



WYCANN COMMUNICATION
May 2026

INTRODUCTION	2
WYCANN MEETING DATES	2
CHAIR COMMENTS	2
NEW MEMBERS	4
Almond Tree Foundation	4
Action for Children	4
EVENTS AND INFORMATION - LEEDS	5
Upcoming Dog-Friendly Socials in Leeds!	5
Free suicide Prevention training	6
Autism Arena wellbeing events for parents and carers	8
New SEND Support Sessions Across Leeds!	8
Compassionate Culture Conference in Leeds (17th June 2026)	10
Health workshops: recordings	10
Health workshop for parents and carers: CYPMHS (CAMHS)	11
Lighthouse Futures Trust: Supported Internships	12
Leeds SEND parent carer information drop	13
SEND parent carer monthly information drop-in	14
Leeds Local Offer – join the new WhatsApp channel	15
DEX (Deaf Experience) free groups for young people	15
Social Communication and Interaction (Including Autism) Team Parent/Professional Training Sessions 2025-26	15
Free Parent & Baby Sessions	16
Be Curious 2026	17
Interplay Theatre - Upcoming Events	18
The SNAPS Superhero Challenge 2026!	19
Wellbeing Group for Carers (Women-Only, 18+)	20
Autism Arena Upcoming Events	21
Little Hiccups Upcoming Events	21
Moving and Handling of People Training	22
Consultation for the new Children's Library	23
Have your say on learning disability day services in Leeds	24
Play, Connect, and Relax: Free Infant Massage Course	24
Carers Leeds: Lasting Power of Attorney and the Alternatives	25
EVENTS AND INFORMATION - BRADFORD	26

Down Syndrome Bradford Dance Classes	26
Bradford SEND Parent/ carer Local Offer page update	26
Save the Date - Bradford district's 'SEND One Plan' parent/carer engagement sessions	27
ESBA Support Groups	28
Mencap Family Engagement Group	29
EVENTS AND INFORMATION - WAKEFIELD	31
EVENTS AND INFORMATION - KIRKLEES	31
SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS	31

INTRODUCTION

West Yorkshire 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 westyorkshire@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/>

WYCANN MEETING DATES

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

1st July 2026

10am - 12pm

John Charles Centre, Leeds

2nd December 2026

10am - 12pm

Venues to be confirmed

CHAIR COMMENTS

CANN Conference Reflection

What a brilliant and busy morning at our CANN Conference! We would like to say a massive thank you to our fantastic speakers; your contributions made it an incredible session, and we have taken so much away to share with our network. It was wonderful to see everyone coming together to support children and young people across West Yorkshire.

A Summer of Celebration & Support

We have a packed May and June ahead across the region, with a focus on bringing families together and providing expert guidance where it's needed most.

Family Fun & Inclusive Events: From inclusive "fun runs" and sensory theatre performances to outdoor adventure days and community showcases, there are plenty of opportunities for children and young people to build confidence and make new friends.

Information & Advice Drop-ins: Our CANN members are hosting several informal drop-in sessions across the region where you can meet with local service providers, share experiences with other parent-carers, and get direct advice on navigating the SEND system.

Specialised Training & Workshops: Whether you are looking for practical communication strategies, wellbeing support, or professional training for staff, our partners are offering a range of workshops designed to empower our community.

Creative & Social Groups: Our regular dance classes, youth councils, and wellbeing walks continue to provide a vital social outlet for young people and carers alike. For full details on any of these sessions, please check the regional updates below or visit the website.

New Connections

A very warm welcome to our newest members, The Almond Tree Foundation and Action for Children. Your work is a vital addition to our community.

Save the Date: WYCANN Meeting

Our next Network meeting is scheduled for 1st July 2026, from 10 am to 12 pm at John Charles Sports Centre where we have an exciting Agenda planned.

Thank you once again to everyone who attended the conference this morning—the energy and shared commitment were truly inspiring.

Lucy Owen and Carmel Gallagher
chair.westyorkshire@cann-network.org

NEW MEMBERS



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.

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 WYCANN website, you can be added by completing this form:

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

Please only use contact details that are for public use

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - LEEDS

Upcoming Dog-Friendly Socials in Leeds!

We are excited to share two upcoming events from **Pawsitive Action Leeds CIC** for dog lovers, assistance dog users, and anyone who just loves being around four-legged friends! Both events are LGBTQIA+ and disability inclusive.

Cookies and Canines

Join fellow dog enthusiasts for a relaxed, friendly, and accessible social at **Kulture Coffee**.

- **Date:** Wednesday 20th May (3rd Wednesday of the month)
- **Time:** 6pm – 8pm
- **Location:** Kulture Coffee, 380 Kirkstall Rd, LS4 2HQ
- **Details:** This is a FREE event, but please support the venue by grabbing a cuppa or a puppuccino! Friendly and non-reactive dogs are encouraged.


Dog Walking Social


A friendly, disability-inclusive dog walk open to everyone—whether you have a dog or not!

- **Date:** Saturday 30th May (last Saturday of the month)
- **Time:** 11:30am
- **Location:** Kirkstall Abbey (Meet at the Kirkstall Road main entrance)
- **Details:** Feel free to bring blankets and snacks for a potential picnic. Donations are welcomed to help cover running costs and volunteer travel.

We want to hear from you!

Pawsitive Action Leeds is looking for suggestions for future activities. Would you like to see more socials, specific training sessions, or workshops?

Get in touch or book:  **Email:** pawsitiveactionleeds@gmail.com  **Phone:** 07930 356 733



Cookies and Canines

All dog lovers welcome!
LGBTQIA+ and disability inclusive.
Friendly and non-reactive dogs encouraged!

A relaxed, friendly, accessible space to meet fellow dog enthusiasts.

This is a FREE event, so please support Kulture Coffee by having a cuppa and a puppuccino with us!
For enquiries email pawsitiveactionleeds@gmail.com

Where: Kulture Coffee
380 Kirkstall Rd, LS4 2HQ

When: 3rd Wednesday of the month (20th May)
Time: 6pm - 8pm

DOG WALKING SOCIAL

All Dogs and Humans Welcome!

Join us for a friendly, disability-inclusive dog walk whether you've got a dog or just love being around them!

We may also have a picnic, so bring your blankets and snacks!

Donations welcomed

Monies go toward:

- Running costs of PAL CIC
- Travel Costs of volunteers
- Other events and training

Location: Kirkstall Abbey (Kirkstall Road Main Entrance)
 When: 30th May (last Saturday of the month)
 Time: 11:30am
 Contact: pawsitiveactionleeds@gmail.com
 07930 356 733

Free suicide Prevention training

- Free for professionals in Leeds working with children and young people (limited spaces available until Sept 2026).
- Training available either online or in-person.
- Funded by Leeds City Council Public Health.
- Delivered by experienced workers from Leeds Survivor-Led Crisis Service with lived experience of mental health.
- Based on person centred and trauma informed approaches to mental health support.

This specialist training is designed for professionals in Leeds across education, health, social care, youth work and community services who want to:

- Gain insight and understanding of suicide thoughts and feelings include suicidal intent.
- Recognise warning signs and risk factors for suicide in children and young people.
- Learn practical techniques for early intervention and support.
- Build confidence in having safe and compassionate conversations around suicide.
- Strengthen your own internal procedures and policies and find out about referral pathways and signposting options.

The training supports schools to approach suicide prevention responsibly, and in alignment with recent national guidance. It builds on the mental wellbeing curriculum by strengthening staff confidence in recognising suicidal signs and behaviours alongside developing the skills to engage in meaningful conversations about suicide. This course provides practical tools you can apply immediately in your professional role.

Option 1 - Online Training:

This program is delivered across two online sessions. Each lasting 2 hour 15 minutes. Participants are encouraged to attend both; however, both sessions provide valuable, independent training.

Please note this is not webinar style as it will be interactive with break out rooms and discussions. Please keep camera on if possible.

Online Session One

- Insight and understanding of suicide ideation
- Find out about statistics and context
- Discuss myths and misconceptions
- Learn how to spot signs and behaviours
- Learn how to work with someone who is suicidal
- Gain practical techniques on how to have difficult conversations around suicide with young people
- Share and reflect

Online Session Two

- Discover the impact of social media
- Learn how to work with vulnerable groups
- Examine the use of language and wording
- Identify risk and protective factors
- Learn how to manage risk levels
- Find out about the LEAN technique
- Practice case studies
- Share and reflect

Register via the links below:

Session One: Tuesday 5th May - 2pm – 4:15pm - Teams

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/54dde6ac-f432-4808-ad37-1f1e98008771@4c07dc0f-a2b3-4083-9851-e5cb3b532112>

Session Two: Thursday 21st May – 2pm – 4:15pm – Teams

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/0389d283-e95e-46fd-8724-9cecd8f43c32@4c07dc0f-a2b3-4083-9851-e5cb3b532112>

Option 2 - Face-to-face training:

This program is delivered in one 5 hour training session held at Tech North in Chapel Allerton:

Thursday 23rd April – 10am – 3pm

Monday 18th May – 10am – 3pm

Monday 8th June – 10am – 3pm

Thursday 16th July – 10am – 3pm

Wednesday 16th September – 10am – 3pm

Please note there are only 10 face to face spaces so once all sessions are full there will be a waiting list.

To book by email natalie.kirby@slcs.org.uk

Please note - the training content is the same so please only book on either online or in-person.

Autism Arena wellbeing events for parents and carers

The image contains two promotional posters for Autism Arena wellbeing events. Both posters have a dark purple background with white and pink text and icons.

Left Poster: Regulation & relaxation sessions for parents and carers

- Website: www.autismarena.org.uk
- Lead: Audrey from Step into Sophrology
- Dates: Thursday 23 April, Thursday 30 April, Thursday 7 May, Thursday 14 May
- Time: 7-8pm
- Format: Online via Zoom
- Booking: Scan the QR code or search for the Autism Arena Eventbrite page
- Funding: Funded by the Community Fund

Right Poster: Wellbeing walks in nature for parents and carers

- Website: www.autismarena.org.uk
- Lead: Candice from Calm in the Wild CIC
- Dates: Tuesday 5 May, Tuesday 12 May, Tuesday 19 May, Tuesday 2 June
- Time: 12:30-2 pm
- Location: Leeds parks
- Booking: Scan the QR code or search the Autism Arena Eventbrite page
- Funding: Funded by the Community Fund

Both can be booked via our Eventbrite page for a small donation:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/autism-arena-cic-85286071533>

New SEND Support Sessions Across Leeds!

Are you navigating the SEND system, waiting for an assessment, or looking for advice on supporting your child's needs at home? Leeds Family Hubs are hosting a variety of monthly drop-in sessions and specialist training across the city.

These sessions are a great opportunity to meet SEND Co-ordinators like Amanda, Natalie, and Hope in a relaxed, supportive environment.

Monthly Drop-In Schedule

The Reginald Centre (9:30am – 12:00pm)

- Tuesday 5th May
- Monday 1st June & Monday 29th June
- Monday 20th July

Moor Allerton Community Hub (9:30am – 12:00pm)

- Monday 20th April
- Monday 18th May
- Monday 15th June
- Monday 13th July

The Compton Centre (Booking Required: 12:30pm – 3:00pm)

- Tuesday 5th May
- Tuesday 2nd June
- Tuesday 7th July
- To book a slot, email family.hubs@leeds.gov.uk and quote 'Compton SEND drop in'.

East 6 Family Hubs (Various Locations)

- Garforth Library: Thursday 7th May (9:30am – 12:30pm)
- Wellington Hill Residents Association: Thursday 14th May (6:00pm – 7:30pm)
- Lord Gascoigne, Garforth: Thursday 16th April (5:30pm – 7:00pm)

Cygnets Training: Autism Support Programme

If you are a parent or carer of an autistic child or young person (aged 5-18), a new 7-week Cygnets course is starting this May!

- When: Friday mornings (9:30am – 12:30pm) starting 8th May through to 26th June.
- Where: The Compton Centre, Harehills Lane.
- How to join: Email family.hubs@leeds.gov.uk and quote 'SEND Specialist Co-Ords Chapeltown & Compton'.

Please note: These events are run by Leeds Family Hubs/Leeds City Council. For more information or to check future dates, you can contact the Family Hub central line at 0113 5350185.

#LeedsSEND #ParentCarerSupport #SENDLeeds #SpecialNeedsSupport #LeedsFamilyHubs
#AutismSupport

Compassionate Culture Conference in Leeds (17th June 2026)

We are delighted to invite colleagues, partners, and leaders from across our system to the West Yorkshire Compassionate Cultures Conference 2026, taking place on Wednesday 17 June at the Centenary Pavilion, Leeds United Football Stadium. [Link to book](#)

This inspiring full-day event is a chance to step away from the everyday pressures of work and reconnect with what truly supports people, teams, and services to thrive. At a time when many of us are feeling stretched or disconnected, the conference offers space to pause, reflect, and focus on the power of compassionate, inclusive cultures.

This event brings together colleagues from health, social care, and the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector. It's a valuable opportunity to connect across organisations, learn from each other, and feel part of a collective movement towards healthier, more compassionate workplaces.

By joining us, you will:

- Reconnect with your values, purpose, and the positive impact of your work
- Take away practical tools to support wellbeing, inclusion, and psychological safety
- Learn from real examples of compassionate practice across West Yorkshire
- Understand why compassionate cultures matter — for engagement, resilience, and thriving teams
- Leave energised, inspired, and confident to lead and work differently

We hope you can join us for what promises to be an uplifting and impactful day dedicated to supporting the people who make our services possible.

[For more information and the link to book please click here](#)

We are also looking for a couple of Health and Wellbeing stalls at the event if anyone would be interested. Ideally we are looking for stalls with an interactive element so if you want to talk through ideas [please get in touch](#).

If anyone has any questions please do get in touch.

Thanks

[Emma](#)

Health workshops: recordings

Colleagues from Health, in collaboration with the Leeds Parent Carer Forum, are hosting a series of online information workshops for parents and carers.

The sessions cover topics such as:

- Leeds Teaching Hospitals Learning Disability and Autism Team (October 2025)
- Health services in Leeds (February 2026)

- CYPMHS / CAMHS (May 2026)
- Health Screening (July 2026)

All workshops are delivered online, and recordings can be [accessed here](#).

Health workshop for parents and carers: CYPMHS (CAMHS)

Workshop for parents and carers of children with SEND

Date: Thursday 21st May 2026

Time: 11am till 12pm

Venue: Microsoft Teams

The session will cover:

- An overview of the CYPMHS service
- Information about the teams in CYPMHS and what they offer (including support for mental health and ADHD medication)
- How to access support from CYPMHS

a recording of the session will be made available after.

Book your free place here: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/HealthWorkshop/>

Workshop for parents and carers



The session will cover:

- An overview of the CYPMHS service.
- Information about the teams in CYPMHS and what they offer (including support for mental health and ADHD medication).
- How to access support from CYPMHS.

[Book your free place](https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/HealthWorkshop/)

<https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/HealthWorkshop/>



We will be recording the session, if you are unable to attend but would like to submit a question please complete the booking form

Lighthouse Futures Trust: Supported Internships

Lighthouse Futures Trust is an innovative specialist college and registered charity supporting young adults aged 16–25 with an EHCP (Education, Health & Care Plan) to develop confidence, life skills and employability so they can move into sustainable, paid employment.

- Supported Internships – Work-based internship programmes working with inclusive local employers, helping interns gain real work experience and skills with tailored support.
- Pre-Internships – College-based pathways for those who need more time building employability skills before moving into workplace internships.
- Connect programme (new for 2025) – A transitional programme offering short placements and community-based opportunities for young people preparing to enter supported internships.

- Enrichment and support - Including one-to-one mentoring, workshops, employer visits, enterprise projects and wellbeing support.
- Open Events & Taster Visits – Regular events where families, young people and professionals can visit Carlton House, meet the team and find out more about our programmes.

Training & Resources

Lighthouse Futures Trust work with employers to promote inclusive workplaces and offer information and guidance around SEND employment pathways. The college supports learners in gaining functional Maths & English qualifications alongside vocational skills.

Find out more:

- Website: <https://lighthousefuturestrust.org.uk/>
- Email: info@lighthousefuturestrust.org.uk
- Tel: 0113 340 0006

Leeds SEND parent carer information drop


- **Date:** Wednesday 13th May 2026
- **Time:** 10.30am till 12.30pm
- **Venue:** The Old Fire Station, Gipton Approach, LS9 6NL

Speak to services and receive information and advice:

- Leeds Local Offer
- Leeds Parent Carer Forum
- SENDIASS
- Carers Leeds
- Little Hiccups
- Child Health and Disability Team (CHAD)
- Speech and Language Therapy Service
- SEND Coordinators

Let us know if you will be attending the drop in here: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/InfoDropIn/>

If you have any questions please contact LLO@leeds.gov.uk



www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk
[@Leeds Local Offer](https://www.facebook.com/leedslocaloffer)
LLO@leeds.gov.uk
<https://tinyurl.com/LLOWhatsApp>

SEND PARENT CARER INFORMATION DROP IN


Date	Time	Venue
Wed 13 May	10.30 till 12.30	The Old Fire Station, Gipton Approach, LS9 6NL

Services in attendance:

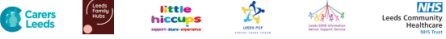
- Leeds Local Offer
- SENDIASS
- Carers Leeds
- Child Health and Disability Team (CHAD)
- Leeds Parent Carer Forum
- Little Hiccups
- Speech and Language Therapy Service
- SEND Coordinators, Family Hubs

Let us know if you will be attending the drop in

<https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/infoDropIn/>



If you would like more information about the drop in sessions email LLO@leeds.gov.uk



SEND parent carer monthly information drop-in

A monthly drop in for parents and carers to speak to services to receive information and advice about what is available in Leeds to support their family.

- Leeds Local Offer
- SENDIASS
- Leeds Parent Carer Forum
- Carers Leeds
- Little Hiccups
- Child Health and Disability Team (CHAD)
- Leeds Speech and Language Service
- SEND Coordinators, Family Hubs

Dates and times of drop in

- Wednesday 13th May 2026, 10.30 till 12.30 at The Old Fire Station, Gipton Approach, Leeds, LS9 6NL
- Wednesday 10th June 2026, 10.30 till 12.30 at Horsforth Library Building, Town Street, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 5BL
- Wednesday 8th July 2026, 10.30 till 12.30 at The Welcome Centre, Belle Isle Rd, Belle Isle, Leeds, LS10 3DN

Book your place at the drop in here: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/InfoDropIn/>

If you require further information about the drop in sessions email LLO@leeds.gov.uk, follow the Leeds Local Offer [facebook page](#) or [WhatsApp channel](#).

Leeds Local Offer – join the new WhatsApp channel

We have launched a new WhatsApp channel for families to find out about...

- Local Offer developments
- SEND service updates
- Events for families

Join the WhatsApp channel here: <https://tinyurl.com/LLOWhatsApp>

DEX (Deaf Experience) free groups for young people

DEX (Deaf Experience) are inviting deaf and hard of hearing young people (11 to 30 years old) from Yorkshire to join their free groups and activities.

DEX Deaf Youth Hub (ages 11–17)

DEX Deaf Youth Council (ages 17–30)

FREE events, outreach sessions, advocacy support & travel help

Open to all deaf young people, with any communication method

Want to join or refer someone?

Website: www.dex.org.uk

Email: contact@dex.org.uk

Tel: 07482 228429

Social Communication and Interaction (Including Autism) Team Parent/Professional Training Sessions 2025-26

Preparation for adulthood (session 4: employment)

- Date: Wednesday 6th May 2026
- Time: 9.45am till 11.15am
- Venue: online

This session is suitable for parents and professionals who are currently supporting young people to identify their strengths and interests and how this can inform their aspirations for the future.

The training will explore resources and approaches to plan the steps to employment such as preparing for an interview through to opportunities in employment and how to effectively self-advocate in the workplace and request adjustments.

Keeping autistic children and young people safe online

- Date: Wednesday 3rd June 2026
- Time: 9.15am till 11.15am
- Venue: online

This session is suitable for parents and professionals who are currently supporting children and young people to navigate the online world safely.

The workshop will explore the importance of online media to autistic identity and wellbeing- to build positive connections and communities. During the workshop discussions will take place to explore how to monitor the safe use of online platforms and understand vulnerabilities when young people access these. There will be a focus on the current themes present in harmful online content and how to support young people to navigate these safely.

For parents to book please email leedsforlearning@leeds.gov.uk with your name, email and training date you would like to be booked on.

Free Parent & Baby Sessions

We are delighted to share some fantastic upcoming sessions from the My First 1000 Days team at the University of Leeds.

These are designed to be flexible, standalone sessions for expectant parents and those with new babies.

Whether you want to attend one or both, these expert-led groups are a wonderful way to meet other local parents in a supportive, baby-friendly environment.

What's coming up?

Tuesday 5th May: Parental Conflict and Support

Tuesday 12th May: Coping with Stress and Self-Care

The Details:

Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Where: The Vinery Centre, Leeds, LS9 9LU

Cost: Completely FREE!

What's included?

A lovely free lunch or light meal

Small gifts and a goodie bag for you and your baby


Expert guidance and a chance to chat with other parents

 How to join:

Places are limited to 20 per session and pre-booking is essential (no walk-ins on the day). You are welcome to attend even if you choose not to take part in the research element of the project.

Book your free place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk>

Or email: myfirst1000days@leeds.ac.uk

Please do share this with any expectant mamas or new parents who might find these sessions helpful! 



FREE Parent & Baby Sessions

Tuesday 5th May

- **Parental Conflict and Support**

Tuesday 12th May

- **Coping with Stress and Self Care**

Time: 10 am – 2 pm

Where: The Vinery Centre
Leeds, LS9 9LU

We'll invite you to share your thoughts at the end to help us improve future sessions

What's included:

- Expert-led group sessions
- Meet other parents
- **Free lunch or light meal**
- **Small gifts for you and your baby**
Babies and pregnant parents welcome!

How to book your free place:
Join us for one or as many sessions as you would like - sign up below.

Book online: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk>
or scan the QR code



Email: myfirst1000days@leeds.ac.uk

Places limited to 20.
Pre-booking only – no walk-ins on the day.

Part of the **My First 1000 Days** research project Run by the **University of Leeds**



Be Curious 2026

Saturday 16 May 10am – 4pm (10am – 11am quiet hour)

Come along to Be Curious - a fun and free family activity day at the University of Leeds.

Explore hands-on experiments and eye-opening discoveries for children, from toddlers to older kids. Everyone is welcome, whether you're curious about science, arts, engineering, or simply love learning something new. It's a brilliant chance to explore the research shaping our world, happening right here in Leeds.

Book your free Be Curious tickets now
<https://www.leeds.ac.uk/becurious>

Interplay Theatre - Upcoming Events

INTERPLAY
NATIONAL SENSORY THEATRE

OUT OF ORBIT

A STARGAZING STORY ABOUT
OUTERSPACE AND FINDING
YOUR PLACE

A SENSORY
THEATRE SHOW
FOR AUDIENCES
WITH LEARNING
DISABILITIES,
PMLD AND/OR
AUTISM

www.interplaytheatre.org.uk Armley Ridge Road, LS12 3LE

OUT OF ORBIT **STARCATCHERS** **INTERPLAY**
Creative Kin NATIONAL SENSORY THEATRE

Originally commissioned by Starcatchers and created with the families of Creative Kin and Lead Artist, Kirsty Pennycook. We thank the families navigating the kinship care system in North Ayrshire for trusting us with their stories and experiences, and for their children's creative inputs to the show.

Interplay Theatre - LS12 3LE

Tuesday 28th April 1.30pm | 4.30pm
Thursday 30th April 1.30pm | 4.30pm
Friday 1st May 1.30pm | 4.30pm
Tuesday 26th May 11am | 2pm
Wednesday 27th May 11am | 2pm
Tuesday 28th May 11am | 2pm

£ Free to book, donations on the door

BOOK NOW Email: booking@interplaytheatre.org.uk

Can't make it to Interplay?

Guiseley Theatre @ The Green LS20 9BT
Tuesday 5th May 10.30am | 1.30pm
BOOK NOW www.guiseleytheatre.org/boxoffice

CAST Doncaster - DN1 3BU
Saturday 30th May 11.30am | 1.30pm
BOOK NOW www.castindoncaster.com/events/out-of-orbit/

Arts Council England | Leeds City Council | Starcatchers Creative Kin | Wade's Charity AS THE HEART OF LEEDS



INTERPLAY
NATIONAL SENSORY THEATRE

**LS12 Creative
Sensory Open Days**

Interplay Theatre
Creating sensory theatre which places the audience at the centre of the experience.

LS12 Creative
Home to all of Interplay Theatre's participation work that happens in our building, in our area and beyond.

We are opening our doors to welcome young people with learning disabilities, PMLD and/or autism, with their families and carers.

interplaytheatre.org.uk Armley Ridge Road, LS12 3LE



2026

Saturday 11th April
Saturday 9th May
Saturday 6th June
Saturday 4th July
Saturday 1st August
Saturday 12th September
Saturday 3rd October
Saturday 7th November
Saturday 5th December

11am - 12.30pm or 2pm - 3.30pm **Free!**

What happens on a Sensory Open Day?

These monthly free-form open days are themed differently each time and introduce ideas, celebrate messy spaces, and promotes play, whatever that means for you. Our Sensory Youth Theatre group will share music, creative play and art, and our artists are led by the participants with very few rules or expectations.

Come and explore, create, and express yourselves in a relaxed and supportive environment. Booking a place means we can plan and tailor our activities to the young people and we can ensure that the sessions don't get too busy.

Find us on the 15, 16, 72 and 508 bus routes.

To book, contact the team on:
Email: takepart@interplaytheatre.org.uk
Call: 0113 263 8556
Text: 07444 229628

Arts Council England Supporting public funding by **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**

Leeds CITY COUNCIL

interplaytheatre.org.uk Armley Ridge Road, LS12 3LE

The SNAPS Superhero Challenge 2026!

The SNAPS Superhero Challenge is an inclusive 'fun run' style event which gives children with additional needs the chance to feel like a superhero for the day. This combined with lots of entertainment and activities means the perfect day out for all ages and abilities!

The event is a fun-filled morning for the whole family:

Date: Sunday 31 May, 10.30am – 12.30pm

Cost: Registration fee: £0 to £12 (depending on registration option)

Venue: John Charles Centre for Sport, Middleton Grove, Belle Isle, Leeds LS11 5DJ

For more information and tickets visit: [The SNAPS Superhero Challenge 2026 | SNAPS Yorkshire](#)

A fun filled morning for all the family:

- Giant bouncy castle & inflatable soft play
- Meet Super Girl, Super Mario & other superheroes
- Face painting
- Arts & crafts
- Pre-event warm up
- Inclusive sport sessions
- Games & sensory play
- and more!!

Each child will receive a superhero cape to wear on the day, goody bag and medal.

Every child will decide on their own distance target for the event. They may choose to go halfway round, the full way round or keep going many times. They can walk, run or wheel* around the track being cheered on to the finish line where they will receive their own challenge medal!

*only applies to accessibility aids such as wheelchairs, walkers, pushchairs.

Can you help us spread the word?

If you would be willing to share the event on your social media/newsletter/intranets, or display a poster or leaflets, we would be so grateful. Please contact fundraising@snapsyorkshire.org for digital or paper flyers and posters. Thank you.

Wellbeing Group for Carers (Women-Only, 18+)

The Women's Counselling and Therapy Service is offering a free 8-week Wellbeing Group for women who are carers, and we're inviting professionals to share this opportunity with anyone who may benefit.

Dates: 13 April – 15 June 2026 (No sessions on Bank Holidays 4 May and 25 May)

Time: Mondays, 2:30pm – 4:00pm

Location: Women's Counselling and Therapy Service, 43 Park Square North, Leeds LS1 2NP

This supportive, women-only group is facilitated by a qualified and accredited female therapist. The programme focuses on helping carers build their wellbeing, confidence, and self-care. Over the 8 weeks, participants will explore stress and anxiety, learn to recognise their own triggers, and develop practical strategies for emotional regulation.

Please note: this is a psycho-educational group, not group therapy. The aim is to provide carers with tools and understanding they can use in their daily lives.

Anyone interested will need to complete this [online form](#) by the 13th of March and we will offer a 1-to-1 initial meeting before joining the group. Bus travel can be reimbursed.

Please share this information widely with anyone in your networks who might benefit. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sophia Ulhaq (she/her) (soh-FEE-yah)

Services Manager

Mobile: 07935656133 | Office: 0113 245 5725

Please note I work Tuesdays (11.30-7), Wednesdays (9-5), Thursdays (10-6), Fridays (8.30-4)

Autism Arena Upcoming Events

We have:

- Every Tuesday in May, 12:30-2pm : Mindful wellbeing walks for parents and carers

All can be booked via our Eventbrite page: [Autism Arena CIC Events - 5 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

We are still gathering interest on the best time to host the online sessions:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid02JixGh4B3wHwnFr3jCbz1gzLabsMcsu39bk4AsJsFHEpNQFW66XXS5jx5Ux67tUMWI&id=61557120176731 - they will soon also be added to the Eventbrite page

Little Hiccups Upcoming Events

Register interest:

[Trial for "Ready for Physio" Balance & Coordination Group](#)

May 3rd: Relaxed Family Session at Bianco Lounge

[Bookings Open 1st April >](#)

May 5th - Thriving Together

[Bookings Open >](#)

May 5th - Carer's Chill Night

[Bookings Open >](#)

Shifting Gears: Helping Young People Through Everyday Transitions and Routine Changes

[In person: 6th May, 10am >](#)

[Online \(evening\): 13th, 7pm >](#)

[Online \(daytime\): 15th, 10am >](#)

May 10th: Stockeld Park Spring Fun

[Bookings Open >](#)

May 11th - Dadlands

[Bookings Open >](#)

May 19th: Wills - How parents can make provision for children

[Bookings Open >](#)

May 22nd - Financial Planning for SEND Families – Building a Secure Future

[Bookings Open >](#)

May 26th - Picnic & Mosaic Trail Meet-Up: Harewood House

[Bookings Open >](#)

May 27 - Musical Theatre Workshop: Aladdin

[Bookings Open >](#)

Please click on the links above for more details, See below or visit our website.

As always, if you ever have any questions, please do get in touch and let us know by emailing

info@littlehiccups.co.uk

Moving and Handling of People Training

We wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the Moving and Handling of People training we currently offer.

Please feel free to share this information with your colleagues and wider contacts who may benefit from the training.

Train the Trainer

Our Train the Trainer: Moving and Handling course, is designed to equip staff with the knowledge, confidence and practical skills to safely deliver moving and handling training within their own organisation.

This course provides a comprehensive understanding of risk assessment and safe handling techniques, alongside guidance on how to effectively teach and assess others.

Spaces still available on our June and October courses.

<https://wmdlc.org/services/moving-handling-training/train-the-trainer/>

Annual Update

Our Moving and Handling of People – Annual Update course is designed to refresh and reinforce essential knowledge and practical skills in safe moving and handling.

This session provides an opportunity to revisit key principles, update your understanding of current legislation and best practice, and ensure continued confidence in carrying out safe techniques. It

also supports staff in maintaining compliance and reducing the risk of injury for both themselves and the people they support.

The National Back Exchange recommends that everyone who has attended a moving and handling training course, then attends an annual update.

Are you up to date?

Spaces still available on our July, October and December courses.

<https://wmdlc.org/services/moving-handling-training/train-the-trainer-annual-update/>

Consultation for the new Children's Library

I hope you don't mind the email, I just wanted to see if you guys might be interested in working with us on a piece of consultation work?

We are currently developing a new [Children's Library commission](#) at Leeds Central Library, working with artists Joanne Tatham and Tom O'Sullivan to create a large-scale, artist-designed environment for children aged 0-11 and their families. This new installation will replace the much-loved Tiny Trolley space and will form part of the wider ground floor redevelopment, launching in Autumn 2026.

The project brings together storytelling, shared reading, imaginative play and social interaction in a bold and playful way. A key priority for us is ensuring the space is as inclusive and accessible as possible for a wide range of children and families.

To support this, we are embedding consultation meaningfully from the outset and throughout the development process. The next phase of consultation will focus specifically on visitor experience, exploring how families might use the space, identifying potential barriers and developing creative solutions.

We plan to host a consultation day involving multiple groups, likely organised into staggered focus sessions. By the end of the day, we aim to gain insight into how families with lived experience of disability and/or neurodivergence would engage with the library, as well as any challenges or concerns they may have with the concept design. The provisional date for this consultation is Thursday 28 May. This will more than likely be held in close proximity to Leeds Central Library. Please let me know if you would like to have a phone call so I can provide you with some more context.

Best wishes,
Caitlin

--

Caitlin McHugh (she/her)

Assistant Curator
Yorkshire Contemporary

Working days: Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri & Sat (8:30–4pm)

Email: caitlin.mchugh@yorkshirecontemporary.org
Mobile: 07440153897

Have your say on learning disability day services in Leeds

Leeds City Council is currently gathering feedback to help improve learning disability day services in Leeds.

They are keen to hear from:

- Young people with learning disabilities, especially those approaching or going through transition into adulthood
- Family carers

The feedback will help Leeds City Council better understand what matters most to young people and families, what works well in current day opportunities, and where there may be gaps, particularly for young people moving into adulthood. This will help inform future day services commissioned in Leeds.

There are two short, anonymous surveys:

- Young people's survey: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/THW5MC/>
- Carer survey: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/ZA4JFQ/>

The deadline to share feedback is Friday, 8th May.

Thank you for helping make sure families' voices are heard.

Best wishes,
Leeds PCF

Play, Connect, and Relax: Free Infant Massage Course

Are you looking for a gentle way to bond with your little one while meeting other families? Sense is hosting a free five-week Infant Massage course specifically designed for babies (0–12 months) with additional needs.

This course is a wonderful opportunity to learn soothing techniques that can support your baby's development and wellbeing in a relaxed, supportive environment.

When: Every Monday throughout June:

- Day 1: 1 June (10:00 - 11:30)
- Day 2: 8 June (10:00 - 11:30)
- Day 3: 15 June (10:00 - 11:30)
- Day 4: 22 June (10:00 - 11:30)
- Day 5: 29 June (10:00 - 11:30)
-

Where: Tumble Town Adventure Play, Ghyll Royd, Guiseley, Leeds, LS20 9PP

Cost: Totally FREE, but booking is essential to secure your spot!

Infant massage can be particularly beneficial for children with complex communication needs or sensory impairments, helping to improve sleep patterns, aid digestion, and promote relaxation for both parent and child.

Find out more and book your place here:

<https://www.sense.org.uk/shop/online-shop/infant-massage-0-12mnths-leeds/>

Carers Leeds: Lasting Power of Attorney and the Alternatives

13 May 2026 — 12:00 - 13:00

This session will cover:

- What a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is and how it works
- How to set up an LPA for health, care, or finances
- Alternative options for planning ahead

Over the coming months, Carers Leeds will run a series of monthly online sessions designed to empower carers with practical advice on issues affecting their caring role.

[Book your place→](#)

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - BRADFORD

Down Syndrome Bradford Dance Classes

May newsletter should be out by next week and it should be posted on our website:

<https://www.downsyndromebradford.com/our-newsletters-1>

We are currently trying to promote our dance classes and improve numbers in attendance:

TWIRLY21s

Twirly21s is a lovely continuation from our early development groups. They are specifically for children with Down syndrome aged 5 to 12, allowing parents and children from previous groups to keep in touch and share experiences.

Twirly21s dance every Saturday, 2.30 to 3.30pm at Footsteps Theatre School, Idle, BD10 8PY. Classes are delivered by Claire King who has a wealth of experience working with young children who have Down syndrome. Dancers are asked to pay £2 (donation) on entry to practice their money skills.

dance21

This is our older dance group for young people aged 12+. Dance sessions are every Thursday, 6 to 7pm at Footsteps Theatre School, Idle, BD10 8PY with Claire King. Cost is £3.50 per session (by donation) on entry to enable the dancers to practice their money skills.

<https://www.downsyndromebradford.com/>

Bradford SEND Parent/ carer Local Offer page update

Some of you will be aware that we have been working with our SEND Parent/ carer ambassadors and members of the Parent/ carer network to make changes to improve the parent/ carer pages of the Local Offer.

Our parent/ carers fed back they wanted clearer categories and sub categories so families can navigate the site easier, a review of the number of services and settings that appear in each sub category and better explanations and links to One Minute Guides.

If you have not been on the Local offer pages recently please see the link below to the updated parent/ carer pages.

[Bradford Local Offer | Parents and carers](#)

In the recent parent/ carer survey 68% of families reported they had heard of the Local Offer and 29% reported they accessed the newsletter. If you are happy to promote the Local Offer to your families here are some quick links:

- [Bradford Local Offer](#)
- [Bradford Local Offer | One Minute Guides](#)
- [Facebook @LocalOfferBd](#)
- [SEND Newsletter subscribe link](#) or share using this shortened link bit.ly/BfdSENDNewsletter
- [SEND virtual noticeboard](#) – if you have access to a notice board here you can find posters for Local Offer, Family Hubs, SENDIASS
- [SEND parent/carers support groups](#)
- [Bradford Local Offer | SEND Local Offer Promotional Toolkit](#)
- SEND support in Family Hubs incl dates for monthly SEND drop-ins: [SEND support in Family Hubs | Bradford Families and Young Persons](#)
- If you wish to access the 15 minute local offer training please contact Nigel the Local Offer lead nigel.hammon@bradford.gov.uk
- At the top right of the website is the translate tool and on each page there is a print option so you can show our diverse families these options if helpful

For anyone with an e-newsletter here is some suggested content to promote the SEND Local Offer:

Need help with finding support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)? Bradford District's SEND Local Offer is a one stop website helping you find information, services and activities for children and young people aged from birth to 25 years, with special educational needs, and/or disabilities (SEND) or who are neurodivergent.

Visit the SEND Local Offer website for a range of One Minute Guides on key topics:

www.localoffer.bradford.gov.uk

Sign up to receive a monthly SEND Newsletter: bit.ly/BfdSENDNewsletter

Follow on [@LocalOfferBd](#)

We know there is still work to do on some categories and as always we welcome your feedback.

Thanks in advance

Sally

Sally.Skipper@bradford.gov.uk

Save the Date - Bradford district's 'SEND One Plan' parent/carers engagement sessions

Bradford's SEND and Inclusion Partnership has created a clear and joined-up plan called the [SEND One Plan](#). It brings together everything from the district's [SEND Strategy](#), [the Written Statement of Action \(WSOA\)](#) from the last inspection, and advice from the Local Government Association.

Join the team at an upcoming parent/carers engagement session.

Friday, 15 May 2026, 10am - 12pm (in-person)
Friday, 3 July 2026, 10am - 12pm (in-person).
To book, email: supportnews@PFBA.org.uk

ESBA Support Groups

Is your child struggling to go to school due to feelings of worry or stress?

Are you unsure about what to do?



Why not join a parent support session for Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA), delivered by our friendly, supportive Educational Psychologist Team.

You'll find a safe space to:

- Share and listen to other parents and get ideas to help
- Learn more about what you can do to support your child, and what you can expect from school

Location: Online

Dates: Wednesday 29th April to Wednesday 20th May at 1.00pm to 2.30pm.

You will need to be able to attend all 4 sessions

Book: by e-mailing EBSA@bradford.gov.uk





**Family Engagement
Project**



**Support for
parents and carers
of children
aged 0-10 with
Special Educational
Needs and Disabilities
or emerging needs in
Bradford**

Welcoming
Coffee
mornings

Information
and
signposting

1-1 Support
from Family
Connectors
with lived
experience

No diagnosis
or pathway
necessary

Friendly
community

**Scan the QR code to register.
For further information, email us at:
FEPBradford@mencap.org.uk**



mencap **Family Engagement Project**

SEND Parent and Carer Coffee Morning

Join our community of parents and carers of children aged 0-10 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities or emerging needs for informal advice and support.

- Helpful advice and support
- Free refreshments
- Meet other SEND parents
- Children welcome
- Signposting to services

Come and join us at our next session!
Wednesday 6th May
10.00am - 11.30am
Park Lane Centre, Park Lane, Bradford. BD5 0LN

Family Engagement Project in Bradford
 To register with the project, scan the QR code or visit our Facebook page – Mencap Family Engagement Project Bradford and follow the link. For further information email us at: BradfordFEP@mencap.org.uk

mencap **Family Engagement Project**

SEND Parent and Carer Coffee Morning

Join our community of parents and carers of children aged 0-10 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities or emerging needs for informal advice and support.

- Helpful advice and support
- Free refreshments
- Meet other SEND parents
- Children welcome
- Signposting to services

Come and join us at our next session!
Wednesday 20th May
10.00am - 11.30am
Kirkgate Community Centre, 39A Kirkgate, Shipley, BD18 3EH

Family Engagement Project in Bradford
 To register with the project, scan the QR code or visit our Facebook page – Mencap Family Engagement Project Bradford and follow the link. For further information email us at: BradfordFEP@mencap.org.uk

mencap **Family Engagement Project**

SEND Parent and Carer Coffee Morning

Join our community of parents and carers of children aged 0-10 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities or emerging needs for informal advice and support.

- Helpful advice and support
- Free refreshments
- Meet other SEND parents
- Children welcome
- Signposting to services

Come and join us at Park Lane Centre!
1st Wednesday of each month
10.00am - 11.30am
Park Lane Centre, Park Lane, Bradford. BD5 0LN

Family Engagement Project in Bradford
 To register with the project, scan the QR code or visit our Facebook page – Mencap Family Engagement Project Bradford and follow the link. For further information email us at: BradfordFEP@mencap.org.uk

mencap **Family Engagement Project**

SEND Parent and Carer Coffee Morning

Join our community of parents and carers of children aged 0-10 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities or emerging needs for informal advice and support.

- Helpful advice and support
- Free refreshments
- Meet other SEND parents
- Children welcome
- Signposting to services

Come and join us at Kirkgate Community Centre!
3rd Wednesday of each month
10.00am - 11.30am
Kirkgate Community Centre, 39A Kirkgate, Shipley, BD18 3EH

Family Engagement Project in Bradford
 To register with the project, scan the QR code or visit our Facebook page – Mencap Family Engagement Project Bradford and follow the link. For further information email us at: BradfordFEP@mencap.org.uk

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - WAKEFIELD

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - KIRKLEES

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Website:	www.cann-network.org
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