



NATIONAL CANN COMMUNICATION
June 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

John Charles Centre

2nd December 2026

10am - 12pm

Venues to be confirmed

10 Years of CANN: Reflecting on the National Knowledge Exchange

Recently, we marked a decade of the Children with Additional Needs Network (CANN) with our National Knowledge Exchange. It was a privilege to see so many professionals from the third sector and charity world come together to celebrate how far this voluntary network has come.

A huge thank you to Irwin Mitchell for hosting us and for their continued support of the network. It was fantastic to gather in a space that fosters such important conversations.

Our chair for the morning, Lucy Owen (Chief Executive, SNAPS Yorkshire CIO), set the tone perfectly by reflecting on the far-reaching impact of CANN over the last ten years. As Lucy highlighted, even when time is short, the importance of carving out space for peer support and shared information is vital for our sector's wellbeing.

We were also honoured to welcome back Karen Hoe OBE, one of the original founders of the network in Leeds, who shared her expert perspective on the changing landscape of charity leadership and innovation.

The morning provided real, "Monday-ready" insights from our brilliant speakers:

Michael Guy on honest prioritisation: "When everything is important, nothing is important."

Sophie Lowe on resilience and why we should "be more zebra."

Mark Armstrong on using AI for "more mission, less admin."

Vic Hancock Fell on the essential power of networking and community.

This event feels like a new step for the CANN network—a commitment to even better communication and support across the third sector.

We need your feedback!

To help us decide if this should become an annual event, please take a moment to fill out our short feedback form:



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKBH038mbGIGSuto5zpm2q_wxm2zoVbVPbkyP89iaqJ9Uh7w/viewform

Missed the live session?

You can read the full summary and watch the webinar recording on our website:

<https://www.cann-network.org/news/cann-national-knowledge-exchange-reflecting-on-10-years-and-looking-ahead/>

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

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

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.

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

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.

Bringing Us Together Courses

☀️ Training & Workshops from Bringing Us Together

We are delighted to share these fantastic opportunities from Bringing Us Together, offering parent-led workshops and professional training sessions.

For Parents and Carers 🤝

Bringing Us Together delivers parent-led sessions co-designed by people with lived experience. These workshops provide practical strategies and a supportive space to discuss topics such as:

- Advocating for Our Children
- Benefits and Meetings Matter
- Managing Anxiety
- Coping with Assessments, Reviews, and Meetings
- Wellbeing – Breathe and Pause!

For Professionals 🎓

Training is also available for education staff, SENDCOs, social workers, and health professionals.

Programs include:

- Partnership with Parent Carers
- When Trust Breaks Down
- Wellbeing of Teams

Delivery Details

Format: All sessions can be delivered online, in person, or as a hybrid model.

Tailored: Sessions can be shaped around the specific needs and priorities of your group or setting.

✉️ How to Book:

For information on costs and bookings, please contact Katie directly:

katie@bringingustogether.org.uk

Making Music with Special Children

Our course helps professionals, parents and carers use music to unlock communication and creativity. The training includes interactive workshops, real-world examples, and take-home resources.

Book your course:

<https://jessiesfund.org.uk/our-work/training/making-music-with-special-children/>

Who is the course for?

The course is open to anyone working with or caring for children who have additional needs, complex needs, or life-shortening illnesses. Whether you're a musical novice or have some

experience you will go away with plenty of ideas and practical techniques that you can start using straight away. Even if you are an accomplished musician, our course will teach you how your skills can be applied in this new context, giving you the confidence to bring your music to children with special educational needs and disabilities.

What will the course cover?

Exploring musical instruments

Working with pulse and rhythm

Singing

Using iPads for music

Approaches to working one-to-one

Working with groups

How much does it cost?

Course fees

Jessie's Fund subsidises your training, so your contribution for the whole two-day course will be just £95. This includes refreshments and a light lunch on both days.



Making Music with Special Children training course 2026



Our course helps professionals, parents and carers to gain the skills and confidence to bring music to children with life-limiting illness or disabilities.

London: 29 – 30 September
York: 10–11 November

£95 for both days

What You'll Learn:

- Exploring musical instruments
- Working with pulse and rhythm
- Singing
- Using iPads for music
- Approaches to working one-to-one
- Working with groups



Scan to find out more
and book your place

<https://jessiesfund.org.uk/> info@jessiesfund.org.uk
15 Priory Street, York YO1 6ET 01904 658189
Registered Charity number: 1045731

Bringing Us Together delivers parent-led workshops for parent groups and organisations supporting parents and carers of disabled children.



Our sessions are co-designed and led by people with lived experience, combining practical strategies with trusted information, and providing a supportive space.

- **Advocating for Our Children**
- **Benefits**
- **Avoiding Conflict in Our Everyday Lives**
- **Coping With Assessments, Reviews and Meetings**
- **Dealing With Tricky Situations**
- **Managing Anxiety**
- **Understanding the Ways We Communicate With Our Children**
- **Wellbeing – Breathe and Pause!**
- **Meetings Matter**

All sessions can be delivered online or in person, and can be tailored to the needs of your groups.

For more information on costs and bookings please email katie@bringingustogether.org.uk

Bringing Us Together delivers training and workshops for professionals working with disabled children, young people and families.



Co-designed and led by people with lived experience – practical, trauma-aware and relationship based. Delivered with respect, compassion and integrity, with wellbeing at the heart.

Designed for:

Education staff • SENDCOs • Teachers • Support staff • Social Workers • Health Professionals • Keyworkers (Dynamic Support)

Workshops and programmes include:

- Partnership with Parent Carers
- When Trust Breaks Down
- Keyworker practice and person centred working
- Wellbeing of Teams (programme)

What professionals tell us:

“The trainers made us feel extremely relaxed and valued... the most enjoyable and relevant training I have ever been a part of.”

Delivery:

Online • in person • hybrid

Sessions can be commissioned as standalone workshops, or as a short programme / package shaped around your setting and priorities.

**For more information on costs and bookings please email:
katie@bringingustogether.org.uk**

DSUK/PADS Toilet Training Programme

Tuesday 30th June | 12.00 pm

June Rogers MBE worked as a Specialist Children's Bladder & Bowel Nurse for over 35 years. With a special interest in children with Down syndrome, June has presented and published widely as well as winning several Awards for her work, including an MBE in 1997. More recently she won the 2024 BJN Continence Nurse of the Year. Working at a National level June was involved in several NHRI studies, NHS working groups and NICE Guidelines and Quality Standards, including Childhood Constipation. June is currently working with DSUK Positive About Down syndrome (PADS) developing resources and supporting families to manage continence problems more effectively.

In this session June will introduce DSUK/PADS Toilet Training Programme designed for children with Down syndrome.

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

Register for the June Webinar here:

<https://downsyndromeuk.my.site.com/community/s/maternitywebinars>

Tour De Sense cycling challenge with Sense

An inclusive celebration of the iconic Tour De France, for disabled people with complex needs and supporters.

Tour De France is the world's most iconic cycling event, with cyclists from all over the world competing in 21 races in 21 days.

Every year, we celebrate with our very own Tour De Sense in a team effort to cycle as far as possible! Last year, 75 people collectively cycled a total of 35 hours, the equivalent of over 350 miles – enough to cycle from TouchBase Pears in Birmingham to the Tour De France finish line in Paris!

This year, with brand new sponsors Decathlon supporting us, we are encouraging all disabled people with complex needs, family members, staff at Sense and community groups to get involved.

Get involved

From the 4 July to 26 July, join us in-person, virtually or remotely.

You can:

- Attend your local Tour De Sense adapted cycling event – more details coming soon.

- Use hand and foot pedals in your service or at home – if you don't have a hand or foot pedal, contact us.
- Use a gym bike.
- Go for a cycle in your local community.

If you would like to register for Tour De Sense, please complete our short registration form here.
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ghPnj4PjbUezjF8Sgg6yKgNy-8X_EvlCmFpUy1s85-tUMktYQlhIOUk2U1JHTEtWV0kzQkxZNEdWTi4u

Skin camouflage, vitiligo and you webinar with Changing Faces

Thursday 2nd July 6.30-7.30pm

In partnership with our friends at the Vitiligo Society, we're running a webinar about skin camouflage options for people with vitiligo and the support available.

You'll receive practical advice on how to find the best skin camouflage products for you, how to apply them, and where to find further information and guidance.

[Register for the webinar](#)

Finding belonging as an LGBTQIA+ person with a visible difference online discussion group (18+)

Thursday 25th June 12-1pm

Finding genuine belonging as an LGBTQIA+ person with a visible difference can be tough. We are running an online discussion group during Pride month, bringing together people who may feel isolated or struggle with acceptance. Talking with others who understand both communities, we hope to empower you and ensure your voice is heard. Places are strictly limited.

[Register for the group](#)

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

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>