It brings together everything from the district's [SEND Strategy](#), [the Written Statement of Action \(WSOA\)](#) from the last inspection, and advice from the Local Government Association.

Join the team at an upcoming parent/carers engagement session.

Friday, 16 January 2026, 10am - 12pm (in-person)

Friday, 13 March 2026, 10am - 12pm (online session)

Friday, 15 May 2026, 10am - 12pm (in-person)

Friday, 3 July 2026, 10am - 12pm (in-person).

To book, email: supportnews@PFBA.org.uk

SEND support at Family Hubs

[SEND support](#) is available in Bradford district's family hubs. Monthly SEND events are now taking place. Come along and speak to specialist services that can provide advice and support with, Autism, ADHD, Sleep issues, speech and language development, Information on Education and/or relationship issues.

The sessions are planned for the last Monday of the month:

26 January 2026 (2pm - 4.30pm) - [Reevy Hill Family Hub](#).

23 February 2026 (9.30am - 12.30pm) - [Rainbow Family Hub](#).

30 March 2026 (1pm - 3pm) - [Barkerend Family Hub](#).

27 April (9.30am - 12.30pm) - [Farcliffe Family Hub](#).

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - WAKEFIELD

Wakefield SEND Local Offer Newsletter Winter 2025 - 2026

The Wakefield SEND Local Offer Winter Newsletter is now out. You can read it by clicking on the link below or visiting the [Winter 2025 - 2026 Newsletter page on the Local Offer](#).

February Half Term Fun with Wakefield Museums & Castles!

Looking for accessible family activities this February half term? Wakefield Museums and Castles have a fantastic line-up of events, including dedicated SEND sessions for families who prefer a more relaxed environment.

Featured SEND Sessions:

-  Make a Wormery (SEND Session)
 - Where: Wakefield Museum (Learning Zone)
 - When: Thursday 19th February | 2pm – 3pm
 - Details: Get hands-on and learn how worms help our gardens.
 - Booking: Free, but booking is required.
-  Codebreakers (SEND Session)
 - Where: Castleford Museum
 - When: Friday 20th February | 10am – 3pm
 - Details: Solve puzzles, discover secret ciphers, and create your own codemakers in a relaxed atmosphere.
 - Booking: Free, no booking required (Drop-in).

Other Highlights in the Network:

- Pontefract Castle: Intergalactic Solar System Trail (14th–22nd Feb).
- National Coal Mining Museum: Family Weaving Workshops and Light Up Trails.

For the full February half term guide and to book your spots, visit: [February half term guide 2026 - Wakefield Museums and Castles](#)

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 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.

SEND Coffee & Connect:



Welcoming Our First Session
on
Saturday 28th February 2026
11 am- 12.30pm

Free to attend-Refreshments provided

These sessions are designed for families of children with additional needs, offering a relaxed and welcoming space where children can enjoy fun, play-based activities in a way that feels right for them. The sessions are suitable for children aged 12 and under and are designed to support the whole family, creating opportunities for parents and carers to stay involved, connect with one another, share experiences, and build supportive relationships.

If you are interested in attending please email
Ccoosc.office@gmail.com.

Storth House CIC
156 Cowlersley Lane
Huddersfield
HD4 5UX
ccoosc.office@gmail.com



SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Website: www.cann-network.org
Email: westyorkshire@cann-network.org
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.

West Yorkshire CANN
www.cann.networg.org
westyorkshire@cann-network.org

To ensure our digital presence remains a safe and inclusive space that reflects our core values, the CANN Network has made the decision to step away from X (formerly Twitter) and will now be focusing our community engagement on our other social media platforms.