



## NECANN COMMUNICATION

### April 2026

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>NECANN MEETING DATE</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>National CANN Conference:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CO CHAIR COMMENTS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NEW MEMBERS</b>	<b>5</b>
NeuroAware CIC	5
Thomas Pocklington Trust	5
<b>RESEARCH</b>	<b>6</b>
INSPIRE MSK study - Investigating Self-management of Musculoskeletal Pain in Real Life	6
<b>INFO AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - NATIONAL / ONLINE</b>	<b>6</b>
Black Maternal Health Week - the Lived Experience from Down Syndrome UK	6
Family Fund - Free virtual workshops to support your digital skills and boost your finances	7
Webinar from Astor Bannerman: Accessible Equipment in Heritage Buildings - Challenges & Practical Solutions	7
Join WheelPower and Luiz Faye for a FREE Online Adaptive Box-Fit Class from the comfort of your homes LIVE on Zoom.	8
H.I.E. Conference - Thursday 14th May 2026	8
<b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - REGIONAL</b>	<b>11</b>
☀️ Join us for the Hadrian School Summer Fair!	11
Life Science Centre scoops Double Gold at Regional Tourism Awards	12
Meet, Chat and Learn	13
Buddy Dogs Family Fun Day – Newcastle	14
New Upcoming Events: NWY ASBAH	16
Healthworks Useful Vision new activity booklet	17
Upcoming Events at The Toby Henderson Trust at the Autism Hub	17
Useful Vision Upcoming Events	20
SAVE THE DATE! - Rainbow Guide Live	21
Understanding the Impact of Trauma & ACEs in Early Years	21
North East Autism Society Dates	24
Toby Henderson latest service in Newcastle & Gateshead	27
The Autism Hub, South Tyneside	32
<b>Social Media Links and Contact Details:</b>	<b>35</b>

## 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**

#### **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.

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

## **CO CHAIR COMMENTS**

Hello everyone, and welcome to the April NECANN Update. As we move further into spring, it's wonderful to see our network continuing to grow, collaborate, and learn from one another. Thank you to all members who continue to give their time, expertise, and enthusiasm to strengthen the support available to families across the Northeast.

### **March Meeting Highlights – Grace House, Sunderland Thursday 26th March 2026 • 10am–12 midday**

A huge thank you to Grace House for hosting our most recent NECANN meeting. We had a fantastic turnout, and the morning was filled with learning, connection, and shared commitment to improving services for children, young people, and families.

[Grace House – Service Overview](#)

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

Our speaker from Grace House provided a detailed and insightful overview of the services they offer, including:

- Support for children and young people with complex needs
- Short breaks and respite opportunities for families
- A wide range of therapeutic and wellbeing activities
- Outreach work across Sunderland and the surrounding area

#### Guest Speaker – Jodi Heyes, Worley's World

We were pleased to welcome Jodi Heyes from Worley's World, who shared an update about their organisation's mission, current projects, and future plans. Jodi highlighted their commitment to providing safe, creative spaces for children and families, as well as their passion for peer support and collaborative community work.

#### Networking & Collaboration

Following the presentations, members had the chance to network informally. Several organisations shared upcoming events, identified potential opportunities to work together, and exchanged contact details for future partnership discussions.

#### **Strength in Collaboration**

This month, we want to celebrate the impact that collaboration continues to have across our network. Your willingness to share resources, knowledge, and experience helps strengthen the support available to families across the region. This was evident at the Grace house.

#### **Stay Connected**

If you have updates you'd like featured in the May comms, or if you would like to share an event, project, or request for collaboration, please get in touch.

#### **A few reminders**

CANN webinar event Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April via teams  
<https://celebrating10yearsofimpactthec.splashthat.com/>

Next NECANN Meeting will be held as part of Hadrian school family fun day Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 11am- 2pm it would great to get as many NECANN members to take a stand and showcase their service/ charity- this is open to all charities within the North east.

Date: Saturday, 27th June 2026

Time: 11 am – 2 pm

Location: Hadrian School, Newcastle

Enquiries and booking a stall: [elaine.quinn@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:elaine.quinn@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk)

TBC in person meeting end of September 2026 if any member wishes to host this meeting that would be amazing- it was generally felt the in person meeting at Grace house was really a useful and positive experience for everyone.

And finally, a warm welcome to new Members **NeuroAware CIC** and **Thomas Pocklington Trust**

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

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

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## NEW MEMBERS



### NeuroAware CIC

NeuroAware CIC is a new initiative in County Durham, and is dedicated to supporting neurodiverse minds and the people who care for them. Our mission is to empower neurodiverse individuals and parents and carers of SEND children.

We offer-:

- Support and resources for neurodiverse individuals
- Guidance, advocacy and support for parents and carers of SEND children, particularly in relation to EHCPs, SEN Tribunals, school communication and DLA forms
- Community-based training to improve awareness and inclusion
- An online-based support group, wellbeing sessions, coffee mornings and day trips.

[info@neuroaware.org.uk](mailto:info@neuroaware.org.uk)



### Thomas Pocklington Trust

Thomas Pocklington Trust Education Advice Service provides free, confidential and impartial advice and guidance to blind and partially sighted students aged 7+, their parents/carers and the professionals that support them. We provide expert information, advice and guidance on navigating primary and

secondary school, college and university.

<https://www.pocklington.org.uk/education/>

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

*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

### **INSPIRE MSK study - Investigating Self-management of Musculoskeletal Pain in Real Life**

Do you have a young person with musculoskeletal chronic pain? The University of Sterling are looking for young people aged 12-24 to take part in an interview about their self-management practices.

The study aims to understand more about how different financial environments can impact MSK.

#### **Take Part**

Find out more about the study at: <https://inspiremsk.stir.ac.uk/>

The study has ethical approval from the University of Stirling's Research Ethics Committee.

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

### **Black Maternal Health Week - the Lived Experience from Down Syndrome UK**

Wednesday 15th April | 12.00 pm

This webinar coincides with Black Maternal Health Week and we are pleased to be joined by three of the founders of Black Child Down Syndrome. The Black Child Down Syndrome (BCDS) Project is a groundbreaking advocacy initiative dedicated to increasing awareness, representation, and support for Black children with Down syndrome and their families. As parents of children with Down syndrome, Oneness, Tonye and Danise will be sharing their maternity experiences in order to promote best practice for black parents.

Note: To sign up, please ensure you tick the box of the upcoming webinar before completing and submitting your details.

[Register for the April Webinar here](#)

## **Family Fund - Free virtual workshops to support your digital skills and boost your finances**

This month we're offering support with a range of topics for parents and carers, including learning about the accessibility features on an iPad to finding out how to check your benefits entitlements. Here's what's available:

Canva skills for parents and carers – Make a star chart  
Completing an online grant search  
Checking your benefits online  
Make it work for you (iPads)  
Supporting your young person into adulthood  
Finding grants as a parent/ carer

For children and young people, our next workshop is the Coding club programme. We'll be using the free VEXCode website (available on all devices) to create a castle crushing game, using sensors and loop functions. Then, during the Easter holidays we have more creative digital workshops but this time with a seasonal theme!

All workshops are free, easy to join from home, and designed to help families to get the most out of devices and being online.

Find out more and book now: <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/support/discover-digital/workshops>

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## **Webinar from Astor Bannerman: Accessible Equipment in Heritage Buildings - Challenges & Practical Solutions**

Date: 16 April 2026  
Time: 12:30pm (UK)

Specifying accessible equipment in heritage buildings comes with a unique set of challenges.

From listed homes and period school buildings to historic public spaces introducing Changing Places facilities, balancing preservation with compliance and usability requires careful thought.

How do you protect the character of a building while ensuring it is inclusive, safe, and fully functional?

This focused 30-minute webinar explores the practical considerations of installing accessible hygiene and changing equipment within heritage and listed environments — and how to overcome common design and installation barriers.

**BOOK NOW:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/9217730552522/WN\\_kRJNIRLFRgitoRyacl-Smw#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/9217730552522/WN_kRJNIRLFRgitoRyacl-Smw#/registration)

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Join WheelPower and Luiz Faye for a **FREE Online Adaptive Box-Fit Class** from the comfort of your homes **LIVE on Zoom**.

If you're looking for a home workout that increases your strength, core stability, and mobility, then look no further! From the comfort of your own home, join Luiz Faye for functional and friendly sessions that can be performed from a seated position, and to suit all levels and abilities.

<https://www.wheelpower.org.uk/activities/online-adaptive-boxfit-class>

# FREE ONLINE ADAPTIVE BOX-FIT CLASS

MONDAYS  
11AM



[wheelpower.org.uk/classes](https://www.wheelpower.org.uk/classes)

## 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**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - REGIONAL

### Join us for the Hadrian School Summer Fair!

We are delighted to be joining the Friends of Hadrian School for their annual Summer Fair this June. It's set to be a brilliant day out for the whole family, and the best part? Entry is completely free!

What's on:

- 🎨 Face painting
- 🧸 Toy & Gift Tombolas
- 🍔 Delicious food and beverages
- 🎈 Family fun and games

📣 Calling All Local Charities! The Friends of Hadrian School are offering stall spaces for other local charities to join in! If you run a local organisation and would like to have a presence at the fair, please get in touch with Elaine Quinn at [elaine.quinn@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:elaine.quinn@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk) to book your spot.

Find NECANN there: The North East CANN team will be on-site all afternoon. Pop over to our stand to say hello and find out more about local services and the support available for your family.

The Details:

📅 Date: Saturday, 27th June 2026

🕒 Time: 11 am – 2 pm

📍 Location: Hadrian School, Newcastle

✉ Enquiries: [elaine.quinn@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:elaine.quinn@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk)



**Friends of Hadrian School**

Charity Number 1085068

**COME & JOIN US FOR OUR**

# **SUMMER FAIR**

**SATURDAY, 27TH JUNE** **AT HADRIAN  
SCHOOL**

**11 AM - 2 PM**

**FREE ENTRY**



Come and enjoy a day filled with family fun, featuring face painting, toy tombola, a gift tombola, and a variety of delicious food and beverages. NECANN will also be joining us with information on local services and charities to support your family.

[elaine.quinn@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:elaine.quinn@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk)

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## **Life Science Centre scoops Double Gold at Regional Tourism Awards**

At the North East Tourism Awards, Life won Gold for Best Large Visitor Attraction and Gold for Accessibility and Inclusion (see link [Life Science Centre](#)) Whilst I'm thrilled to be able to share this news with you, I also wanted to thank you for your support and willingness to share your insight, which has helped us to make Life ever more accessible and welcoming to visitors and communities.

As you know we are always looking for inspiring practice so please keep your thoughts and ideas coming.

Thanks again for your help and support  
David

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## **Meet, Chat and Learn**

We offer 'Meet, Chat, Learn' classes across Newcastle, Gateshead, South Shields and Sunderland. Our classes are open exclusively to families who have spent time on a neonatal unit in the North East and/or Transitional Care.

# MEET, CHAT, LEARN

## South Tyneside

WEDNESDAY 11:45 - 12:30  
LOVABELLE, VISAGE HOUSE  
BABY SENSORY

THURSDAY 13:15 - 14:15  
THE WORD, SOUTH SHIELDS  
BABY BOUNCE

FRIDAY 13:00 - 13:45 BABY YOGA  
14:00 - 14:45 NEWBORN NURTURE & MASSAGE  
KALMA LIFE  
RIDGEWAY FAMILY HUB

Meet other parents who have had similar experiences,  
Chat and support each other, Learn new things that can  
help your baby's development.



### What's On This April at The Special Lioness

We have a packed calendar this month, from festive family fun to our regular support groups. Mark your diaries for these upcoming dates:

#### Easter Celebrations

Fundraising Easter Fun Day  
Date: Wednesday, 1st April  
Time: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Location: Portland Academy

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

Note: Everyone is welcome! Come along and support our fundraising efforts.

Easter Eggstravaganza

Date: Wednesday, 8th April

Sessions: 10:00 am – 11:30 am | 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm | 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

### **Support & Social Groups**

Coffee Group

Date: Thursday, 2nd April

Time: 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Location: Portland Academy

Note: A relaxed space for parents and carers to connect.

SIBS Club (Ages 6–16)

Starting: Wednesday, 22nd April (Running weekly for 6 weeks)

Time: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Note: A dedicated group for children who have a sibling with a disability.

Little Explorers

Our Little Explorer groups return for the new term starting week commencing 20th April. These will run every week until the May half-term.

Days: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays

Times: 10:00 am – 11:30 am OR 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Find More Details & Bookings:

For full information on all our sessions, please visit our events page:

<https://www.thespeciallioness.com/events>

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### **Buddy Dogs Family Fun Day – Newcastle**

#### **Date & Location**

Wed, 08 Apr • 10:00 AM (BST)

Guide Dogs Newcastle, Northumberland House, Gosforth Park Ave, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 8EG

#### **About the event**

Guide Dogs' Buddy Dog Team are delighted to invite children with a vision impairment and their immediate family members to a special, fun-filled day at our Newcastle centre this April.

There will be two slots - morning arrival 10–11am or afternoon arrival 1–2pm 🕒

Come along to learn more about the Buddy Dog service, meet our friendly team and enjoy a range of hands-on activities in a relaxed, welcoming environment.

You can take part in:

- Dog treat making with our Habilitation Team 🍗
- Teaching a Guide Dog a trick with our trainers 🐕
- Chatting with our Buddy Dog Specialists 💬
- Paw print arts & crafts 🎨
- Dog health advice from our wellbeing team 🩺
- Time to socialise and meet other families ☕

If you already have a Buddy Dog, you're very welcome to bring them along!

This is an invite-only event for people with a genuine interest in the Guide Dogs Buddy Dog service and booking is required 📅

To request a booking form or find out more, contact [familyevents@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:familyevents@guidedogs.org.uk) or call 0800 781 1444 📧

We look forward to welcoming you and your family ❤️

Also check out other Arts events in Newcastle Upon Tyne, Health & Wellness events in Newcastle Upon Tyne, Craft events in Newcastle Upon Tyne.

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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



## 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)



usefulvision



Healthworks  
the community health charity

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## 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 so 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
- Compass the Cat
- Intertwined Dance
- Silent Disco
- Bouncy Castle
- Crafts and Activities

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

Little SENDsations	Autismable
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	Together For Children
North East Sight Matters	Family Hubs
Together For Children	Automotive Group
Family Hubs	Kalma Life
Automotive Group	
Kalma Life	

Choice WELLBEING SERVICE

Kindly Part Funded by irwinmitchell




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## 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>



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

# 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:**

north east  
**autism** society



**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

## 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)

Registered Charity No. 1028260 | Company Limited by Guarantee No. 2859620

# 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.

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

Registered Charity No. 1028260 | Company Limited by Guarantee No. 2859620

# 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

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)

Registered Charity No. 1028260 | Company Limited by Guarantee No. 2859620

**NHS**

## **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* ”



## Have Your Say on Autism & ADHD Assessments

Are you a parent or carer of a child with Autism, ADHD, or social communication differences? Your lived experience is incredibly valuable, and here is a chance to use it to shape the future of assessment pathways.

The Toby Henderson Trust and the NIHR are inviting you to a Parent & Carer Discussion Group to explore how digital tools can better support assessments and improve services.



### Event Details:

When: Monday, 20 April 2026

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Where: Toby House, Earth Balance, Bedlington, NE22 7AD (In person)



### Why take part?

Share Your Views: Discuss what is helpful and what concerns you regarding digital tools in assessments.

Support Clinicians: Help explore how technology can support, not replace, the professionals who work with our children.

Expert Input: Your feedback will directly influence safeguards, privacy, and trust in the system.



Thank You: As a token of appreciation, participants will receive a £40 Love2shop voucher and refreshments will be provided on the day.



### How to Register:

Places are limited and pre-reading will be required (this will be sent to you once you register). To express your interest, please contact:



[Rugile.Rozane@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:Rugile.Rozane@newcastle.ac.uk)


## Parent & Carer Discussion Group

### Help Shape the Future of Autism & ADHD Assessment Pathways

We are inviting **parents and carers** to share their views on how **digital tools** could **support assessments** and **improve services**.

 **Monday 20 April 2026**

 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

 **Toby House, Earth Balance,**  
W Sleekburn Farm Cottages,  
Bedlington **NE22 7AD**  
(In person)

Receive a

★ **£40** ★

Love2shop voucher  
+ Refreshments

**Are you a parent or carer of a child with:**

- ✓ **Autism or ADHD**
- ✓ **Social communication** differences
- ✓ **Developmental or assessment concerns**


**Your feedback will help us explore:**

- What is **helpful** – and what are the concerns?
- How **digital tools** could **support**, not **replace**, clinicians
- **Safeguards, privacy & trust**

To register your interest, please contact:

 [\*\*Rugile.Rozane@newcastle.ac.uk\*\*](mailto:Rugile.Rozane@newcastle.ac.uk)

Places are limited.

 **Pre-reading will be required and sent upon registering**

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## 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)