



NATIONAL CANN COMMUNICATION
September 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, 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:

GENERAL

Website: www.cann-network.org
Email: admin@cann-network.org

NORTH EAST CANN

Admin: northeast@cann-network.org
Chairs: chair.northeast@cann-network.org
BlueSky: <https://bsky.app/profile/necann.bsky.social>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/north-east-cann/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/northeastcann>

SOUTH WEST CANN

Admin: southwest@cann-network.org
Chairs: 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
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>

WEST MIDLANDS CANN

Admin: westmidlands@cann-network.org
Chairs: 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
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>

MEETING DATES

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

NECANN Upcoming Meetings

Thursday 24th 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

08th December 2026
Virtual

WYCANN Upcoming Meetings:

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

RESEARCH

Take part in research related to microtia

Researchers at Aston University are looking for people to take part in a research study funded by Microtia UK. The study is about developing and evaluating online information resources designed for children and young people with microtia.

What's involved?

a 1-hour online interview (with a potential follow-up)
an online survey

Who can take part?

any child or young person with microtia aged between 7 and 25
parents or family members of a child or young person with microtia

To get involved or find out more, email Saira Hussain at s.hussain14@aston.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. A yellow ball is in motion. 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**

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/>

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



Scan to find out more
and book your place

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

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?

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) and 26th November

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

24 September
26 November

Entries are open for WheelPower next season of Sports Festivals!

As we enter August, there is never a better time than now to get signed up for our next season of Sports Festivals after the summer break.

These popular events fill quickly so visit our events page and find out where your nearest Festival is!

<https://www.wheelpower.org.uk/activities/sports-events/>



WHEELPOWER SPORTS FESTIVAL »» MIDDLESEX «« THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2026

ASPIRE LEISURE CENTRE



Patient Webinar - finding your confidence, exploring identity and acceptance

Living with a visible difference can bring unique challenges around self-esteem, identity, and feeling comfortable in your own skin. If you—or someone you support—have ever looked in the mirror and struggled to accept or recognise the person looking back, you are not alone.

Changing Faces is holding a supportive, dedicated webinar designed to offer connection, inspiration, and practical guidance on your journey forward.

What to expect:

- **Powerful Shared Stories:** Hear direct, personal experiences from individuals living with a visible difference.
- **Expert Reflections:** Gain insights from specialists to help apply these themes to your own personal goals.
- **Community & Support:** Connect with a space that truly understands, and walk away with practical ideas to help build your confidence.

Whether you are looking for a community that relates to your experience or simply seeking fresh inspiration, you are so welcome to join.

Find out more and register for free here: <https://link.changingfaces.org.uk/NyJILY>

Bringing It Together sessions

Are you a solo parent of a child with additional needs or disabilities, struggling to make ends meet?

You might not realise that:

- You and your child may be entitled to specific benefits and support.
- Certain benefits may still be available even if you are working.

Join **Bringing Us Together** for their upcoming **Doing It Solo** online workshop:



Friday 18th September



10:00 am – 12:00 pm



Online

Led by Steering Group member Noreen, this session will provide a clear overview of what benefits are available, who is eligible, and where to find more information on how to claim. It's also a welcoming space to learn together and connect with other solo parents who truly understand the journey.

 **To book or find out more:** Email tony@bringingusttogether.org.uk (or check out their Eventbrite page).

✨ More coming this Autumn:

- Upcoming workshops on *Behaviour: Connection Before Correction, Communication Through Connection*, and more.
- **Solo Carers' Café** sessions starting in October for a relaxed chat and peer connection.

👥 Join the Community:

Looking for ongoing peer support and advice? Join the private Facebook group at **Bringing Us Together - Member's Lounge - Place to Chat** (just answer the quick entry question to join!).

Expansion of Thomas Pocklington Trust Advice Service to support children in primary school

We are delighted to announce that through our ongoing partnership with Guide Dogs, Thomas Pocklington Trust are extending our [Education, Information Advice and Guidance Service](#) to support children entering into Primary School.

Growing from the success of the partnership so far, this will mean the service will be able to support a larger cohort of blind and partially sighted children entering their first stage of education and continuing to support all the way up to and including university and adult learner courses. The Service offers advice and guidance to students, their parents and carers, and the professionals that support them.

To contact the service, either complete our online form [Education Information Advice and Guidance Service - Thomas Pocklington Trust](#), email educationadvice@pocklington.org.uk or call 0203 757 8040

Thank you,
Nicole

Doing it Solo - Understanding Carer Benefits

Doing It Solo

A Bringing Us Together project for solo parents of disabled children, young people and adults



All Doing It Solo sessions are online

Understanding Carer Benefits [An overview for Solo SEND parents]

Friday 18th September
10.00am - 12.00pm

Are you a solo parent of a child with a disability, struggling to make ends meet? Did you know that

- You and your child may be entitled to certain benefits?
- Some benefits may be available, even if you work?

Led by Steering Group member Noreen, our next workshop will give an overview of what benefits are available, who is eligible, and where to find more information on how to claim.

Join us to learn together and connect with a group of parents who face the same challenges you do and just 'get it'.



For more info and booking, please email tony@bringingustogether.org.uk

Doing It Solo

A Bringing Us Together project for solo parents of disabled children, young people and adults



Workshops coming in 2026:

We're looking forward to re-starting our solo parent project this Autumn, and already plan some workshops for you on a range of subjects, including:

- Behaviour: Connection Before Correction
- Understanding Carer Benefits
- Communication Through Connection
- and more to come!

We'll also be hosting some 'Solo Carers' Café' sessions - a chance to have a relaxed chat with other parents in a similar position to you. Watch this space for updates!



To be added to the *Doing It Solo* email list, contact tony@bringingustogether.org.uk