



**NATIONAL CANN COMMUNICATION**  
**August 2026**

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## INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome to the National CANN Update.

The 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 [admin@cann-network.org](mailto:admin@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/>**

## **MEETING DATES**

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

### **NECANN Upcoming Meetings**

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 10am-12pm  
Choice Wellbeing CIC (new hub)

### **SYCANN Upcoming Meetings**

24th November 2026  
10am to 12pm  
Irwin Mitchell's offices in Sheffield  
Riverside East House, 2 Millsands, Sheffield S3 8DT

### **SWCANN Upcoming Meetings:**

Tuesday 29th September 2026  
10:00am – 12:00pm  
Online

South West CANN Community Information Day

10th October 2026  
10am – 4pm  
Location: TBC

### **WMCANN Upcoming Meetings:**

15th September 2026  
10:00am - 12:00pm  
Sense Touchbase Pears  
Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6NA

### **WYCANN Upcoming Meetings:**

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2026  
10am - 12pm  
Interplay Theatre  
Armley Ridge Road, Leeds, LS12 3LE

## RESEARCH

### Parents & carers wanted for research study

Are you the parent or carer of an autistic young person attending a mainstream secondary school in the UK?

Barbara Shapley-King, a Senior Practitioner Educational Psychologist and doctoral researcher at University College London (UCL), is looking to speak with parents and carers about their experiences of advocating for their autistic child's needs and rights in mainstream schools.

💬 The study aims to better understand both positive and challenging experiences of working with schools and education systems, helping to improve support for autistic young people and their families.

- ✅ Parents/carers of autistic young people currently attending a mainstream secondary school in the UK can take part.
- ✅ Formal diagnosis is not required – families awaiting assessment or identifying as autistic are also welcome.
- ✅ Participation involves a confidential 60–90 minute interview via Microsoft Teams or at a mutually agreed location.

By sharing your experiences, you could help shape future understanding and practice within education services and ensure parent and carer voices are heard.

✉ To find out more or express an interest in taking part, contact:  
[barbara.shapley-king.22@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:barbara.shapley-king.22@ucl.ac.uk)

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### Opportunity for parents to be involved in research

I'm currently involved in putting together a National research bid in collaboration with the University of Leeds, looking at whether early movement initiation (through the use of powered baby walkers) can help support cognitive development (such as concentration, learning, perception and memory) for infants with increased risk of neurodisability.

We have put together a written summary of the study and are seeking feedback from parents on this. Specifically in regards how we have described/framed the intervention. We're really keen to get the wording right, and feel we still have some work to do on it! Questions we have are:

How can we make it clearer?

What does it make parents think and feel?

What works, what jars?

I was wondering whether you have any parents who you think would be able and willing to take a look and provide us with some feedback? I appreciate that many families are busy and have so many other demands, so there is absolutely no pressure here. Feedback could just be providing few thoughts via email, or equally I would be happy to have a conversation over the phone.

I have attached the intervention summary for your information. Many thanks in advance.

Anna

Anna Hollis  
Advanced Neonatal Physiotherapist

Neonatal AHP team, Jessops Wing, Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday. Tel 0114 2268217

Mobile: 07785655605

Anna.hollis1@nhs.net

### **Opportunity for parents to be involved in research**

Investigating the clinical and cost-effectiveness of early **Movement** initiation for **Infants** with an increased risk **Of Neurodisability**: the MOTION randomised controlled trial



A team from the University of Leeds are looking for parents to help shape the development of this research study. Time commitment flexible – initially we're hoping to gain some feedback on the study proposal, either via email or via a short phone call.

If you're interested or want to know more please contact Anna Hollis on [anna.hollis1@nhs.net](mailto:anna.hollis1@nhs.net) or 07785655605

## **Research looking into the wellbeing of parents who have children with long term health conditions**

Briefly, my research is looking into the wellbeing of parents who have children with long term health conditions. I found that previous research has looked into children and the thoughts of the parents concerning their children's lives, health and wellbeing. However, there has not been enough research conducted surrounding the lives of the parents themselves and the potential impact of having to manage and care for their child and health condition.

Please find attached both my poster and information sheet for further information.

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Monét

From: **Monét Morris** <w2163598@westminster.ac.uk>

## **Are you a parent of a child with a long-term health condition?**

**UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTMINSTER<sup>®</sup>**

This study is looking for volunteers to take part in a MSc research study exploring the experiences of caring for a child with a long-term physical health condition and how this may affect parents' wellbeing. This study will begin June 2026.

### **What will you need to take part?**

Only a computer, access to the internet and up to one hour of your time.

### **You may be eligible to volunteer if you:**

- Are aged 18 years or over
- Are the primary caregiver of a child under 18
- Care for a child with a long-term physical health condition requiring ongoing daily management
- Have been managing your child's condition for at least 12 months

### **You would not be eligible if:**

- You are unable to take part in an interview conducted in English
- You are currently receiving treatment for a severe mental health condition

### **Why take part?**

- Share your experiences in a supportive and non-judgemental environment
- Help improve understanding of the experiences of parents caring for a child with a long-term health condition
- Contribute to research that may support families in the future

For more information or to express your interest in volunteering for this study, please contact:

**Monét**

[w2163598@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:w2163598@westminster.ac.uk)



## INFORMATION & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - NATIONAL/ONLINE

### Learn to Play Padel

Try one of the fastest growing sports in the world at Padium, Canary Wharf, London.

This free taster session is designed for anyone with a physical impairment aged 8 and over. Experience the excitement and skill of wheelchair Padel in a fun, accessible, and supportive environment. Friendly and experienced coaches will lead you through the sessions, whether you have some experience of the sport or none at all - everyone is welcome. All equipment will be provided, so all you'll need to bring is some sports kit, a dash of energy, and a willingness to discover this brilliant sport!

SIGN UP NOW!

<https://www.wheelpower.org.uk/activities/learn-to-play-padel>



The poster features a woman in a yellow shirt and orange shorts playing wheelchair padel on a blue court. To the right, text specifies the date and location. A circular inset shows the interior of the Padium sports center.

**Learn to Play Padel**  
**at Padium, Canary Wharf**

**Thursday  
15 September  
Padium  
Canary Wharf**



## Disability Cricket Team

Are you aged 12 to 24 with a physical impairment? Do you live in or around High Wycombe? Join the brand new Disability Cricket Team at High Wycombe Cricket Club this summer - for FREE training sessions and the chance to compete in Tournament days with other Disability Teams. There are weekly training sessions with highly skilled and inclusive coaches, and with the added opportunity to compete, you can experience what it truly means to be a cricketer. No previous experience is needed, all equipment is provided, and all abilities are welcome. So what are you waiting for?!

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc7OKIJJo2coobXu09UuEVi7oExFPfSdPjlg8wCNJ\\_ysrllFQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc7OKIJJo2coobXu09UuEVi7oExFPfSdPjlg8wCNJ_ysrllFQ/viewform)



**HWCC Disability Cricket**

**Join in 2026 for 12 weeks of training and 3 tournament days**

***Be part of the team & play fun cricket for FREE - 12-24 year olds welcome***

**Wednesdays at 5pm-6pm**  
**June, July & August**  
**Location: HWCC (London Road)**  
**Email: doc@hwcc.co.uk**  
**SIGN UP HERE**



## **STEP into Technology**

TPT's Education Team is excited to introduce STEP into Technology – a new series of online sessions for blind and partially sighted students focused on helping them get the most from the technology they use every day.

Whether you're preparing for college, sixth form or university, or simply a student looking to build your confidence with technology, these sessions will introduce practical tools and accessibility features that can support you both in education and everyday life. Along the way, you'll hear directly from blind and partially sighted students who will share their experiences, tips and favourite technology.

All sessions are online and free to attend. Our first session is on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August. To find out more and to register: [Student Transitions - Thomas Pocklington Trust](#)

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## **Superhero Tri Series powered by MARVEL**

Saturday 15 August 2026 – Dorney Lake, Windsor, Eton College Rowing Centre, off Court Lane, Dorney, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 6FJ

We're also looking for any budding legends to join us for the Superhero Tri Series powered by MARVEL!

You can join in as an individual or as part of a team.

Everyone is welcome. However all solo entrants, or at least one team member, considers themselves to have a disability of any kind.

This fun triathlon-style challenge focuses on participation and confidence, with swim, push and handcycle elements.

FIND OUT MORE AND SIGN UP:

<https://www.wheelpower.org.uk/events/superhero-tri-powered-by-marvel>



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### **Making Music with Special Children**

Our course helps professionals, parents and carers use music to unlock communication and creativity. The training includes interactive workshops, real-world examples, and take-home resources.

Book your course:

<https://jessiesfund.org.uk/our-work/training/making-music-with-special-children/>

CANN Network  
www.cann-network.org  
admin@cann-network.org

Who is the course for?

The course is open to anyone working with or caring for children who have additional needs, complex needs, or life-shortening illnesses. Whether you're a musical novice or have some experience you will go away with plenty of ideas and practical techniques that you can start using straight away. Even if you are an accomplished musician, our course will teach you how your skills can be applied in this new context, giving you the confidence to bring your music to children with special educational needs and disabilities.

What will the course cover?

Exploring musical instruments

Working with pulse and rhythm

Singing

Using iPads for music

Approaches to working one-to-one

Working with groups

How much does it cost?

Course fees

Jessie's Fund subsidises your training, so your contribution for the whole two-day course will be just £95. This includes refreshments and a light lunch on both days.



## Making Music with Special Children training course 2026



Our course helps professionals, parents and carers to gain the skills and confidence to bring music to children with life-limiting illness or disabilities.

London: 29 – 30 September  
York: 10–11 November

£95 for both days



Scan to find out more  
and book your place

### What You'll Learn:

- Exploring musical instruments
- Working with pulse and rhythm
- Singing
- Using iPads for music
- Approaches to working one-to-one
- Working with groups

<https://jessiesfund.org.uk/> info@jessiesfund.org.uk  
15 Priory Street, York YO1 6ET 01904 658189  
Registered Charity number: 1045731

### Engaging Wheelchair Participants in Sport

Looking to make your sports sessions, PE lessons, or physical activities fully inclusive for wheelchair users?

CANN Network  
[www.cann-network.org](http://www.cann-network.org)  
[admin@cann-network.org](mailto:admin@cann-network.org)

WheelPower is running their 'Engaging Wheelchair Participants in Sport' online workshop, designed specifically for teachers, coaches, physios, OTs, and sports leaders!

This short, practical course helps build your confidence and gives you practical ideas to adapt sessions so *everyone* can get involved.

What to expect:

- Part 1: A self-guided e-learning module (45–60 mins) on overcoming barriers, accessible language, and off-court considerations.
- Part 2: A 2-hour interactive Zoom workshop led by experienced tutors with lived experience, packed with real-world insights and practical adaptations.

Upcoming Live Session Dates: Thursday 24th September 2026 (9:30am – 11:30am)

Whether you want to adapt existing games or introduce new wheelchair sports, this is a fantastic opportunity to boost your inclusive coaching skills.

👉 Find out more and book your spot here:

<https://www.wheelpower.org.uk/activities/engaging-wheelchair-participants-in-sport/>





# Engaging Wheelchair Participants in Sport

30 July  
24 September



## **SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS:**

### **GENERAL**

Website: [www.cann-network.org](http://www.cann-network.org)  
Email: [admin@cann-network.org](mailto:admin@cann-network.org)

### **NORTH EAST CANN**

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>

### **SOUTH WEST CANN**

Admin: [southwest@cann-network.org](mailto:southwest@cann-network.org)  
Chairs: [chair.southwest@cann-network.org](mailto:chair.southwest@cann-network.org)  
Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/swcann.bsky.social>  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-west-cann>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/southwestcann>

### **SOUTH YORKSHIRE CANN**

Admin: [southyorkshire@cann-network.org](mailto:southyorkshire@cann-network.org)  
Chairs: [chair.southyorkshire@cann-network.org](mailto: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>

### **WEST MIDLANDS CANN**

Admin: [westmidlands@cann-network.org](mailto:westmidlands@cann-network.org)  
Chairs: [chair.westmidlands@cann-network.org](mailto:chair.westmidlands@cann-network.org)  
Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/wmcann.bsky.social>  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/west-midlands-cann>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/westmidlandscann>

### **WEST YORKSHIRE CANN**

Admin: [westyorkshire@cann-network.org](mailto:westyorkshire@cann-network.org)  
Chairs: [chair.westyorkshire@cann-network.org](mailto: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>