



NATIONAL CANN COMMUNICATION
October 2026

INTRODUCTION	2
SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS:	3
MEETING DATES	4
INFORMATION & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - NATIONAL/ONLINE	5
An Evening With... Dr Beth Moulam!	5
Wellchild Awards 2027 Nominations Open	5
Paediatric Palliative Care Webinar	6
Supporting Families Together – Free EHCP Webinar Opportunity	6
PEEPS HIE Conference	7
Making Music with Special Children	8
Entries are open for WheelPower next season of Sports Festivals!	9
Register your interest for the WheelPower Award Scheme for Schools being launched in October.	11
Engaging Wheelchair Participants in Sport	12
Harry's Pal Update and Leaflets to support	13
'Being the Boss' support session -	17
Doing It Solo's Solo Carers' Café -	18
Activity Alliance Updates	19

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

TBC

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:

TBC

WMCANN Upcoming Meetings:

8th December 2026

Virtual

WYCANN Upcoming Meetings:

2nd December 2026

10am - 12pm

Interplay Theatre

Armley Ridge Road, Leeds, LS12 3LE

INFORMATION & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - NATIONAL/ONLINE

An Evening With... Dr Beth Moulam!

Join 1Voice for an inspiring evening with public speaker, researcher, Paralympian, trustee of Communication Matters, award-winning AAC advocate, 1Voice Patron, and author, Dr Beth Moulam.

Beth will be introducing her upcoming book from Jessica Kingsley Publishers: How to live audAACiously: The Ultimate Lived Experience Guide to AAC.

The book is an all-encompassing guide covering everything from obtaining an AAC device to thriving independently, self-advocacy, and how communication partners can navigate the world of AAC together.

During this free online session, you will hear about Beth's life and work, listen to a short reading from the book, and have the opportunity to ask questions (covering both pre-planned and spontaneous Q&A).

Event details:

Date: Thursday 15th October 2026

Time: 7:30pm – 8:30pm

Location: Online

Cost: Free (donation tickets available to support the work of 1Voice)

Beth's book is released on 19th November 2026 and is available for pre-order via Jessica Kingsley Publishers, Amazon, Waterstones, and TG Jones:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ultimate-Lived-Experienced-Guide-AAC/dp/1805017896#>

Book your place online via 1Voice:

<https://www.1voice.info/events/7gcd6ztcepitg4ils9d8m8x57158p1>

WellChild Awards 2027 Nominations Open

[WellChild Awards 2027 Nominations Open](#): Every family has a story of courage, love and determination. The WellChild Awards recognise inspiring children and young people with complex medical needs, alongside the people who help them thrive. If you know someone who deserves to be celebrated, why not nominate them for a 2027 WellChild Award?

Submit your nomination today: <https://www.wellchild.org.uk/2027nominate/>

Paediatric Palliative Care Webinar

For many families and professionals, the word “palliative” can feel frightening; it’s often mistaken as a sign that support is being withdrawn, that hope is running out. In this free session for parents, we’ll explain what palliative care really means: not the withdrawal of support, but the addition of care, ensuring children achieve the best possible quality of life and that symptoms are well managed throughout their lives: <https://www.wellchild.org.uk/paediatric-palliative-care-webinar/>

Supporting Families Together – Free EHCP Webinar Opportunity

We're currently running a series of free EHCP webinars for parents and carers and would love your support in helping us reach families who may benefit from them.

These online sessions are designed to make the EHCP process easier to understand, providing clear, practical information and guidance for families navigating special educational needs and disabilities. Whether a family is just beginning their journey or already has an EHCP in place, the sessions offer useful insights and support.

As a trusted support group within the community, we know families value the information and opportunities you share. We'd be delighted if you could help us spread the word by sharing the webinar details with your members.

You can view all upcoming dates and booking links below:

[September - EHCP Needs assessment workshop](#)

[October - EHCP Appeals process workshop](#)

[November - EHCP Needs assessment workshop](#)

[December - EHCP Appeals process workshop](#)

Thank you for everything you do to support families. We look forward to working together to help ensure parents and carers can access the information they need.

Warm regards,

Amy

Events Team

The SEND Collaborative

Please find a list of our services on our website: [The SEND Collaborative](#)

Follow us on Social media: [The SEND Collaborative - Facebook](#) | [The SEND Collaborative - Instagram](#) | [The SEND Collaborative - Twitter](#)



Save the date!

H.I.E. CONFERENCE

Following the success of our first conference, we're delighted to announce the date for 2027.

We'd love you to join us.



13 May 2027



The Lowry
Salford Quays, Manchester



**Tickets available from
September**



JOIN US IN 2027



www.peeps-hie.org

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

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.

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

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



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

Register your interest for the WheelPower Award Scheme for Schools being launched in October.

Written for both Primary and Secondary schools, students are encouraged to work their way through the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards by completing 8 of the 12 progressive skill based activities within each. Bitesize videos support teachers by showing appropriate techniques for each sport.

emily.weller@wheelpower.org.uk

WheelPower's Award Scheme for Schools 2026



Engaging Wheelchair Participants in Sport

We understand that there are many people in our community working with people with physical disabilities, and [this short online course is here to give you the knowledge and confidence in your own organisations](#). Time is precious which is why we have re-engineered this course content to make the very best of your limited time. Leave confident to adapt any sport session for wheelchair users.

[24 September 0930-1130](#)

[26 November 1730-1730](#)



Harry's Pal Update and Leaflets to support

Recently, I have been hearing from an increasing number of families who have reached crisis point before discovering Harry's Pals and the vital support we provide to parents facing the unimaginable challenges of caring for a child with a life-limiting or life-threatening condition.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Please help us by sharing the attached Harry's Pals leaflet and social media graphic with families through your newsletters, letters, emails, social media or directly with parents.

Please display or distribute our leaflets within your service. We are very happy to send you printed copies.

Most importantly, please help us create an environment where mums and dads feel safe saying, **"I need help."**

PLEASE REMEMBER MUM AND DAD

When a child receives a serious diagnosis, understandably, the focus is on the child.

But behind that child is often a mum or dad trying to hold the whole family together while dealing with fear, grief, uncertainty, appointments, sleepless nights, caring responsibilities, siblings, relationships, work and everything else that family life brings.

Sometimes they are not coping.

And given what they are living through, **isn't that understandable?**

What concerns us is that some parents may be frightened to admit just how much they are struggling. They may worry about being judged as a parent or even fear that admitting they are not coping could raise questions about their ability to care for their child.

No parent should feel they have to hide their mental health struggles because they are frightened of what might happen if they ask for help.

Research led by Dr Siobhan O'Dwyer involving 750 parent carers in England found that **42% had experienced suicidal thoughts or behaviours while caring. Around half had never disclosed these experiences or sought help. The study also found that one in ten parent carers surveyed had attempted suicide at some point in their lives.**

Those figures are why we are asking professionals to help us reach parents before they reach crisis point.

Please help parents hear:

"We understand. What you are going through is incredibly difficult. It is OK to say you are struggling. You deserve support with your mental health too."

Harry's Pals provides bespoke counselling and therapy to families across England who have a child with a life limiting or life threatening condition. Support is available online and face to face, when families need it.

Parents can apply directly, or if they are unsure about counselling, they can simply speak to us first. We can arrange a quick, informal conversation about the support available with no pressure.

Kind regards

Hayley

Do you need support?

Has your child received a life-changing diagnosis?

We are here for you

Harry's Pals provides emotional support through **free therapy or counselling** to parents who have received a diagnosis that their child under the age of 18 is severely ill or disabled.

When my son Harry was born with severe brain damage, I was shocked to discover that there was no emotional support for parents receiving such heart-breaking and life-changing news.

That lack of support had a huge impact on our ability to cope.

This experience inspired me to create Harry's Pals.

Hayley Charlesworth,
Founder



kindly printed by  irwinmitchell



Providing emotional support to parents of severely ill and disabled children

At Harry's Pals..

..we believe every family facing such heartbreak deserves someone to talk to.

Our carefully selected, fully qualified counsellors and therapists are here to support you whenever you need it.

"This is the most support we have felt since the diagnosis. When you feel like the whole world is against you, Harry's Pals is there to remind you that's not the case."

Jody - Parent Carer



We are passionate about ensuring that parents of children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions are offered the mental health support they need, helping them to feel stronger and better equipped for the road ahead.

It is quick and easy to apply for support, just fill in our online form and we will be in touch.



www.harryspals.co.uk
Registered Charity no. 1198592

BUT HOW ARE YOU?

When your child is seriously ill
or disabled, everyone asks
how they are.

We ask how **you** are.

FREE COUNSELLING SUPPORT FOR PARENT CARERS

Bespoke counselling or therapy.
For **you** when **you** need it.



A safe place
to talk



Qualified
counsellors &
therapists



Support that
starts with you

harryspals.co.uk

Hayley Charlesworth

HARRY'S PALS FOUNDER

☎ 07812 404982

✉ hayley@harryspals.org

🌐 www.harryspals.co.uk

Harry's
Pals 

Registered charity number: 1198592



'Being the Boss' support session -

Thursday 8th October 2026 - 2pm - 3pm - online via zoom

Led by ANNE PRIDMORE and funded by the NHS Business Services Authority, these sessions are delivered by Bringing Us Together in partnership with Adult Social Care Warriors.

These monthly support sessions offer anyone who employs PAs or support staff, and those receiving direct payments, an opportunity to share any issues and challenges, offer and receive peer support and connect with those in similar positions.

For further information and too book your place, please email anne.pridmore@outlook.com

Being the Boss

Support sessions for Individual Employers and those receiving Direct Payments

**A series of FREE online sessions on Zoom delivered by Anne
Pridmore, supported by the Bringing Us Together team**

for info and booking email: anne.pridmore@outlook.com

- September support session

Thursday 10th September 2026, 2.00pm to 3.30pm

- October support session

Thursday 8th October 2026, 2.00pm to 3.30pm

- November support session

Thursday 12th November 2026, 2.00pm to 3.30pm

- January support session

Thursday 14th January 2027, 2.00pm to 3.30pm

Funded by NHS Business Services Authority, in these monthly support sessions, you have an opportunity to share your issues and challenges with one another and gain peer support and information from each other.

Meet other people with similar but different experiences and share advice and ideas.

We have found that through peer support, people are often better able to find their own solutions to problems that they encounter.


Business Services Authority

**ADULT SOCIAL
CARE WARRIORS**



Doing It Solo's Solo Carers' Café -

Friday 16th October 2026 - 10am - 12 midday - online via zoom

A safe online space to connect with other solo parents of children with additional needs and/or disabilities, to share your struggles and successes, and find support with a group of people who 'get it'.

Booking is via Eventbrite, at tinyurl.com/solocarercafe. To be added to the mailing list for all Doing It Solo events, please email tony@bringingustogether.org.uk.



Doing It Solo

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

Solo Carers' Café

Friday 16 OCTOBER
10.00am - 12.00pm



Join us every other month for our online 'Café ' for Solo parent carers of disabled children, young people and adults.

This is your safe space to connect with other parents like you, share your struggles and successes, and find support with a group of people who 'get it'.



Activity Alliance Updates

Two important opportunities to have your voice heard on disability, sport, and physical activity from Activity Alliance:

1. Have Your Say: Help Shape Policy and Influencing Work Activity Alliance wants to hear directly from disabled people and supporters about the policy issues impacting opportunities to be active. Whether it is access to local facilities, costs, or available support, your feedback will directly guide their campaigning and policy work.

They are running two confidential 10-minute surveys (one for disabled people and one for supporters).

Deadline: Sunday 11th October 2026 Find out more and complete the survey:

<https://www.activityalliance.org.uk/news/10817-have-your-say-help-shape-our-policy-and-influencing-work>

2. Webinar: Dismantling the Activity Trap – A Call for Action No one should have to choose between being physically active and protecting their financial security. Activity Alliance is teaming up with Disability Rights UK and Durham University to share vital findings from new co-produced research on the 'Activity Trap' — the real fear and financial risks disabled people face regarding their benefits when taking part in physical activity.

Join the free session to explore the research, hear lived experiences, and discuss ways to campaign for change within the benefits assessment system.

Date: Thursday 22nd October 2026 Time: 1:30pm Format: Online webinar (Free)

Read more and register for your place:

<https://www.activityalliance.org.uk/news/10820-join-our-webinar-dismantling-the-activity-trap-a-call-for-action>