



WYCANN COMMUNICATION
August 2026

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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/>

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

WYCANN MEETING DATES

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

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

CHAIR COMMENTS

Welcome to the August WYCANN Newsletter - as ever it is jam packed with member events and information, showcasing the incredible work happening across the region.

Over the past few weeks, we have seen significant change at a national level, with a new Prime Minister taking office and the prospect of renewed priorities across government. Whilst the future direction of policy will undoubtedly be important for children with additional needs and their families, this is also a timely reminder of the value of strong local networks. In times of change and uncertainty, families look to trusted organisations for support, advice and consistency. Across West Yorkshire, WYCANN members provide that stability every day, working tirelessly to ensure that children and young people with additional needs and their families can access the opportunities, services and support they need to thrive.

Here in West Yorkshire, our collective voice is more important than ever. By coming together, sharing knowledge and speaking with a united voice, we can help influence the decisions that affect our communities and ensure that children with additional needs are not left behind during times of change.

I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and find it a useful source of information, opportunities and inspiration. Please also save the date for our next **WYCANN Quarterly Meeting, which will**

take place on Wednesday 2 December 2026, 10.00am to 12.00pm at Interplay. We look forward to bringing members together once again to share learning, celebrate successes and discuss the challenges and opportunities ahead.

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

NEW MEMBERS

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

RESEARCH

No new research this month

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - REGIONAL

Hackccessible 2026

Hackccessible is the UK's First Student-Led Assistive Technology Make-a-Thon, and has been run by University of Sheffield staff and students for more than 7 years. Our aim is to promote innovation for accessibility and bring together students, charities, and industry partners to co-design real world solutions for individuals with disabilities.

We'd love for you to collaborate with us by either providing a challenger or mentor, sponsoring our events, donating materials or connecting with our students through networking opportunities. Please read below for more details! Alongside our main Hackccessible programme, we are also interested in exploring opportunities to work with schools or organisations. We would like to introduce young people to assistive technology, engineering and inclusive design, and show them how engineering can be used to solve real-world problems and improve people's lives. We are currently exploring the possibility of running school visits or interactive activities and would be interested in speaking with schools or organisations that may be keen to collaborate with us. If this is something your school or organisation may be interested in, please get in touch and we would be happy to discuss what might be possible.

About Hackcessible

Inspired by the At-Hack event at MIT and the BBC program 'Big Life Fix', Hackcessible was founded in 2018 by University of Sheffield staff. What slowly started as a staff-led project soon became a student-led project with 12 teams and more than 100 participants, aiming to create as many solutions for accessibility as possible.

Hackcessible brings together students from a wide range of disciplines to design and develop innovative solutions that improve accessibility. Each year, teams of 6-8 students collaborate with mentors and industry partners to support a 'challenger', an individual from the community looking for a practical solution to a specific accessibility need.

The project runs for several months each year and is divided into two key phases:

1. Design Phase

Teams work closely with their challenger and mentor to conceptualise and develop a tailored solution. Weekly 2 hour workshops are given to teams to aid them through this process.

2. Manufacturing Phase

Over two days in the iForge, which is the UK's first student-led makerspace here at the University of Sheffield, teams build a working prototype, which is then presented during the final showcase. In addition to this, Hackcessible aims to make a global impact. In 2024, Hackcessible India was founded and this competition brought together 40 schools from across India to co-create designs that foster accessibility. More recently, students from the Aga Khan University and Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya, ran their own version of Hackcessible, with projects such as a custom phone experience that helps meet various communication needs and assists those with sensory overload.

Past Project Example:

Ruqaya's Challenge

At the time of the challenge, Ruqaya was a blind 5 year old girl who wanted some help learning how to read. Ruqaya's team built the LunarTouch, which helped Ruqaya to learn the alphabet using moon letters.

It works with the moon letters being protruded out of the tiles, and with a radio frequency identification tag (RFID) underneath the tiles. These are then read by the readers inside the block. As the readers detect the RFID and recognise the tile, they produce an audio feedback of the phonetic sound of the letter.

The device worked so well that Ruqaya was able to identify her friends during circle time at school. The team who developed it got the Summer Creator Grant from Emerge, which is an enterprising community here at the University of Sheffield, which allowed them to continue working on the project, as they looked into using braille.

To see more examples of past projects, please see the following booklet: [Hackcessible 2026 - Join Us!](#)

Why Work With Us?

Impact: Your work creates genuine impact. From community initiatives to innovative solutions, you'll contribute to something bigger than yourself — and see the results of your efforts in the real world!

Visibility: As a sponsor, your logo will be prominently displayed on our online content, team apparel, and promotional materials. You'll gain exposure, not only within the university, but also among the wider scientific and engineering community around the world.

Student awareness: Our team members will be going into future graduate jobs, joining companies such as your own or others. By supporting us, you enable these future professionals to learn valuable skills and become advocates for your products or services in their future careers.

Valuable Connections: Engage with challenges, mentors, charities and like-minded organisations through mentoring, workshops, events and the final showcase. These connections can lead to future collaborations, recruitment opportunities and knowledge sharing.

How Can You Help?

Provide Challengers: A 'challenger' is an individual / carer / family member / friend of an individual with an unmet need that relates to a disability that they may have. Our students will address the challenge by designing and creating a customised prototype to meet the unmet needs.

If you are interested in being / providing a challenger, please complete the following google form: <https://forms.gle/UvNZh95seatRjtfJ6>

Provide Mentors: A mentor is an individual who will support and empower teams throughout the project. They will assist by providing feedback, encouraging effective teamwork and help teams stay realistic with their project scope and timeline.

If you are interested in being / providing a mentor, please complete the following google form: <https://forms.gle/4A23NzDsXQfzbEqs6>

Financial Sponsorship: Your financial support will directly fund our project as a whole, helping us cover essential expenses, as well as funding the individual teams' projects.

If you are interested in providing a financial sponsorship, please reply to this email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

In-Kind Donations: If your company can provide materials, components, or expertise, we would greatly appreciate it. Whether it's hardware, design advice, or software support - every contribution matters!

If you are interested in providing an in-kind donation, please reply to this email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Networking Opportunities: We value partnerships beyond financial support. If you would like to engage with our participants, we can arrange workshops, guest talks, or site visits.

If you are interested in a networking opportunity, please reply to this email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Please let us know if you have any questions and we look forward to hearing from you!

Kind regards,

Dhruti & Latisha

Hackcessible Lead & Secretary

hackcessible@sheffield.ac.uk



HACKCESSIBLE **2026**

JOIN OUR JOURNEY



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How Can You Help?

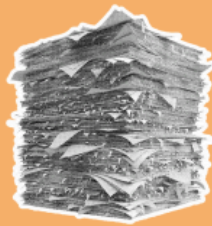
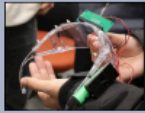


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HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Our Story. Our Mission. Our Drive.



Inspired by the At-Hack event at MIT and the BBC program 'Big Life Fix', Hackaccessible was founded in 2018 by University of Sheffield staff. What slowly started as a staff-led project soon became a student-led project with 12 teams and more than 90 participants, aiming to help as many challenges as possible.

Hackaccessible brings together students from a wide range of disciplines to design and develop innovative solutions that improve accessibility. Each year, teams of 6-8 students collaborate with mentors and industry partners to support a 'challenger', an individual looking for a practical solution to a specific accessibility need.

01

HOW IT WORKS

Flexible Work. Quick Timeline. Fast Solutions.

The project runs for several months each year and is divided into two key phases:

1. Design Phase

Teams work closely with their challenger and mentor to conceptualise and develop a tailored solution. Weekly 2 hour workshops are given to teams to aid them through this process.

2. Manufacturing Phase

Over two days in the iForge, which is the UK's first student-led makerspace here at the University of Sheffield, teams build a working prototype, which is then presented during the final showcase.

02



GLOBAL IMPACT

Different Universities. Different Countries. Same Goal.

Hackaccessible also aims to make a global impact. In 2024, Hackaccessible India was founded and this competition brought together 40 schools from across India to co-create designs that foster accessibility.

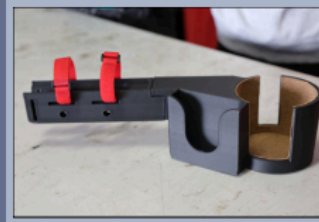


More recently, students from the Aga Khan University and Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya, ran their own version of Hackaccessible. Projects included a custom phone experience that helps meet various communication needs for the user and assists those with sensory overload.

03

2025 - DAVID'S CHALLENGE

David found it difficult to carry food, drinks and other items on his electric wheelchair. David's team designed and built a custom-fit, adaptable and easily detachable wheelchair attachment for David to carry personal items.

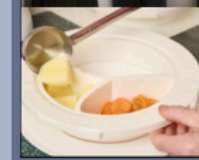


OUR PAST PROJECTS

Highlights & Impact from Previous Winning Projects

2024 - FRANK'S CHALLENGE

Frank, an avid cook, is completely blind. He found plating food in an aesthetically pleasing way, a challenge. Therefore, Frank's team created 3D printed template moulds lined with braille, customised to the plates Frank has at home, to assist him with this.



04

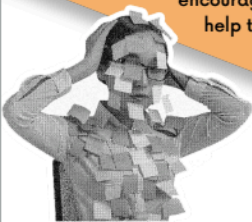
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

PROVIDE CHALLENGERS

A 'challenger' is an individual / a carer / family member / friend of an individual with an unmet need that relates to a disability or health condition that they may have. Our students will create and design a customised prototype to meet the unmet needs.

PROVIDE MENTORS

A mentor is an individual who will support and empower teams throughout the project. They will assist by providing feedback, encouraging effective teamwork and help teams stay realistic with their project scope and timeline.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

FINANCIAL SPONSORSHIP

Your financial support will directly fund our project as a whole, helping us cover essential expenses, as well as funding the individual teams' projects.

IN-KIND DONATIONS

If your company can provide materials, components, or expertise, we would greatly appreciate it. Whether it's hardware, design advice, or software support - every contribution matters!

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

We value partnerships beyond financial support. If you would like to engage with our participants, we can arrange workshops, guest talks, or site visits.



JOIN US. BE PART OF SOMETHING AMAZING.



Ready to co-design, create and support? We would love for you to collaborate with us!

If you have any questions, please get in touch by emailing hackcessible@sheffield.ac.uk

Exclusive Accessible Cycling at the National Cycling Centre

Experience the thrill of cycling in an inclusive, supportive environment at the National Cycling Centre!

Sunday 16 August 2026

- 12:00pm – 5:00pm For young people aged 10–20 years

Designed for young people with cerebral palsy and/or wheelchair users, this event offers the opportunity to try a range of cycling activities, including track cycling, trikes, handcycles, BMX and social riding.

Have a go at:

- Track Cycling
- Tandem Cycling
- Handcycles
- Trikes
- BMX
- Social Riding

Whether you're completely new to cycling or already ride regularly, expert coaches will be on hand to help you build confidence, learn new skills and experience the joy of cycling.

Sign up here:

https://forms.monday.com/forms/4acf9de64e0e258726b770a9e9c776ab?r=euc1&utm_source=WheelPower+Members&utm_campaign=7d90bbd412-MANCHESTER_CYCLE_VELO_22-07-26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-1a290ab33b-610153778



Upcoming Events

NWY ASBAH

Events are FREE for NWY ASBAH Members. Booking is Essential



Adults Social

Thursday
July
02

Join us at Shipley Library for World Cup themed crafting. Session runs from 1:30pm till 3:30pm. Parents/carers welcome.

Community Social

Saturday
July
11

A trip to York Railway Museum and Wonderlab. Explore the exhibits at your own pace with time to chill and chat. Arrival time: 11am

Adults Social

Thursday
July
23

Always popular, 10 Pin Bowling at Hollywood Bowl, Bradford. Session runs 1pm till 3pm

Community Social

Thursday
Aug
06

Coffee, cake and conversation at the Boating Pavillion and Cafe, Lister Park, Bradford. Session runs from 11am till 1pm

Family + Teens Social

Sunday
Sept
20

A chance to re-connect after the summer break and enjoy a bit of friendly family rivalry at 10 Pin Bowling, Hollywood Bowl, Bradford. Session runs 1pm till 3pm

Adults Social

Thursday
Sept
24

An autumnal canal boat trip and craft session with Safe Anchor Trust. Session runs from 1pm till 3:30pm

and much more...

www.nwyasbah.org/upcomingevents

Exhibition & African Business Roadshow

 **17** Wednesday, 28 October 2026

 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

 Bridge Community Conference Centre, Rider Street, Leeds LS9 7BQ

Bringing together organisations, businesses, charities, and community groups that support children, young people, families, education, health, and wellbeing.

Benefit: Discover services, access opportunities, build partnerships, and connect with organisations making a difference in our communities. Parents, young people, professionals, and organisations are encouraged to attend. Please register via the conference website.

 Find out more here:- <https://afrikindnessconference.org/>

Parenting Conference: PARENTS & YOUNG PEOPLE (LEEDS, BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE)

 **17** Saturday, 24 October 2026

 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

 Bridge Community Conference Centre, Rider Street, Leeds LS9 7BQ

Join parents, professionals, educators, and community leaders for a day of practical learning and meaningful conversations on parenting, neurodiversity, safeguarding, mental health, youth voice, and culturally responsive practice.

 Find out more here:- <https://afrikindnessconference.org/>

EXHIBITING ORGANISATIONS

If you are an organisation, business, service provider, charity, or community group and would like to exhibit at the Exhibition & African Business Roadshow, please complete our expression of interest form below.

 Find out more here:- [Exhibition Registration](#) for Organisations

LOCAL BUSINESS ROADSHOW

If you are a local business owner in Leeds or Bradford, showcase your work directly to parents, young people, professionals, educators, and community leaders at the Afrikindness Parenting & Inclusion Conference (APIC 2026).

 Find out more here:- [Business Showcase](#) for local businesses

Save the Dates

**SAT. 24TH
OCTOBER**

— MAIN PARENT CONFERENCE —

Afrikindness Parenting
& Inclusion Conference

apic LIVE! 2026

ONLINE NEURODIVERSITY
PARENT SUMMIT

YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY
SKILLS WORKSHOP

EXHIBITION | AFRICAN BUSINESS
ROADSHOW | DROP-IN SESSION

Theme:
**BEYOND
ASSUMPTIONS
20** Reimagining Parenting,
Youth Voice &
Professional Practice

Register: afrikindnessconference.org

Limitless Festival



LIMITLESS

LIMITLESS FESTIVAL
John Charles Centre for Sport,
Athletics Track
22nd August 10am-1pm

**Adapted cycling activities and showcase-
Everyone welcome!**

**Find out more about Adapted
Cycling in Leeds**

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leeds-limitless-festival-tickets-1992915616256?aff=oddtcreator>

For more info contact- Hannah: hannaheast@britishcycling.org.uk

BRITISH CYCLING **Active Leeds**

LIMITLESS **BRITISH CYCLING**

LIMITLESS FESTIVAL
John Charles Centre for Sport, Athletics Track
22nd August 10am-1pm

Agenda

- Adapted cycle show case
- Beginner adapted cycle rides
- Fun cycling games and challenges
- Light refreshments provided

Find out more about adapted cycling in Leeds!

More Information

- Accessible parking at car park C
- Entry and registration at gate C
- Partner stalls providing information
- Accessible facilities

Register here:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leeds-limitless-festival-tickets-1992915616256?aff=oddtcreator>



Accessible parking available here

Entry gate/registration located here

Contact hannaheast@britishcycling.org.uk for more info

GET CYCLING **Active Leeds**

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - LEEDS

URGENT APPEAL: DRIVERS NEEDED TO KEEP LEEDS PHAB CLUB RUNNING!

Can you spare a few hours on a Friday evening to change lives in Leeds? 🚌❤️

For **56 years**, PHAB Club Leeds has provided fun, outings, and lifelong friendships for disabled members aged 9 to 90 at the Prince Philip Centre (LS7 2HJ).

Right now, we bring members in from all across Leeds using our three minibuses. **However, come September, our members face being left at home unless we find new volunteer drivers.**

Our current incredible driving team are in their late 70s and retiring after a fantastic 20+ years of dedicated service. We are endlessly grateful for everything they've done, but now we urgently need the next generation of volunteers to step up!



What we are looking for:

- Responsible drivers aged 25–75

- A clean driving licence

What we provide:

- Full training (including Basic First Aid and Safeguarding)
- Help with securing a DBS check if you do not already have a current certificate

If you can help—or if you know someone who might—please don't let our members miss out on their Friday nights!

 **Contact Ann Hart:** 01937 573722

 **Email:** ann.hartphab@btinternet.com

 **Website:** www.leedsphabclub.org.uk

Please LIKE, COMMENT, and SHARE this post to help us spread the word across Leeds! 

#Leeds #VolunteerLeeds #LeedsCommunity #PHAB #Accessibility #SupportLocal

Quiet Time Shoe Fitting Appointments at Clarks Leeds Trinity!

Are you preparing for the school shoe rush but worried about the busy, loud environment for your child?

The team over at Clarks Leeds Trinity has reached out to us to share their fantastic "Quiet Time" appointments, specifically designed for children and young adults with SEND or other additional needs.

Returning to the city centre, they want to ensure every family has a seamless, stress-free experience.

What they offer:

Exclusive Store Access: They open the store for just one family at a time to drastically reduce over-stimulation.

Sensory-Friendly Environment: Reduced noise, dimmed lighting, and fewer sensory triggers.

Zero Wait Time: Walk straight in at your scheduled time—no stressful queuing.

Expert Care: A trained fitter will be on hand to patiently measure and fit school shoes or any other footwear required.

Where to find them:

 Middle Floor, Trinity Leeds (Next to Primark, just up from Boots)

How to book:

Appointments cannot be booked online, so please get in touch with the store directly to arrange a slot that suits your family:

 Call the store: 0113 5321555

 Pop in-store to chat with the team

Armley Leisure Centre Summer Holiday Information 2026

Dry side Activities

Monday 27th July, 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th August

Sports Camp (8-12 yrs)

13:00 – 15:00

£6

Tuesday 28th July, 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th August

Family Racket Sports

12:00 – 13:00

£4 *promotional price*

Wednesday 29th July, 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th August

Football Fun (8-12yrs)

13:00 – 14:00

£4 *promotional price*

Thursday 30th July, 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th August

Jungle Bouncy Castle

10:00 – 11:00 (2-5 yrs)

11:15 – 12:15 (SEN Friendly)

13:00 – 14:00 (6-12 yrs)

£4 *promotional price*

Friday 31st July

Pride Celebration

“Join us for a fun-filled Pride celebration featuring party music from LGBTQ+ artists, creative arts and crafts, and a bouncy castle for all ages to enjoy!”

13:00 – 14:00

£4 *promotional price*

Friday 14th August

Jungle Jamboree Party

“Go wild with us! Enjoy jungle beats, hands-on arts and crafts, and big bouncing fun on the Jungle

Bouncy Castle. Adventure awaits around every corner!"

13:00 – 14:00

£4 *promotional price*

Friday 28th August

Summer Sensation Party

"Enjoy sunny vibes, great tunes, arts and crafts, and bouncing adventures. The perfect way to celebrate summer with friends and family!

13:00 – 14:00

£4 *promotional price*

John Charles Leisure Centre Summer Holiday Activities 2026

ACTIVE LEEDS

summer Spectacular!
@ JOHN CHARLES CENTRE FOR SPORT

JUST £4
PER CHILD
PER SESSION

EMAIL FOR ENQUIRIES:
JCCS@leeds.gov.uk
CALL FOR ENQUIRIES:
0113 376 0398

REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE TO
PURCHASE ON-SITE

INCLUSIVE &
WELCOMING
ATMOSPHERE

CHILDRENS CHALLENGES
WITHIN EACH SESSION

Session Timetable | 3rd of August 2026

09:00 – 09:45	AGES 2–6
10:00 – 11:00	AGES 6–12
11:15 – 12:15	AGES 6–12
13:00 – 14:00	AGES 6–12
14:30 – 15:15	SEN GROUP (AGES 4–12)

LIMITLESS

LIMITLESS FESTIVAL
John Charles Centre for Sport,
Athletics Track
22nd August 10am-1pm

Adapted cycling activities and showcase-
Everyone welcome!

Find out more about Adapted
Cycling in Leeds

For more info contact- Hannah:
hannaheast@britishcycling.org.uk

BRITISH CYCLING

Active Leeds

Sunshine and Smiles Skelton Grange Activity Day

We have another trip planned to the lovely Skelton Grange environment centre.

The day will all be based around enjoying & being outdoors; we will be based in a woodland area with hammocks, dens, rope swings & mud kitchen.

The team from Skelton will then take those who want to on mini expeditions - pond dipping, to the sensory herb garden and on a nature scavenger hunt.

Please bring a picnic & drinks for your family and weather appropriate clothing, footwear & sun cream if applicable! If the weather is very wet we can use an indoor classroom space at lunchtime.

The day will end with a little campfire in the woods.

We have space for 20 families to come on the day, booking is essential and you can book by following [this link](#).

Event details

Next date: 12th August 2026, 10:00-14:00

Address, Skelton Grange Environment Centre, Skelton Grange Rd, Leeds LS10 1RS

Phone: Weekday: 07725 041601 Weekend: 07472 320168

Email: hello@sunshineandsmiles.org.uk

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.

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

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@lsics.org.uk

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

Interplay Theatre - Upcoming Events



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

INTERPLAY
NATIONAL SENSORY THEATRE

Sensory Youth Theatre

Explore Create Share

Arts Council England

Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

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

A Supportive, Practical Course for Parents Using Music With Their Children

If you'd like to feel more confident using music to connect with your child — especially if they have additional or complex needs — our two-day course Making Music with Special Children may be a wonderful fit.

You don't need to be musical. You don't need to sing in tune. You just need curiosity and a willingness to explore.

What you'll learn

Simple ways to use music to support communication and bonding
How rhythm and pulse can help with focus and regulation
Creative ideas for using music, even with limited time or resources
Using iPads to make music
Approaches that work for children with a wide range of needs

"Certainly one of the very best courses I have ever attended - truly transformative! Heartfelt thanks to the tutors- and to the participants. I had a very rewarding time with my little granddaughter on Sunday, whose dancing back and forth along the sofa I accompanied with up and down arpeggios causing squeals of delight." Christopher, grandparent

Course details

London – 29–30 September 2026 York – 9–10 November 2026 Cost: £95 for both days, including lunch and refreshments.

Book your place:

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

We'd love to welcome you to two uplifting, supportive days of learning and shared experience.

Little Hiccups Upcoming Events

Musical Theatre Workshops

Aug 26th - [Lilo and Stitch: Ohana Island Adventure](#)

Summer Picnic Dates

Just drop in if you prefer!

Aug 4th: [Harewood House](#)

Aug 12th - [Temple Newsam](#)

Aug 17th - [TCV Skelton](#)

Aug 21st - [Tropical World](#)

Aug 25th - [Royal Armouries](#)

Aug 2nd: [Relaxed Family Session at Bianco Lounge >](#)

Aug 4th - [Carers Chill Night >](#)

Speaking Up at School: Communication with Education Staff

[In person: 16th Sept, 10am >](#)

[Online \(daytime\): 18th Sept, 10am >](#)

[Online \(evening\): 23rd Sept, 7pm >](#)

Sept 26th - [Watersports at Hollingworth Lake](#)

(bookings open July 25th)

SNAPS Summer Holiday Activities - for SNAPS registered families

SNAPS Summer Picnics

Roundhay Park Picnic -

<https://register.enthuse.com/.../SNAPSSummerPicnic2025Rou...>

Date: Monday 3rd August

Time: 11am to 1pm

Temple Newsam Picnic -

<https://register.enthuse.com/.../SNAPSSummerPicnic2026Tem...>

Date: Wednesday 19th August

Time: 11am to 1pm

You will need to bring your own picnic and chairs / blankets.

We will bring some games for everyone to take part in.

Please follow the links to book on to each event - this is so we have a rough idea of attendees.

THESE PICNICS ARE FREE TO ATTEND.

SNAPS MathsCity Takeover!

A fun, interactive maths experience where families can explore hands-on puzzles, games, and challenges together in a playful city-themed space.

Date: Thursday 27th August

Time: 3pm to 5pm (EXCLUSIVE USE)

Cost: £6.50 per child (3 years or older). Adults are FREE but still need a ticket.

Link to book tickets: <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/SNAPSMathsCityTakeover>

This is a ticketed event with limited numbers, follow to the link to purchase a ticket to this exciting afternoon.

If you have any questions, please email laurabeckett@snapsyorkshire.org

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/>

Relaxed Open Days at Leeds City College

We're pleased to invite you and your learners to our upcoming Quieter Open Events at Leeds City College. We understand that a busy event can feel overwhelming, so we're happy to provide an alternative experience so that everyone can take part.

Our Quieter Open Events provide all the information and opportunity you would expect from a Leeds City College open event, but in a quieter environment. We limit visitor numbers for these events to reduce potential overstimulation and best support those with SEND needs. These events are ideal for those wanting to explore Leeds City College at a gentle, calm pace.

Our Quieter Open Events will take place from September 2026 in preparation for starting college September 2027.

Quieter open events will take place at our main campuses on the dates in the attached leaflet. We are also looking for anyone organisation wishes to have a stand at our open event to promote SEND services across West Yorkshire. Please email EventsMarketing@luminare.ac.uk to book your stand.

Leeds City College also offers more specialist SEND/ EHCP provision at its Jospeh Priestley and The Vine campuses. I have attached information about the offer at both campuses.

To book your place at any of these events please register your interest here: [Thank you for registering your interest in Leeds City College Quieter open events](#)

Places are limited, so we encourage early booking.

If you are considering booking, but have questions, our Events team is ready to help you with any queries you may have about the open event. Email: EventsMarketing@luminare.ac.uk for information on parking spaces for Blue Badge holders, Sign Language interpretation, additional support requirements and any further information you may require to visit the right campus.

Please share with learners and their families with SEND/EHCPs.

Additionally if you would like any support with transition including college visits, attendance at careers fairs or any further support please do get in touch.

We look forward to welcoming you,

Quieter Open Events

Shape your future in a quieter environment

Designed to provide a supportive space to ask the important questions about your future, our quieter open events allow you to explore your future college **without all the hustle and bustle.**

Talk to us about your course options, meet your tutors and explore any support you might need when you study with us.

Visit the campus where your course will take place and get familiar with the facilities where you will study.

Tuesday 29 September | 4.30 - 6.30pm

Printworks Campus

- Animal Care & Land Management (some classroom delivery at Printworks Campus and practical learning at Temple Newsam)
- Business
- Catering & Hospitality
- Digital & IT
- Engineering & Manufacturing
- Hair, Beauty & Media Makeup
- Sustainable Technologies
- Motor Vehicle
- Travel & Tourism

Tuesday 29 September | 4.30 - 6.30pm

Quarry Hill Campus

- Creative Arts
- Education & Early Years
- Health Science & Social Care
- Public Services

Tuesday 29 September | 4.30 - 6.30pm

Somerville House

- Enterprise & Employability
- RE: (workshop delivery at Mabgate Campus)

Tuesday 20 October | 4.30 - 6.30pm

Park Lane Campus

- Science
- Sport
- Leeds Sports Connect
- Future Pathways
- Step Up to A Levels (SUTA)
- A Levels (Leeds Sixth Form College)

Limited visitor numbers ensure a quieter environment in which to start shaping your future. Book your place online by scanning the QR code or emailing eventsmarketing@luminate.ac.uk



A member of Luminate Education Group

Foundation Studies Preparing for Adult Life

A specialist provision for those learners with Education, Health and Care plans and/or SEND.

Our Foundation Studies provision at Joseph Priestley Centre provides personalised learning programmes to meet the needs of learners with severe and complex learning difficulties.

Learning programmes are created around the individual learners EHCP outcomes alongside the development of life skills, communication and independence.

We support each learner to reach their potential and encourage them to be as independent as possible through a preparation for adulthood framework of delivery.



For more information contact:

eventsmarketing@luminate.ac.uk
0113 284 6680

Specialist Support

We understand that all learners' skills and needs vary and recognise that it is likely that learners will need a higher level of support throughout their lives. Foundation Studies benefits from a specialist 'Care Team' who support learners with varying levels of personal and medical care.

Students will also be allocated smaller class sizes and a personal tutor who will provide them with pastoral support, information advice and guidance and help them to progress through their learning journey.

Highlights of our Ofsted report include:

- Learners with special educational needs and/or disabilities are well supported by qualified staff.
- Learners with high needs benefit from inclusive and personalised learning pathways which enable them to develop their knowledge and skills alongside their resilience and their independence. Consequently, they are prepared well for further study or employment, including supported internships.
- Learners with profound multiple learning disabilities receive well-coordinated specialist support, including speech and language therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, that meets their needs and enables them to engage fully in their learning.

What will the course offer?

Our curriculum is split into strands of support with a bite size curriculum offer. The key strands are:

- **Independent Living and Community Inclusion**
A skill-based curriculum that allows you to develop a sense of who you are, whilst experiencing the wider community. Develop your basic cooking skills, learn household tasks, take part in enrichment events, manage a personal budget, and develop your communication skills for personal and social development.
- **Work/Employment**
Take part in real-life work experiences, both individually and in small groups. These courses include aspects of independent living, community living and working with others with a focus of progressing into voluntary or paid work.
- **Vocational Stepping Stones**
A destination led curriculum exploring vocational skills and knowledge, equipping you with the entry requirements to progress into wider college vocational courses.
- **Exploring and Securing Future Opportunities**
A skills-based curriculum where you explore the opportunities available post-college. You will visit communities and organisations, and take part in activities and/or work experience that will allow a smooth transition into your chosen destination.

For more information contact:

eventsmarketing@luminate.ac.uk
0113 284 6680

A member of Luminate Education Group

The Vine PMLD Provision

A specialist PMLD provision for those learners with education, health and care plans and/or SEND.

The Vine provides personalised learning programmes to meet the needs of learners with severe and complex learning difficulties. Specialist support staff lead on behaviour and intervention, personal and medical care, mental health and wellbeing, physiotherapy & hydrotherapy.

Students will also be allocated smaller class sizes and a personal tutor who will provide them with pastoral support, information advice and guidance and help them to progress through their learning journey.



For more information contact:

 eventsmarketing@luminare.ac.uk
 0113 284 6680

**Highlights of our
Ofsted report include:**

- Learners with special educational needs and/or disabilities are well supported by qualified staff.
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- Learners with profound multiple learning disabilities receive well-coordinated specialist support, including speech and language therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, that meets their needs and enables them to engage fully in their learning.

For more information contact:

 eventsmarketing@luminare.ac.uk
 0113 284 6680



A member of Luminare Education Group

What will the course offer?

Our bespoke curriculum offer supports with sensory stimulation and is split into the below strands:

- **Social Emotional Development**
For young people with SLD, PMLD and CLDD who experience a range of social emotional difficulties, which impact how they learn and interact with others. This curriculum develops; personal wellbeing, communicating needs and wants, making choices and expressing thoughts and feelings.
- **Communication (Speech & Language)**
Our communication curriculum is devised to encourage the development of; responding to social events and activities, interacting with others and intensive interaction.
- **Sensory & Cognition**
Helps learners explore their senses for learning and sensory stimulation that encourage the development of; motor/ gross motor skills, physical sensory skills, tactile awareness, position tolerance, sensory integrations and visual & auditory skills.
- **Physical Interaction**
Designed to allow learners who are physically impaired, or who are still learning to move, to engage in physical interaction in order to develop; body awareness, positional changes, mobility, grasping/ releasing and standing/walking.

As many of our learners have special educational needs or profound and multiple learning difficulties the offer of education is around appropriate learning to support life outcomes. This personalised approach is driven by the EHCP outcomes and their chosen pathway for learning. In addition to their chosen pathway students will also benefit from English and maths sessions that will allow them to develop communication and number skills appropriate to them.

Gallery

RISE
LEARNING HUB

**Holiday playschemes
are here!**

Book your spot via
riselearninghubbyorkshire@gmail.com:
11-11.45am

30 July, 6, 13 & 20 Aug
Location - Wellnest Kirkstall
**Only £12 per child (or book all 4 for £40 to
save!)**

Book your place
riselearninghubbyorkshire@gmail.com

0:05 / 0:05

Careers In Leeds

This year marks the launch of a new, city-wide careers, jobs, and training fair entitled Careers In Leeds. The event will offer a refreshed approach to bringing opportunities and talent together across Leeds and the wider region.

For the first time, [Employment and Skills Leeds](#) are combining three major events into one ambitious, inclusive offer:

- Leeds Digital Careers Fair
- Leeds Creative Skills Festival
- SEND Next Choices Event

Careers in Leeds 2026 takes place on Tuesday 3 November 2026 and runs from 12pm to 6pm, with the first hour (12pm–1pm) reserved as a quiet hour exclusively for visitors with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

You'll have the chance to talk to major employers from a wide range of sectors, including accounting, business and administration, catering and hospitality, construction, creative design, care services, digital, education, engineering, finance, hair and beauty, health, law, protective services and many more.

With over 100 exhibitors expected, the event will offer information, advice, guidance and access to live vacancies. You'll have the opportunity to find out about jobs, training and opportunities in Leeds. The event is free to attend and open to everyone.

Tickets for the quiet hour (12pm–1pm) are limited and only available to visitors with special educational needs and/or disabilities. General admission tickets are for entry between 1pm and 6pm.

Find out more and book your free ticket here: [Careers in Leeds | Inclusive Growth Leeds](#)



A brand-new
flagship careers,
jobs and
skills event

Careers in Leeds is open to anyone considering their next move – whether you're looking for a job, training, an apprenticeship, or simply exploring career ideas.



Visitors will be able to

- Meet employers and training providers from across Leeds
- Explore a wide range of sectors and career pathways
- Get practical support such as CV advice, interview tips and employability guidance
- Learn about local jobs, courses and progression routes

Inclusivity focused

The event has been designed to be inclusive and welcoming. A dedicated support area will offer tailored guidance, including support for people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Scan the QR code to find out more and get your tickets



Leeds Therapy Hub CIC -New Wellbeing Groups Starting This September

Leeds Therapy Hub CIC, a community-focused organisation providing accessible mental health and wellbeing support for children, young people, adults, families, and carers across West Yorkshire. Our mission is to make emotional wellbeing support more accessible by working collaboratively with families, parents, carers, schools, Early Help services, Family Hubs, and community organisations. We aim to provide safe, supportive spaces where individuals can explore their emotions, build resilience, develop coping strategies, and improve their overall wellbeing.

We understand that many children, young people, and adults face barriers when accessing traditional mental health support. Our approach uses creative, therapeutic, and wellbeing-based interventions to provide accessible support that meets people where they are.

Our current specialist services include:

1. Play & Creative Arts Therapy (Ages 5–16)

Play & Creative Arts Therapy is an evidence-based approach designed to support children and teenagers who may find it difficult to express their emotions through words alone.

Using creative approaches including art, drama, music, role play, sand tray therapy, and other therapeutic activities, young people are able to explore their feelings, experiences, and challenges in a safe and supportive environment.

This approach can support children and young people experiencing:

- Anxiety and stress
- Low mood and depression
- Trauma and difficult life experiences
- Grief and loss
- Family changes
- Bullying
- School-related pressures
- ADHD and autism-related challenges
- Emotional regulation difficulties
- Low confidence and self-esteem

Therapy can help young people develop emotional awareness, confidence, coping strategies, resilience, social skills, and healthier ways of managing difficult emotions.

"Sometimes the most powerful conversations happen without saying a word."

2. Creative Calm – Mindfulness Art Sessions (Adults)

Creative Calm is a supportive 6-week community wellbeing group using mindful creative practices to help reduce stress, support emotional regulation, and encourage relaxation.

No artistic experience is required. The focus is not on creating artwork, but on using creativity as a tool to slow down, reconnect with yourself, and support wellbeing.

Start date: 14th September 2026

Duration: 6 weeks

Time: Mondays, 12:00pm–1:00pm

3. Six-Week Wellness Re-Set Programme (Adults)

A holistic wellbeing programme supporting adults experiencing chronic illness, anxiety, low mood, stress, burnout, grief, or trauma.

The programme combines:

- Breathwork
- Mindfulness
- Body awareness
- Energy healing approaches
- CBT-informed wellbeing tools

The aim is to support nervous system regulation, resilience, emotional wellbeing, and reconnecting with yourself.

Start date: 21st September 2026

Duration: 6 weeks

Time: Mondays, 7:00pm–9:00pm

4. Calm Within – An 8-Week Journey for Parents and Carers

A dedicated support programme for parents and carers who often carry the emotional needs of others while having little time to focus on themselves.

Over eight weeks, participants will explore practical tools to:

- Develop emotional resilience
- Reduce stress and overwhelm
- Build healthier boundaries

- Improve self-care
- Reconnect with themselves

Start date: 24th September 2026

Duration: 8 weeks

Time: Thursdays, 7:00pm–9:00pm

We would love the opportunity to connect with local services and explore how Leeds Therapy Hub CIC could complement the fantastic work already being carried out in our community .

I have attached further information about each service for you to share with colleagues, families, and professionals who may benefit. These will have location and prices attached. If you feel you could host one of our courses for people in your area, please do let us know. We would be delighted to discuss how we can work together to support your community.

If you would like to discuss our services, referral pathways, partnership opportunities, or how we can support your local community, please do get in touch.

Contact details:

Email: Leedstherapyhubcic@gmail.com

Pawsitive Action - Cake and Canines



**PAWSITIVE ACTION
LEEDS CIC**
MAKING ASSISTANCE DOGS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

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: 12th August
(2nd Wednesday of the month)

Time: 6pm - 8pm



New dog friendly social for those with PTSD/c-PTSD or DV trauma.

A peer support group facilitated by our specialist canine and disability practitioners who have lived experience of trauma.

A safe space to enjoy good company, chat and share some dog love.

This is a FREE group but we ask that you buy a drink or some food to support our amazing venue.

You don't need to bring a dog but if you have a dog who is happy to be in a pub environment feel free to bring them along.

The function room
The White Swan
High Street
Yeadon

13th August 2026

PAWSITIVE ACTION LEEDS CIC
MAKING ASSISTANCE DOGS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

We're hosting casual, friendly meetups for anyone navigating PTSD, C-PTSD, or domestic abuse trauma.

The White Swan, Yeadon

19:00-21:00

We're holding regular monthly meetups to bring people together in a safe, welcoming environment.

No pressure and zero expectation to share anything you're not comfortable with. Just a safe environment, a drink, and good company.

Alongside being a warm, welcoming space to chat, you can help shape the future of trauma support assistance dogs.

Dogs are welcome if they are comfortable in a pub environment.

**Please note, this is a peer support group and is not attended by any mental health professionals*

🎵 OPEN - Inclusive Music Ensemble with Made with Music! 🎵

Looking for a supportive space to make music together? OPEN is an inclusive ensemble in Leeds designed for anyone who might need extra support to make music alongside family and friends.

Bring your own instruments or use the ones provided on the day!

🌟 Details:

- **When:** Saturdays, 26th September to 28th November 2026 (8 sessions total) | 2:15pm – 4:15pm (includes breaks)
- **Where:** Leeds Conservatoire, 3 Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7PD
- **Who it's for:** Advised age 8+ (family and friends welcome!)

- **Cost/Places:** Places are limited, so booking is essential.

 **For more information & to book:** www.madewithmusic.co.uk/open

 **Email:** hello@madewithmusic.co.uk



OPEN

An inclusive ensemble in Leeds for anyone who might need extra support to make music with family and friends.

Starting Saturday 26th September to the 28th November (8 Sessions).
2.15-4.15pm (including breaks)
Venue: Leeds Conservatoire, 3 Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7PD

For more information visit www.madewithmusic.co.uk/open or email hello@madewithmusic.co.uk
Places are limited.

You can bring your own instruments or we can provide them. Advised age is 8+.

YOUTH MUSIC

LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE

Summer Holiday SEN Bouncy Castle Fun!

Looking for a fun, active session over the summer break? Scott Hall Leisure Centre is hosting SEN Bouncy Castle sessions for children to burn off some energy in a welcoming environment!

Session Dates & Times:

- **Mondays:** 3rd August, 10th August & 17th August 2026
- **Time:** 9:30am – 10:30am

 **Venue:** Scott Hall Leisure Centre

 **Price:** £5.75 standard / £4.25 Leeds Extra Card (LCX)



NDCS Family Information and Fun Morning

Families of children with any level of hearing loss are invited to a family information and fun morning on Sunday 23rd August from 10:00 - 12:00 at the Leeds Society for Deaf and Blind People in Leeds. Families will have the opportunity to meet each other, participate in fun activities, and gain information from local services in the area including Deaf EXperience and Leeds Bid Technology Service. Families or other professionals are welcome to attend. Contact vicki.forbes@ndcs.org.uk to register your interest.

Family fun and information day

Would you like to connect with other families, share experiences and tips, and give your child the chance to meet others like them?



Join us

For a friendly chat with organisations in the area, including Deaf EXperience, Leeds BID Technology Service and support from the National Deaf Children's Society.



When?

Sunday 23rd August
10.00am to 12.00pm



Where?

Leeds Society for Deaf and Blind People, St Mary's Street,
Leeds, LS9 7DP

We'd love to see you there! Contact your local community connector for any further information.

vicki.forbes@ndcs.org.uk - 07812 419 361



ndcs.org.uk

The National Deaf Children's Society is a registered charity in England and Wales no.1016532 and in Scotland no. SC040779. G0231

NDCS TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

The National Deaf Children's Society offer a range of Free online learning modules designed for professionals and practitioners working with children and young people with any level of deafness and hearing loss. The CPD Accredited modules aim to build knowledge and confidence in a variety of subjects including Deaf Awareness, Technology for inclusion and The Impact of Bullying on Deaf Children and Young People. To find out more information and to access the courses, [visit our online learning for professionals](#)

Modular Seating and Wheelchairs Workshop with Irwin Mitchell

Interested in learning more about postural support, custom seating, and wheelchair solutions for complex care needs? Irwin Mitchell is hosting an informative workshop focused on Modular Seating and Wheelchairs designed for healthcare professionals, clients, and family carers.

This session covers key insights into seating assessments, funding options, and how appropriate modular equipment can vastly improve independence and quality of life.

✨ Details & Booking:
Wednesday 2 September 2026
5:00pm - 8:00pm

 Find out more & reserve your place:
<https://events.irwinmitchell.com/Modulareseatingandwheelchairs>

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - BRADFORD

Training for all professionals working with a young person with Down syndrome from September:

Down Syndrome Development, Education and Inclusion (CPD Accredited) as well as An Introduction to Down Syndrome (also suitable for parents). Details can be found here: Training | Down Syndrome Training and Support Service Ltd and bookings are now being taken.

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

 Please see our monthly newsletter for details of upcoming events, training, fundraising and opportunities: <https://www.downsyndromebradford.com/our-newsletters-1>

Thanks,

Jenn

Bradford SEND Local Offer News - July 2026

- Changing Places provide fully accessible toilets and equipment located in many areas, which can be helpful if you want to plan a day out or trip away. Search on the Changing Places [website](#).
- Nell Bank Discover Days - spaces still available on Thursday 6, and Friday 7 August (10am - 3pm). Nell Bank has accessible facilities. Book [here](#).
- Airedale & Wharfedale Autism Resource (AWARE) summer guide, 2026 is [here](#).
- Keighley Gala, 8 August (11am - 3pm) at Cliffe Castle. Face painting, donkey rides, fun fair, balloon modelling and [more](#).
- Read the July edition of the Bradford district Living Well newsletter, [here](#).
- Bradford By the Sea - A giant playbox with seaside themed toys and games will be in City Park from 17 - 27 August (11am - 4pm). [Read more](#).
- Every Thursday during the school holidays look out for little toy ducks found hiding at Roberts Park, Saltaire. You can follow Bradford District Parks on [Facebook](#).
- FoodSavers Cookery School is located on the middle floor of Darley Street Market. The school offers cookery sessions for people of all ages and abilities. [Find classes](#).
- The Beacon (with activities from dance to theatre and comedy) will be in Wibsey park for the whole month of August! Both free and ticketed [events](#).
- The Bradford Family Film Festival will run every Wednesday at 11am throughout August, showing at Darley Street Market's Big Screen.

Airedale & Wharfedale Autism Resource (AWARE) summer guide 2026

This handy guide to the summer has been created for children with Autism and their families, however many of the activities and things to do are accessible by all children with a special educational need and/or disability. From things to do, places to go and information. Find the Guide [here](#).

Booking are now open for HAF summer holiday clubs!

Holiday, Activities and Food (HAF) places are free for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities - look at the holiday clubs available [here](#).

HAF clubs provide free fun activities and a healthy meal for eligible children. Most HAF clubs can support children with low to moderate SEND needs. Please contact any chosen clubs from the [find a club](#) section before booking so you can discuss your child's needs and make sure the activity is suitable.

Some clubs can support children with higher levels of need. These are marked as: High-level SEND support: Yes.

Free summer fun in Bradford District parks!

The FREE Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) parks programme is back with a fantastic range of activities for children aged 5 -14 years of age. No booking required, simply register your child on arrival and join in the fun. There are a number of upcoming dates at parks across the Bradford district for sports, inflatables, dance, arts and crafts, adventure play and much more!

Parents and carers must stay and supervise children throughout the session. Children receiving benefits-related free school meals can also receive a free healthy packed lunch while supplies last.

- Tuesday, 4 August – Roberts Park
 - Wednesday, 5 August – Lister Park (National Play Day)
 - Thursday, 6 August – Cliffe Castle, Keighley
 - Tuesday, 11 August – Lund Park, Keighley
 - Wednesday, 12 August – Wibsey Park
 - Thursday, 13 August – West Park
 - Tuesday, 18 August – Peel Park
 - Wednesday, 19 August – Horton Park
-

SHORT BREAKS AT MIND THE GAP

STORIES THROUGH ART

Are you aged 8 to 18? Do you have a learning disability and/or autism?

Join us for a Short Break at Mind the Gap. You'll spend the morning trying out Theatre, Dance, Music and Art in our beautiful studios. With a trip to a local gallery.

No experience needed – just come along and have fun. You'll meet new people, try something different, and get a certificate at the end.

Each day will have a different focus:

Monday – Music

Tuesday – Cartwright Hall Trip

Wednesday – Theatre

Thursday – Dance

Friday – Visual Arts



Age 8–12 years

Week commencing Monday 17th August
10am – 12pm

Age 13–18 years

Week commencing Monday 24th August
10am – 12pm

Please feel free to stay for lunch each day until 12:45pm.

The deadline to sign up is Wednesday 5th August. Get in touch to find out more:

Email melissajackson@mind-the-gap.org.uk
Phone 01274 487390



Emotional Based School Avoidance support

Is your child struggling to go to school due to feelings of worry or stress? Are you unsure what to do? Then come along to a friendly and supportive parent support group run by the Educational Psychology team.

You'll find a safe space to share and listen to other parents, get ideas to help, and learn about what you can do to support your child, and what you can expect from school. You will need to be able to attend all four sessions. To book, email: EBSA@bradford.gov.uk

- Wednesdays - 30 Sept, 7, 14, 21 Oct (Online)
- Wednesdays - 11, 18, 25 Nov, 2 Dec (Cafe West, Allerton)
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If your child is struggling to attend school, please contact your school initially and ask for support and visit our [One Minute Guide](#) on Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA).

'SEND One Plan' diary dates

The SEND Partnership is working together across education, health, and care to improve services for children and young people in Bradford District.

There is a clear and joined-up plan called the [SEND One Plan](#), and regular events are taking place, chaired by the Parents' Forum for Bradford and Airedale ([PFBA](#)) to give parents and carers the opportunity to ask questions and get answers from services.

Upcoming diary dates:

- Thursday 10, September and Thursday 19, November (10am to 12 noon). Venue to be confirmed.

The Bradford Local Area SEND Partnership continues to work with the Department for Education and local families to finalise the Local Area Reform Plan for the implementation of the [SEND Reforms](#) in Bradford District.

Summer SEND sessions at Rainbow Family Hub

Keighley/Shipley Family Hub ([Rainbow](#)) is running parent-led fun SEND sessions (9.30am - 11.30am) on the following dates:

- Tuesday, 4 August - arts and crafts with storytime.
- Tuesday, 11 August - baking and food tasting.
- Tuesday, 18 August - sensory play.

SEND family fun session

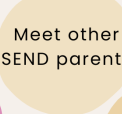
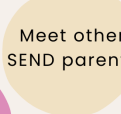
- Wednesday, 26 August (9.30am - 11am) Keighley/ShIPLEY Family Hub ([Owlet](#)).
-

SEND Marketplace drop-in events

Taking place monthly at different venues across the district, come along and speak to specialist SEND services who can provide advice, support and signposting.

- Monday 24 August (9.30am - 12.30 pm) at Bradford West Family Hub ([Farcliffe](#)).
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Family Engagement Project Coffee Mornings

 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  Meet other SEND parents  Signposting to services  Free refreshments  Children welcome Come and join us! Wednesday 19th August 10.00am - 11.30am Kirkgate Community Centre 39A Kirkgate, Shipley, BD18 3EH  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	 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  Meet other SEND parents  Signposting to services  Free refreshments  Children welcome Come and join us! Wednesday 5th August 10.00am - 11.30am Mayfield Centre 35 Broadway Avenue, BD5 9NP  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
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EVENTS AND INFORMATION - WAKEFIELD

EVENTS AND INFORMATION - KIRKLEES