



NATIONAL CANN COMMUNICATION
May 2026

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INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome to the National CANN Update.

The 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 admin@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 Website at:

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

MEETING DATES

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

NECANN Upcoming Meetings

Family Fun Day at Hadrian School

28th June from 11 AM to 1 PM

All members invited - please email confirmation

Thursday 25th September 12-1pm

Virtual - logins will be sent closer to the time

SYCANN Upcoming Meetings

30th June 2026

24th November 2026

10am to 12pm

Irwin Mitchell's offices in Sheffield

Riverside East House, 2 Millsands, Sheffield S3 8DT

SWCANN Upcoming Meetings:

9th June 2026

15th Sept 2026

WMCANN Upcoming Meetings:

15th September 2026

10:00am - 12:00pm

Sense Touchbase Pears

Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6NA

WYCANN Upcoming Meetings:

1st July 2026

2nd December 2026

10am - 12pm

Venues to be confirmed

RESEARCH

Investigative research into discrimination against children with invisible disabilities at theme parks

My name is Natalia and I am a journalist based in Sheffield. My team and I are doing investigative research into discrimination against children with invisible disabilities at theme parks.

Our project includes research into the Ride Access Pass, as well as the former plans to change accessibility rules at theme parks (Merlin Entertainment). It also focuses on the increase of complaint cases in the UK.

We wanted to contact you for an interview surrounding that topic, as well as surrounding inclusivity at theme parks.

Would you be interested in a representative from your company to do an interview with us online?

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

NOTE - Deadline is end of May if anyone is interested!

Many thanks,

Natalia

nprucnal1@sheffield.ac.uk

Engaging Wheelchair Participants in Sport course

Summer and autumn dates are now LIVE for our Engaging Wheelchair Participants in Sport course. The course will guide you through just some of the inclusive sports and activity opportunities that exist for people with a physical impairment, as well as give you the opportunity to explore any concerns you have and share creative ways to make sport and activity accessible to all. Our knowledgeable tutors share a wide range of lived experience and best practice examples for you to start building your understanding and a practical 'toolbox' to use in the future.

FIND OUT MORE & SIGN UP

<https://www.wheelpower.org.uk/activities/engaging-wheelchair-participants-in-sport>



300 Wheelchair Users Needed for Anonymous Nutrition Survey

Phase 2 of a doctoral study exploring experiences of nutritional advice, health support, and daily living following the transition to wheelchair use in adulthood



Scan to take part in the study

Anonymous | Voluntary participation | 18+ | Ethics approved



- ✓ Anonymous & confidential
- ✓ 5–10 minutes to complete
- ✓ Open to all adult wheelchair users
- ✓ Prize draw entry



Heather Chapman | PhD Researcher in Allied Health
University of Worcester | Ethics Approved Study



**UNIVERSITY of
WORCESTER**

INFORMATION & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - NATIONAL/ONLINE

FLAMINGO CHICKS WORK AROUND THE WORLD

Our Agents of Change set us an ambitious target to connect with 100 countries this year. And, we're making amazing progress - 39 countries and counting!

Thanks to support from our volunteers, we share our curriculum in different languages, provide advice, offer access to resources and create opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and collaboration across the globe.

Join Our Global Dance

Flamingo Chicks invites you to be part of an exciting global dance performance!

🌟 How to take part:

- 1 Watch our simple choreography (standing and seated versions available) here
- 2 Pick your favourite move - maybe the 🦋 butterfly, ❤️ heart, or a twirl! Or learn a short section.
- 3 Film yourself in landscape - on your own, with friends, family, or a group
- 4 Send it to us to be included in our global film by 10th May 2026

Your clip will be edited together with dancers from around the world to create one incredible shared performance.

🌟 Open to individuals and groups of all abilities.
showing people dancing together across the world.

🌍 We already have 17 countries taking part in this - but we would love even more! We'd especially like to see more South American countries represented.

If you have connections outside the UK - individuals, families, schools, groups, or communities - everybody is welcome to take part. Please email Katie for full details or click play below for more.
katie@flamingochicks.org

STEP into Further and Higher Education Interactive Online Series

Thomas Pocklington Trust is hosting online monthly peer sessions for blind and partially sighted students covering the key stages of transitions; Secondary school to Further Education (college, sixth form and apprenticeships) and Further Education to Higher Education. If you know any students who may be interested please pass on the below information:

All sessions take place online via **Microsoft Teams** from **6–7 pm**. Event links will be sent closer to the session date after registration.

- **STEP into Further Education: Wednesday 1st July 2026** – Getting Organised and Preparing for Your Next Chapter.
- **STEP into Higher Education: Thursday 2nd July 2026** – Preparing for Your Next Chapter.

To find out more information and register [visit our website](#).

Papyrus - New branding and website

You may have seen that Papyrus is wearing a new look, we launched our new branding and website.

We are still Papyrus and strive to deliver the work we have been doing across the North of England and beyond [Papyrus | Young Suicide Prevention](#). One important point to note is our new HopeLine24/7 number: 0300 102 2470. You can still text us on 88247 and email pat@papyrus-uk.org, and access our webchat service via our website. The service hasn't changed, same trained advisers, same confidential support, same around-the-clock availability. The 0800 number will still be in operation for a period however if you could amend any websites, resources and when you reprint any materials please use our new details.

I would like to say a personal thank you for your ongoing support to the charity and hope you love our new look.

If there are any questions or you would like to meet up for in person or face to face brew I would love to hear from you.

Let me know if you'd like rebranded resources like tear off posters or replace old stocks of us you have.

Thanks

Ukaoma



HopeLine 24/7

CALL

0300 102 2470

TEXT HOPE

88247

email

pat@papyrus-uk.org

WEBCHAT

papyrus-uk.org

24 hours a day. 365 days a year.

PAPYRUS

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



WheelPower's first National Junior Sports Festival


This year marks an exciting milestone for WheelPower: our first ever National Junior Sports Festival.

Following years of successful regional junior festivals, we're now bringing young wheelchair users together from across the UK for a shared, inspiring day of sport and connection.

Attending the Festival, young participants will:

- Try a wide range of wheelchair sports
- Learn from experienced coaches in a supportive environment
- Build confidence, independence and new friendships

For families travelling further, this is a unique chance to be part of a truly national celebration of junior wheelchair sport.

 Travelling and staying over?

To support families coming from further afield, we can offer:

- A £50 contribution towards hotel accommodation
- Advice regarding local accessible hotels
- Meals included during the Festival to reduce planning while away

Staying nearby allows participants to enjoy the full experience without long daily journeys.

FIND OUT MORE AND SIGN UP:

<https://www.wheelpower.org.uk/activities/national-junior-sports-festival>



WheelPower's NATIONAL JUNIOR SPORTS FESTIVAL

Saturday 9 May
9:30 AM - 8:00 PM
Stoke Mandeville Stadium
Buckinghamshire, HP21 9PP

- ✔ Inclusive sports festival
- ✔ 20+ different sports
- ✔ Suitable for ages 5 - 17
- ✔ Receive training from experts



Superhero Tri Series powered by MARVEL

Saturday 15 August 2026 – Dorney Lake, Windsor, Eton College Rowing Centre, off Court Lane, Dorney, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 6FJ

CANN Network
www.cann-network.org
admin@cann-network.org

We're also looking for any budding legends to join us for the Superhero Tri Series powered by MARVEL!

You can join in as an individual or as part of a team.

Everyone is welcome. However all solo entrants, or at least one team member, considers themselves to have a disability of any kind.

This fun triathlon-style challenge focuses on participation and confidence, with swim, push and handcycle elements.

FIND OUT MORE AND SIGN UP:

<https://www.wheelpower.org.uk/events/superhero-tri-powered-by-marvel>



National Junior Para Athletics Championships entries open

The National Junior Para Athletics Championships (NJPAC), organised by Activity Alliance, will return once again to the University of Warwick Athletics Track. This year's competition is set to take place at on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 July with a full track and field programme scheduled.

The event has a rich history in not only finding future athletics stars, but providing an inclusive environment for those just starting out their athletics journey. We look forward to welcoming athletes from across England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland to compete in more than 60 races and 20 field events.

Track events are available for athletes with and without formal classification from Under 12s to Open age athletes. Field events are available for athletes with and without formal classification from Under 12s to Under 23s.

The event is licensed by England Athletics and will allow athletes to record their times and distances on the Power of 10 website.

Event details

- **Venue:** Coventry Athletics Track, Warwick University, Kirby Corner Road, Coventry, CV4 8AH.
- **Date:** Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 July 2026.

Approximate session timings

- Saturday 4 July 2026: 10am - 4pm
- Sunday 5 July 2026: 9am - 1pm

Schedule

60m, 100m, 400m and 800m track events will take place on Saturday. The 200m and 1500m races will take place on Sunday.

Field events are scheduled after the entry deadline. This is to ensure that events including seated throws allow athletes the maximum time to throw.

Entry information

Before entering the National Junior Para Athletics Championships, please ensure you read the following conditions and entry packs.

- [National Junior Para Athletics Championships 2026 information and standards](#)
- [National Junior Para Athletics Championships 2026 rules and procedures](#)
- [Individual entry form for 2026](#)
- [National Junior Para Athletics Championships 2026 group entry form](#)

Please ensure you complete all relevant sections of the entry forms.

The deadline for entries is 5pm on Friday 19 June 2026.

Hoodies and t-shirts

[Competition hoodies and t-shirts are available to purchase online.](#)

Further assistance

If you require any further information about entries or need support to complete the entry forms, please contact **Jamie Blair, Senior Events Officer** via email, jamie@activityalliance.org.uk or call him on 07866 921745.

Navigating comments about your visible difference

If you've experienced unwanted comments about your visible difference, and you would like guidance on how to handle them, then our free 'Navigating comments about your visible difference' webinar during Face Equality Week might be for you. Keep reading to find out all the details.

Join us on Wednesday 13th May at 6.30pm for an honest, supportive conversation. You will hear directly from people with visible differences, gain practical coping strategies, and have the chance to ask your questions live. You will not be onscreen. You will also be able to chat with other attendees who understand what you are going through.

Register for the webinar: <https://changingfaces.tfaforms.net/301>

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS:

GENERAL

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

NORTH EAST CANN

Admin: northeast@cann-network.org
Chairs: chair.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>

SOUTH WEST CANN

CANN Network
www.cann-network.org
admin@cann-network.org

Admin: southwest@cann-network.org
Chairs: chair.southwest@cann-network.org
Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/swcann.bsky.social>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-west-cann>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/southwestcann>

SOUTH YORKSHIRE CANN

Admin: southyorkshire@cann-network.org
Chairs: chair.southyorkshire@cann-network.org
Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/sycann.bsky.social>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-yorkshire-cann>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/southyorkshirecann>

WEST MIDLANDS CANN

Admin: westmidlands@cann-network.org
Chairs: chair.westmidlands@cann-network.org
Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/wmcann.bsky.social>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/west-midlands-cann>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/westmidlandscann>

WEST YORKSHIRE CANN

Admin: westyorkshire@cann-network.org
Chairs: chair.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>