



NECANN COMMUNICATION

September 2026

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INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome to the latest North East CANN Update.

North East Children's Additional Needs Network shares information and helps to increase the reach of your services for children and young people in the region.

Regarding updates and information, if you have material or information that you would like forwarded to the members of the Network, or any updates, please ensure that you email it to Miriam on northeast@cann-network.org, before the end of the month.

Thanks to everyone who shared the information below for our latest update, which contains information and sessions for children and young people with additional needs and their parent carers.

You can find these Communications on the CANN Network site at:

<https://www.cann-network.org/blog/>

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS & CONTACT DETAILS

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

NECANN MEETING DATE

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

Next Meeting

Choice Wellbeing CIC (new hub)

24th September 2026

10am - 12pm

Details to be confirmed

CO CHAIR COMMENTS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our members, partners and supporters as we move into September.

This time of year brings fresh opportunities for collaboration across the SEND sector. As children and young people return to education, and services resume their full programmes following the summer break, we are reminded of the vital role our network plays in connecting organisations, sharing expertise and improving outcomes for families across the Northeast.

I would also like to offer a special welcome to those who have recently joined the network: Family Focus North East CIC and Go Beyond.

Family Focus North East CIC is a community-interest organisation dedicated to strengthening the emotional wellbeing, safety, and relational resilience of children, young people, and families across the North East.

Go Beyond offers free residential breaks for children aged between 8 and 13 years who are facing challenges and difficulties in their lives. We give them the chance to build confidence, resilience, make lasting friendships and have fun in a supportive environment.

Whether you are a charity, community organisation, education provider, health service, parent-led group or independent practitioner, we are delighted to have you with us. NECANN continues to grow because of the passion, knowledge, and commitment of its members, and we look forward to learning more about the valuable work you do within your communities.

One of NECANN's greatest strengths is the willingness of members to support one another. Through partnership working, information sharing and mutual respect, we are helping to build a more connected and inclusive SEND landscape. Thank you to everyone who contributes their time, experience and resources to make this possible.

I'd also like to remind members about our next NECANN Network Meeting, which will take place on Thursday 24th September at Choice Wellbeing CIC. These meetings are a fantastic opportunity to showcase services, develop partnerships, share updates and learn from one another.

Venue

Choice HQ (Choice Wellbeing CIC)
4 Cuthbert House
Tower Road
Washington
NE37 2SH

Please RSVP by 17th September 2026

We encourage both existing and new members to attend and help us continue strengthening support for children, young people and families across our region.

Finally, thank you for your continued commitment to the SEND community. Together, we are making a real difference, and I look forward to seeing many of you in September.

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

NEW MEMBERS



Family Focus North East CIC

Family Focus North East CIC is a community-interest organisation dedicated to strengthening the emotional wellbeing, safety, and relational resilience of children, young people, and families across the North East. The organisation delivers trauma-informed, neurodivergent-affirming support through a blend of therapeutic interventions, systemic informed practice, and practical family-centred assistance. Its core mission is to ensure families receive accessible, compassionate, and evidence-based support

that promotes connection, stability, and long-term wellbeing. This includes work with children and young people and parents/carers, parent support, systemic-informed consultation for professionals, and targeted interventions for families experiencing stress, adversity, or relational disruption.

Family Focus North East CIC operates with a strong social-value ethos: prioritising early help, reducing barriers to support, and improving outcomes for families who may struggle to access traditional services. The organisation collaborates closely with local authorities, education settings, and community partners to create sustainable, meaningful change.

familyfocus2026@gmail.com



Go Beyond

Go Beyond offers free residential breaks for children aged between 8 and 13 years who are facing challenges and difficulties in their lives. We give them the chance to build confidence, resilience, make lasting friendships and have fun in a supportive environment.

We have three centres (Derbyshire, Cornwall and Essex) and offer a four-night residential break which is packed full of exciting activities, good food and plenty of outside time. Every break is fully funded, fully staffed and fully catered

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

for. The centres are designed to be 'home from home' and we find that even the most anxious of children settle well and respond positively to our nurturing and well-trained staff. Our breaks are carefully planned for the age group attending and professionals can refer individuals, small or large groups.

We take children from all over the country and operate all year round. We are ASDAN registered so that if a child attends in term time they are classed as being 'educated off site' and their school attendance is not affected.

Children are referred to us for many reasons, including bereavement, neglect, poverty, bullying, caring responsibilities, being in care, or having a parent in prison. Some are the 'invisible' child who need help to build confidence and self-belief. Some children have additional needs, and others have a sibling with additional needs. In short, we support any child who would benefit from a break away from home, school, or both. These breaks give children space to be themselves and put their worries aside.

<http://www.gobeyond.org.uk>

If you know of any groups that may be interested, please get them in touch!

If you are not yet on the CANN website, you can be added by completing this form:

<https://www.cann-network.org/member-registration-form/>

INFO AND EVENTS - REGIONAL

The Autism Hub, South Tyneside - Free Training for Professionals

Free training for professionals 2026



As part of the commissioned service at the Autism Hub, TTHT offer free specialist webinars via zoom for professionals from Health, Education and Social care settings who are involved in supporting autistic children and their families in the **South Tyneside area only**.

Supporting young people with selective Mutism – Monday 16th March 4pm-5pm

Join us for an insightful webinar led by Julie Cota, Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, as she guides you through the nuances of Selective Mutism (sometimes known as Situational Mutism). SM is anxiety based and presents as an individual not being able to speak in certain situations, whilst being able to do so freely in others. This engaging session, is your key to understanding what Selective Mutism is, (what it isn't) and discovering effective ways to support children and young people in their daily lives.

Explaining Social Stories™ – Wednesday 10th June 4pm-5pm.

This session will be presented by Speech and Language Therapist, Emily Searle and aims to help you understand how to develop and use Social Stories™ to support children/young people. Social Stories™ were created by Carol Gray in 1991. They are short descriptions of a particular situation, event or activity, which include specific information about what to expect in that situation and why. They are an effective tool to address issues of social misunderstanding and confusion. They inform, reassure, support and praise children who often struggle to make sense of the world around them.

Sensory processing differences – Tuesday 29th September 4pm-5.30pm.

This session will be delivered by Occupational Therapist and Sensory Integration Practitioner, Sophie Pearson. The session will give an overview of what sensory processing is, how it impacts on behaviour and how a child/young person can present when navigating sensory difficulties. The aim of the session is to gain a better understanding of sensory differences and to offer strategies and practical advice that can be used to support young people with sensory processing difficulties.

PLEASE NOTE – All of our webinars have been co-produced by our staff with support from our A Team (Autistic Advisory board) and the children and young people we work with

If you would like to book a place on any of our specialist webinars, please visit our website using the QR code or link to complete a booking form.
ttht.co.uk/hub-professional-events



“ *loved it! So informative and I loved your passion* ”



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

After listening to feedback from some families who shared that accessing online webinars is something they cannot do and that 'in person' events are more personal and preferred. We decided to deliver some of our online webinars as workshops. This was very well received last year so we will be delivering these throughout 2026. Our 4th workshop this year being on the topic 'Standing together for your child – supporting families to advocate'. This workshop will be held at the Autism Hub on Wednesday 16th September 10am – 11.30am. Certificate of attendance will be issued.

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



The Toby Henderson Trust

FREE IN PERSON WORKSHOP

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

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

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

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

BOOK YOUR PLACE

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

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

AUTISM HUB
The Toby Henderson Trust

Personal Care Challenges for Autistic Young People

The Toby Henderson Trust is hosting an informative online session designed for parents and carers who find daily personal care routines challenging with their child.

Presented by Specialist Occupational Therapist and Sensory Integration Practitioner **Sophie Pearson**, this session will cover common difficulties experienced by autistic children and offer practical advice to help your child feel more confident and supported in managing their care routines.

✨ Details:

- **When:** Thursday 1st October 2026 | 10:00am – 11:30am
- **Where:** Online via Zoom
- **Who it's for:** Parents and carers of autistic children and young people

📖 How to book:

- **Website:** www.ttht.co.uk
- **Email:** admin@ttht.co.uk
- **Phone:** 0300 365 3055

The Toby Henderson Trust

Personal Care Challenges for Autistic Young People

Thursday 1st October 2026
10am-11.30am

This session will be presented by Specialist Occupational Therapist and Sensory Integration Practitioner, Sophie Pearson via Zoom. The session is aimed at parents/carers who find personal care routines a challenge with their child. We will cover common difficulties experienced by autistic children and offer helpful and practical advice that you as a parent/carer can use to support your child to feel more confident and supported in completing their own personal care routines.

Book your place

To register for this event please book via our website: www.ttht.co.uk. Alternatively, you can register your interest with our team by emailing admin@ttht.co.uk or by calling 0300 365 3055.

Scan here to view this event on our website

QR code

BODY WASH

👉 Pre, During & Post Autism Diagnosis Parent Support Group 👉

The Toby Henderson Trust is hosting monthly support group sessions for all parents and carers, regardless of where you live. It's a welcoming space to connect with other families, share experiences, and receive practical advice around key topics.

📍 **Location:** Gosforth Civic Theatre, Regent Farm Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3HD

📅 Upcoming Sessions (1:30pm – 3:00pm):

- **Tuesday 1st September:** *Self Care and crafts before the return to school* (open to parents, children, and young people)
- **Tuesday 6th October:** *Sleep Issues* (parents only)
- **Tuesday 3rd November:** *Toileting Issues* (parents only)
- **Tuesday 8th December:** *Preparing for Christmas* (parents only)

📅 **Booking Info:** Places must be booked in advance to attend.

- **Email:** admin@ttht.co.uk
- **Phone:** 0300 365 3055

The Toby Henderson Trust

Pre, During & Post Autism Diagnosis Parent Support Group

Open to all parents and carers, regardless of where you live, this monthly group will offer the chance to connect with other families. Each session will focus on a key theme, providing information, and practical advice.

Our upcoming groups in 2026...

- Tuesday 1st September at 1.30pm -3pm**
Self Care and crafts before the return to school for parents, children and young people
- Tuesday 6th October at 1.30pm -3pm**
Sleep Issues - parents only
- Tuesday 3rd November at 1.30pm -3pm**
Toileting Issues - parents only
- Tuesday 8th December at 1.30pm -3pm**
Preparing for Christmas - parents only

Groups are held at Gosforth Civic Theatre, Regent Farm Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3HD.

Places need to be booked to attend. We would love to see you! If you'd like to join us, please email us at: admin@ttht.co.uk or call us on **0300 365 3055**.

Supporting Young People with Selective Mutism: A Monthly Group for Parents & Carers

The Toby Henderson Trust is launching a new monthly parent group hosted by Speech and Language Therapist, Emily. This supportive session is focused on children and young people who are diagnosed autistic, or potentially autistic, and experience Selective Mutism (also known as Situational Mutism).

It's a welcoming space to learn more about Selective Mutism, share practical strategies, and connect with families who truly understand the journey.

✨ Details:

- **When:** Starting Monday 21st September | 10:00am – 11:00am
- **Where:** Toby House, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 7AD
- **Who it's for:** Parents and carers supporting children/young people with Selective Mutism

📅 To book your place:

- **Email:** admin@ttht.co.uk
- **Phone:** 0300 365 3055

The Toby Henderson Trust

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SELECTIVE MUTISM

A Monthly Group for Parents & Carers

**Starting on Monday 21st September
10am - 11am at Toby House**

Join us for a supportive parent group hosted by our Speech and Language Therapist, Emily, focused on children and young people who are diagnosed autistic, or potentially autistic, and who experience Selective Mutism (sometimes known as Situational Mutism).

Selective Mutism is anxiety-based and presents as a child or young person being unable to speak in certain situations, whilst being able to communicate freely in others.

This welcoming session is an opportunity to learn more about Selective Mutism, share strategies and experiences with other parents, and connect with families who truly understand the challenges and successes that can come with supporting a child with SM.

To book, contact us on via email: admin@ttht.co.uk or call us on 0300 365 3055.

Groups will be held at Toby House, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 7AD.

Dads United – The Toby Henderson Trust

A dedicated community for Dads, Stepdads, and male carers of autistic children (or children who may be autistic).

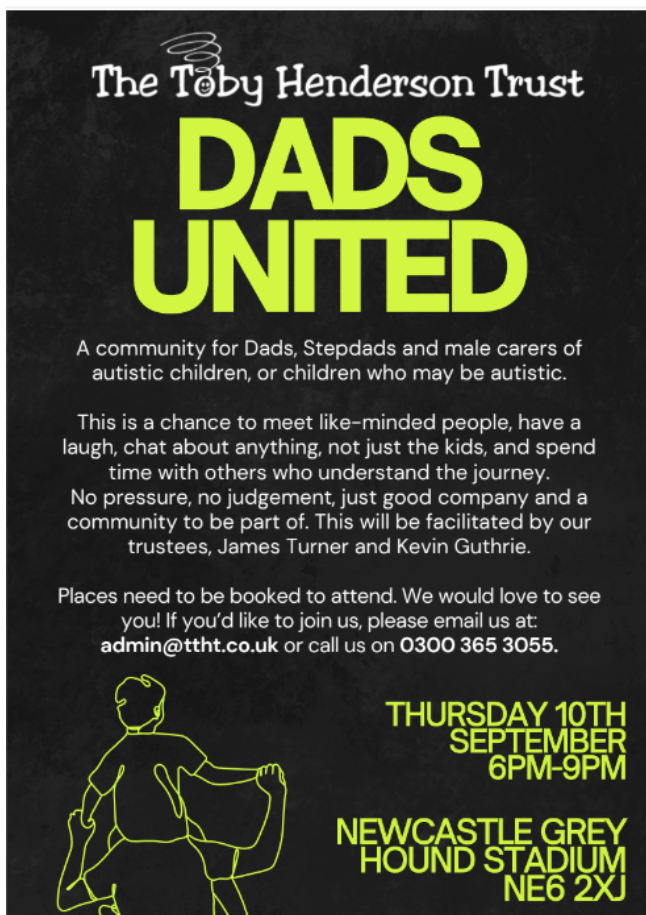
Facilitated by trustees James Turner and Kevin Guthrie, this is a relaxed space to meet like-minded people, have a laugh, talk about anything, and spend time with others who understand the journey. No pressure, no judgement—just good company!

✨ Details:

- **When:** Thursday 10th September 2026 | 6:00pm – 9:00pm
- **Where:** Newcastle Greyhound Stadium, NE6 2XJ
- **Who it's for:** Dads, Stepdads, and male carers

📅 To book your place:

- **Email:** admin@ttht.co.uk
- **Phone:** 0300 365 3055



Tic Disorders and Tourette Syndrome Webinar

The Toby Henderson Trust is hosting a brand new webinar exploring Tic Disorders and Tourette Syndrome. Hosted by Clinical Lead and Practitioner Psychologist **Toni Brown**, this session aims to dispel common myths, share reliable information, and offer support for anyone navigating a confirmed diagnosis or exploring potential symptoms.

✨ Details:

- **When:** Thursday 24th September 2026 | 12:30pm – 2:00pm
- **Where:** Online via Zoom
- **Who it's for:** Individuals, parents, and carers looking for information and support around tic disorders and Tourette Syndrome

📅 To book your place:

- **Website:** www.ttht.co.uk
- **Email:** admin@ttht.co.uk
- **Phone:** 0300 365 3055



TIC DISORDERS AND TOURETTE SYNDROME

THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER
12.30PM-2PM VIA ZOOM

Do you or someone you care about experience sudden involuntary sounds and or movements?

If you feel you or your loved one might have a tic disorder, or maybe you already have a confirmed diagnosis, you will know that it can be a difficult, sometimes lonely time and there are often lots of myths or misinformation around.

We know that autistic people often experience lots of other conditions, and tic disorders can sometimes be one of those.

This webinar will be hosted by Toni Brown, our Clinical Lead and Practitioner Psychologist. It is our first on this topic, and aims to provide information and support for anyone that may be interested. We hope to use feedback from this pilot to shape any future webinars on this topic.

BOOK YOUR PLACE

If you are interested in joining, please book your place on our website by visiting the events page: www.ttht.co.uk. Alternatively, you can register your interest with our team by emailing admin@ttht.co.uk or calling us on 0300 365 3055.

The Toby Henderson Trust

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

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

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

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

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

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BOOK YOUR PLACE

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

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

AUTISM HUB
The Toby Henderson Trust

Time to Talk Sessions with The Toby Henderson Trust

Time to Talk SESSIONS

Northumberland Autism
Post Diagnostic Support Service

For post-diagnostic families of Autistic children living in Northumberland

Come and join us for face-to-face monthly post-diagnostic support group at The Toby Henderson Trust. Please be aware that these groups are for parents/carers living in Northumberland only and places will need to be booked to attend. It is a chance to come along and meet and chat with other families as well as our experienced family support team. We are expecting spaces to fill up fast, so please book as soon as possible.

DATE FOR THE DIARY

WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2026 1PM-2.30PM

For parents/ carers of children and young people of **ALL** ages welcome to attend.

BOOK YOUR PLACE

To book your place please email: northumberlandPDS@ttht.co.uk or alternatively telephone: 0300 365 3055.

Groups will be held at: The Toby Henderson Trust, Toby House, Earth Balance, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 7AD.

SCAN HERE
To book your place and to find out more about our Northumberland offer.

The Toby Henderson Trust

TOBY'S TAKE A BREAK

Northumberland Autism
Pre Diagnostic Support Service

Come and "take a break" when joining us for a relaxed in person group for parents and carers who have a child on the Northumberland Neurodevelopmental Pathway.

Wednesday 16TH September 2026
1.00pm - 2.30pm

Places need to be booked to attend. Please email NLPreDS@ttht.co.uk or alternatively telephone us at 0300 365 3055 to register.

Groups will be held at The Toby Henderson Trust, Toby House, Earth Balance, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 7AD.

Scan here to book your place and to find out more about our this service.

The Toby Henderson Trust



The Toby Henderson Trust
BOOK CLUB

Join us once a month at Toby House for a Book Club for parents of Autistic children.

Each month, we'll explore a theme related to Autism, with a selection of books to browse and discuss. Unlike traditional book clubs, there's no need to read a specific book beforehand, just come along, share thoughts, and discover new reads. Parents are welcome to bring books related to the theme to share.

Location: Toby House, Earth Balance Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 7AD.
Scan here to view all events and to book your place.
Alternatively, email support@ttht.co.uk or call on 0300 365 3055.

Dates for our Book Club!

- ~~Managing Meltdowns: Thursday 3rd March 1pm-2pm~~
- ~~PDA Parenting: Thursday 2nd April 1pm-2pm~~
- ~~AutDHD: Thursday 7th May 1pm-2pm~~
- ~~Parenting when you're Autistic: Thursday 4th June 1pm-2pm~~
- ~~Explaining Autism to Children: Thursday 4th June 1pm-2pm~~
- ~~Emotional Regulation: Thursday 3rd September 1pm-2pm~~
- ~~Diagnosed Autistic later in life: Thursday 1st October 1pm-2pm~~
- ~~Stimming: Thursday 5th November 1pm-2pm~~
- ~~An Autistic Christmas: Thursday 3rd December 1pm-2pm~~



BSL Search

Taster Programme

Basic Introduction to British Sign language



Develop by a Deaf Tutor



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



6 week course



£100



To book a place:



Hello@bslsearch.co.uk



www.bslsearch.co.uk/courses.php

Hackccessible 2026

Hi,

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 Hackccessible

Inspired by the At-Hack event at MIT and the BBC program 'Big Life Fix', Hackccessible 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.

Hackccessible 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, Hackccessible aims to make a global impact. In 2024, Hackccessible 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 Hackccessible, 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.

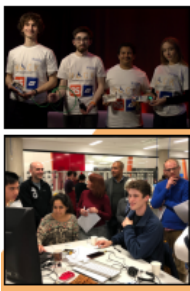
Please let us know if you have any questions and we look forward to hearing from you!

Kind regards,

Dhruti & Latisha

Hackcessible Lead & Secretary

hackcessible@sheffield.ac.uk



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HACKCESSIBLE 2026

JOIN OUR JOURNEY

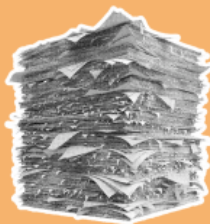
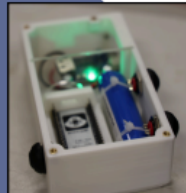


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HOW IT ALL BEGAN

**Our Story. Our Mission.
Our Drive.**

Inspired by the At-Hack event at MIT and the BBC program 'Big Life Fix', 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 90 participants, aiming to help as many challenges 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 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:

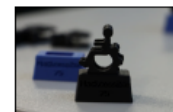
1. Design Phase

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.**

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

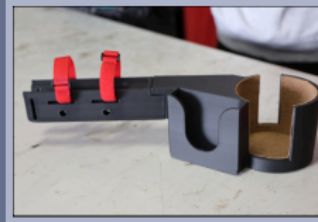
More recently, students from the Aga Khan University and Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya, ran their own version of Hackcensible.

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.

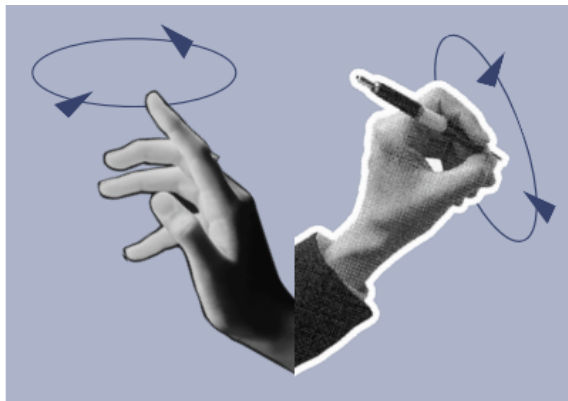


04

WHY WORK WITH US?

Support Our Mission

We are an ambitious, student-led project team tackling real-world challenges and we need partners who believe in the next generation of problem-solvers.



WHY WORK WITH US?

Support Our Mission

It's not just time or a donation — it's a strategic investment in talent, visibility, and impact. Your help can make a difference and would be greatly appreciated.

IMPACT

Your work creates genuine impact, and enables students to develop practical solutions that directly improves lives. 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.

05

STUDENT AWARENESS

Our team members and participants 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.

06

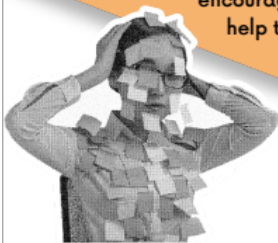
VALUABLE CONNECTIONS

Engage with challengers, students, 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 / 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

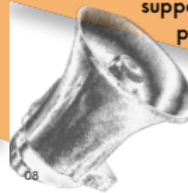
Your financial support will directly fund our project as a whole, helping us cover essential expenses, as well as funding the individual teams' projects.

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.



07

08

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

The SEND Club United Launch

Dear Professionals and Organisations,

We're delighted to announce in Collaboration with The SEND Club CIC : the launch of **The SEND Club United** and invite you to be part of something special.



Saturday 7th November 2026



12:30pm – 4:30pm



Newcastle United Foundation

More than a club, uniting the heart of the SEND community.

This exciting event will bring together families, young people, professionals, community organisations and local partners to celebrate inclusion, build connections and shape a stronger future for the SEND community.

Whether you're a parent, carer, professional, volunteer, organisation or someone passionate about inclusion, we'd love to hear from you.

Register Your Interest

Please complete our short Interest Form to:

- Receive event updates
- Be first to know when tickets are released
- Tell us how you'd like to be involved
- Share any accessibility requirements
- Express interest in volunteering, exhibiting or partnering



Complete the Interest Form here:

[**The SEND Club - Professional/Volunteer Vendors – Fill out form**](#)

We can't wait to welcome you and build something truly meaningful together.

Together we're creating more than a club :

We're building a community.

With thanks,

The SEND Club CIC

SAVE THE DATE

The **SEND** *Club* **UNITED** **2026**

MORE THAN A CLUB,
UNITING THE HEART OF THE **SEND** COMMUNITY.

SATURDAY
7TH NOVEMBER 2026

12:30PM – 4:30PM



thesendclub.co.uk

**NEWCASTLE
UNITED
FOUNDATION**

INCLUSION  **SUPPORT**  **COMMUNITY**



North East Sight Matters Report

This report maybe of interest to NECANN to highlight NESM and the work we have been doing over the last year.

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/542993434/>

Supporting Youth Wellbeing in the North East | Calm Connections Drop-In Groups

Early emotional support makes all the difference for young people and their families.

Family Focus North East is launching Calm Connections, a fortnightly emotional wellbeing drop-in group designed for parents, carers, and children aged 10–13.

The sessions are aimed at supporting young people navigating anxiety, low mood, feelings of overwhelm, or difficulties with emotional regulation. Crucially, the service removes common barriers to early intervention:

- No referral required
- No formal diagnosis needed
- No pressure

Upcoming Launch Dates & Locations

- Deckham Family Hub
 - Starts: Friday 28th August (running fortnightly)
- Galafield Family Hub
 - Starts: Friday 4th September (running fortnightly)

Funded by The National Lottery Community Fund, this is a fantastic community resource providing accessible, informal, and timely support for families when they need it most.

Please feel free to share with your network, local families, or professionals working in youth support and family services across the region.



CALM CONNECTIONS

An Emotional Wellbeing Drop In Group

For parents, carers and children aged 10-13 years old who are feeling anxious, low in mood, overwhelmed or struggling with emotional regulation.

NO REFERRAL, NO DIAGNOSIS, NO PRESSURE

Starts Friday 28th August at Deckham Family Hub
Then every fortnight



CALM CONNECTIONS

An Emotional Wellbeing Drop In Group

For parents, carers and children aged 10-13 years old who are feeling anxious, low in mood, overwhelmed or struggling with emotional regulation.

NO REFERRAL, NO DIAGNOSIS, NO PRESSURE

Starts Friday 4th September at Galafield Family Hub
Then every fortnight

