



IWYCANN COMMUNICATION
March 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 westyorkshire@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 WYCANN Website at:

<https://www.cann-network.org/blog/>

WYCANN MEETING DATES

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

11th March 2026

10am - 12pm

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

1st July 2026

2nd December 2026

Venues to be confirmed

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.

<https://celebrating10yearsofimpactthec.splashthat.com/>

CHAIR COMMENTS

As we move into the spring, there is a strong sense of momentum across the West Yorkshire CANN network, with opportunities coming up for us to connect, learn and strengthen our collective voice.

Our next WYCANN meeting takes place on 10am-12pm on Wednesday 11th March at Guide Dogs, and we look forward to welcoming members to share updates and discuss the issues shaping our work locally. We are also really excited to confirm that, to celebrate 10 years of the CANN network, we will be holding the first national CANN Conference on Thursday 30th April. This online event will bring together a wide range of speakers to explore building resilience within our third sector organisations, developing effective digital strategies, making the most of AI in our day-to-day work, and strengthening how we collaborate as a sector.

Set against the backdrop of the new SEND White Paper and the changes that this will bring to the landscape for families, this feels like a particularly important moment to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work being delivered by third sector organisations across West Yorkshire. We know that our network of member organisations deliver a raft of incredible services that support children, young people and families, often in the most challenging circumstances, and we hope that the above events will give us the opportunity to consider how we can continue to work together to maximise our impact.

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

NEW MEMBERS



Mencap Family Engagement Project: Bradford

The Mencap Family Engagement Project aims to provide peer support, advice and signposting to families of children aged 0-10 with Special educational needs and disabilities or emerging needs across Bradford.

jennifer.watson@mencap.org.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

Online survey exploring how parenting a child with Down Syndrome may shape your day-to-day life

Calling all parents of children with Down Syndrome

? Are you a parent or carer of a child with Down Syndrome aged between 6 months and 13 years?

👉 You're invited to take part in a short open question online survey exploring how parenting a child with Down Syndrome may shape your day-to-day life, sense of self and connections with others. We want to hear your story in your own words.

🧑 This study is part of an MSc Occupational Therapy research project with Leeds Beckett University. It aims to better understand the real experiences of parents, challenges, adaptations and everything in between.

🤫 Your participation is confidential. No identifying information will be published. All responses will be anonymized. 💬 Some responses may be quoted with pseudonyms in research, reports or publications to illustrate key themes.

! Participation is entirely voluntary and you may withdraw at any point before submitting the survey.

👉 To take part, complete the survey here: <https://ow.ly/N7Rr50XSSil>

? For questions regarding the study, please contact: l.cameron7646@student.leedsbeckett.ac.uk

New filmed resources to support Neurodivergent young people

Essential for some, beneficial for all

Are you aged 11 to 18 years old?

Are you a parent / carer?

Do you identify as Neurodivergent, or think you might be?

All Stars are creating new filmed resources to support Neurodivergent young people, parents and carers, covering the topics and themes of sensory needs and emotional regulation.

Commissioned by the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership, this project is about real experiences and real tools, the things that actually help in everyday life. Participants will be filmed in a supportive, respectful environment, sharing what works for them.

Taking part gives you the chance to:

- Share your life experience for shared learning
- Help shape resources that other young people and families will use.

There's no pressure and no judgement – just a chance to be heard and to help make something that matters. Get involved and be part of something meaningful.

If you are interested in taking part in this project and would like to know more about it email michael@allstarents.co.uk

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

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - ONLINE/NATIONAL/REGIONAL

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](#)

New 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:

- **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

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

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

Junior Learn to Paddle with WheelPower

Event Details

Date: Wednesday 20 May 2026, 10:00am or 1:00pm

Location

Manvers Waterfront Boat Club
The Boathouse, Station Road
Wath-upon-Dearne, Rotherham
S63 7DG

Our Junior Learn to Paddle event is for anyone aged 10 - 17 with a physical disability. Highly skilled coaches will introduce you to this super adaptable and accessible sport at Manvers Lake, Yorkshire. In this beautiful setting you will be equipped with everything you need to live your best active life on the water. Calm conditions, stunning wildlife and nature, and good times await, so don't delay, register now!

<https://www.wheelpower.org.uk/activities/junior-learn-to-paddle>



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:

 **17** 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>

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



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!**



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

Join us for our first H.I.E. Conference
14th 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 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

14th 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:

- 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

Autism Arena Upcoming Events

We have:

- Monday 9 March - webinar on Neurodivergence and the menopause
- From week commencing 20 April: 4 week online wellbeing course for parents and carers
- Every Tuesday in May, 12:30-2pm : Mindful wellbeing walks for parents and carers

All can be booked via our Eventbrite page: [Autism Arena CIC Events - 5 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

We are still gathering interest on the best time to host the online sessions:
https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid02JixGh4B3wHwnFr3jCbz1gzLabsMcsu39bk4AsJsFHEpNQFW66XXS5jx5Ux67tUMWI&id=61557120176731 - they will soon also be added to the Eventbrite page

Lost and Found Sensory Open Day

Hosted by: Interplay Theatre

Join **Interplay Theatre** for a magical, sensory-filled open day titled "**Lost & Found.**" This event is specifically designed for young people with learning disabilities, PMLD, and/or autism, along with their families and carers.

Through a combination of art, storytelling, and play, Interplay creates a welcoming environment where everyone can explore at their own pace.

When & Where

- **Date:** Saturday 7th March
- **Morning Session:** 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
- **Afternoon Session:** 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
- **Location:** Interplay Theatre, Armley, Leeds (LS12 1AL)

What to Expect

Interplay is a **National Sensory Theatre** specialist. This session offers a relaxed atmosphere focused on:

- **Interactive Art:** Get creative with hands-on activities.
- **Sensory Stories:** Immersive tales told through sight, sound, and touch.
- **Inclusive Play:** A safe space for young people to engage and express themselves.

Booking Information

This event is free, but booking is essential to manage session numbers. Please contact the Interplay team directly to reserve your place:

- **Email:** takepart@interplaytheatre.org.uk
- **Call:** 0113 263 8556



Our bespoke wheelchair dance course, In Motion, is back!

To celebrate international wheelchair day there is a free taster session this Sunday 1st March

Please share the email below with any one you think might be interested. We also have some physical flyers we can send out if you have anywhere to display them. There is also a facebook post you could share:

<https://www.facebook.com/northernballet/posts/pfbid02Pac8wjdpCa35sUfzYAEMkKd4Vp3xta6qR9sTbq1M7FuHph8s48UNA6yswsR4n7Q5l>

SEND information sessions for working families (survey)

The Leeds Local Offer Team works closely with the Leeds Parent Carer Forum and SEND services to provide information sessions for parents and carers.

These sessions are designed to:

- share useful information about SEND services
- give families the chance to speak directly with SEND professionals
- offer practical workshops for parents and carers

At the moment, our sessions take place during the day. However, after feedback from working parents, we're now exploring ways to run some information sessions in the evening.

To help us further explore this please complete a short survey.

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



SEND information sessions for working families (survey)

The Leeds Local Offer Team works closely with the Leeds Parent Carer Forum and SEND services to provide helpful information sessions for parents and carers.

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



SEND parent carer information drop

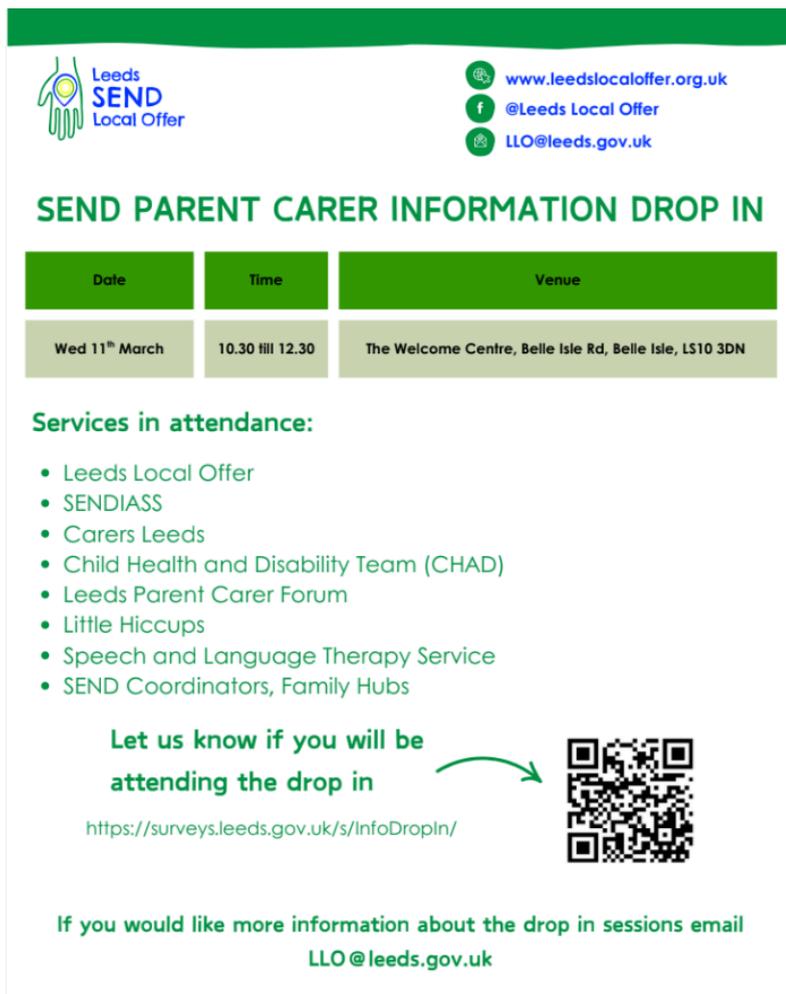
- **Date:** Wednesday 11th March 2026
- **Time:** 10.30am till 12.30pm
- **Venue:** The Welcome Centre, Belle Isle Rd, Belle Isle, LS10 3DN

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



The poster features the Leeds SEND Local Offer logo at the top left, which includes a stylized hand holding a lightbulb. To the right of the logo are three social media icons: a globe for the website www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk, a Facebook icon for [@Leeds Local Offer](https://www.facebook.com/LeedsLocalOffer), and an email icon for LLO@leeds.gov.uk. The main title "SEND PARENT CARER INFORMATION DROP IN" is centered in a large, bold, green font. Below the title is a table with three columns: "Date", "Time", and "Venue". The table contains the following information: Date: Wed 11th March; Time: 10.30 till 12.30; Venue: The Welcome Centre, Belle Isle Rd, Belle Isle, LS10 3DN. Underneath the table, the text "Services in attendance:" is followed by a list of services: Leeds Local Offer, SENDIASS, Carers Leeds, Child Health and Disability Team (CHAD), Leeds Parent Carer Forum, Little Hiccups, Speech and Language Therapy Service, and SEND Coordinators, Family Hubs. At the bottom left, the text "Let us know if you will be attending the drop in" is followed by the survey link <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/InfoDropIn/>. A green arrow points from this text to a QR code on the right. At the bottom, the text "If you would like more information about the drop in sessions email LLO@leeds.gov.uk" is displayed.

Date	Time	Venue
Wed 11 th March	10.30 till 12.30	The Welcome Centre, Belle Isle Rd, Belle Isle, LS10 3DN

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

The Circle of Support Training Session:

For Professionals: designed to equip professionals and support workers with the knowledge, confidence and practical strategies needed to promote safe, accessible and meaningful healthy eating, physical activity and wellbeing for learning disabled and/ or Autistic adults, using a strength based and person-centred approach.

Light lunch included.

For families/ friends/ unpaid carers: A friendly and practical session for families and carers supporting learning disabled and autistic adults, teaching the need to know basics of healthy eating, physical activity and wellbeing.

Simple, achievable steps. Practical advice. Learn how to understand and support sensory needs. Light lunch included.

What the training covers:

- Practical guidance on nutrition, moving more, sleep and wellbeing
- Understanding health inequalities and why they matter
- A person-centred, strengths-based approaches to healthy lifestyle conversations
- Cultural, sensory and accessibility considerations
- Motivational, non-judgemental communication tools
- Goal setting that supports sustainable change

CPD & Professional Development

This training supports a wide range of professional frameworks, including:

- Social Work England professional standards
- Health Education England LD&A Capabilities Framework
- Skills for Care Core & Mandatory Skills
- NICE guidance on LD health and obesity

Participants receive:

- A CPD certificate
- On the day resources
- A post-training reflective booklet to evidence CPD
- Ongoing advice and signposting from our experienced team

Why attend?

- Build confidence in supporting healthier routines
- Improve your skills in trauma-informed communication
- Enhance your professional practice with evidence-based tools

We are funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, so all courses are absolutely free to attend.

<https://peopleinaction.org.uk/circle-of-support-training-session/>

Spaces are limited, so book yours now:

Thursday 26th March - For families/ friends/ unpaid carers

[Book here](#)

If you have any questions, would like an informal chat or require any further information, please contact Al:

0113 2443729

Al.mayes@peopleinaction.org.uk

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. We look forward to hearing from you! 😊

Worried about school attendance? Join our Coffee Morning with Leeds Learning Access Service

Feeling worried about your child's attendance, anxiety around school, or recent exclusions? You're not alone.

Come for a cuppa, a chat, and practical guidance from people who understand.

 17 Thursday, 12th March

 10.00am to 12.00pm

 The Vinery Centre, Leeds LS9 9LU

What to expect

Friendly, no-judgement space. Meet other parent carers and Leeds Parent Carer Forum volunteers.

Practical advice & next steps. Talk through challenges like school anxiety, reduced timetables, exclusions, medical needs, or being out of school - and leave with clear options.

Ask the experts. Team members from Leeds Learning Access Service will be on hand. They work with families, schools and local services to help children and young people access the right education and the best possible learning experience in Leeds.

Their service includes:

- School Attendance Team (SAT)
- Children Missing Education (CME)
- Elective Home Education (EHE)
- Exclusions Monitoring & Support
- Pupil Tuition Team (PTT)
- Medical Needs Teaching (MNTS)

Who it's for

If your child or young person has anxiety about school, is on a part-time timetable, is out of school, has been excluded, has medical needs affecting attendance, or you're home-educating and unsure about your options - this is for you.

Places are limited, book your spot through Eventbrite below!

Book your place here -

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/learning-access-service-coffee-morning-tickets-1975296403717?aff=oddtcreator>

My first 1000 days project - Free parent and baby sessions with Sunshine and Smiles

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.

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

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



Little Hiccups Upcoming Events

Register interest:

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

Free Drop-In Legal Clinic with Stewarts

[3rd Mar - Book a slot here >](#)

Dadlands

[Mar 9th - Bookings Open >](#)

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 >](#)

Lunch and Learn:

Preparing for Adulthood – Employment Rights & Support for Young People with Additional Needs
[March 17th: Book here >](#)

Mar 29th: Spring Sensory Party at Lush
[Bookings Open 23rd Feb >](#)

Please click on the links above for more details, See below or visit our website.

As always, if you ever have any questions, please do get in touch and let us know by emailing
info@littlehiccups.co.uk

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

INTRODUCTION TO DOWN SYNDROME FOR EARLY YEARS AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

with Laura Hempel & Jenn Casper-Smith

Free or pay by donation (£50)

Wednesday 22nd April 2026, 9.30 to 12.30pm

Bookings now being taken. Visit:

[Introduction to Down syndrome - 0 - 12 | Down Syndrome T&SS](#)

The course introduces Down syndrome to people who have little experience of working with children with Down syndrome and covers society's view of Down syndrome, health implications, strengths and weaknesses in the classroom and outlines ways to address the specific learning needs and manage behaviours.

- Excellent course, very informative. I feel more confident in going back to school and including the little girl we have with Down syndrome in class
- A real awareness raiser. It reminded me of the purpose and strength of inclusion.
- I would highly recommend ALL support services and schools undertake this training.

COST: Suggested donation £50 but if this precludes attendance school staff are welcome to attend for free

Discover Your Creative Potential with Mind the Gap Academy! 🧠🎨

Do you know a talented individual with a learning disability or autism who dreams of a career in the arts?

Mind the Gap Academy in Bradford is currently welcoming new students to explore their passions in theatre, dance, and music! They offer a range of pathways tailored to different skill levels and ambitions:

- ☀️ **Performance Academy:** A three-year course for those looking to turn their passion into a career, working towards a Level 4 qualification (accredited by York St John University).
- ☀️ **Arts Academy:** Four specialised courses in theatre, dance, and music to build creative skills and self-expression.
- ☀️ **Partner Courses:** Entry-level sessions delivered with Totally Inclusive People. These are perfect for beginners, welcome new students all year round, and require no auditions!

Mind the Gap provides a world-class, supportive environment where students can truly shine.

📍 Location: Silk Warehouse, Patent Street, Bradford, BD9 4SA 📞 Find out more: Call 01274 487390 or email arts@mind-the-gap.org.uk 🌐 Visit their website:

www.mind-the-gap.org.uk/academy

One Minute Guides - SEND Local Offer

We have added some more co-produced One Minute Guides to the Local Offer website around Specific Learning Difficulties, Tics, Keeping myself healthy (ages 16+), Down syndrome which have been developed with professionals and members of the Parent Carer Network - [Bradford Local Offer | An Introduction - One Minute Guides](#)

Please do share them with families if you can.

Don't forget you can also translate (top right hand corner of the website), ask for them to be read out loud and print them out too so they're a handy place to start for our diverse families.

We have got some in the pipeline too around transition planning (health & education), sensory processing differences, behaviour support and learning disabilities.

If you want to get involved with helping us develop any other topics please get in touch with your suggestions, in particular we were thinking of guides on PDA, emotional regulation, reasonable adjustments, common questions answered, social care assessments, how to get the right PA for your child. Any others let us know – and if you have any contributions / suggested content please feel free to send this over.

Thanks,

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

Phone: 07974 124043

Email: sarah.firth@bradford.nhs.uk

LinkedIn: [Sarah Firth | LinkedIn](#)

Website: www.bdcpartnership.co.uk

Find support using the Bradford district SEND Local Offer

The Bradford district SEND Local Offer can help you find information, services and activities for children and young people aged from birth to 25 years, with Special Educational Needs, and/or Disabilities (SEND) or who are neurodivergent.

Here's how to find support and keep in touch with the latest news:

- Visit the website: [Bradford Local Offer](#)
- [Sign up](#) to receive a monthly SEND Newsletter
- Find us on [Facebook @LocalOfferBd](#)

Do you work or volunteer at a school, nursery, after school club or community centre? You can really help us reach more families and young people who might need support by printing and displaying a poster: www.bradford.gov.uk/SENDnoticeboard

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!

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

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 30th March



1.00 pm - 3.00 pm



Barkerend Family Hub, 365 Barkerend Road, BD3 8QX @BradfordEastFamilyHub



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.




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

Save the Date - Bradford district's 'SEND One Plan' parent/carer 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/carer 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](#).

Supporting Children with School Anxiety (EBSA)

Is your child struggling to attend school due to feelings of worry or stress? You aren't alone, and there is support available.

Bradford Children and Families Trust is hosting a series of parent support sessions focused on Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA). These sessions are delivered by their friendly Educational Psychologist Team and offer a safe space to share experiences and learn practical strategies to support your child.

Event Details:

When: Wednesdays, 4th March – 25th March (4-week course)

Time: 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Where: Farcliffe Family Hub, 56 Toller Lane, Bradford, BD8 8QH

Cost: Free

Important Information:

To get the most out of the programme, attendees need to be able to commit to all 4 sessions.

How to Book:

Spaces are limited! To book your place, please email the team directly at: EBSA@bradford.gov.uk

#WestYorkshireCANN #EBSA #SchoolAnxiety #BradfordParents #SENDsupport #ParentSupport
#BradfordChildrenAndFamiliesTrust

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - WAKEFIELD

Free Family Fun: Wakefield Museums & Castles

We are delighted to share a brilliant line-up of inclusive and accessible events happening across Wakefield and Pontefract this March and April! From sign-supported play to dragon nest building, there is something for every explorer.

 What's On:

Minis Play and Sign (Pontefract Museum)

- **When:** Mondays (Term time) – 2, 9, 16, & 23 March
- **Time:** 11:15 am – 12:15 pm
- **Details:** Designed for ages 2–5. Explore the museum through play and **Sign-Supported English**. A great way to tick off your "50 Things to do Before You're 5"!
- **Cost:** Free, no booking required.

Ilbert's Dragon Tales (Pontefract Castle)

- **When:** Wednesday 4 March | 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
- **Details:** Join Ilbert the Dragon for storytelling, nest-building, and making your very own dragon egg!
- **Cost:** Free drop-in.

Dragon Egg Week (Pontefract Castle)

- **When:** Saturday 28 March – Monday 6 April
- **Details:** A special Easter holiday dragon egg trail and activity days.
- **More info:**

Creative Workshops (Wakefield Museum)

- **Animal Creations:** Tuesday 31 March (10 am – 3 pm). Make a nature notebook and animal sculptures.
- **A Bird World:** Tuesday 7 April (10 am – 3 pm). Learn about local birds and make a recycled paper bird mobile.
- **Cost:** Free, drop-in sessions.

 Plan Your Visit:

Check out the full details and find more confirmed events on their website:

- **Website:** <https://museumsandcastles.wakefield.gov.uk/>

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - KIRKLEES

Sensory World Events



Sensory World
Old Westgate
Dewsbury
WF 13 1NB.

£90.00 per Person.

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

Lunch and drinks
available from the 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.



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
30th 31st March
1st 2nd 7th 8th 9th 10th
10am - 2.00 pm



**FREE
Explores Club
0-25**

**Siblings
Welcome**

Sensory world
Old Westgate
Dewsbury
WF13 1NB



**DROP IN TO OUR
SATURDAY ACTIVITIES 11- 1 pm Little Chefs
with send or suspect.**

Sensory

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

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



**Cinema
Club**

**FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT
SENSORY WORLD.**

07801065589.



Arts n crafts



Gaming

Sensory World
Old Westgate
Dewsbury
WF13 1NB

Glueing

Mosaic

Crafts
£4.00 pp

2 Course
meal
£5 pp

CRAFTY
THURSDAY
&
LUNCHEON CLUB
FOR ADULTS WITH
LEARNING
DIFFICULTIES.

11.00 2PM

TO BOOK
07801065589

PAINTING



**SENSORY
WORLD**
Cafe

Present

BRICKS+BOOZE

First Friday of the month

7:30pm - 10:30pm

**Old Westgate,
Dewsbury WF13 1NB
Tel: 01924 456152
Mob: 07376724364**

**ADULTS ONLY
KIDS-FREE
ZONE**

We are Adult Fans of LEGO®,
or AFOLs for short, based in West Yorkshire.

Once a month, we get together to build with LEGO® bricks, talk all things LEGO® and have a drink and cafe snack, while building.

So whether you live in West Yorkshire or are visiting from elsewhere, come along and try it.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Website: www.cann-network.org
Email: westyorkshire@cann-network.org
Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/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.

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.