

Families First News sharing

Keeping in Touch

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Head of Service

SUPPORTING FAMILIES | CHILDRENS SERVICES

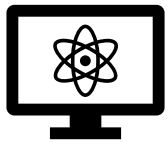
9th July 2026



**Families
First**

Early help, brighter futures

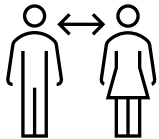
Other Workforce Development Opportunities



Join a Families First Induction Session - ideal for new starters

We host Families First online Induction days 3 times per year, where various early help services give a 20-minute whistle-stop tour of their service and are attended by new internal CS staff and external partners.

This is now covered in 2 sessions and our next dates are am on **Wednesday 8th July 2026** and pm on **Thursday 16 July** via Teams. If you have any new staff or would like to hear more about early help services, please email: familiesfirst.support@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Consider a Workforce Shadowing Opportunity

Workforce shadowing provides a great opportunity to find out more about other services, what they do and how they might be able to support you in your work. It also enhances communication across agencies and helps strengthen and develop professional relationships, building local networks. Visit [Workforce development](#) to make a request

World Cup Campaign

This has been a county wide collaborative approach and partners are encouraging you to share / display the information during the World Cup.

Please do pass this on to anyone else you feel might benefit from displaying the message – pub links, schools, hospitals, supermarkets, local Facebook pages etc.

Download the poster: [The Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline](#)

Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline - 08 088 088 088



Family Centre Service - Little Herts Cards

Valid across all Hertfordshire Family Support Service sessions which are delivered based on local demand

Standard charges per family:

- £2.50 – Active Rhyme Time, Family Fun, Physical Fun, Learning Through Play
- £1.50 – Baby Group, Twilight Tales
- £25.00 – Baby Massage, Family First Aid



How Partners can support families facing financial barriers to attend FREE sessions:

- Identify families who may struggle with costs
- Provide and explain pre-stamped Little Herts Cards (please request via the Locality Manager for your Family Centre Hub on 0300 123 7572)
- Promote the first session FREE offer
- Signpost families to local universal sessions
- Share insights on card distribution and usage
- Work jointly with Family Support teams



Young Carers ACTIVITY DAY



Join us for Hertfordshire County Council's first Young Carers Wellbeing Day!

Come along to meet other young carers, take part in activities that support your health and happiness, and most importantly – have fun!

Sessions will include:

- Boxercise
- Art and creativity
- Wellbeing sessions
- Nutrition and healthy eating

For young carers in Hertfordshire, age 8 – 17

- Games and getting to know each other
- Have a break from your caring role
- Have your voice heard about what's important to you

WHEN:
Friday 31st July, 10 am – 3pm
WHERE:
Shephall Centre, Stevenage



How to book:

email:

participationteam@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Participation Team have organised a **Young Carers Activity Day**

Friday 31st July 10am-3pm **Shephall Centre, Stevenage**

Email:

participationteam@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Would you know how to help if a young person was struggling?

Join The OLLIE Foundation online for a supportive, practical conversation about suicide awareness designed specifically for Parents and Carers.



Wednesday
15 July
6.30-7.30pm

you'll learn...

- how to start difficult conversations with confidence
- behaviours that may indicate someone needs support
- practical tools to help keep young people safe
- where to find help for yourself or someone you care about

No prior knowledge needed. Just come with your questions.

Book your free place [here](#)
or scan QR code



For More Information

www.theolliefoundation.org
contactus@theolliefoundation.org

The OLLIE Foundation Free online workshop

Empowering Conversations

The OLLIE Foundation is hosting a free online workshop for parents and carers on Wednesday 15 July at 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

This supportive and interactive session will help parents and carers to:

- feel more confident talking to young people about mental health
- recognise when a young person may be struggling
- understand how to respond safely and compassionately
- learn simple, evidence-based approaches to suicide prevention.

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions in a safe and non-judgemental space with OLLIE's team.

OLLIE - One Life Lost Is Enough

Seeing Dementia Differently

Compassionate guidance, clear information. A community for young dementia carers and rare dementia carers, built through lived experience.

Karaoke & Connection

18th July 3pm (singing starts 3.30pm)

Boom Battle Bar, Watford

WD17 2AU

Click [here](#) for more info and tickets

Bring yourself, your friends and the person you care for



HAPpy Camps: Bookings opened 6th July



The HAPpy: Holiday Activity Programme is available for **children and young people from reception to year 11**, who are in receipt of benefits related free school meals. Bookings went live on Monday 6th July

If eligible, you will receive a unique HAPpy booking code for each of your children, by email from HAPpyCamps@herts.ac.uk. You will need this unique booking code to register your children and be able to book activities via the new HAPpy Booking system. The schools no longer have the codes.

You must pre-register your children on the new HAPpy Booking system **before** you search for and book activities.



[Holiday Activity Programme \(HAPpy\) | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Positive Pathways: free summer activities for 12-16s

Services for Young People are running youth work programmes over the 2026 school summer holidays

Positive Pathways summer activity programmes are run by qualified and experienced SfYP Youth Workers and focus on how young people aged 12-16 can stay safe, learn new skills and make informed decisions.

All programmes are running five days a week, Monday to Friday, from 27th July to 14th August 2026 in all areas of Hertfordshire.

Please signpost relevant families you know or work with to the Services for Young People [website](#) where they can get more details and sign up.



Hertfordshire Parenting and Relationship Support Summer newsletter

You can view the [Summer 2026 Parenting and Relationship Support Offer Newsletter](#) which will provide you with information and details on Parenting Courses and Relationship Support offer.

Please can you ensure you cascade to your teams. If you have any questions please email CSStrategic.Partnerships@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

View the latest copy here:-

[hertfordshire_parenting_and_relationship_newsletter_sum26.pdf](#)

Start a new career in Early Years with a Step2Skills 12-week Skills Bootcamp



The poster features a central image of a woman smiling and interacting with three young children in a classroom setting. The background is a mix of teal and dark blue geometric shapes. Text is overlaid in white and yellow boxes. At the top left is the UK Government crest and funding text. At the top right is the Step2Skills logo. On the left, a vertical stack of boxes reads 'SKILLS FOR LIFE', 'SKILLS BOOTCAMPS', and 'Early Years'. Below this, a white box says 'FREE ACCREDITED COURSE'. At the bottom left, a dark blue box contains a QR code and website information. At the bottom right, a dark blue box lists the 'GAIN' benefits. The bottom of the poster is a white bar with various accreditation logos.

Funded by UK Government

STEP2SKILLS
PREPARE FOR SUCCESS IN HERTS

SKILLS FOR LIFE
SKILLS BOOTCAMPS

Early Years

FREE ACCREDITED COURSE

Scan the QR code or visit our website to get more details and apply:
www.step2skills.org.uk/SkillsBootcamps

GAIN

- ✓ Level 2 certificate
- ✓ 1:1 Careers Advice
- ✓ Emergency First Aid Certificate

Ofsted
Good Provider

matrix
Quality Standard for Information Skills and Guidance Services

HERTFORDSHIRE FUTURES

disability confident
LEADER

Hertfordshire

SKILLS FOR LIFE
SKILLS BOOTCAMPS

FREE courses

Course dates (12 weeks)

- 7th Sept – 30th Nov
 - 16th Sept – 9th Dec
 - 12th Oct – 25th Jan
-
- Gain Level 2 certificate
 - Paediatric First Aid certificate

Vacancy – SFPT – FF Coordinator



The Supporting Families Partnership Team are currently recruiting for a **Families First Co-ordinator**.

More information can be viewed here:-

[Families First Co-ordinator | 15 July, 2026 | Jobs and careers with Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Closing date for applications: midnight **15th July** and interviews on **29th and 30th July**.

Transition Yr 6 to Yr 7 support



Road to Year 7 Group

- Open to all year 6's
- Starting 23rd July
- 4pm-5pm every Thursday
- Help to build confidence around starting secondary school
- Create the toolkit needed to overcome any worries around starting secondary school
- Explore topics of change, anxiety, making new friendships, bullying & online safety



Please email withyouth@hertsmindnetwork.org
for more information, or to register your interest.

www.withyouth.org



HSP Annual Partners Event



10th July 2026

Whether you're a long-standing partner, or new to working with HSP at any level, this in-person event is a brilliant opportunity to make new connections, discover inspiring projects, and celebrate the positive achievements we've made together. HSP look forward to welcoming you to a day of connection, and celebration.

[To book the event please click here](#)

We're pleased to announce that this year's event will focus on inclusive practice, featuring inspirational, sector-leading keynote speakers who will share powerful insights, and thought-provoking perspectives on how sport and physical activity can be inclusive to everyone.

Girls Corner

Girl Corner is a free girls-only programme for young people aged 14–17 providing a safe, supportive and engaging space where participants can shape the activities and sessions based on their interests.

Every Wednesday 6-8pm, Active Local Hub in Waltham Cross.

Please also find the referral/sign-up link below:

[Your Voice, Your Choice – Girls Corner Sign up Form](#)

A vibrant poster for 'GIRLS CORNER' with a dark blue background and pink and white text. It features a large photo of four girls smiling and posing. The text includes 'FREE to attend', 'Youth space for girls ages 14-17', and a description of the hub. At the bottom, there are icons for various activities: Movies & games, Karaoke & music, Tutorials & workshops, Arts & crafts, Food & drink, and Chats & chill. It also mentions the location, time, and social media handles, along with a QR code to sign up.

GIRLS CORNER

FREE to attend

Youth space for girls ages 14-17

A girls-only hub in Waltham Cross where you can choose what we do. Make friends, try new things, build confidence and have fun in a safe, supportive space.

Your space, your voice, your way

Movies & games Karaoke & music Tutorials & workshops Arts & crafts Food & drink Chats & chill

Every Wednesday, 6-8pm
Active Local Hub,
Waltham Cross Playing Fields, EN8 7LU

powered By
Active Local
Waltham Cross

@SportingAid
@SportingInspiration

Scan to book

KatsAct

KatsAct is a local **not-for-profit youth theatre organisation** in Arlesley, Noth Herts. Committed to making theatre and creative arts accessible for everyone.

Our staff are all special-education trained and have extensive experience working with both children and adults with disabilities.

We are offering **two completely free musical theatre workshops** at Arlesley Youth Centre:

- **Adults with disabilities:** 10:00–11:00
- **Children with SEND / additional needs:** 11:15–12:15

For further information, contact: 07970330932 or email katsact@hotmail.com



Support for Male Survivors of Domestic Abuse

Future Living Hertford has a dedicated programme of support for male survivors of Domestic Abuse.

Attached is the flyer for Wise Guys, which will be delivered at the Sadie Centre in Letchworth from the first week of September.

Contact info@futurelivinghertford.co.uk or call 01992 537344 for more information.

The flyer is titled 'Wise Guys' and is for a programme running in Letchworth in September 2026. It features a background image of a man in a blue jacket covering his face with his hands. The text is organized into sections: a header with the Future Living logo, a description of the programme, a list of topics covered, and contact information at the bottom.

FUTURE LIVING

Wise Guys
Running in Letchworth
September 2026!

A programme for male survivors of domestic abuse

1 in 7 men will be a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime. Male survivors of domestic abuse often find it difficult to speak about their experiences. That's why Future Living Hertford has a dedicated programme which encompasses a supportive network and educational resources. Together, we support the men on our Wise Guys programme to rebuild their lives.

How can Wise Guys help me?

- ✓ How to establish boundaries
- ✓ Offers reflective exercises
- ✓ Support in building confidence
- ✓ Learn more about Red flags
- ✓ The importance of self care
- ✓ A supportive network of relatable men

Email: info@futurelivinghertford.co.uk
Call: 01992 537344
Visit our website: www.futurelivinghertford.co.uk
Registered Charity No: 1155145

Children, Young People & Families Crisis Support Fund

The Children, Young People & Families Crisis Support Fund is open for applications from 29 June. It forms part of Hertfordshire's wider Crisis Resilience Fund and provides short-term emergency support to help stabilise families at a point of crisis and prevent escalation.

This fund should be used alongside longer-term support options available via Cost of Living Support: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/col

The fund can provide essential items, food vouchers, and support with essential travel where there is an immediate need.

For full eligibility, guidance, and application processes, refer to the [Children, Young People and Families Crisis Support Fund Criteria | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Webinar: Understanding the Children, Young People & Families Crisis Support Fund – Application Process

The sessions will:

- Explain the eligibility criteria
- Clarify what the fund can be used for
- Provide a step-by-step guide to the application process

Webinar dates and registration links:

9th July 12:15 – 13:00 [register here](#)

9th July 15:45 – 16:30 [register here](#)

14th July 9:30 – 10:15 [register here](#)

16th July 15:45 – 16:30 [register here](#)

Please select one session only, as content will be the same across all dates.

Herts Summer Parks 2026



Programme Overview:

- 3rd - 21st August
- Completely free for young people aged 12–16
- Activities change weekly but include inflatables, lyrical writing, climbing, graffiti art, football, jewellery making, archery, gaming/VR and more
- Free food vouchers redeemable at local vendors
- Locations across Borehamwood, Waltham Cross, Watford, Welwyn Garden City and Stevenage
- Fully staffed by trained youth leaders from Sporting Inspirations CIC

Locations and dates:

- **Welwyn Garden City:** Mondays
(3rd, 10th, 17th)
King George Playing Fields, Beehive Lane, AL7 4BP
- **Broxbourne:** Tuesdays (4th, 11th, 18th)
Waltham Cross Playing Fields, Station Approach, EN8 7LU
- **Borehamwood:** Wednesdays (5th, 12th, 19th)
Meadow Park, Broughinge Road, WD6 5AL
- **Watford:** Thursdays (6th, 13th, 20th)
King George V Playing Fields, Tolpits Lane, WD18 9QD
- **Stevenage:** Fridays (7th, 14th, 21st)
King George V Playing Fields, Sish Lane, SG1 3LS

Pre-registration is live. By completing the form in advance it will give young people fast-track entry on the day: [Fill | Herts Summer Parks 2026 - Registration form](#)

Parents and Family Support

The Council offers support for families and a workforce development offer.

Support includes:

My Baby's Brain and My Teen Brain – online guides for parents and professionals training

Parenting Courses – The [Summer 2026 Parenting and Relationship Support Offer Newsletter](#) will list courses, webinars and workshops available this term.

Relationship Support – resources and course to support parents in conflict and a workforce development offer.

Find out more: [Parents and family support | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

My Teen Brain

This FREE 1-day CPD course, from 10am – 3pm is for Hertfordshire practitioners working with parents of teenagers and/or working with teenagers or young people in Hertfordshire. It provides an opportunity to understand teenage brain development and the adolescent developmental process and consider both risk and resilience. It includes ideas and strategies for professionals working with teenagers and their parents to help them cope with challenging feelings and behaviour and to support young people in an emotionally healthy context. The day brings together the latest understanding from neuroscience and developmental psychology and the principles of The Nurturing Program from The Centre For Emotional Health.

Please find the booking link below for you to reserve your place on one of our Autumn term courses. This training is a very popular and is beneficial to all practitioners who work with Hertfordshire children and families.

Target Audience: Practitioners working with parents of teenagers and/or working with teenagers or young people

 **30 June 2026, 10:00-15:00– Virtual via MS Teams**

Please click the link below to book your place:

[My Teen Brain Online Training 30 June | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Please ensure that you ONLY reserve your place if you have the capacity to attend the training on your preferred day and for the entire duration of the session

If you would like further information about the course or alternative dates, please email

CSStrategic.Partnerships@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Relationship Support



When working with families do you think about the quality of parental relationships?

Do you feel confident to ask questions about relationship quality?

Do you know where to signpost for relationship support?

We understand that healthy relationships support good outcomes for children, so it is essential that we support parents to have the skills to manage stress and communicate well.

Arguing is **NORMAL** it is our behaviours and how we resolve conflict that determine relationship quality and stability.

HCC provides a range of FREE resources and training to help professionals confidently support families experiencing interparental conflict.

- A dedicated [professionals webpage](#) with guides, videos and toolkits.
- Recognising and Supporting Parents in Parental Conflict eLearning Module. This course explores what parental conflict is and how it differs from domestic abuse, how to identify conflict and what support is available for parents and carers in conflict. You can access the training via i-learn [HSAB and HSCP training and resources | Hertfordshire County Council](#)
- Attend the Families First Induction Sessions for an overview presentation.
- The OnePlusOne Getting on Better e-learning is a self-guided course designed to build practitioners' confidence in supporting parents to improve their relationships. Across four modules, it covers the impact of parental conflict, recognising domestic abuse, using the resources, and applying learning in practice. You can access the training by completing the [OnePlusOne Getting on Better e-learning training request form](#)

We have developed a **webpage** full of resources and courses to support parents in conflict [Relationship support for parents | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

We have commissioned 3 **online courses** for parents through the charity OnePlusOne [Me, You and Baby Too](#)
[Arguing Better](#)
[Getting It Right for Children](#)

We have practitioners trained across the Family Centre Service and Local School Partnerships that can support parents and carers through the digital resources or parents can be signposted to complete the resources independently by creating a [free account](#)

We have trained practitioners and commissioned providers delivering **group interventions** for parents
[Parenting When Separated](#)
[Parenting When Separated for parents of children with SEND](#)
[Restoring Parent Connection in Difficult Times](#)

If you would like to know more about the training, resources and courses available to support parental relationships please contact CSStrategic.Partnerships@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Key Families First Links



Keep up-to-date by reading o
latest **Families First:**
[Families First News](#)



Link to support for families:-
[Families First Website](#)



Professionals area:-[Early Help – information for professionals and partners](#)



For Families First partnership
groups, news sharing and
general info email:-

familiesfirst.support@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Ensure your service is listed on the
Hertfordshire Directory:- [Register to add a listing | Hertfordshire Directory](#)