



WEST MIDLANDS COMMUNICATION
September 2026

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INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome to the latest West Midlands CANN Update.

West Midlands 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 westmidlands@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
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

MEETING DATES

WMCANN Meeting

15th September 2026

10:00am - 12:00pm

Sense Touchbase Pears

Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6NA

Please let us know if you have any accessibility needs

CHAIR COMMENTS

We hope your summer has been busy and filled with inclusive and accessible fun!

As we look toward Autumn term we're excited by a new school year and new possibilities and connections. We're really looking forward to our first face to face WMCANN event on Tuesday 15th September. It will be a chance for us to connect, learn and share ideas and move forward to create a successful group of like-minded organisations. This summer I have noticed a real increase in inclusive and accessible services for families, and families have shared positive experiences and that summer has felt 'fun!' I'm hopeful this continues, and we see more and more families exploring services and being supported.

Enjoy the last few days of the summer holidays, and I look forward to seeing many of you in September!

Jen and Hoodo
West Midland Co-Chairs

Please complete our form - 'West Midlands CANN: Shaping Our Meetings'

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftuZuOs9jx5duvhMuklRSab6Gn-TXusN6nmhteObw-hcFPg/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=118290473335415316891>

NEW MEMBERS



Worcestershire Parent Carer Forum

Worcestershire Parent Carer Forum is a collective of parent carers of children with a wide range of special educational needs and disabilities. Our aim is to make sure that parents' voices are heard when it comes to planning and decision making about services for our SEND children and young people in Worcestershire. We are part of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums. Parent Carer Forums are representative local groups of parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities who work alongside local authorities, education, health and other service providers to

ensure the services they plan, commission, deliver and monitor meet the needs of children and families.

Our Forum uses parental voice to influence change through events, discussion groups and working groups. We gather the views of local families and work with the council, educational settings,

health providers and other agencies to highlight where local services are working well, or challenge when changes or improvements need to be made.

<https://worcspcf.org/>



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 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 WYCANN 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

INFORMATION & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Access Sport Birmingham Inclusive Club Network: 'Making Inclusive Activity Everyone's Business'

You're invited to join us for a day of connection, learning, and great conversation with the Inclusive Club Network in Birmingham.

We're bringing together clubs, coaches, and volunteers from across the city to explore how we can embed inclusion in community sport.

The event will feature:

- Upskilling Workshops - short taster workshops to get clubs thinking about different inclusive practices and easy wins
- Lived Experience Panel Discussion – hear their story and ask them about their journey
- Networking with other community clubs in Birmingham!

Whether you're just starting out or building on existing work, this event is designed to support and inspire you.

There will be food, drinks, and plenty of time to chat and ask questions.



Wednesday 23 September



Time: 10:00am – 15:00pm



Location: Sense, Touchbase Pears, Bristol Road, Selly Oak, B29 6NA

For more information and to book: [Inclusive Club Network Birmingham](#)

Neurodiversity Training in Physical Activity

Aimed at physical activity providers across education, leisure, and youth. We will explore current landscape & stats, barriers and challenges faced in sport by neurodivergent people and how you can adapt your own activities to be a neuro-inclusive environment. We will deep dive into Autism and ADHD, as well as looking at Dyspraxia, Dyslexia, Dyscalculia and Tourette's.



Monday 12 October 2026



Time: 13:00pm – 16:00pm

West Midlands CANN
www.cann-network.org
westmidlands@cann-network.org

 Location: Nechells Wellbeing Centre, Rupert St, Birmingham B7 4AR
For more information and to book: [Birmingham – Neurodiversity Inclusion in Physical Activity](#)

Community Accessible Visual Arts Workshops | Touchbase Pears

In our accessible studio you will be supported explore visual and tactile art; exploring new tools and techniques and develop your artistic practice. Our workshops are tailored to you, using a person-centred approach that creates space for you to explore and experiment with art in your own way and at your own pace. This Is My Art, our artistic vision written by Artistic Director – Tanya Raabe-Webber, prioritises process over product.

16th September

30th September

4th November

18th November

To book please follow this link: [Community Accessible Visual Arts Workshops | Touchbase Pears - Sense](#)

SUMMER 2026 ACTIVITIES WITH SQUARE PEG ACTIVITIES

Looking for brilliant, accessible events to keep the kids entertained over the summer holidays? Our friends at **Square Peg Activities** have an unbelievable lineup of themed sessions and day trips planned right through to late August!

From Nerf battles and pizza making to day trips, sensory sessions, and art workshops, there is truly something for everyone to enjoy. 🎨🍕🦁

Key Details:

-  **When:** Running throughout July and August 2026
-  **Location:** 37-39 Gate Lane, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5TR
-  **Who:** Designed for disabled children and their siblings (*Please note: Adults must stay on site*)
-  **Extras:** Lunch is served at all in-house events! Plus, the Gaming Room, Youth Den, Sensory Room, and Gardens are open during sessions unless stated.

 **Info & Booking:** Spaces go quickly, so be sure to secure your spots online!

Book directly here:

https://squarepegcharity.simplybook.it/v2/?fbclid=IwY2xjawG6eXlleHRuA2FibQlxMQABHU_2Bi8a0hE7CPqs-vQi_YOik5KvX1eTKxPgcFB0snumTzF0Q7ULYR-vTw_aem_r6FW00ubs-TbCyEjT-D7ag#book

Or visit: <https://www.squarepegactivities.org/events>

 		SUMMER 2026			 
Monday		Tue.Sday	WednesDay	ThursDay	Friday
20/7	OPENING DAY PARTY 10-12 & 1-3	21/7	CREATURE FEATURE WITH TOBY 10-12 & 1-3	22/7	BIG ART DAY 10-12 & 1-3
27/7	SMOOTHIE & SHAKE DAY 10-12 & 1-3	28/7	CANADA DAY 10-12 & 1-3	29/7	WESTON-SUPER-MARE COACH TRIP £5 per person
3/8	STONE PAINTING DAY 10-12 & 1-3	4/8	SOUTH KOREA DAY 11-2	5/8	GRAFFITI DAY WITH MATT 10-12 & 1-3
10/8	TIE DYE DAY 10-12 & 1-3	11/8	BOARD GAMES AND BSL WITH SARAH 10-12 & 1-3	12/8	EGYPT DAY 10-12 & 1-3
17/8	PIZZA MAKING DAY 10-12 & 1-3	18/8	ART DAY 10-12 & 1-3	19/8	POLYMER MAKING WITH JULIE 10-12 & 1-3
24/8	WATER FIGHT DAY 10-12 & 1-3	25/8	SPACE DAY 10-12 & 1-3	26/8	COMIC BOOK DAY 10-12 & 1-3
				27/8	SENSORY SESSION AM ADULTS PM 10-12 & 1-3
				28/8	CLOSING BRAZIL PARTY WITH TOBY! 11-2

PLEASE VISIT WWW.SQUAREPEGACTIVITIES.ORG/EVENTS TO BOOK, ADULTS MUST STAY ON SITE. GAMING ROOM, YOUTH DEN, SENSORY ROOM AND GARDENS OPEN AT ALL TIME UNLESS STATED ALL EVENTS ARE FOR DISABLED CHILDREN AND THEIR SIBLINGS, LUNCH SERVED AT ALL IN HOUSE EVENTS 37-39 GATE LANE, SUTTON COLDFIELD, B73 5TR

Meningitis Now visit to West Midlands Safari Park

Meningitis Now is running an activity day for young people 11–17yrs directly or indirectly affected by meningitis at West Midlands Safari Park in October.
(parent/carers are encouraged to stay on site and costs are covered for this)

It will be a great opportunity to explore, discover, and have fun while spending time with other young people who have been impacted by meningitis.

When: Saturday 10th October, 10am – 4pm

Where: West Midlands Safari Park - Spring Grove, Bewdley, DY12 1LF

For more information and to sign up for the event please click on the link below:

[B&A Activity Day for 11-17yrs: West Midlands Safari Park - Events & Weekends | Meningitis Now](#)

Sense TouchBase Pears Fun Palace!

Friday 2nd October 10am-4pm

You are enthusiastically invited to join in the first ever Fun Palace at Sense TouchBase Pears! A free day full of inclusive activities designed and led by and with people Sense support across the Midlands, including art and crafts, sensory sport, dance, games, singing, signing, a disco and more - drop in any time between 10am and 4pm to join in the fun.

Everyone is welcome (ages 0-110!), especially disabled people with complex needs, people who are neurodiverse, and their friends, families and supporters. No booking needed, free to attend. Find out more about this event and Fun Palaces happening nationwide at [Fun Palace - Fun Palaces](#) or email lauren.jansenparkes@sense.org.uk



Friday 2nd
October
10am-4pm

fun
palaces sense

Save the date

2nd October

Fun Palaces

A free day of activities at Sense TouchBase Pears.
Designed by, with and for disabled people with
complex needs. Everyone welcome!

To find out more and get involved email: lauren.jansenparkes@sense.org.uk
or visit: www.funpalaces.co.uk

Charity number 289868

 sense.org.uk