



NECANN COMMUNICATION May 2026

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INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome to the latest North East CANN Update.

North East Children's Additional Needs Network shares information and helps to increase the reach of your services for children and young people in the region.

Regarding updates and information, if you have material or information that you would like forwarded to the members of the Network, or any updates, please ensure that you email it to Miriam on northeast@cann-network.org, 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

27th June 2026 11am-2pm

Hadrian School

Bertram Crescent, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE15 6PY

CO CHAIR COMMENTS

Hello everyone and welcome to the May 2026 update for North East CANN.

First, we want to say a huge well done to everyone involved in the CANN Conference yesterday morning. It was a fantastic event, and it was wonderful to see so many of our network members coming together to share knowledge and support one another.

Looking ahead to the summer, we have plenty to be excited about:

- Summer Fair Stall Holders: The Friends of Hadrian School are looking for local charities and organisations to take up stall spaces at their annual Summer Fair on Saturday, 27th June 2026.
How to Apply: If you would like to have a presence at the fair, please get in touch with Elaine Quinn at elaine.quinn@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk to book your spot.
- New Members: We are delighted to welcome the Almond Tree Foundation and Action for Children to the network this month.
- Regional Support: From the new Nook Safe Haven mental health drop-in for 13-17 year olds to the Special Lioness weekly groups, there is a wealth of support available across the North East right now.
- Parent Carer Wellbeing: Grace House North East has a packed schedule including "Couch to 5K", tennis, and "Walkie Talkies" to help carers stay active and connected.

Don't forget that our next meeting coincides with the Hadrian's Fun Day on 27th June between 11 am and 2 pm. We hope to see many of you there at the NECANN stand!

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

NEW MEMBERS

Almond Tree
Foundation



Almond Tree Foundation

The Almond Tree Foundation offers wellbeing support for parents of children with disability or long term illness.

We've grown a warm, global community of people with shared experiences and run free online events, including webinars and drop-in sessions, that offer a safe space for reflection, discussion, and support.

<https://www.thealmondtree.org/>



Action for Children

A National children and family charity.

North East CANN
www.cann-network.org
northeast@cann-network.org

Their four core service areas are family support, children in care, disabled children and mental health and wellbeing.

Driven by love, they take action so children don't miss out on a safe and happy childhood. They have thousands of people on the ground, giving children and young people the protection and practical help they urgently need. And they campaign for lasting change.

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/>

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

If you are not yet on the CANN website, you can be added by completing this form:

<https://www.cann-network.org/member-registration-form/>

INFO AND EVENTS - REGIONAL

New Mental Health Drop-In Service

Children North East, in partnership with Everyturn, have launched our new drop-in mental health service for children and young people aged 13 - 17 (18 in education), more information here: [Nook Safe Haven | Everyturn](#)

Who we're here to support

We're here for people aged 13-17 (and aged 18 if you're in further education) in Newcastle and Gateshead.

We give free, confidential walk-in support (along with telephone and online appointments if you prefer) on Wednesday-Saturday, 4pm-8pm. You don't need a referral, you can just turn up.

And coming soon to Gateshead... Nook Gateshead will be opening in summer 2026! We'll post all the details here when it's ready.

How we can help

We're here to:

- Help you understand yourself, including ways to manage your thoughts, feelings, and friendships.
- Help you to grow in confidence.
- Help you feel safe, steady, and in control.
- Make a simple safety plan with you, to give you ways to cope right now, find things that help you feel better, and choose trusted people you can turn to for help in the future.

Nook Newcastle
Open Wednesday-Saturday, 4pm-8pm.
The Beacon
Westgate Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 9PQ

If you'd like more information, you can call us during our open hours on 0191 217 3222.

<https://www.everyturn.org/children-young-people/nook-safe-haven/>

Request for Funding Info

I was wondering if you could help me in anyway. I piloted a project at one of our centres to which we applied for a small grant to provide the pool with sensory toys, specialised equipment and run and sensory sessions over the holidays. The sessions was a great success and so much great feedback. Down south one of our other sites has been transformed to a sensory pool with projectors and lights around the pool to make it more of an experience for inclusive groups. We would live to do this at our Hetton leisure pool in Sunderland but trying to find any funding to apply for this that is about £30,000 as this is the costs of the lights and projectors. Is there anyone that would like to help with this project and do you know of any funding available for this as we know there is a need for this in Sunderland.

Thank you in advance for your help

Regards,
Corrin Bradgate | Health Activity & Wellbeing Manager
Sunderland Contract
CorrinBradgate@everyoneactive.com
www.everyoneactive.com
07825191977

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:

North East CANN
www.cann-network.org
northeast@cann-network.org

- 🎨 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 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



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

Useful Vision Upcoming Events



usefulvision

April - May - June 2026

Opportunities for visually impaired children
across the North East



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

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

ONLINE: usefulvision.org.uk/events

Once you have booked you will
receive a confirmation email.

www.usefulvision.org.uk



usefulvision






Healthworks
the community health charity

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 
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

daniel.coffey@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk

or Tel: 0191 273 4440

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



Funded suicide prevention training

Free online 90 minutes funded suicide prevention training for anyone who lives or works in North Tyneside

Booking link: <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/courses/ne-spot-sir-james-knott-trust-1>

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.

Upcoming May Events with The Special Lioness

They have a busy month of connection and play ahead! Please see their schedule for May below. Most sessions are held at their hub, but don't miss their community coffee mornings at Portland Academy.

North East CANN
www.cann-network.org
northeast@cann-network.org

Weekly Group Schedule

Little Explorers

Popular play sessions for under 5s.

Mondays: 10:00 am – 11:30 am & 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm (Starts 11th May).

Tuesdays: 10:00 am – 11:30 am & 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm (Note: No afternoon session on 5th or 19th May).

Fridays: 10:00 am – 11:30 am & 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm.

Ready, Steady, Play

Tuesdays: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm (Weekly).

Siblings Group – My Space

Wednesdays: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm (Weekly).

Special Sessions & Key Dates

Monday 4th May: CLOSED for the Bank Holiday.

Special Bonds: Tuesday 5th May and Tuesday 19th May, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm.

Coffee Group (Portland Academy): Thursday 7th May and Thursday 21st May, 9:30 am – 11:30 am.
All are welcome to join them for a chat and a brew!

✨ Want to double-check a date or find more info?

Visit their website here: Events | The Special Lioness - <https://www.thespeciallioness.com/>

Honest Lamb Farm School with North East Sight Matters

Families must be registered with us and have a sight-impaired Child.

4 hrs | Free

26 May 2026, 10:00 AM

Location

Honest Lamb Farm School
Red Hemmels Farm Cottage,
Riding Mill, NE44 6AH

Description

We are very excited to visit the farm school during May half-term, when there will be lots of lambs for our children to interact with.

Farmer Leanne and NESM are busy organising a full, fun-packed session that will include animal interaction, sensory exploration, and lots of learning opportunities.

Places will be limited, and more details will follow.

<https://northeastsightmattersltd.co.uk/events/ola/services/honest-lamb-farm-school>

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



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



New Parent Carer Sessions Starting at Grace House North East



Grace House
Enriching the lives of disabled children, young people and their families.

ARTS & JOURNALING FREE
For parent carers

Starting 22nd April
10:00am – 12:00 noon

Limited spaces!

Weekly sessions
(Excluding school holidays)

WH@gracehouse.co.uk
0191 435 2088



Grace House
Enriching the lives of disabled children, young people and their families.

COUCH TO 5K
For parent carers

Beginner Running Programme
Get fitter, healthier and more confident!

Led by: **Michael MacNally**

Starting 21st April – 14th July
10:00am – 12:00 noon

£25 deposit
Fully refunded if you attend all sessions!

More info: WH@gracehouse.co.uk
0191 435 2088



Grace House
Enriching the lives of disabled children, young people and their families.

Tennis
For parent Carers

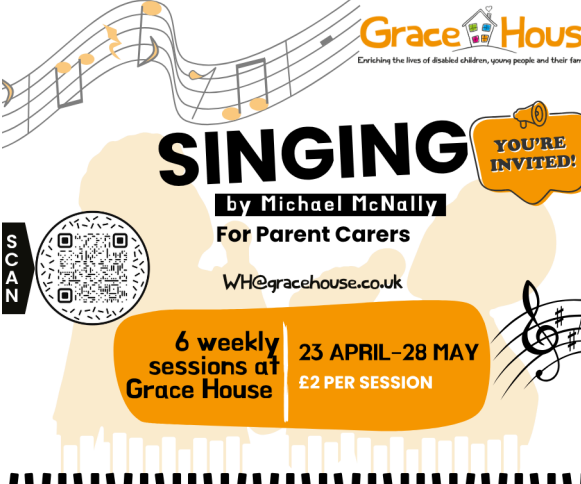
Thompson Park Tennis Courts **Every Tuesday**
Excluding half term

Relax, move, and enjoy a friendly tennis session with other parent carers. No experience needed. Just come along and have fun.

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| 21 st April until 14 th July | 11:00am – 12:00 noon |
|--|----------------------|

For more information:
WH@gracehouse.co.uk
0191 435 2088

Active Sunderland RISE.



Grace House
Enriching the lives of disabled children, young people and their families.

SINGING **YOU'RE INVITED!**
by Michael McNally
For Parent Carers

WH@gracehouse.co.uk

6 weekly sessions at Grace House | 23 APRIL – 28 MAY
£2 PER SESSION



Grace House
Enriching the lives of disabled children, young people and their families.

Come walk with us

WALKIE TALKIES
Relaxed walks for parent carers

From 23rd April until 16th July

DOG FRIENDLY 9.30AM – 11.30AM
EVERY THURSDAY
EXCLUDING HALF TERM

WH@gracehouse.co.uk 0191 435 2088



CREATED ESPECIALLY
FOR PARENT CARERS
BOOST YOUR ENERGY
MORE THAN JUST A COFFEE

Grace House

Enriching the lives of disabled children, young people and their families.

HAPPINESS SPECIALS

FRIENDLY FACES
WARM CONVERSATIONS

MINDFUL MOMENTS

SUPPORTIVE DISCUSSION
SPACE TO BE HEARD

THE EXTRA CARE

MEET VICKI & WENDY
GUEST SPEAKERS

OPENING HOURS

EVERY TUESDAY
4:00PM - 5:30PM
GRACE HOUSE

✉ WH@gracehouse.co.uk

✉ VC@gracehouse.co.uk

☎ 0191 435 2088

Tea Time Coffee Break



CREATED ESPECIALLY
FOR PARENT CARERS
BOOST YOUR ENERGY
MORE THAN JUST A COFFEE

Grace House

Enriching the lives of disabled children, young people and their families.

HAPPINESS SPECIALS

FRIENDLY FACES
WARM CONVERSATIONS

MINDFUL MOMENTS

SUPPORTIVE DISCUSSION
SPACE TO BE HEARD

THE EXTRA CARE

MEET VICKI & WENDY
GUEST SPEAKERS

OPENING HOURS

EVERY FORTNIGHT ON
WEDNESDAYS
9:30AM - 11:30AM
GRACE HOUSE

✉ WH@gracehouse.co.uk

✉ VC@gracehouse.co.uk

☎ 0191 435 2088

COFFEE MORNING



Funded by:



Social Media Links and Contact Details:

Website: www.cann-network.org
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>