



SYCANN COMMUNICATION
July 2026

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INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome to the latest South Yorkshire CANN Update.

South 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 southyorkshire@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 SYCANN Website at:
<https://www.cann-network.org/blog/>

SYCANN MEETING DATES

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

Upcoming Meeting:

24th November 2026
10am to 12pm

Irwin Mitchell's offices in Sheffield
Riverside East House, 2 Millsands, Sheffield S3 8DT

CHAIR COMMENTS

Hi everyone,
I hope you're all doing well – and managing to stay cool in this sweltering heat 🔥 (not that we're complaining... too much!). If you've figured out how to keep yourself cool while everything else melts, do share your tips 😊

Firstly, a really warm welcome to our new members – it's great to have you with us, and we're really looking forward to you getting involved and bringing your ideas and experience into the group.

SYCANN recently attended the SHASBAH event, which really had a bit of everything – including an unexpected interview with former BBC Radio presenter Andy Kershaw! SHASBAH's Got Skills was an absolute highlight – the children completely stole the show, with everything from comedy to dance. It was brilliant to see so much confidence and talent on display.

As we head into the summer, I'd also encourage everyone to have a look at our Facebook page. There are some really good ideas and tips being shared about activities happening locally, which might come in handy over the next few weeks – especially with the school holidays just around the corner.

Hopefully, it gives a bit of inspiration and helps with planning things to do over the summer (ideally somewhere with a bit of shade!).

Nina Rose and Maxine Beckett
SYCANN Co-Chair's
South Yorkshire CANN
chair.southyorkshire@cann-network.org

NEW MEMBERS



WellChild

WellChild is the national charity for children with complex medical needs and their families. More than 100,000 children and young people are living across the UK with complex medical needs. Many spend months, even years in hospital simply because there is no support enabling them to leave. Meanwhile those who are at home face inconsistent and inadequate levels of support.

Through a nationwide network of children's nurses, garden transformation projects and family support services, WellChild exists to give this growing population of children and young people the best possible chance to thrive: properly supported at home, together with their families.

<https://www.wellchild.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/>

Please only use contact details that are for public use

South Yorkshire CANN
www.cann-network.org
southyorkshire@cann-network.org

RESEARCH

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY: Free Hand Dexterity Testing & Fun Activities

We are sharing this brilliant project from the University of Leeds who are looking for local young people to take part in a new research study! 🔍✨

The study is looking into the effects of transcutaneous spinal cord stimulation (tSCS)—using a safe, very low electrical current to help activate nerves and see if it can help improve hand and arm movements.

The sessions are designed to be quick, comfortable, and easy, using fun games and questionnaires in a friendly, supportive environment! 🎮💪

****Who can join?****

- * Young people aged 12–21 years old.
- * Must have a diagnosis of Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy and find hand use tricky in daily activities.
- * Must have stable health conditions (e.g., no heart/lung problems or personal/family history of epilepsy/seizures).
- * Please note: Young people cannot take part if they have implanted devices like pacemakers, or have had Botox injections in their arms in the last 6 months.

****What is included?****

- * Free hand dexterity testing.
- * Simple, engaging hand and arm activities adapted to your abilities.
- * One or two short visits (60–90 mins) at a time that suits you.
- * Orientation session available in person before you start.
- * Travel costs covered (plus a £20 voucher and parking provided!).

You are more than welcome to bring along family members, friends, or anyone you feel comfortable with to make it a positive, fun experience.

****Want to find out more or sign up?****

Feel free to send us a direct message, or get in touch with the University of Leeds research team directly:

✉️ ****Contact Professor Sarah Astill:**** s.l.astill@leeds.ac.uk

✉️ ****Contact Researcher Mr. Omar Nahhas:**** Bsothn@leeds.ac.uk

Research Opportunity: Sharing Your Experiences of the Neurodivergence Diagnostic Journey

We are sharing this on behalf of Celia Vaz, a researcher at Leeds Beckett University, who is looking for parents and primary caregivers to take part in a confidential online research study.

The study is exploring experiences of identity, well-being, and support while awaiting or following a child's neurodivergence diagnosis. By sharing your experience, you can help build a clearer understanding of what families need during this journey.

♦ **What does taking part involve?**

- A confidential online interview lasting approximately 30–50 minutes.
- You will be asked about your experiences of the diagnostic process, how it has affected your well-being, and what support you have received.
- There is no pressure—you do not have to answer any questions you feel uncomfortable with, and you can stop at any time.

♦ **Who can take part?** You may be eligible to participate if you:

- Are aged 18 or over.
- Are a parent or primary caregiver of a child who is awaiting, undergoing, or has received a neurodivergence diagnosis.
- Are willing to take part in a one-to-one online interview.
- Can speak and understand English.

 **Interested in taking part or want to find out more?** Please note that we are just sharing this post, so **please contact the researcher directly**. You can reach out to Celia Vaz at:  **C.SilvaFonsecaVaz2353@student.leedsbeckett.ac.uk**

Are you a parent or primary caregiver of a child awaiting or following a neurodivergence diagnosis?

I am looking for parents and caregivers to take part in a research study exploring experiences of identity, well-being, and support while awaiting or following a child's neurodivergence diagnosis.

What will taking part involve?

It will involve a confidential online interview lasting approximately 30-50 minutes. You will be asked about your experiences of the diagnostic process, how this has affected your wellbeing, and what support you have received.

You do not have to answer any question you do not feel comfortable with, and you can stop the interview at any time.

Who can take part?

- You may be eligible if you:
- Are aged 18 or over.
- Are a parent or caregiver of a child who is awaiting, undergoing, or has received a neurodivergence diagnosis.
- Are willing to take part in a one-to-one online interview.
- Can speak and understand English.

Interested in taking part or finding out more?

Please contact: Celia Vaz

C.SilvaFonsecaVaz2353@student.leedsbeckett.ac.uk

By sharing your experience, you can help build a clearer understanding of what families need during the neurodivergence diagnostic journey.



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY



Research Study: The effects of Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulaton (tSCS) on Upper Extremitty Function in Children and Young People with Hemiplegic Cerebral palsy



Participants Needed for Research Study



Title of Project:

The Effects of Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation (tSCS) on Upper Extremity Function in Children and Young People with Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy

Study Goal:

We want to find out if stimulating the spinal cord with a low current can help improve arm and hand movements in children and young people with cerebral palsy. This electrical stimulation activates nerves to help them send signals to the muscles, and potentially improving arm and hand movements

Who Can Join?

- **Age:** Children and young people aged **12 to 21** years.
- **Diagnosis:** children and young people with **Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy**.
- **Hand function:** Having difficulties using their hands in daily activities.
- **Stable Health:** Stable health conditions (no heart or lung problems, no seizures).
- **Exclusions:** Severe health issues (e.g., high blood pressure, cancer, untreated infections); neurological disorders (e.g., epilepsy: personal/family history); implanted devices (e.g., pacemakers); Botox injections in upper limb muscles (past 6 months); recent surgeries (past year) that could affect participation; ongoing complications (e.g., unhealed fractures, contractures); clinical research participation (past 3 months).



Study Details

- The study includes **2 sessions** on separate days.
 - Each session lasts **60 to 90 minutes**.
- You will take part in two sessions:
 - one involving training alone and one involving training combined with transcutaneous spinal cord stimulation (tSCS)
 - The order is **randomised** (some start with tSCS, others with Training Only)
- Each session includes:
 - A **Baseline Assessment** (at the start of the session)
 - Either **tSCS + Training** or **Training Only** (depending on the session)
 - A **Post Assessment** (immediately after training)



The training will be adapted to suit your abilities. It will include warm-up exercises, practical tasks like gripping or daily activities, resistance-based exercises, and a cool-down period with stretching.

Travel to the University of Leeds required; £20 voucher, travel reimbursement, and parking provided.

Interested?

Contact Professor Sarah Astill to learn more.

Email: s.i.astill@leeds.ac.uk

Contact researcher Mr. Omar Nahhas to learn more or to sign up.

Email: Bsothn@leeds.ac.uk Or Scan the QR code



(IRAS ID: 345280, Version 1, dated 26th June 2025)

INFORMATION & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - REGIONAL

CP Teens Upcoming Summer Activities



HopeBox: A wellbeing workshop from Papyrus

Everyone has moments when things feel too much. For young people, those moments can be harder to navigate than they look from the outside.

HopeBox is a 90-minute, face-to-face workshop from Papyrus. It helps young people understand stress, emotions and self-care, and puts that understanding into practice by building a personalised box of sensory self-care tools to take home.

Every HopeBox is built around the five senses, and every one is different. Because every young person is different.

Sessions are tailored for three age groups: primary school age, secondary school age, and 16 and over. That makes HopeBox suitable for schools, colleges, youth groups and community organisations. All materials are provided by Papyrus. Groups of up to 30 can attend, and sessions are priced at £250.

By the end of the session, participants will have a clearer understanding of their own emotional wellbeing, practical ways to respond to stress and difficult feelings, and greater awareness of the support available to them.

To find out more, visit papyrus-uk.org/training-and-resources/training/hopebox. To book a session, get in touch at rachael.barlow@papyrus-uk.org.

Barnsley CVS News

Pathways to Work Community Grants - Are you currently running a community group or service, interacting with working age people who are not in employment in Barnsley? This funding is for informal, community based engagement to help people take a first step towards Pathways to Work. It is not for delivering employment support, training or structured programmes. More details here. Deadline Monday 20th July at 10am.

<https://barnsleycvs.org.uk/funding-opportunities/pathways-to-work-community-fund>

Our Young People's Volunteer Coordinator, John, is currently doing some research into the challenges and barriers facing VCSEs in Barnsley when it comes to hosting volunteers under the age of 18. This is with a view to tailoring the support we are able to offer to both VCSEs and young volunteers. If you could take 5 minutes to complete the form below, it will massively benefit both young people in Barnsley and community groups, charities and other voluntary sector organisations in the borough. We need a mixture of both organisations who DO currently have young volunteers, and those who DO NOT, so everyone is encouraged to complete the form. Thank you.

Hosting Young Volunteers - Barriers and Challenges – Fill in form:

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=7kcUhyNg_0S6jcnuha6qtCXGod-cnuNOrGG5on4U_EJUQkc3V0cxUEFOTUZaR1FISzZWOUwzMVRVMy4u&route=shorturl

Did you know we have a venue available to hire in Monk Bretton? Whether this is for your staff meeting or community event we could host you! Find out more!

<https://barnsleycvs.org.uk/redfearns-sports-and-social-ground>

We have a dedicated team of community accountants who are here to help do your accounts, payroll and bookkeeping. Why not take one thing off your to-do list? Find out more here.

<https://barnsleycvs.org.uk/community-accountancy-payroll-services>

Read full newsletter here:

<https://aidemail.co.uk/campaigns/barnsleycvs/X7bcidHirjvNN7koykHLEtYr0>

Rotherham Uplift Festival Programme (FREE) and Roller Disco.

In addition in Sheffield Everyone Active have a couple of opportunities available through the summer: Summer sports van - [Free Summer Programme - Everyone Active](#), Open days [Sheffield Activity Open Days - Everyone Active](#)

Kind regards,

Adam Fuller (he/him)
Children and Young People Development Manager
07702 557008
W: yorkshiresport.org



UPLIFT **POP-UP**

This Summer **UPLIFT** will be bringing free activities for all ages and abilities to you across Rotherham Borough! All equipment, coaches and sports professionals will be provided, just turn up!

Ferham Park, Ferham Festival

Saturday 11th July, 1pm – 4pm
BMX, Parkour, Skateboarding & Basketball

Rotherham Town Centre, UPLIFT Festival

Saturday 18th July 12pm – 4pm
BMX, Parkour, Scootering, Boxing, Dance, DJ Workshops, Games, Creative workshops & more

Rosehill Park, Rawmarsh

Wednesday 29th July, 10am – 2pm
Skateboarding & Scootering

Winterhill BMX Track, Kimberworth

Saturday 1st August, 9am – 1pm
BMX, Parkour & Games

Brampton Pump Track & Dextx, Brampton

Friday 14th August, 11am – 3pm
BMX, Basketball, Games, Scootering at Dextx

Maltby Skate Park, Maltby

Thursday 20th August, 11am – 3pm
Skateboarding, Parkour & Football skills

Rother Valley Country Park

Saturday 29th August, 11am – 4pm
Mountain Biking

Rotherham Town Centre, Roller Disco

Friday 17th July - 5pm - 8.30pm
Roller Disco, Dj & Street Art Workshops & Actual Reality Arcade
Free Ticketed Event



Brought to you by Rotherham Council and partners.

**MOVING
ROTHERHAM**

**ROTHERHAM
COUNCIL**

**YORKSHIRE
SPORT**

**Funded by
UK Government**

**INTEGRITY
FUNDING**

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Yorkshire Para Standing Tennis Club

Ability Tennis and Yorkshire Para Standing Tennis Club are running 4 taster sessions for adults and children.

These sessions are **FREE** of charge with all equipment provided.

These sessions are suitable for individuals with a physical disability who play sport standing.

South Yorkshire CANN
www.cann-network.org
southyorkshire@cann-network.org



Yorkshire Para Standing Tennis Club

at Hallamshire Tennis and Squash Club,
Sheffield

Summer 2026 taster sessions:

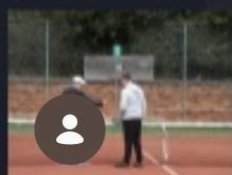
Saturday 27th June 12-2pm

Saturday 4th July 12-2pm

Saturday 22nd August 12-2pm

Saturday 12th September 12-2pm

All free to attend with all
equipment provided. Book on
now:



Email: parastandingyorks@gmail.com
Mob: 07503156428



Neurodiversity Sheffield Drop-in session

- Are you a parent or carer of a child/young person living with neurodivergence? (no diagnosis needed)
- Would you like some support and advice?

At Neurodiversity Sheffield we offer information, support and advice to parents and carers of children and young people living with neurodivergence.

Delivered by Family Action and supported by Sheffield Parent Hub, Sheffield Family Hubs, Sheffield City Council and NHS services.

Our informal drop in sessions are a chance to have a chat with other parents/carers who have similar experiences. You will also have the chance to meet staff from **Neurodiversity Sheffield** and other partner agencies who support families with neurodivergence.

Come along for a chat, support, advice and information... you will be in good hands.



neurodiversity.sheffield@family-action.org.uk



0114 2412733 or 07816 408019



Scotia Works, Leadmill Road, Sheffield, S1 4SE

At Scotia Works:

**Tuesday 7th July,
9.30am-12.00pm**

**Thursday 10th December,
9.30am-12.00pm**

**No diagnosis or
booking required!**

For more information about our service,
scan



or visit
family-action.org.uk

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Registered as a Charity in the Isle of Man no: 1206. Registered Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales no: 01068186.

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS:

Website:	www.cann-network.org
Admin:	southyorkshire@cann-network.org
Chairs:	chair.southyorkshire@cann-network.org
Bluesky:	https://bsky.app/profile/sycann.bsky.social
LinkedIn:	https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-yorkshire-cann
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/southyorkshirecann