



WEST MIDLANDS COMMUNICATION
October 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

8th December

10am

Virtual

Please let us know if you have any accessibility needs

CHAIR COMMENTS

September was a fantastic milestone for West Midlands CANN as we hosted our very first in-person meeting at Sense TouchBase Pears. It was brilliant to see such a strong turnout from local charities, community organisations, and practitioners across the region.

The morning was focused on open conversation and practical networking. Following a brief overview of how CANN has grown since 2016, members spent time connecting, sharing resources, and discussing practical ways to work together rather than in isolation. A sincere thank you to the team at Sense TouchBase Pears for hosting us and showing us around their facilities, and to Harry's Pals and Forward Carers & the Max Card for their presentations.

We would also like to officially welcome My Max Card to the West Midlands network this month. Each new organisation brings valuable support and knowledge to help strengthen services for children, young people, and parent carers in our area.

Please keep sending through your upcoming events, training, and news for future communications. Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed ideas at our first session—we look forward to working together over the coming months.

With best wishes,

Jen and Hoodo
West Midland Co-Chairs

NEW MEMBERS

My Max Card



MAX Card is the UK's leading discount card scheme supporting families of children and young people with SEND, looked-after and fostered children, and young Carers.

Cardholders can access free or discounted admission and exclusive offers at participating attractions and venues across the UK, including family attractions, zoos, museums, leisure activities, soft play, bowling and many more.

MAX Card is designed to make days out more affordable and accessible, giving children, young people and their families more opportunities to enjoy experiences together and create positive memories.

The card is issued to the eligible child or young person and can be used at participating venues when they are present. Offers vary between venues, so members can search the MAX Card website to discover participating attractions and check the latest offer before visiting.

MAX Card benefits include:

- *Access to discounts and offers at participating venues across the UK
- *Savings on family days out and activities
- *Offers from both local and national attractions
- *An easy-to-use online venue search
- *Access to additional partner offers and benefits

MAX Cards are available through participating local authorities, charities and other approved distributor organisations.

<https://mymaxcard.co.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

INFORMATION & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Join us at Sense TouchBase Pears on Friday 2nd October for Sense's first ever Fun Palace!

♥ Friday 2nd October, 10am - 4pm. Free for everyone!

♥ A day full of accessible and inclusive activities designed and led by and with people Sense support.

♥ EVERYONE is invited - ages 0 - 120! Disabled people with complex needs and neurodiverse people, your friends and families are particularly welcome.

♥ It's for everyone. Arrive anytime, stay as long or short as you like. BSL interpretation, accessible toilets (including changing places) and a sensory room are available all day. The whole building is wheelchair accessible.

♥ Most activities run all day, some are timed and bookable when you arrive. To reserve places on the below activities in advance, please email lauren.jansenparkes@sense.org.uk:

- Inclusive dance with Sense Arts and Wellbeing at 11.30am (this session is for adults only)
- Sensory storytimes with the Children's team (including BSL interpretation) at 11am and 12.30pm (all ages welcome)

♥ Other timed activities for all ages (no need to book):

- Sing and sign sessions at 10am and 2pm
- Sensory sports with Sense Active 12.30-2.30pm
- Messy play with Sense Children's Team 1-3pm
- End of day Disco 3-4pm

♥ Activities running throughout the day include: facepainting, biscuit decorating, music, games, crafts, pop-up signing cafe, salt art, scrapbooking, art and cloud gazing. The cafe and a pop-up sensory room will be open from 10am-4pm.

We will be one of hundreds of Fun Palaces across the UK running that weekend to celebrate the genius of our community. Find out more about our event and Fun Palaces here: [Fun Palace at Sense TouchBase Pears - Sense](#)

For any questions or to tell us how we can make sure you would feel welcome please email lauren.jansenparkes@sense.org.uk

Friday 2nd
October
10am-4pm



**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

Sandwell Carers: Timetable of upcoming support events

Sandwell Carers: Library Groups Timetable

"Taking our support into the heart of local communities to reach more Carers, earlier"

Monday's

West Bromwich

1st Monday of the month
10.30AM - 12.30PM
Central Library,
316 High Street,
West Bromwich B70 8DZ

Smethwick

2nd Monday of the month
10.30AM - 12.30PM
Smethwick Library,
High Street, Smethwick
B66 1AA

Tuesday's

Great Barr

1st Tuesday of the month
10AM - 12PM
Great Barr Library,
Birmingham Rd, Scott Arms
B43 6NW

Tipton

2nd Tuesday of the month
10AM - 12PM
Glebe Fields Library
St Mark's Road, Tipton
DY4 0SZ

Tuesday's

Rowley Regis

3rd Tuesday of the month
10:30AM - 12:30PM
Blackheath Library
145 High St, Rowley Regis
B65 0EA

Wednesday's

Wednesbury

1st Wednesday of the month
10.30AM - 12.30PM
Wednesbury Library,
Walsall Street, Wednesbury
WS10 9EH

Oldbury

2nd Wednesday of the month
10.30AM - 12.30PM
Rounds Green Library,
Martley Road, Oldbury
B69 1DZ

If you look after someone because they couldn't manage without you, you're a Carer. **We're here to help.**

For more information:



0121 798 2372



info@sandwellcarers.org.uk



sandwellcarers.org.uk

This service is funded by
 Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council
and delivered by



Sandwell Carers: Hospital Drop-ins 2026

Speak one-to-one with an Information and Advice Officer to find out how to register as an unpaid family carer and what support is available for you.

Every Second Wednesday at...

Midlands Metropolitan University Hospital, 5th Floor,
outside of patient experience office

14th January | 21st January | 11th March | 13th May | 8th July | 9th September | 11th November

and

Sandwell Hospital, Ground Floor Outpatients Area

11th February | 8th April | 10th June | 12th August | 14th October | 9th December



0121 798 2372



Info@sandwellcarers.org.uk



sandwellcarers.org.uk

Sandwell Carers Drop-ins 2026

“Taking our support into the heart of local communities to reach more Carers, earlier”

CARER'S
FORUM

Dunelm, Birchley Industrial
Estate, Birchfield Lane,
Oldbury, B69 1DT

First Monday of the Month
10am - 12pm

St Albans Community
Centre, Smethwick,
B67 7NL

Second and Third
Tuesday of the Month
10am - 12pm

St Albans Community
Centre, Smethwick, B67
7NL

Last Wednesday of the
month (Quarterly)
10am - 12pm



0121 798 2372



Info@sandwellcarers.org.uk



sandwellcarers.org.uk

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



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](#)

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](#)

Inclusive dance workshops in Birmingham

Led by the brilliant Anjali Dance Company, for children and young people aged 14+ with a learning disability or neurodivergence. The workshops and classes are supported by Access Sport and Peter Harrison foundation funding. Please share with families and young people who would enjoy movement, music and dance.

Sunday 4 October 3:30pm – 4:30pm

 FABRIC studios Thorp St, Birmingham B5 4TB
FREE

Friday 30 October 2pm-4pm

 Billesley Tennis Centre, Wheelers Ln, Birmingham B13 0ST
Part of Access Sport's Multi-Sport Festival 1:30 – 4:30pm (open to all ages 5-25yrs)
FREE

To Book:

Scan the QR code on the attached flyer or click the booking link here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1VF19CHoA852LON1TRPW2Sy6sJVforR0dKjIPljDpJm4/edit>

Anjali Dance are then launching a NEW inclusive regular dance class in South Birmingham:

 Moseley Community Hub, Birmingham
 Mondays from 2 November, 5.30–6.30pm
 £3 per class

✨ Free trial sessions available

Parents, guardians and carers are welcome to attend where additional support is needed.

To book, email info@anjali.co.uk, text 07482 169667, or sign up via link [here](#).



FREE INCLUSIVE DANCE WORKSHOPS

**FOR ANYONE AGE 14 YEARS + WITH LEARNING
DISABILITIES AND/OR WHO ARE NEURODIVERGENT**

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER / 3.30 - 4.30PM

FABRIC STUDIOS, BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER / 2-4PM

**ACCESS SPORT'S BIRMINGHAM INCLUSIVE
MULTISPORT FESTIVAL**



TO BOOK:

✉ **EMAIL INFO@ANJALI.CO.UK**

☎ **TEXT 07482 169 667**

🌐 **USE OUR QR CODE**



**PETER
HARRISON
FOUNDATION**

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

FREE Inclusive Multi Sport Festival

Friday 30 October 2026 | 1:30pm-4:30pm
Billesley Tennis & Fitness Centre, Birmingham B13 0ST

👉 [REGISTER HERE NOW](#)

Please fill out a registration for every child between 5-25yrs taking part in the activities. There is no need to complete a registration form for parents/carers/spectators but we do need to know how many adults are supporting the children on site. If you've attended an event before, we apologies for the inconvenience caused by filling in a new form each time, we're looking into options to change this in the future!

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Birmingham Community Coordinator, Lois Page on Lois.Page@AccessSport.org.uk.



Inclusive Multi-Sport Festival!

Friday 30 October, 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm
Billesley Tennis and Fitness Centre,
Birmingham, B13 0ST

Join us for a fantastic day of inclusive sport and activities!

An inclusive sport festival for D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent children and young people aged 5-25 years.

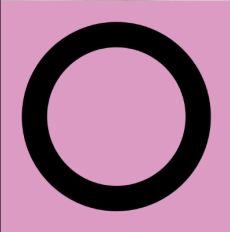
All abilities are welcome and sessions are adapted to the group's needs. Sign up now to book your spot!

The event is free and welcome to all.



www.AccessSport.org.uk
Registered charity no. 1156819





Neurodiversity in Sport & Physical Activity Training

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. The training 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

 Location: Nechells Wellbeing Centre, Rupert St, Birmingham B7 4AR

For more information and to book: [Birmingham – Neurodiversity Inclusion in Physical Activity](#)



The poster is a vertical layout with a black background on the left and a collage of images on the right. The left side contains the following text and graphics:

- Access Sport** logo (a white triangle with a circle inside) at the top left.
- Neurodivergence Inclusion Training** in large white font.
- Monday 12 October** in pink, followed by **1:00pm – 4:00pm** and **Location: Nechells Wellbeing Centre, Rupert Street, B7 4AR** in white.
- For educators, leisure and sports providers, youth services and wider workforce.** in white.
- A paragraph in white: "This interactive training explores neurodivergent experiences in community sport and practical ways to create inclusive environments for your participants."
- Sign up now to book your spot!** in white, followed by the URL <https://bit.ly/BirminghamOct2026> in pink.
- A QR code below the URL.
- Supported by :** in white, followed by the **BEYOND** logo (with "COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY ACCESSIBILITY" below it) and the **FR FUNDRAISING REGULATOR** logo.
- At the bottom left, the website www.AccessSport.org.uk and "Registered charity no. 1156819" are listed.

The right side of the poster features a vertical collage of four images:

- Top: A person in a blue helmet and gear riding a blue bicycle on a paved path.
- Second: A solid purple square with a black diamond shape in the center.
- Third: A group of people playing basketball on an outdoor court.
- Bottom: Two children playing tennis on an outdoor court.

Leamington Athletics Academy Shoutout

Our club, Leamington Athletics Academy has been running Saturday club for children with cerebral palsy as well a club for children with ASD/ADHD /SEMH. It ran for 6 weeks in the summer term and we have restarted this autumn. Whilst we hope to keep it going we will need indoor facilities for winter These groups have 8-12 children in and are run by qualified staff and coaches, helping young people have fun outdoors, get active and develop new friendships.

However, we have recently realised the importance of the sessions for the parents, so have teamed up with Think Active to look developing a Parents ChitChat group with an activity for the children, just to help us keep us all connected across winter.

If anyone is interested in qualifying to help deliver as a self-employed member of the team, we would be grateful if they could get in touch.

Team work is definitely dreamwork!

We hope this is useful somehow in helping network somehow – just by sharing.

Regards

Rachel Berney

LAA Founder & Head Coach

Leamington Athletics Academy

info@leamingtonathletics.co.uk

Free Inclusive Padel Open Afternoon

Connect Padel and Access Sport are delighted to invite families and community organisations to a free Inclusive Padel Open Afternoon for local children & young people.

Saturday 17 October 2026

1pm-2pm Under 18s / 2pm-3pm Over 18s

Padel is a fun and accessible sport that people of all ages and abilities can enjoy. Led by experienced coaches, this welcoming afternoon is open to everyone, including disabled, d/Deaf and neurodivergent children and adults, along with their families, friends and supporters. Whether you come with people you know or meet others on the day, you can take part in a range of enjoyable padel games and activities in a friendly and supportive environment. No previous experience is needed.

We would be very grateful if you could share this opportunity with the families you support, your colleagues and networks, or anyone else who may be interested.

Please see the attached poster for further details and [complete the sign-up form here](#). We look forward to welcoming you.



CONNECT PADEL

BIRMINGHAM



Inclusive Padel Open Afternoon

Inclusive session for both children and adults to enjoy padel activities with a qualified coach! Inclusive to D/deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent individuals. Siblings also welcome.



Saturday 17 October
1-2pm Under 18s
2-3pm Over 18s



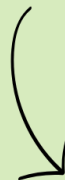
Connect Padel Birmingham
Moseley Rugby Club
Yardley Wood Road
Birmingham
B13 0HN



Free!



To book onto the session please complete the form by scanning the QR code. Please complete for each participant wanting to take part



Any questions please email us at
Disability.Inclusion@AccessSport.Org.Uk



Aceez

Tennis by Access Sport