



NECANN COMMUNICATION

July 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

Choice Wellbeing CIC (new hub)

24th September 2026

10am - 12pm

Details to be confirmed

CO CHAIR COMMENTS

Hello everyone,

We hope you are all well and enjoying the start of summer.

Firstly, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended the Hadrian Family Fun Day. It was fantastic to see so many of you there – the event was a real success, and the lovely weather certainly helped make it a brilliant day for all involved. It was a great opportunity to connect, share experiences, and enjoy some well-deserved time together.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new members, The WellChild and The SEND Club CIC this month – it's great to have you join the network.

As we head into the school summer holidays, we know many of you will have activities and events planned. Please send in details of any upcoming summer events you would like us to share across the network – we're always keen to promote and support what everyone is doing.

Looking ahead, our next in-person meeting will take place at:

Choice Wellbeing CIC (new hub)
www.choicewellbeingservice.org
Thursday 24th September

Further details will be shared in our August communications, so please keep an eye out for more information.

As always, thank you for your continued support and involvement in NECANN.

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

NEW MEMBERS



WellChild

WellChild is the national charity for children with complex medical needs and their families. Thousands of children and young people are living across the UK with complex medical needs. Many spend months, even years in hospital because there is no support enabling them to leave. WellChild exists to give these children the best chance to thrive: at home, with their families.

WellChild Nurses support children to leave hospital and receive care at home, while our Training Suites equip parents and carers with the skills and confidence to manage complex care safely. Garden Transformation Projects create safe, accessible outdoor spaces tailored to each child's needs.

Through the WellChild Family Tree, families can connect with others who understand their experiences through our online community, events and activities, providing invaluable peer-to-peer support and reducing isolation.

We also offer trusted information and practical support through our Information Hub, our interactive In Your Area tool, which helps families find accessible local services, and our Family Welfare Service, which provides assistance with benefits applications, grant funding and referrals to specialist support.

Together, these services provide practical, emotional and financial support, helping families live happier, healthier lives at home.

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



The SEND Club CIC

The SEND Club is a lived experience-led community for children, young people, adults, parents, carers, and families with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and/or additional needs.

We create connection, friendship, and support at every stage of life. Through activities, events, peer support, wellbeing initiatives, signposting, and practical support, we provide welcoming and inclusive spaces for people from birth through to adulthood.

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

Our aim is to reduce isolation, build meaningful relationships, and ensure that everyone feels valued, understood, connected, and supported.

<http://thesendclub.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/>

INFO AND EVENTS - REGIONAL

The Autism Hub, South Tyneside

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* ”



Family Information Day!

Looking for a great chance to connect with local services, pick up useful information, and enjoy a fantastic day out with family and friends?

Save the date! **Sunderland Deaf Society** and **Becoming Visible** are hosting a relaxed and friendly community day, and everyone is welcome. 🙌✨

 **When:** Saturday 18th July 2026  **Time:** 11:00am – 3:00pm  **Where:** The Victory, 39-41 North Bridge Street, Monkwearmouth, Sunderland, SR5 1AH

What's on offer:

-  Information stalls from a range of local organisations
-  Space to chat, meet new people, and find out what's happening locally
-  Games and fun activities for children (including a bouncy castle!)
-  Barbecue provided by SDS
-  Refreshments and the Bar will be open

It's set to be a wonderful, accessible day out for the whole community.

 **Want to find out more or got a question?** Get in touch with Julie at hello@becomingvisible.co.uk or give her a text/call on 07930 826918.



The poster is a colorful flyer for 'Family Information Day'. It features a purple header with the title 'Family Information Day' in white. Below the title, there's a green banner with the text 'A great chance to connect with services, pick up useful information, enjoy a day out with family & friends!'. The main body of the poster is green and white, with a list of activities on the left and a large green box on the right that says 'Join us for a Relaxed & Friendly Community Day!'. At the bottom, there's a purple bar with the location 'The Victory, 39-41 North Bridge Street Monkwearmouth Sunderland SR5 1AH' and contact information for Julie. Logos for 'Sunderland Deaf Society' and 'becomingvisible' are also present.

Family Information Day

A great chance to connect with services, pick up useful information, enjoy a day out with family & friends!

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- Information stalls from a range of local organisations
- Space to chat, meet people, & find out what's happening locally
- Games & fun activities for children
- Barbecue provided by SDS
- Refreshments and Bar is open

Join us for a **Relaxed & Friendly** Community Day!

 The Victory, 39-41 North Bridge Street Monkwearmouth Sunderland SR5 1AH

Contact Julie for more info :  hello@becomingvisible.co.uk  07930 826918

Sports for D/deaf and Hard of Hearing Children!

The **Gateshead Football Club Foundation** is running fantastic, inclusive sports sessions tailored specifically for D/deaf and hard of hearing children!

It's a brilliant opportunity for kids to get active, try out new sports, and make new friends in a supportive environment.

 **When:** Mondays  **Time:** 5:00pm – 7:00pm  **Where:** Gateshead Leisure Centre 
Ages: 6–10 and 11–16

Sports included:

- Football 
- Badminton 
- Basketball 
- Multi Sports 

 **How to register:** Scan the QR code on the flyer image below to find out more details and secure a spot for your child!



Meet Leah Walker - Community Connector for NDCS in North East England



Hi,
I'm Leah Walker

I am your community connector
for the National Deaf Children's
Society in North East England .



I'm here for you – offering support, sharing my experience, and helping you access local resources and services, including those from the National Deaf Children's Society, while also connecting you with other parents and deaf children in your community.

As a deaf parent of a deaf child, I know how important it is to have the right support and people around you.

Our connection is on your terms – at your pace, in the way that works best for you. Whenever you need support, I'm here, and I look forward to connecting with you.

Email address:
leah.walker@ndcs.org.uk

Phone number:
07483 697486



Complete our contact
form and your local
community connector will
get in touch to discuss
how they can support you.

South of Tyne and Wearside Deaf Children's Society



National
Deaf Children's
Society
REGISTERED ASSOCIATION

Meet families with deaf children near you

Your local group is for children with any level of hearing loss, from mild to profound.

It's run by local parents and carers and is a friendly community for the whole family.

- Advice and information
- Understanding from other parents and carers
- Friendship and fun for the children
- Events and activities

"Great for our children, and a wonderful support for us parents too!"

Get in touch by email -
lynne.rowan@talk21.com
or call Lynne for a chat on
07752 500637

Scan the QR code to find
us on Facebook



Your local group is affiliated with the **National Deaf Children's Society**, the UK's leading charity for deaf children. Find out more at ndcs.org.uk/localgroups.

Little Connections Playgroup for Deaf and HoH Children

Little Connections Playgroup

Free playgroup for Deaf and Hard of hearing children and their families



Community Hub South,
Wynyard Rd,
Hartlepool,
TS25 3LQ



9.30am-11.00am



Friday 17th April 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

Friday 12th June 2026

Friday 17th July 2026

Friday 14th August 2026

Friday 21st August 2026

Friday 11th September 2026

Friday 9th October 2026



For children aged 0-4 with deafness or hearing loss & their parents/carers.

If your child is in school, please feel free to still attend for a chat.

FREE juice & snack for every child!



Any questions?
E: hello@deafemp.com
Text 07425 566084

Join the fun!

No booking required

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult

Family Sign Language at Newcastle Deaf Centre



SVP DEAF CENTRE NEWCASTLE

2 SUMMERHILL GROVE, NE4 6EE
0191 232 4104



EXCITING SUMMER SESSIONS!



Family Sign Language

at Newcastle Deaf Centre



 **Learn, play & connect together this summer!**



0-5 YEARS

(Early Morning Sessions)



- BSL sign classes for little ones
- Join in with the whole family
- Story time & fun play sessions





5-12 YEARS



- BSL classes for Deaf & hard of hearing children



- Siblings welcome to join



WHAT'S INCLUDED?



- Refreshments



- Fun sports activities



- Meet Deaf role models



- Visits & trips (Hearing Dogs visit, farm trip, park trip)



- Toys & resources



Location

Newcastle Deaf Centre





BOOKING & ENQUIRIES



familysignlanguagewithleah@gmail.com



MeganN@svp.org.uk





BSL Interpreter Provided



Working
together with



and our amazing partners:
National
Deaf Children's
Society
REGISTERED ASSOCIATION



Hearing Dogs
for Deaf People



FAMILY SIGN LANGUAGE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fun, engaging BSL classes for Deaf and hard of hearing children and their families!



STARTING AUGUST 2026!



 Led by a Deaf tutor with BSL interpreter support	 Fun activities including music, games, signed stories and themes!	 Meet new friends and socialise in a supportive environment	 Each group is organised by age – see below for details
FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST	10AM – 12PM 0 – 5 YEARS 1PM – 3PM 6 – 12 YEARS	TOPIC: WHO AND FAMILY Let's learn signs about people and our families! Fun activities, songs and stories. 	
FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST 	10AM – 12PM 0 – 5 YEARS 1PM – 3PM 6 – 12 YEARS	THEME: TEDDY BEAR PICNIC AND FOOD Bring your teddy and join us for a picnic! We'll explore signs for food and enjoy fun activities together. 	
FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST 	10AM – 12PM 0 – 5 YEARS 1PM – 3PM 6 – 12 YEARS	THEME: EMOTIONS – LET'S MAKE A MOOD BOARD! We'll learn signs for feelings and create our own mood boards! 	
FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST 	10AM – 12PM 0 – 5 YEARS 1PM – 3PM 6 – 12 YEARS	THEME: HOBBIES AND TRANSPORT THEME Let's learn signs for our favourite hobbies and different ways to travel! 	
TO BOOK A PLACE, PLEASE SEND ME THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:			
 CHILD'S NAME	 DATE OF BIRTH	 ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS	 THE AREA YOU ARE FROM
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU! 			



BSL Search

Taster Programme

Basic Introduction to British Sign language



Develop by a Deaf Tutor



**Starts: 7th September 2026
5pm - 6pm**



6 week course



£100



To book a place:



Hello@bslsearch.co.uk



www.bslsearch.co.uk/courses.php

SEND Summer Activities Guide!

Looking for accessible, inclusive, and fun activities to keep the family entertained over the summer holidays?

The team over at North Tyneside Parent Carer Forum have put together a fantastic **SEND Summer Guide** packed full of brilliant ideas. While this guide is primarily put together for families living in North Tyneside, a great deal of the activities and events listed are open to everyone, no matter where you are based!

It is always wonderful to see such comprehensive resources being shared to support our community. You can browse the full guide and find something perfect for your summer calendar right here:

 **View the Guide:** <https://ntpcf.co.uk/send-friendly-summer>

Community Summer picnics

‘Grab your sarnies and a blanket and join the TTHT team for a community picnic and a delightful time for a much-needed wellbeing meet up & chat, with the beauty of the great outdoors.’
2 different dates to join. Please see poster for further booking.

Anyone can join us, everyone is welcome! No booking needed just come along!

PICNIC in the Park



AT SOUTH MARINE PARK

GRAB YOUR SARNIES AND A BLANKET AND JOIN THE TTHT TEAM FOR A COMMUNITY PICNIC AND A DELIGHTFUL TIME FOR A MUCH NEEDED WELL BEING MEET UP & CHAT, WITH THE BEAUTY OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Meet: on the green near the bandstand
(look for ladies in blue hoodies)

**When: Wednesday 8th July 2026 and
Tuesday 4th August 2026**

Time: Both dates - 11am - 1pm

- Anyone can join us, everyone is welcome! No booking needed just come along!
- Please bring your own food & drink, blanket etc
- If you are bringing along any children, please note they stay the responsibility of the parent/carer
- If the weather lets us down and it is a rainy day the picnic will move indoors to the Autism Hub on Gordon Street.

Have a question? Email autismhub@ttht.co.uk



'In person' Workshop for families – Standing together for your child (Supporting families to advocate)

After listening to feedback from some families who shared that accessing online webinars is something they cannot do and that 'in person' events are more personal and preferred. We decided to deliver some of our online webinars as workshops. This was very well received last year so we will be delivering these throughout 2026. Our 4th workshop this year being on the topic 'Standing together for your child – supporting families to advocate'.

This workshop will be held at the Autism Hub on Wednesday 16th September 10am – 11.30am. Certificate of attendance will be issued.

Booking is required. For further details please see the poster attached.

The Toby Henderson Trust

FREE IN PERSON WORKSHOP

**STANDING TOGETHER FOR YOUR CHILD:
SUPPORTING FAMILIES TO ADVOCATE**

A supportive workshop for families, focused on explaining your child's needs, navigating conversations with professionals, family, and friends, and feeling less alone in the process.

**WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2026
10AM - 11:30AM**

**AT: AUTISM HUB GORDON ST,
SOUTH SHIELDS
NE33 4JP**

BOOK YOUR PLACE

If you are interested in joining, please book your place by emailing autismhub@ttht.co.uk or calling 0191 816 0550

(Please leave a voice message, missed calls can not be replied to)
Please note: This workshop is for families living in the South Tyneside area.



We have a NEW cuppa & cake group!

Many of our regular families had raised concerns with us that once their young person turns 18, and although here at the Autism Hub we have our amazing partners – Autism in Mind (AIM) who offer support to autistic adults, many families have shared their worry that ultimately and technically the support for the family themselves stops.

Families have shared with us that they get so much from our services especially our monthly peer support groups (Cuppa & Cakes) calling it their 'safe space'. We pride ourselves on listening to feedback, adapting, and expanding where we can on our offer here at the Autism Hub.

With that in mind we are thrilled to share that we have expanded our monthly cuppa and cake groups to include a NEW monthly group for families with autistic young adults 18+
Poster attached for further details.

Booking is essential.

To book a place:

Call 0191 816 0550

Email autismhub@ttht.co.uk

Or book via our website ttht.co.uk/autism-hub-events/

****Please note this group is for parent/carers only not the young adult.**

For support for autistic adults please follow the link to AIMs offer in South Tyneside

<https://autisminmind.com/aim-south-tyneside>

PARENT & CARER GROUP AT THE AUTISM HUB

NEW

CUPPA AND CAKE GROUP FOR FAMILIES WITH AUTISTIC YOUNG ADULTS 18+



This monthly group is free to attend and is for parent & carers of autistic young adults 18+ who live in South Tyneside.

It is a chance to come along and meet and chat with other families as well as our experienced family support team.



To find out more and for upcoming dates or to book a place, please get in touch via email, telephone or through our website.



 Gordon St, South Shields  autismhub@ttht.co.uk  www.ttht.co.uk  0191 816 0550
 The Toby Henderson Trust at The Autism Hub



LENDING LIBRARY

At The Lemington Centre

**Launching Tuesday 18 August
12pm to 2pm**



**A free toy and resource lending service for families
who have a child with a visual impairment.**

Contact usefulvision@hwn.org.uk to book



The Special Lioness Upcoming Events

Recurring Weekly Hub Groups

Unless stated otherwise, these take place at 4-5 Baird Close, Washington, NE37 3HL.

Little Explorers (£5)

An open-play session to explore three dedicated sensory rooms at your own pace.

- **Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays**
- **Morning Session:** 10:00am – 11:30am
- **Afternoon Session:** 12:30pm – 2:00pm
- *Runs throughout June and July (Last listed session: Wednesday 15th July).*

Ready, Steady, Play (£4)

A creative, supportive group music session full of sounds, smiles, and laughter.

- **Tuesdays** (30th June, 7th July, 14th July, 21st July)
- **Time:** 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Special Bonds (£5)

- **Tuesday 7th July**
- **Time:** 12:30pm – 2:00pm

Parent & Carer Coffee Groups (FREE)

A chance to enjoy a cuppa, chat, offload, and get advice. Run by parents, for parents. First hot drink is free!

- **Where:** Portland Academy Coffee Shop (Weymouth Rd, Sunderland, SR3 2NQ)
- **When:** Thursday 2nd July & Thursday 16th July
- **Time:** 9:30am – 11:30am

Big Summer Events & Special Days Out

- **Emergency Services Day** 
 - **Date:** Sunday 26th July 2026
 - **Time:** 1:00pm – 4:00pm
- **WetWheels Boat Trips** 
 - **Dates:** Friday 31st July 2026 & Sunday 30th August 2026
 - **Times:** 10:30am, 1:30pm, and 4:00pm slots available
- **Toys are Back in Town** 
 - **Date:** Sunday 23rd August 2026
 - **Time:** Starts at 11:30am

- **Disney Magic Family Ball** 🏰 ✨
 - **Date:** Saturday 3rd October 2026
 - **Time:** 3:00pm – 6:00pm
- **Summer Fun Day** 🎪
 - **Date:** TBC

How to Book

All event listings link directly to: <https://www.thespeciallioness.com/events>

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