



## NECANN COMMUNICATION June 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](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

### **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](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/>

## CO CHAIR COMMENTS

### Welcome

We would like to welcome all members to our June newsletter and extend our thanks to everyone who continues to support and engage with NECANN. It is great to see ongoing collaboration, shared learning, and strong connections across the network.

### Have Your Say – Future Meeting Topics and Venues

We encourage members to come forward with ideas for future meeting topics or venues you would be happy to host or recommend.

Your input helps ensure meetings remain relevant, practical, and shaped by members' needs. We look forward to hearing your suggestions and continuing to develop engaging opportunities across the network.

### Next NECANN Meeting – Hadrian Family Fun Day

Our next meeting will take place as part of the Hadrian Family Fun Day on Saturday 28 June 2026 in Newcastle.

This will be a fantastic opportunity for members to showcase your service or charity, engage with families and the wider community, and raise awareness of the valuable work taking place across our network.

To book a place, please contact Elaine Quinn. [elaine.quinn@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:elaine.quinn@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk)

### National CANN webinar event

Thank you to everyone who signed up for and attended the CANN webinar held on 30 April 2026. It was encouraging to see strong engagement from across the network, with attendees highlighting the value of coming together to share knowledge, explore key topics, and learn from one another's experiences.

Feedback from participants has been very positive. Attendees particularly valued:

- The opportunity to hear from a range of speakers and perspectives
- Practical insights that can be applied within their own organisations
- The chance to connect with colleagues across the wider network

There was also interest in ensuring future national events continue to provide:

- Relevant and topical discussions
- Opportunities for collaboration and networking
- Clear, practical takeaways to support day-to-day work

Your feedback is extremely important and will help shape future CANN webinars and national events, ensuring they remain meaningful, engaging, and beneficial for all members. Please continue to provide feedback if you haven't done so yet.

### **New Member Spotlight – Harry's Pals**

Harry's Pals is a charity supporting parents across England whose child has a life-limiting or life-threatening condition. Their work focuses on reducing isolation, improving wellbeing, and creating meaningful support networks for families navigating complex and often overwhelming circumstances.

Their support includes short breaks away, peer support and community connection, and free counselling and therapy to support parents' mental health.

They believe parents should have access to emotional support at the point of diagnosis and aim for every parent to be signposted to Harry's Pals when receiving life-changing news.

### **New Member Spotlight – National Deaf Children's Society**

The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) is the leading UK charity supporting deaf children and young people and their families.

They provide expert information, local support, advocacy, and resources covering education, health, and technology to empower families and remove barriers.

### **New Member Spotlight - The Movement Centre**

At The Movement Centre, they provide specialist paediatric physiotherapy for children with movement difficulties. They are proud to specialise in Targeted Training, an evidence-based and life-changing therapy designed to help children and young people with movement disorders including Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, acquired brain injuries and genetic disorders.

Thank you to all our members for your continued engagement, contributions, and dedication to supporting children, young people, and families across the region. We look forward to seeing many of you at the Hadrian Family Fun Day and continuing to strengthen our network.

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

## NEW MEMBERS



### Harry's Pals

Harry's Pals is a charity supporting parents in England whose child has a life-limiting or life-threatening condition. Our work is centred on reducing isolation, improving wellbeing, and creating meaningful support networks for

families navigating complex and often overwhelming circumstances.

Created by Harry's mum and founder, Hayley Charlesworth, Harry's Pals was built through lived experience and a deep understanding of the challenges families can face when caring for a seriously ill child. Harry, the charity's namesake, remains at the heart of the organisation and its commitment to ensuring families feel seen, supported, and connected.

<https://harrispals.co.uk/>



### National Deaf Children's Society

The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) is the leading UK charity dedicated to supporting deaf children, young people, and their families, regardless of hearing loss level. They provide free, expert information, local support groups, advocacy, and online resources covering education, health, and technology to empower families and remove barriers to childhood

We're here for deaf children and everyone who cares about them. Whatever the question or challenge, we help find a way through.

We empower families to connect and drive change in their communities, and we campaign to make sure deaf children get the support they need.

We lead the way, sharing insight and knowledge in the UK and internationally.

<http://www.ndcs.org.uk>



## The Movement Centre

At The Movement Centre, they provide specialist paediatric physiotherapy for children with movement difficulties. They are proud to specialise in Targeted Training, an evidence-based and life-changing therapy designed to help children and young people with movement disorders including Cerebral

Palsy, Down Syndrome, acquired brain injuries and genetic disorders.

Through a structured course of therapy, children can develop new physical skills, develop strength, and improve postural control, leading to improved independence and confidence; changes that can have a profound and lasting impact on daily life.

They offer a fully-funded 12 month course of physiotherapy, with check-ins in person with our expert team and ongoing support and guidance so that therapy can be carried out safely and effectively at home.

<https://the-movement-centre.co.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/>

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## 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/>

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## 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)

## 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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## **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](mailto: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.

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# 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](http://ttht.co.uk/hub-professional-events)



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



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## Social Media Links and Contact Details:

Website: [www.cann-network.org](http://www.cann-network.org)  
Admin: [northeast@cann-network.org](mailto:northeast@cann-network.org)  
Chairs: [chair.northeast@cann-network.org](mailto: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>