



## NECANN COMMUNICATION March 2026

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## INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome to the latest North East CANN Update.

North East 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 [northeast@cann-network.org](mailto:northeast@cann-network.org), before the end of the month.

Thanks to everyone who shared the information below for our latest update, which contains information and sessions for children and young people with additional needs and their parent carers.

**You can find these Communications on the CANN Network site at:**  
<https://www.cann-network.org/blog/>

### NECANN MEETING DATE

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

#### **Next Meeting**

Thurs 26th March

10am - 12pm

Grace House, Bardolph Drive, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, SR5 2DE

#### **Hadrians Fun Day**

27<sup>th</sup> June 2026 11am-2pm

Hadrian School

Bertram Crescent, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE15 6PY

# Celebrating 10 Years Of Impact: **The CANN National Knowledge Exchange**

Online Webinar

Thursday 30 April 2026  
10:00am - 12:30pm



## **NATIONAL CANN CONFERENCE**

### **Celebrating 10 Years of Impact: The CANN National Knowledge Exchange**

April 30th  
10am - 12.30pm

Book here now for free to secure your space

Please do share with other non-profit leaders and statutory service providers that may be interested.

## **CO CHAIR COMMENTS**

Hello everyone, and welcome to the March edition of our NECANN communications. As spring approaches, we're looking forward to another month of strengthening partnerships, sharing expertise, and celebrating the impactful work happening across the Northeast charity community. Welcome to Our New Member: Zoe's Place Baby Hospice.

Zoe's Place provides specialist respite, palliative, and end-of-life care for babies and young children (birth–5 years) with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions. Their hospices offer a "home-from-home" environment where children can receive nurse-led care, play, and make memories, while giving families much-needed support and respite.

Founded in 1995, Zoë's Place now operates hospices in Liverpool, Coventry, and Middlesbrough, providing personalised care, therapy, sibling support, and bereavement services for families navigating incredibly difficult circumstances. Please take a look further here- [www.zoes-place.org.uk](http://www.zoes-place.org.uk)

North East CANN  
[www.cann-network.org](http://www.cann-network.org)  
[northeast@cann-network.org](mailto:northeast@cann-network.org)

## **Upcoming NECANN Meeting – Save the Date**

Grace House, Bardolph Drive Sunderland SR5 2DE  
Thursday 26th March 2026  
10:00am – 12:00 midday

We are pleased to be hosted by Grace House, who will be presenting to us, to share insights into the vital services they deliver for children, young people, and families across the region.

[www. gracehouse.co.uk](http://www.gracehouse.co.uk)

We are also looking forward to hearing from:

- Jodi Heyes from Worley's World CIC, who will share updates on her work and how they continue to grow since joining NECANN.

[www.worleysworld.co.uk/jodiheyes](http://www.worleysworld.co.uk/jodiheyes)

Following the talks, there will be time for networking, allowing space for collaboration, conversation, and strengthening relationships across the network.

## **Why Your Involvement Matters**

NECANN exists because of the commitment, passion, and shared goals of its members. Together we:

- Build connections that empower new collaborations
- Share knowledge to improve best practice
- Celebrate the incredible work taking place across the Northeast
- Strengthen our collective voice for the sector

## **Stay Connected**

We'd love to hear your updates, suggestions, or anything you'd like us to include in future communications.

Contact us: [chair.northeast@cann-network.org](mailto:chair.northeast@cann-network.org)

Warm regards,  
Bev, Tracey & Kerry  
NECANN Co-Chair

**Contact us:** [chair.northeast@cann-network.org](mailto:chair.northeast@cann-network.org)

Warm regards,

**Bev, Tracey & Kerry** NECANN Co-Chairs

## NEW MEMBERS



### Zoe's Place Baby Hospice

Specialist hospice for care of children and babies 0-6 years old.

For over 30 years, we've been caring for babies and children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions, giving families a place to turn when they need it most. Our hospices are a home-from-home, where children are encouraged to play, make memories, and find joy, no matter

their condition.

We rely on the generosity of the public to keep our doors open. Public support covers 70% of our funding, making sure we can continue providing expert care, comfort, and treasured moments for families facing the toughest times.

<https://www.zoes-place.org.uk/>  
[ashleigh@zoes-place.org.uk](mailto:ashleigh@zoes-place.org.uk)

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

*If you are not yet on the CANN website, you can be added by completing this form:*  
<https://www.cann-network.org/member-registration-form/>

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## RESEARCH

### Online Experiences Project

A PhD student from the Centre for Neurodiversity and Development at Durham University is seeking participants for a research study on the online experiences of children and young people with Down syndrome (aged 9-25) who have not attended university.

Parents and carers are asked to complete a short survey (around 20 min) about their child/young person's online experiences, including online vulnerability.

If you're able to help, please complete the survey here.

[https://durhamuniversity.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1OkArEDipRjUWQ6](https://durhamuniversity.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1OkArEDipRjUWQ6)

## INFO AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - NATIONAL / ONLINE

### Webinar: Creating Accessible Places and Spaces

**Summary:** Join Activity Alliance for a one-hour online event focused on removing the societal, physical, and psychological barriers that prevent disabled people from being active. This session introduces the "Access for All" guide, co-produced with accessibility experts and partners like the Nene Park Trust and The Wave Project.

**Who is it for?** Ideal for anyone in our network who organises events, manages a space, or supports disabled children and adults in staying active.

**How to join:** Sign up as a "supporter" on the Activity Alliance website (it's free!) to receive the booking link and access to the webinar.

**Link:** [Activity Alliance Event Page](#)

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### Supporting Children with a Visible Difference

We are pleased to share an upcoming online workshop from our partners at Changing Faces, UK.

Is your child or young person living with a scar, mark, or condition that makes them look different? This "Supporting Your Child" workshop is designed specifically for parents and carers to provide practical tips and a supportive community.

#### What to expect:

- Strategies for handling staring and awkward social situations.
- Advice on building confidence for both you and your child.
- The chance to hear from guest speakers with lived experience of visible difference.

#### The Details:



Date: Tuesday 17th March 2026



Time: 7.15pm – 9.00pm



Location: Zoom (Online)



Who: Parents and carers (partners and co-parents are also welcome to attend together!)

To make sure everyone feels comfortable, attendance is capped at around 22 people. After registering, a member of the Changing Faces Wellbeing Team will get in touch for a short, informal pre-workshop call to meet you.

Find out more and register here:

👉 <https://www.changingfaces.org.uk/services-support/workshops-for-children-families>

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

Join us for our first H.I.E. Conference  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2026, The Lowry, Salford Quays

We're bringing the community together for a very special day, our first H.I.E. Conference. It's something we've wanted to do for such a long time: creating a space where families, professionals and organisations can come together to listen, learn and support one another.

Why come along?

- Hear from families about their experiences following an H.I.E. event, sharing honest and powerful stories.
- Be informed by researchers and healthcare professionals on efforts to reduce instances of H.I.E., improve outcomes and enhance support.
- Feel empowered to contribute to meaningful change.
- Explore exhibitor stands with helpful information from charities, professionals and organisations.
- Connect with others who understand fully what life after H.I.E. means, and the importance of compassionate, collaborative care and support.

Who is it for?

Parents / carers and family members, healthcare professionals, researchers, charities, community organisations, legal and advocacy professionals – in fact there really is something for everyone!

What can you expect?

A day of sharing and learning, as well as being supported and feeling heard.

We've a wonderful line up of speakers; lived (living!) experience stories, research insights, workshops and legal clinics. There's a dedicated parent / carer room with peer support available, so as well as having the opportunity to network, there's also space to pause and reflect. We're here to make the day as safe and enjoyable as possible, for everyone.

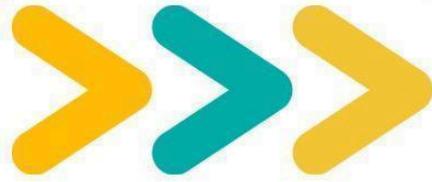
For those who might find events like this a little overwhelming, please do get in touch. We can arrange to meet people on arrival if preferred, or help facilitate introductions with others. The

Peeps team will be on hand throughout the day to answer any questions and ensure everything goes smoothly.

We would love you to join us if you can, to really put H.I.E. on the map, doing even more to raise awareness and offer support.

Tickets are available on [Eventbrite](#), or you can email [info@peeps-hie.org](mailto:info@peeps-hie.org) if you'd like to make a group booking or pay by invoice.

Please share with your friends and networks too – the more people we reach, the bigger the difference we can make.



# H.I.E. CONFERENCE

14<sup>th</sup> May 2026

The Lowry, Salford Quays

Kindly supported by:



**BoltBurdonKemp**



## **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:

- 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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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - REGIONAL**

Upcoming Events

### NWY ASBAH

Supporting adults, children and families living with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus in North and West Yorkshire.



## March + April

### 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 others. A relaxed easy way to unwind and connect. Just add popcorn!

### Community Social

April  
**tbc**

Experience the magic of live theatre with a special outing for the whole community to the Leeds Playhouse. Date is subject to ticket availability

### Adults Social

April  
**30**

A pottery painting session at Shipley Library for our Adult members. Hosted by Kirsty from the Pottery Barn, Kirkburton.

**and much more...**

**Head to our website to book!**



[www.nwyasbah.org/upcomingevents](http://www.nwyasbah.org/upcomingevents)

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

## Healthworks Useful Vision new activity booklet

<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/a1c1a754f7.html>

Booking link for families - <https://forms.office.com/e/rG8uvqjdFT>

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## Upcoming Events at The Toby Henderson Trust at the Autism Hub

The Autism Hub is our commissioned service for South Tyneside families with autistic children/young people up to the age of 18.

Your child does NOT have to have a diagnosis for you to access our service.  
We are based at the Autism Hub, Gordon St, South Shields, Monday – Wednesday 9am – 4pm.

### *'In person' Workshop for families – Understanding Autism.*

After listening to feedback from some families who shared that accessing online webinars is something they cannot do and that 'in person' events are more personal and preferred. We decided to deliver some of our online webinars as workshops. This was very well received last year so we will be delivering these throughout 2026. Our second workshop this year being on the topic 'Understanding Autism' which was our most popular workshop of 2025.

This workshop will be held at the Autism Hub on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 10am – 11.30am.

Certificate of attendance will be issued.

Booking is required. For further details please see the poster attached.

# FREE WORKSHOP FOR PARENT/CARERS LIVING IN SOUTH TYNESIDE

WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL 2026  
10AM - 11.30AM



*Parents and carers are often overwhelmed when the term autism is mentioned to them, especially in relation to their own child. Fiona and Lynda will come together at the Autism Hub to help you begin your journey into a better understanding of what it means to be autistic and how you as a parent/carer can feel more confident in supporting and understanding your child.*

*We will cover key areas and dispel common everyday myths using a range of materials and drawing on lived experience from autistic individuals. This workshop has been coproduced by our staff with support from our A Team (Autistic Advisory board) and the children, young people & adults we work with.*

## 'IN PERSON' WORKSHOP

*on Understanding Autism*

**SIGN UP NOW**

BY EMAILING [AUTISMHUB@TTHT.CO.UK](mailto:AUTISMHUB@TTHT.CO.UK)  
OR CALL 0191 816 0550

**DATE: WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL 2026**

**TIME: 10AM - 11.30AM**

**AT: AUTISM HUB**

**GORDON ST,  
SOUTH SHIELDS  
NE33 4JP**



  
The Toby Henderson Trust



## We have a NEW cuppa & cake group!

Many of our regular families have raised concerns with us that once their young person turns 18, and although here at the Autism Hub we have our amazing partners – Autism in Mind (AIM) who offer support to autistic adults, many families have shared their worry that ultimately and technically the support for the family themselves stops.

Families have shared with us that they get so much from our services especially our monthly peer support groups (Cuppa & Cakes) calling it their 'safe space'. We pride ourselves on listening to feedback, adapting, and expanding where we can on our offer here at the Autism Hub.

With that in mind we are thrilled to share that we have expanded our monthly cuppa and cake groups to include a NEW monthly group for families with autistic young adults 18+

Booking is essential.

To book a place:

Call 0191 816 0550

Email [autismhub@ttht.co.uk](mailto:autismhub@ttht.co.uk)

Or book via our website [ttht.co.uk/autism-hub-events/](https://ttht.co.uk/autism-hub-events/)

\*\*Please note this group is for parent/carers only not the young adult.

For support for autistic adults please follow the link to AIMs offer in South Tyneside

<https://autisminmind.com/aim-south-tyneside>

**PARENT & CARER GROUP AT THE AUTISM HUB**

**NEW**

**CUPPA AND CAKE GROUP FOR FAMILIES WITH AUTISTIC YOUNG ADULTS 18+**

This monthly group is free to attend and is for parent & carers of autistic young adults 18+ who live in South Tyneside.

It is a chance to come along and meet and chat with other families as well as our experienced family support team.

To find out more and for upcoming dates or to book a place, please get in touch via email, telephone or through our website.

**AUTISM HUB**  
The Toby Henderson Trust

## Cuppa & Cake for parent/carers of autistic children aged Under 5years.

Our monthly groups are informal and relaxed, they were created to give families a safe, non-judgemental space to come along and be with others who simply 'get it' there is no pressure to engage and join in, we support a person's right to be part of the groups in whatever way suits them best.

Our under 5's parent support group was started a couple of years ago at the request of parents with children under 5 who accessed the autism hub. Poster attached.

BOOKING IS REQUIRED to join our groups. Families can book through our website using the link below.

All future Cuppa & Cake dates can be found on our website [Autism Hub Events - The Toby Henderson Trust \(ttht.co.uk\)](https://www.ttht.co.uk/Autism-Hub-Events-The-Toby-Henderson-Trust)

**PARENT & CARER  
SUPPORT GROUP AT  
THE AUTISM HUB**

**CUPPA AND CAKE GROUP FOR  
FAMILIES WITH AUTISTIC  
CHILDREN AGED 0-5 YEARS!**

THIS GROUP IS FREE TO  
ATTEND AND IS FOR PARENT &  
CARERS OF AUTISTIC  
CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE  
WHO LIVE IN SOUTH TYNESIDE.  
IT IS A CHANCE TO COME  
ALONG AND MEET AND CHAT  
WITH OTHER FAMILIES AS WELL  
AS OUR EXPERIENCED FAMILY  
SUPPORT TEAM.

TO FIND OUT MORE, FOR UPCOMING  
DATES OR DIFFERENT AGE RANGE GROUPS  
& TO BOOK A PLACE, PLEASE GET IN  
TOUCH VIA EMAIL, TELEPHONE OR  
THROUGH OUR WEBSITE

Gordon St, South Shields | autismhub@ttht.co.uk | www.ttht.co.uk | 0191 816 0550  
The Toby Henderson Trust at The Autism Hub

## Useful Vision Upcoming Events



usefulvision

April - May - June 2026

Opportunities for visually impaired children  
across the North East



[www.usefulvision.org.uk](http://www.usefulvision.org.uk)



Healthworks  
the community health charity

## Events at a glance...

Wednesday 8 April 2026:  
Stepney Banks

Friday 17 April 2026:  
Butterfly World Stockton

Saturday 16 May 2026:  
Behind the Magic Door

Thursday 28 May 2026:  
Humbleswood Farm

Sunday 14 June 2026:  
Dunes Soft Play, South Shields

Saturday 27 June 2026:  
Special Lioness

[www.usefulvision.org.uk](http://www.usefulvision.org.uk)

## How to book

Get in touch with our friendly  
Healthworks Useful Vision team  
via one of the following options.

**CALL:** 0191 264 1959

**EMAIL:** [usefulvision@hwn.org.uk](mailto:usefulvision@hwn.org.uk)

**ONLINE:** [usefulvision.org.uk/events](http://usefulvision.org.uk/events)

Once you have booked you will  
receive a confirmation email.

[www.usefulvision.org.uk](http://www.usefulvision.org.uk)



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Weekly Activities for Parents & Carers at Grace House

# Book Club

For parent carers  
Volunteer led sessions

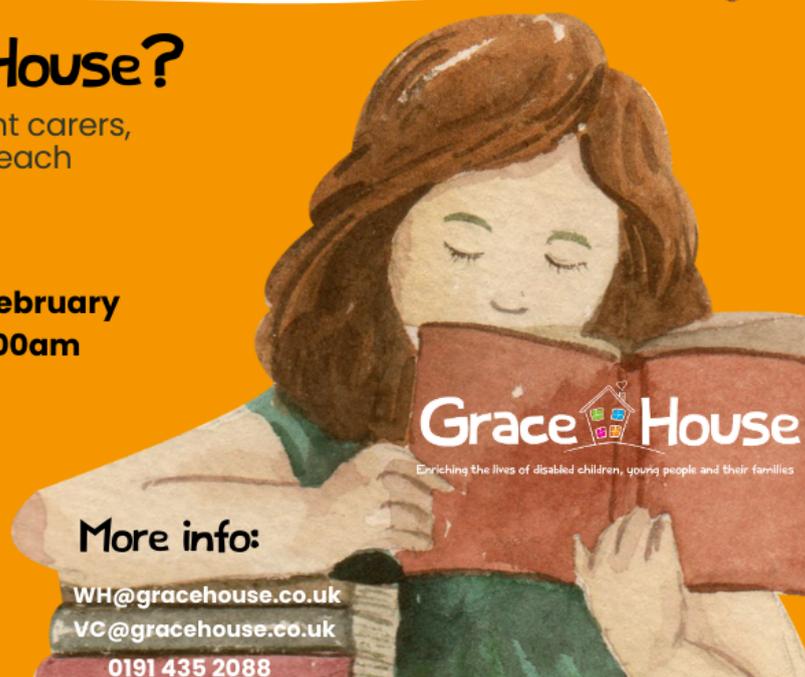
For parent carers supporting a child with  
a disability, or on a diagnostic pathway



## New to Grace House?

Monthly book club for parent carers,  
held on the first Monday of each  
month at Grace House

**First session: Monday 2nd February**  
**10:00am – 11:00am**



### More info:

WH@gracehouse.co.uk

VC@gracehouse.co.uk

0191 435 2088

Join us at Grace House North East for our welcoming Coffee Mornings, relaxing Book Club, and creative Sewing Sessions – a lovely way for parents and carers to connect, unwind, and enjoy some time for themselves. Whether you fancy a cuppa and a chat, sharing a good book, or getting creative with sewing projects, our sessions offer a friendly, supportive space for everyone. Visit our website for full details, dates, and how to book your place.

Book Now: <https://gracehouse.co.uk/book-activities/>

## SAVE THE DATE! - Rainbow Guide Live

We are hosting Rainbow Guide Live, a totally free SEND Family Fun Day for all of the family! Join us on Thursday 16th April, 10am - 2pm, at the Beacon of Light.

Absolutely no need to book, stay all day or drop in and out!

As you can see below, we have soo much already in attendance and on offer for the day... And we have so much more to come!

We can't wait to see you all there! Siblings welcomed!

Kindly supported by [Gentoo Group](#) & [Irwin Mitchell](#) 🍷

**Rainbow Guide Live!**

**SEND Family Fun Day for all the family!**

**For the Kids**

- Fire Engine
- Ambulance
- Owls (to hold!)
- Little Barn of calm, petting animals
- Animals About Town (Farm Animals)
- Smile Thru Sport
- Under the Sea Sensory
- Carnival Braids
- Face Paint Saint
- Circurama
- Compast the Cat
- Intertwined Dance
- Silent Disco
- Bouncy Castle
- Crafts and Activities

**For the Adults & Kids**  
Information Stalls, Freebies and Fun...

|                          |                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Little SENDsations       | Autismble                         |
| SENDelight Gifts         | Sunderland SENDIASS               |
| Therapeeze               | NHS Physio team                   |
| At One                   | SEND Stars                        |
| Daisy Chain              | GP Alliance                       |
| Heel & Toe               | Assistive Tech Team               |
| Oral Health Team         | Wheelchair Services               |
| Toby Henderson Trust     | Occupational Therapy Team         |
| Grace House              | MCT - Durham Parent Carer Forum   |
| Sunderland Carers Centre | Carer Forum                       |
| North East Sight Matters | South Tyneside Parent Carer Forum |
| Together For Children    | Irwin Mitchell                    |
| Family Hubs              | NECANN                            |
| Automotive Group         |                                   |
| Kalma Life               |                                   |

Choice WELLBEING SERVICE

Kindly Part Funded by IM Irwin Mitchell

## Understanding the Impact of Trauma & ACEs in Early Years

Upcoming Summer Conference hosted by HEADS (Hadrian Education And Development Services).

This important event features guest speaker Dr Margot Sunderland and focuses on the impact of trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) specifically linked to Special Educational Needs (SEN).

## Event Details:

-  Date: 22nd May 2026
-  Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne
-  Time: 9:00am – 3:30pm (Lunch and refreshments included)

Why attend? This conference is designed for education staff and practitioners to:

-  Deepen understanding of how early trauma affects the developing brain
-  Equip staff with trauma-informed perspectives for SEN practice
-  Improve adult capacity for therapeutic and relational support
-  Promote whole-school, trauma-aware approaches

Booking Information: The cost is £195.00 per delegate plus VAT.

To book your place, please email: [✉ david.palmer@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:david.palmer@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk) [✉ daniel.coffey@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:daniel.coffey@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk)  Tel: 0191 273 4440  Website: <https://headstraining.co.uk/heads-conference-2026>

#NorthEastCANN #HEADS #TraumaInformed #SEN #EducationConference #Newcastle #EarlyYears #ACEs



### HEADS Summer Conference 22nd May 2026 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne

#### Impact of Trauma / ACE's in the Early Years of a Child or Young Person's Life (linked to SEN)

#### Guest Speaker Dr Margot Sunderland

##### Course Aims:

##### **Aim 1: Deepen understanding of how trauma and ACEs affect the developing brain**

To help education staff gain a clear, neuroscience-based understanding of how early trauma, chronic stress, and attachment disruption impact the emotional, cognitive, and social development of children and young people with SEN.

##### **Aim 2: Equip staff with trauma-informed perspectives for SEN practice**

To ensure delegates understand how trauma interacts with special educational needs—often intensifying learning difficulties, behavioural challenges, and emotional dysregulation—and how schools can respond with compassion, empathy and understanding

##### **Aim 3: Improve adult capacity for therapeutic, relational support**

To show educators how their own emotional regulation, attunement, and relational warmth can become powerful tools for helping traumatised children and young people feel safe enough to learn.

##### **Aim 4: Promote whole-school, trauma-informed approaches**

To encourage leaders and practitioners to embed trauma-aware policies, consistent nurturing practices, and emotionally literate responses across school systems.

The conference will run from 9.00am until 3.30pm. Lunch and refreshments are included on the day.

The course is being offered at £195.00 per delegate plus VAT

##### Course Bookings:

If you would like to book a place on the course please email:

[david.palmer@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:david.palmer@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk)

[daniel.coffey@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:daniel.coffey@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk)

or Tel: 0191 273 4440

<https://headstraining.co.uk/heads-conference-2026>



# Durham Autism Hubs

For parents / carers of children who are awaiting a referral to the neurodevelopmental team, on the diagnostic pathway, or post diagnosis of autism.

Children must be living in Durham

**We have the following dates available:**

**Stanley Family Hub**  
Clifford Road,  
DH9 0AB

08/01  
05/02  
05/03  
02/04

**Willington Family Hub**  
Chapel Street,  
DL15 0EQ

15/01  
12/02  
12/03  
09/04

north east  
**autism** society



## Supporting your autistic child workshop

The workshop will cover:

- worries and action planning
- common misconceptions
- differences in autistic children
- practical strategies to use in everyday life

These sessions will run 10-12 and must be pre-booked.

## One to one appointments

These appointments are for families that have questions or would like to discuss any issues in confidence.

These appointments are available between 9-3pm and must be pre-booked.



To book please contact Kerrie Highcock on  
0191 410 9974 or [kerrie.highcock@ne-as.org.uk](mailto:kerrie.highcock@ne-as.org.uk)

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# North Tyneside Autism Hubs

north east  
**autism** society

For parents / carers of children who are awaiting a referral to the neurodevelopmental diagnostic team, on the diagnostic pathway, or post diagnosis of autism.

Children must be living in North Tyneside.

**We have the following dates available:**



## Riverside Family Hub NE29 6DQ

06/01  
03/02  
03/03  
07/04

## Howdon Family Hub NE28 0AL

13/01  
10/02  
10/03  
14/04

## Shiremoor Family Hub NE27 0TA

20/01  
17/02  
17/03  
21/04

## Supporting your autistic child workshop

The workshop will cover:

- worries and action planning
- common misconceptions
- differences in autistic children
- practical strategies to use in everyday life

These sessions will run 10-12 and must be pre-booked.

## One to one appointments

These appointments are for families that have questions or would like to discuss any issues in confidence.

These appointments are available between 9-3pm and must be pre-booked.



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# Newcastle Autism Hubs

north east  
**autism** society

For parents / carers of children who are on the diagnostic pathway or post diagnosis of autism.

Children must be living in Newcastle

We have the following dates available:



**Nunsmoor Centre,  
Studley Terrace,  
NE4 5AH**

07/01  
04/02  
04/03  
01/04

**Galafield Family Hub  
Newbiggin Lane,  
NE5 1LZ**

14/01  
11/02  
11/03  
08/04

**Byker Sands Family Hub  
19 Raby Cross,  
NE6 2FF**

21/01  
18/02  
18/03  
15/04

**Charlton Street Hub,  
Charlton Street,  
NE15 8RN**

21/01  
18/02  
18/03  
15/04

**Fawdon Childrens Centre,  
Cairns Way,  
NE3 2SN**

28/01  
25/02  
25/03  
22/04

**The Treehouse Early  
Years Centre, Brunel  
Terrace  
NE4 7NL**

28/01  
25/02  
25/03  
22/04

## Supporting your autistic child workshop

The workshop will cover:

- worries and action planning
- common misconceptions
- differences in autistic children
- practical strategies to use in everyday life

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**NHS**



# Do you have a child with a vision impairment aged 0-4?

**Give them the best possible start in life and sign up for our My Time to Play programme today.**

We offer fun and supportive group sessions to help your child develop the practical skills and confidence to explore their world – all through the power of play. You will meet other parents and pick up skills from our expert staff that will help you support your child's early development with confidence.

**Our next programme starts at:**

Hemlington Lake & Recreation Centre

Cass House Road, Middlesbrough, TS8 9QW

Fortnightly, Mondays 10 am - 12 noon.

**Find out more at [guidedogs.org.uk/mttp](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/mttp)**

**or contact our local team at**

**[MTTPNewcastle@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:MTTPNewcastle@guidedogs.org.uk) or call**

**0800 781 1444 to sign up.**

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity in England and Wales (209617), Scotland (SC038979) and Isle of Man (1334). A136 10/22



## **Toby Henderson latest service in Newcastle & Gateshead**

We are working in collaboration with CYPS Newcastle/Gateshead to provide support to families who are waiting for a neurodevelopmental assessment.

The age range has now been extended. If your child is on the neurodevelopmental pathway and between the age of 5 and 17 to include up until the young person's 18th birthday, you can now access our support groups, webinars and support sound bites. Please see posters for services offered.

# Parent Support Groups in Newcastle and Gateshead

Do you live in Newcastle/ Gateshead and have a child aged 5-17 years waiting for a neurodevelopmental assessment with Children and Young People's Service (CYPS)?  
Come join our support groups!

## Our upcoming groups in 2026 are...

### Metrocentre Community Hub

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 10am-11.30am

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 10am-11.30am

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 10am-11.30am

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 10am-11.30am

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 10am-11.30am

Upper Green Mall, Metrocentre, Gateshead, NE11 9YG

### Gosforth Civic Theatre

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 1.30pm-3pm

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 1.30pm-3pm

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 1.30pm-3pm

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 1.30pm-3pm

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 1.30pm-3pm

Regent Farm Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3HD



We would love to see you at any of our groups. If you'd like to join us, please ask questions or book on by emailing: [reception@ttht.co.uk](mailto:reception@ttht.co.uk). Please include your name, your child's medical number (this is the medical number assigned to the young person waiting for an assessment - you will find this on your letter from CYPS), your child's age and your postcode.

# Support Sound Bites

Available to Parents in  
Newcastle and Gateshead

## Topics include:

- Personal Care
- Preparing for your child's neuro assessment
- Clothing sensitivities
- Support in Newcastle and Gateshead
- Parents' wellbeing and realistic self-care
- Book Club at Toby House
- Borrow Box & Bags Scheme
- Explaining Social Stories



If you live in Newcastle/Gateshead and have a child aged 5-17 years who is currently waiting for a neurodevelopmental assessment with the Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) you can access our support sound bites at your convenience.

Simply email [reception@ttht.co.uk](mailto:reception@ttht.co.uk) or call us on 0300 365 3055, and we'll send you a secure link to access them.

# Webinars for Newcastle and Gateshead Parents

Are you based in Newcastle or Gateshead and have a child aged 5-17 who is waiting for a neurodevelopmental assessment with Children and Young People's Service (CYPS)? Join our FREE webinars, offering a variety of topics designed to support you throughout the pre-diagnostic journey.

## Our upcoming webinars...

All free and hosted on Zoom!

- \* **Social Stories**  
Wednesday 13th January 12pm-1.30pm
- \* **Personal Care Challenges**  
Thursday 29th January 12pm-1.30pm
- \* **Neurodivergence & Mental Health Issues**  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 12pm-2pm
- \* **Using Visual Aids**  
Friday 27th February 9.30am-11am
- \* **Sleep Issues**  
Tuesday 3rd March 9.30am-11.30am
- \* **Neurodivergent Joy**  
Thursday 26th March 1pm-2.30pm

If you'd like to sign up to any webinars, please email us at: [reception@ttht.co.uk](mailto:reception@ttht.co.uk). Please include your name, your child's RiO number (this is the medical number assigned to the young person waiting for an assessment-you will find this on your letter from CYPS), your child's age and your postcode.



The Toby Henderson Trust

# Webinars & Workshops



## Webinar- The Beauty of Autistic Joy

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

09.30am - 11:00am

Presented via Zoom by our Head of Operations, Lynda Richardson and Autism Hub Manager, Fiona Richards.



## Webinar- Understanding the Avoidant Profile

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026

09.30am - 11:30am

Presented via Zoom by our Autism Nurse Consultant & Clinical Lead, Julie Curtis.



## Workshop- Toileting Issues

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026

09:30am - 11:30am

Presented in person by Autism Nurse Consultant, Julie Curtis at Toby House, Earth Balance, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 7AD.



## Workshop- Autism & Mental Health Difficulties in Children and Young People

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026

10:00am - 12:00pm

Presented in person by Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist, Carolyn Morgan at Toby House, Earth Balance, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 7AD.



## Webinar- Supporting the Autistic Sibling Relationship

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

12.30pm - 02:00am

Presented via Zoom by Head of Operations, Lynda Richardson and Autism Specialist Practitioner, Alice Munday.

# Free training for professionals 2026



As part of the commissioned service at the Autism Hub, TTHT offer free specialist webinars via zoom for professionals from Health, Education and Social care settings who are involved in supporting autistic children and their families in the **South Tyneside area only**.

## Supporting young people with selective Mutism – Monday 16th March 4pm-5pm

Join us for an insightful webinar led by Julie Cota, Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, as she guides you through the nuances of Selective Mutism (sometimes known as Situational Mutism). SM is anxiety based and presents as an individual not being able to speak in certain situations, whilst being able to do so freely in others. This engaging session, is your key to understanding what Selective Mutism is, (what it isn't) and discovering effective ways to support children and young people in their daily lives.

## Explaining Social Stories™ – Wednesday 10th June 4pm-5pm.

This session will be presented by Speech and Language Therapist, Emily Searle and aims to help you understand how to develop and use Social Stories™ to support children/young people. Social Stories™ were created by Carol Gray in 1991. They are short descriptions of a particular situation, event or activity, which include specific information about what to expect in that situation and why. They are an effective tool to address issues of social misunderstanding and confusion. They inform, reassure, support and praise children who often struggle to make sense of the world around them.

## Sensory processing differences – Tuesday 29th September 4pm-5.30pm.

This session will be delivered by Occupational Therapist and Sensory Integration Practitioner, Sophie Pearson. The session will give an overview of what sensory processing is, how it impacts on behaviour and how a child/young person can present when navigating sensory difficulties. The aim of the session is to gain a better understanding of sensory differences and to offer strategies and practical advice that can be used to support young people with sensory processing difficulties.

*PLEASE NOTE – All of our webinars have been co-produced by our staff with support from our A Team (Autistic Advisory board) and the children and young people we work with*

If you would like to book a place on any of our specialist webinars, please visit our website using the QR code or link to complete a booking form.

[ttht.co.uk/hub-professional-events](https://ttht.co.uk/hub-professional-events)



“ *loved it! So informative and I loved your passion* ”



## Social Media Links and Contact Details:

Website: [www.cann-network.org](http://www.cann-network.org)  
Email: [northeast@cann-network.org](mailto:northeast@cann-network.org)  
BlueSky: <https://bsky.app/profile/necann.bsky.social>  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/north-east-cann/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/northeastcann>

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

Chairs: [chair.northeast@cann-network.org](mailto:chair.northeast@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.*