



SPICYCON 2026

IMUK
Inclusive Minds UK

Accessibility Policy.

Monday 15 June 2026



DATE

15 June 2026 • Monday
Doors 9:30am



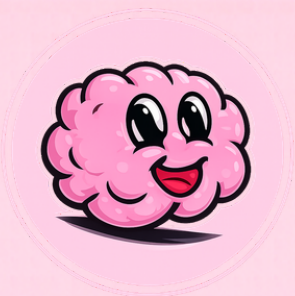
VENUE

Tapyard, Hoults Yard,
Byker, Newcastle NE6 2HL



INCLUSION PARTNER

Ria Jackson,
Inclusive Minds UK



Built for brains like yours.

Everything you need before and on the day.

Read before 15th June.

“

We are not going to tell you everything is perfect. It is not. What we will do is give you clear, honest information so you can make informed decisions and plan your day in a way that works for you.

How we approach this



This policy exists so you can make informed choices, plan ahead, and arrive knowing what to expect instead of figuring it out as you go.



Buildings are buildings. We cannot rebuild the venue. What we can do is be completely straight with you.



Need this in large print, plain text, or audio?
Email hello@thespicybraincollective.com.



Not sure if something counts as an access need?
Ask anyway. You do not need the right words.



Quick Access Summary

Everything you need to know at a glance. Full detail in the pages that follow.

What is confirmed

- Step-free venue. No stairs.
- Accessible toilet with grab rails.
- Assistance dogs welcome throughout.
- All lighting can be adjusted.
- Energy Corner — available all day
- Photography opt-out stickers available.
- Free carer tickets available.
- Visual fire alarm confirmed.
- SpicyCon team on site all day.



VIDEO

[Venue walkthrough](#)

Know before you go

- Noticeable incline from estate entrance to venue.
- No hearing loop or induction loop.
- No separate quiet room. Energy Corner is within the main space.
- Alcohol served from 12pm. Non-alcoholic options available all day.
- Food available to purchase on site. You're welcome to bring your own snacks and drinks.
- BSL and captioning not currently confirmed.
- Stage not accessible by ramp. Key moments moved to floor level.
- Photography and video throughout the day.
- Live event energy. The pace is real and unpredictable.

We believe informed choice is part of accessibility.

If any of the above means SpicyCon is not right for you right now, that is completely valid. No guilt.

Questions? Get in touch.

hello@thespicybraincollective.com

We aim to respond within 2 working days.



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Access information changes?

If anything changes before 15 June, all ticketholders will be notified by email.



Before You Decide.

Honest Information Matters. SpicyCon might not be right for everyone right now.

- ✓ No hearing loop or induction loop system.
- ✓ Photography and video will happen throughout the day.
- ✓ Warehouse acoustics. It gets noisy, especially during breaks.
- ✓ Captioning and BSL interpretation are not currently confirmed.
- ✓ Live event energy. The pace is real and sometimes unpredictable.
- ✓ Alcohol served from 12pm. Non-alcoholic options available all day.
- ✓ Food will be available to purchase on site. Attendees are welcome to bring their own snacks and drinks.
- ✓ No separate quiet room. The Energy Corner is within the main space.
- ✓ Stage is not ramp-accessible. Key moments have been moved to floor level.
- ✓ Noticeable incline from estate entrance to the building. Step-free but a gradient.
- ✓ Zero networking pressure. You will never be put on the spot.
- ✓ No one will be asked to speak, share or participate unless they choose to.

Informed choice is part of accessibility.

If any of this means SpicyCon is not right for you right now, that is completely valid.
No guilt.

Need this in a different format?

Large print, plain text, or audio versions are available on request.

Email hello@thespicybraincollective.com.



Social Access.

How the day works socially. There is no right way to be at SpicyCon.

THE BASICS

Some people will talk to everyone in the room.

Some people will keep themselves to themselves.

Both are welcome.

YOU DO NOT NEED PERMISSION TO:

- Attend alone.
- Sit at the back.
- Wear headphones or ear defenders/plugs
- Use fidget tools.
- Move seats.
- Leave a session and come back.
- Use the Energy Corner.
- Wear what feels comfortable.
- Take a break outside.
- Spend time on your phone.
- Decline networking.
- Bring your own food, snacks and drinks.
- Say hello and then walk away.
- Not explain yourself.
- Arrive late or leave early.
- Bring a comfort item.

WHAT TO EXPECT

There are no compulsory networking activities and no expectation that you speak to anyone if you do not want to.

Some parts of the day will be louder, busier and more social than others.

If you need a break, the Energy Corner and outdoor areas are available throughout the day. No explanation needed.

There is an ND meet-up from 4:30pm.

It is optional. Stay if it works for you.

*Come as you are.
Take part in the way that works
for you.*

Venue Access

Know before you arrive.

CONFIRMED



Single-floor venue.
No stairs.
No lifts required.



All lighting can
be adjusted.
Climate control
available.



Entrance doors:
80 inches (203cm) high,
66 inches (168cm) wide.
Wide enough for
wheelchairs, mobility
aids and scooters.



Music volume
can be adjusted
throughout the
day.



No barrier between
entrance and main
event space.



A4 directional
signs on site.
Projectors visible
from around the
venue.



Turning space at
entrance: approx.
3 x 3 metres.



Manual push
entrance door.



Assistance dogs
welcome
throughout.



PHOTOGRAPHY OPT-OUT

No photographs stickers
available on arrival.

Pick one up if you would
prefer not to be
photographed.

You do not need to
explain why.



NEED FRONT SEATING

Just ask on arrival.
No explanation needed.



VIDEO

[Incline and venue
walkthrough](#)

THE INCLINE. PLEASE READ THIS.



The route from the Hoult's
Yard estate entrance to
the Tapyard building is on
a noticeable incline.

Step-free, but it is a
gradient.



Surface: regular tarmac with slightly
uneven ground on the approach.
Confirmed by venue.



If you use a wheelchair, have a
mobility condition, or find inclines
difficult, allow extra time.



Vehicle drop-off available via
side entrance.



The Stage.

Inclusion is not just a ramp.

THE CONSTRAINT

Stage height: 81cm.

A compliant ramp would need to be almost 10 metres long. The venue does not have the space.

A token ramp that is unsafe is not accessibility. It is a gesture.

WHAT WE DID INSTEAD

Key moments rethought to floor level so everyone can participate equally.

No attendee will be required to use the stage to fully participate in SpicyCon.

Why this matters

People are not being invited to an event and then quietly excluded from the parts that matter. No attendee will be excluded from core event participation because of stage access.

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I'd rather be straight with you than tick a box. We couldn't make the stage accessible, so we changed the plan instead.



VIDEO

[Incline and venue walkthrough](#)

Steph Ward
SpicyCon 2026



Sensory Environment.

The Tapyard is a converted warehouse. Honest description so you can plan ahead.

Space

Large open warehouse. Single floor.
Room to move.

Acoustics

Sound carries. Ear buds are available in the Energy Corner or bring your own.

Lighting

All lighting can be adjusted.
Confirmed by venue.

Music

During breaks: minimal background.
When speakers: higher volume briefly.
Can be adjusted.

Temperature

Climate control available. Not known to be overly warm.

Seating

Seating throughout. Specific needs, ask before or on arrival.

Scent

Not scent-free. Energy Corner and outdoor areas available.

Energy

High-energy and colourful for most of the day.

Sensory planning note

The Energy Corner and outdoor areas are available if you need more breathing room. No permission needed.



VIDEO

[Incline and venue walkthrough](#)



Hearing Access.

Clear information. No guessing on the day.

CONFIRMED

- No hearing loop or induction loop. Confirmed by venue.
- Front seating available. Ask on arrival. No explanation needed.
- Flashing red visual fire alarm confirmed by venue.
- All speakers will be asked to use a microphone if available.

NOT CURRENTLY CONFIRMED

- Microphone arrangements — being confirmed.
- Captioning.
- BSL interpretation.
- Slides after event — being confirmed with speakers.

Need hearing access support?

- Email hello@thespicybraincollective.com before the event. We will tell you the latest confirmed position.

No guessing on the day

We will tell you what is confirmed, what is not, and what is still being worked through.



The Spicy Brain Energy Corner.

CONFIRMED

- Sofas at the back of the main event room.
- Ear buds, blankets, and sensory toys all day.
- Within the main room — not soundproofed, but noticeably quieter.
- Approximately 3 to 5 people at once.
- Not a staffed quiet room or clinical support space.
- Full Circle Brew cafe directly next door.
- Public benches outside.

No permission needed.

- Talking fine.
- Silence fine.
- Leaving and coming back fine.

Use it if:

- Feeling overwhelmed.
- Sensory overload between sessions.
- Need to sit quietly for a bit.

This is not clinical support.

It is a lower-energy space within the main room. Use it when you need to.



VIDEO

[Incline and whole venue walkthrough](#)



Toilets.

The useful details, not vague promises.

PHYSICAL ACCESS

- Gender-neutral toilet facilities on site.
- 1 self-contained wheelchair-accessible gender-neutral restroom.
- Step-free access from main bar/venue space.
- Approximately 20 yards from main event space.
- Wheelchair user can travel from entrance to toilet without assistance.
- Door width: minimum 96cm.
- Lateral transfer space: approx. 85cm–89cm.
- Grab rails wall-mounted on both sides for safe lateral transfers.

OPERATIONAL DETAILS

- Emergency alarm and pull cord in accessible toilet.
- If locked, ask at the bar.
- Radar key may be required — bar staff can provide one on request.



VIDEO

Toilet and venue walkthrough

Known limitation

As a historic warehouse conversion, individual cubicle turning radius may be slightly restricted depending on your mobility equipment. Contact us if you have specific requirements.

Need specific toilet access information?



Email hello@thespicybraincollective.com before the event. We will answer honestly.

Site and Parking Map.

All nearby car parks within a 4–7 minute walk. Charges apply. Maximum stay 4 hours.



Route is step-free but includes a noticeable gradient. Taxi/carers drop-off at main Hoult's Yard visit



VIDEO

[Incline and whole venue walkthrough](#)



Parking.

Know what is available before you arrive.

CONFIRMED: Disabled Parking

Two designated disabled bays are available inside Hoult's Yard, approximately 15 yards from the venue entrance. The SpicyCon team will direct you on the day. We recommend arriving early if you need an accessible bay.

Know before you arrive: the ground around the disabled bays is worn and uneven in places, with areas of breaking tarmac. The wider car park is step-free and generally accessible, but we want you to have this information before the day so you can plan accordingly.

Blue Badge parking is also permitted on surrounding streets. Hoult's Yard operates a one-way system — please follow estate road signage on arrival.



VIDEO

[Incline and whole venue walkthrough](#)

Nearby Public Car Parks.

Charges apply. Maximum stay is usually 4 hours. Check signage on arrival.

Car Park	Distance	Walk time	Notes
Ouseburn Arches Car Park	350m	~5 min	NE1 2NP · Under Byker Bridge Uphill section via Stepney Bank
Foundry Lane Car Park	450m	~6 min	NE6 1LH · In the heart of Ouseburn ~ 57 spaces
Spillers Car Park	500m	~7 min	NE6 1LH · Next to The Cycle Hub · 40p/hr · Free Sundays

Access note

Distances and walk times are approximate. If inclines, fatigue, or mobility affect you, allow extra time.



VIDEO

[Incline and whole venue walkthrough](#)



Getting Here.

Tapyard, Warehouse 34, Hoult's Yard, Walker Road, Byker, Newcastle NE6 2HL

TAXI AND CARER DROP-OFF

- ✓ Tell your driver: Hoult's Yard security gates, Walker Road (Byker), NE6 2HL.
- ✓ Through the barrier, follow the estate road straight ahead into the central courtyard.
- ✓ Tapyard (Warehouse 34) is clearly visible next to Full Circle Brewery

Public Transport.

Plan your route before you travel

Mode	Route	Time	Notes
Metro	Yellow Line from Central Station Byker Station	10–12 min	~10 min walk to Hoult's Yard
Bus	Services 1, 12, 39, 40, 62 – Walker Road / Byker area	Varies	Check Nexus for live times

Need help planning your journey?

Email hello@thespicybraincollective.com.

You do not need the right words.

Food and Drink

*Food and drink is self-pay.
Nothing is included in your ticket.*

ON SITE

- Dough and Co — gluten-free pizza. On site 11am to 2pm. Menu and full allergen information at dou-h.co.uk. Check before you arrive if you have specific dietary needs.
- Full Circle Brew Co cafe is directly next door. Open all day.
- Alcohol served from 12pm. Non-alcoholic options available all day.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The venue is not scent-free. Food smells will be present from 11am. The Energy Corner and outdoor areas are available if you need more space.

Severe allergy?

Check dou-h.co.uk in advance or bring your own food. No one will question it.



VIDEO

[Incline and whole venue walkthrough](#)



Carer and Support Person Attendance.

FREE CARER TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE.

If having someone with you helps you attend safely or comfortably, get in touch.
Email hello@thespicybraincollective.com.
We will sort a ticket. You will not be asked to prove anything.

GOT A NEED WE HAVE NOT COVERED?

Get in touch before the event. We will answer honestly, even if the answer is that we cannot meet that need.

Emergency Information.

CONFIRMED

- Eleanor McConnel and Ria Jackson, first aid trained.
- Venue staff member first aid trained throughout the day.
- Emergency evacuation procedures for people with mobility needs provided by Tapyard.
- Visual and flashing red fire alarm confirmed.

“

Nobody should have to guess whether a space will work for them. That's why we've told you what works, what doesn't, and what we're still figuring out.

Questions before the day?

hello@thespicybraincollective.com

Ria Jackson
IMUK 2026