



Ohana

Autumn 2025 Newsletter

"Ohana means family. Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten."

Ohana is for young care experienced parents.

We offer the opportunity to build new, positive relationships in three different ways: **Ohana Support Group**, **Ohana Champions**, and **Lifelong Links**.

Ohana Champions and families meet Hertfordshire County Councillors

We had a fantastic time welcoming Councillor Anthony Rowlands and Councillor Louise Price to our recent Ohana Parent Support Group at Bedwell Community Centre! They got to meet some of our amazing Ohana Champions, along with the wonderful families who come together each week.



The councillors spent time chatting with parents and children, and hearing how the group has become a real lifeline for many. Parents shared how much they appreciate the support, encouragement, and sense of community they've found here.

Our Ohana Champions spoke about how rewarding their roles are and how they love being part of something that truly helps others and can make a real difference.



Ohana Recycle Corner

Ohana Parents are encouraged to donate baby clothes and toys, and we also receive donations from a variety of organisations across Hertfordshire, including the Hygiene Bank and Foodshed.



Halloween event

On the 30th of October in Stevenage, Ohana held a fun Halloween event with Garg's Animal Encounters where Ohana families had the opportunity to meet live animals and make their own Halloween crafts.



Esmée Fairbairn Foundation visit Ohana Online



The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation fund charities and community groups all over the UK. They are looking to find more projects that support parents with care experience.

Ohana Parents were invited to attend Ohana Online on 24th October to share their views with Richard Crellin on what they would like the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to prioritise in 2026.

The Ohana Parents really enjoyed the session and had lots to share!

ADD-vance support Ohana Parents

ADD-vance is a Hertfordshire-based charity that supports neurodivergent families and the professionals who support them.



ADD-vance joined Ohana Online to provide support and signposting information to Ohana Parents, and to invite them to workshops where they can learn new skills and build their confidence. ADD-vance have agreed to join Ohana Online every term.

To find out more about the services ADD-vance offer, you can contact them by calling 01727 833963 or emailing them at herts@add-vance.org



Coats 4 Kids

Coats 4 Kids have kindly donated a number of free preloved winter coats to Ohana families.

To find out more about this valuable scheme, you can email Coats 4 Kids via:

laurahhazelton@gmail.com



Hertfordshire Library Service visit Ohana Parent Support Group



Margaret from the Hertfordshire Library Service has visited Ohana on several occasions to meet and read with parents and children, and to encourage families to sign up for library cards so they can access books.

The Library Service kindly gave away lots of free books for Ohana parents and children to read together, at home and for Storytime at the Ohana Parent Support Group.





foodshed NOVEMBER WISHLIST

Biscuits + Treats
Tinned Meat
Tinned Fruit/Vegetables
Tinned Potatoes
Coffee/Tea/ Sugar
Micro Rice/Pot Noodles
Tinned/Kettle Soups
Tinned Spaghetti
Beans + Pulses
UHT Milk
Toiletries/Household

Babyshed and Foodshed

Foodshed have thanked us for our generous donations and have shared their latest wishlist of items required to support families in Hertfordshire. Stevenage Vineyard Church, who run Foodshed, also run Babyshed - a 'baby bank' of clothes and equipment donated to support families.

If you would like to make a donation to Foodshed, you can do this by adding items from the Wishlist to the donation basket in the Farnham House reception.

Ohana Support Groups

DJ's Play, St Albans (AL4 9LP)

All sessions take place between 11:45am - 2:00pm

20th November **15th January**

4th December **29th January**

18th December **12th February**

Bedwell Community Centre, Stevenage (SG1 1NA)

All sessions take place between 10am - 12 noon

13th November **8th January**

27th November **22nd January**

11th December **5th February**

**Save the date
for Christmas!**

**9th December
3:45-5:45pm**

**Knebworth
Village Hall**

2025 Ohana Online Support Sessions

All sessions take place
every other Friday
between 10:30am - 12
noon

21st November

9th January

5th December

23rd January

19th December

6th February

To find out more information about Ohana,
contact Fionna on **07866 224876** or Bev on **07749
778756**, email **ohana@hertfordshire.gov.uk**, or
visit **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ohana**

