

## Parent Post

#### March 2022



#### Welcome to our March Newsletter

- Please take a look at **page 2** for the wonderful Summer courses we have on offer during the next term.
  - Partner workshops & services are detailed from page 5 onwards.

The team would like to wish you all a relaxing Easter holiday.

We will return on 19th April.

#### Find us on FACEBOOK:

Welwyn Garden City & Hatfield Schools
Partnersbir

Welwyn Garden City & Hatfield Schools Partnership

Other Support Service Contacts are available via our website too.

Welwyn Garden City & Hatfield Schools Partnership





All hygiene donations welcomed!





We are proud to announce we now operate a Hygiene Bank with a selection of personal products available for families in need. Please contact your School Family Worker or the Lead School Family Worker to find out more:

Cheryl Bodrozic cbodrozic@stanborough.herts.sch.uk

#### Food Banks available in Welwyn Hatfield

HATFIELD Tuesdays 12-2pm Trussel Trust Hatfield Gracemead House Woods Avenue, Hatfield, AL10 8HX WELWYN CARDEN CITY Wednesdays 9-11am New Zion Christian Fellowship 140 Cole Green Lane Welwyn Garden City AL7 3JE

\* Please contact school or your school family worker to obtain foodbank vouchers

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## Welder City of Jatrield Our Summer term courses and coffee mornings

To book the courses on this page please use the link or the QR code to register: Further course details on the next page!

#### **Behaviour Top Tips**

Tuesdays: 10th & 17th May

12:00-14:30

Venue TBC

Click here to book



#### Freedom Programme

Tuesdays: 10th May - 19th Jul

9:30-11:30

Venue TBC

Click here to book





WGC & HATFIELD SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

#### BOOK NOW!





# BEHAVIOUR TOP TIPS

2 sessions - held online

Creating boundaries

DATES: Tuesday 10th & 17th May

Listening to our children

Understanding our own feelings

TIME: 12:30-2:30pm

 Understanding children's feelings and behaviour

> To book: please Use QR Code or go to this link: https://forms.office.com/r/Ydy3dkw9Kw

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WGC & HATFIELD SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

BOOK NOW to reserve your space!





## FREEDOM PROGRAMME

Make sense of Domestic Abuse

**10 WEEK COURSE** 

Freedom Programme is a domestic violence programme providing information, not therapy

Examines the roles played by attitudes and beliefs on the actions of abusive men and the responses of victims and survivors

DATE: Tuesdays from 10th May - 19th July 2022 (not during half-term)

> TIME: 9:30am - 11:30am

> > **VENUE: TBC**

#### TO BOOK:

Please Use QR Code above or Booking Link: https://forms.office.com/r/YvStmkD114





## Handling anger in your child with Autism/ADHD

A proven evidence-based and CAN parent award course for parents of children under 11 years and living in Hertfordshire. Gain understanding of the triggers behind anger and bring emotional regulation to your family.

"I really enjoyed the way you work together to bring the course. It presented as professional, slick, well-paced, inclusive and knowledgeable. The recaps were good at reminding us of skills learnt, and giving us confidence to learn new topics. Both your knowledge and experiences bought solace, confidence and real life to the examples you gave, and the scenarios that we then worked through each week to help embed were relevant and realistic to me as a parent."

Email: bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk

Zoom course Thursday lunch & learn 12pm to 2pm

April 21st 28th May 5th 12th 19th 26th



## Handling anger in your family

A proven evidence-based and CAN parent award course for parents of children under 11 years and living in Hertfordshire.

"I now have the right techniques for me and my children and the whole house has calmed down."

#### Email:

bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk

Zoom course Wednesday evenings

6.30pm to 8.30pm

April 20th 27th 4th 11th 18th May 25th



#### **Sleep Solutions**

A proven evidence-based and behavioural approach to help families get a better nights' sleep. Together, in small interactive groups this course will help parents to build knowledge and skills to restore healthy sleep.

"This course has made such a big difference to my confidence levels and I now know I can make the changes needed to help us all get a good night's sleep."

#### Email:

bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk

Zoom course Friday mornings

9.30am to 11.30am

April 22nd 29th May 6th 13th 20th 27th



#### A Complete Guide to Parenting Children with SEND

A proven evidence-based and awardwinning 10 session course packed with tried and tested tools to increase understanding of Autism and ADHD and related conditions. Free for parents living in Hertfordshire whose children are under 11 years.

"This course has given me a sense of belonging and helped me understand my child."

Email: bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk

Zoom course Tuesday evenings

6.30pm to 8.30pm

April 19th 26th May 3rd 10th 17th 24th

June 7th 14th 21st 28th

#### Family Learning from our Local Partners

#### **Parent and Carer Support**

**Online Courses** Summer Term 2022



#### TALKING FAMILIES

Our FREE 6 week course for parents and carers of children aged 0-12 will cover

- Managing challenging behaviour with consistency.
- Encouraging positive behaviour.
- Building your child's self esteem.
- Setting and maintaining boundaries. Responding to tantrums and difficult
- feelings in children. Developing a strong parent/child
- relationship now and for the future.



Wednesdays 9.45-11.15am 20th Apr-25th May Course 503

Tuesdays 8.00-9.30pm 21st Apr-26th May Course 504

Tuesdays 8.00-9.30pm 7th June-12th Jul Course 505

#### TALKING TEENS

Our FREE 6 week course for parents and carers of children aged 12-19 will cover

- The Teen Brain: the physical and emotional changes taking place during the teenage years and why their behaviour changes.
- The link between behaviour and communicating difficult feelings.
- · How to maintain your relationship with good communication.
- Understanding risk taking behaviour around drugs, alcohol and gang culture.
- How to negotiate and reduce conflict.

#### Pre-booking essential

07512 709556

ng the Course ID

Page 1 of 2

Wednesdays 7.45-9.15pm 20th Apr-25th May

#### TALKING DADS

Dads play an important role in a child's life. This FREE course will help you be the Dad you want to be. Over 6 weekly sessions, fathers and male carers of children aged 0-19 will be supported to:



- Develop your dad/child relationship, now and for the future.
- Improve listening and communication skills.
- Develop strategies for dealing with anger and conflict.
- Learn how to enforce boundaries.



Dads, Step-Dads, Stay at home Dads, Working

Diagnosis

not essential

Wednesdays 7.45-9.15pm 20th Apr-25th May

Thursdays 7.45-9.15pm 9 Jun-14th July

Thursdays 9.45-11.15am

Wednesdays 8.00-9.30pm

7th Jun-12th July

8th Jun-13th Jul

Course 502

#### TALKING ADDITIONAL

NEEDS (previously Understanding Behavior in your child with Additional Needs)

A free 6 week course for parents and carers of children aged 2-19 years with a recognised additional need. We will help you to:

- Understand your child's behaviour.
- · Find strategies that really work.
- Understand conflict: why it happens and how to handle it.
- Manage anger effectively.
- Motivate, encourage and support your child.
- Manage different needs within your family.



Sessions will be run over Zoom so you will need access to a device such as a phone, tablet or computer with a webcam and microphone. We will help you ZOOM get set up if you haven't used Zoom before. No special skills are needed.

rents and carers living in Hertfordshire Courses are open to pa Pre-booking essential

To check eligibility and book a place, ple

07812 709856 or bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk

Quoting the Course ID

www.eupportinglinks.co.i

These courses are provided free to parents by Hertfordshire County Council





#### Family Learning from our Local Partners













#### Take control today and start building confidence

Have you lost your confidence? Do you want to build your confidence? Do you want to take your confidence to the next level? If you have answered yes to any of the above, we have a course just for you.

Over this 5-week course you will explore where confidence comes from, identify methods and strategies for increasing your confidence levels, look at positive thinking and much more!



Starts Wednesday 20th April 2022 for 5 weeks | 10am - 12pm | Online (live streamed) | £15

STARTS APRIL 20 2022

Financial Hardship - support may be available, please contact us on 01992 556194 to discuss

Book your place at www.step2skills.org.uk/courses

















#### Money Matters - Helping children to develop good habits

Would you like to play a key role in shaping the way your children think and feel about money? During this taster workshop you and your child(ren) will have a great opportunity to think about money and how to develop good habits.

#### Sign up today and get ready to make your money go further

Activities will be based around the Key Stage 1 and 2 Maths curriculum and so will link to your child's learning in school



#### Monday 4th & Thursday 7th April

(you are expected to attend both sessions)

1pm - 3pm

Face to Face - St Joseph's Church 204 High St, Waltham Cross EN8 7DP

STARTS APRIL 04 2022

To find out more or book your place visit: www.step2skills.org.uk/courses













#### Local support and partners



#### Family Support & Learning from our Local Partners



http://www.dspl5.co.uk/



### Supporting Young People in Welwyn Hatfield

YCH Services for Young People is part of Hertfordshire County Council and provides youth work projects, information, advice, guidance, work related learning and wider support for young people.

Further details on what they offer can be found here:

http://wgchatfieldschoolspartnership.com







🗰 www.step2skills.org.uk/courses | 🕻 01992 556194

#### Local support and provision





#### **About Us**

ADD-vance is a dedicated group of professionals, who also happen to be parents of children affected by ADHD and/or Autism. Our mission is to support the families of children affected by these conditions and the professionals involved in their care. We want to increase understanding, provide support and change perceptions of these complex neurological conditions, so as to improve the wellbeing and reduce the social isolation of these young people and their families.

#### Ways to get in touch

Our helpdesk is open from 9am to 1pm every weekday. Please call if you have any questions, need more information or are looking for a sympathetic ear.



**J** 01727 833963 Monday to Friday: 9am − 1pm



herts@add-vance.org



#### Find the support you need at the

#### **Families First Portal**

Families First is the name for early help in Hertfordshire. It is a way of getting extra support for your family to help you manage problems early on.

Families First is available to all Hertfordshire families with children under 18 (25 if they have a learning need or disability).

Visit the <u>portal</u> for more information, with direct links to:-

- Relationship Support
- Parenting advice and childcare
- Money advice
- Emotional and mental health
- Domestic abuse support
- Staying healthy
- Online Safety
- SEND Local Offer

and many other useful links

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"I'm worried about my child's

behaviour in school and at home"

"I need reassurance and support"

"I'm worried

about

money"

"I am struggling to

cope with

everything at

present, so feeling

overwhelmed."



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hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst



Hertfordshire Music Service is proud to be joining the national campaign by Music Mark called 'Get Playing'; offering an exciting opportunity to get more young people into music.

The Get Playing project has the ambition to enable and inspire 2,000 young people in Hertfordshire to start instrumental music lessons.

At Mid Herts we are going to be offering half a term of free group lessons for children who are not already learning an instrument.



Music is good for your brain

or pilitying on instrument is briked with improvements in your brokn, expecially memory and focus.



To sign up please visit https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/GetPlaying/ or scan the QR code

#### Local support and provision

#### Supporting neurodiverse families

We are a Hertfordshire based charity supporting families of children and young people who are on the Autistic Spectrum (ASD), have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or other neurodiverse conditions.

Whether families think their child or young person may be autistic or have ADHD, are going through the diagnostic process, or have already received a diagnosis they are all welcome at SPACE.



#### Workshops, training courses and conferences

We organise and host workshops, training courses and conferences covering many aspects of parenting children and young people on the autistic spectrum and/or with ADHD.

SPACE are are only organisation in Hertfordshire licenced to deliver the ADHD Foundation's ADHD Parenting Programme. We also deliver the Sleep Tight Course from The Children's Sleep charity and workshops covering topics such as:

#### Hertfordshire's free SEN equipment lending library

#### Borrowing resources is so easy



You are welcome to drop in for a browse, a hot drink and a chat! We are based in Stevenage, just off the A1, and are open from 9:30-12:30 Monday and Wednesday mornings:

Unit 7, Arlington Business Park, Whittle Way, Stevenage, SG1 2BE.

While you are here, if there is other equipment and resources you would like to see the team will happily get it out for you. If you have your children or young people with you they are also welcome to have a

little play with a small selection of resources to see if they work for them. And on Mondays, our Family Support Worker is also often on hand to lend a listening ear.

#### Contact us

The Maltings
Stanstead Abbots
Hertfordshire
admin@spaceherts.org.uk



#### What is Potential Kids?

Potential Kids is an award winning charity based in Welwyn/Hatfield providing learning, social and sports opportunities to Neurodiverse children / young people (Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Tourette Syndrome amongst other conditions), their siblings and families

#### Activities:

We run activities for various different ages at multiple locations including:

- Potential Kids, The Galleria Outlet Centre, Hatfield AL10 0XR
- Potential To Grow, The Galleria Car Park (North), Comet Way, Hatfield AL10 0XR
- Birchwood Leisure Center, Longmead, Hatfield AL10 0AN at

If you have any questions or inquires feel free to get in contact with us.

info@potentialkids.org

#### Energy Bills Robate - Factsheet

#### What has the government announced?

- The government has announced a package of support to help households with rising energy bills, worth £9.1 billion in 2022-23.
- This includes:
  - A £200 discount on their energy bill this Autumn for domestic electricity customers in Great Britain. This will be paid back automatically over the next 5 years.
  - A £150 non-repayable Council Tax Rebate payment for all households that are liable for Council Tax in Bands A-D in England.
  - E144 million of discretionary funding for Local Authorities to support households who need support but are not eligible for the Council Tax Rebate.
- The devolved administrations are receiving around £715 million funding through the Barnett formula as usual where UK Government support doesn't cover Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

#### Why is the government providing support?

- The government recognises many households will need support to deal with rising energy costs, which are being affected by global factors.
- From 1 April, the energy price cap will rise from £1,277 to £1,971 an almost £700 increase in energy bills for the average household.
- Wholesale gas prices have quadrupled in the last year. Because gas is used for electricity generation this pushes up retail electricity bills as well as retail gas bills.

#### How will the Energy Bill Discount Scheme work?

- Domestic energy customers in Great Britain will receive a £200 cash discount on their bills this Autumn. The government will provide funding to all suppliers for them to pass on to their domestic energy customers from October.
- Customers will pay back the discount automatically in equal instalments over five years, starting from financial year 2023-24, when wholesale gas prices are expected to come down. This is expected to be reflected as an increase to standing charges on bits.
- This approach will help to spread the increased costs of global prices over time in a way that is more manageable for households.
- The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will set out more detail on this policy in a consultation in the spring.

#### How will the Council Tax rebate work?

- Households in England in Council Tax Bands A-D, who are not exempt from Council Tax, will be eligible for a £150 Council Tax Rebate payment from April this year.
- The rebate will be made by local authorities as a payment to households. This won't have to be repaid.
- 50% of households in England are in Council Tax Bands A-D, so will benefit from this
  rebate. The rebate will not be paid for second homes or empty properties.
- Households in England in Bands A-D that pay less than £150 or do not pay Council Tax as a result of Local Council Tax Support will also be eligible for a payment of £150.
- People in receipt of the Single Person Discount in Bands A-D will be eligible for a payment of £150.

#### Energy Bills update

- We expect the vast majority of people who pay by Direct Debit to receive this money in April. For households in Bands A-D who do not pay by Direct Debit, their councils will be ready to process their claims in April.
- The government is providing new funding to local authorities for these rebates, as well as extra funding to help with increased administrative costs.
- For those who need help with their energy bills but are not eligible such as households on income support in higher bands (E-H) or with properties in bands A-D that are exempt from council tax – local authorities will receive £144 million of discretionary funding to help.
- Further details will be set out by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and local authorities.

#### Will people across the whole UK benefit?

- The £200 energy bills discount applies across England, Wales and Scotland. The
  Northern Ireland Executive is responsible for energy policy in Northern Ireland. The
  Northern Ireland Executive will be funded to provide comparable support with around
  £150 million through the Barnett formula next year. The Barnett formula will also be
  applied when UK Government spending is recovered in future years, which will result in
  lower funding for the Executive in those years.
- The £150 Council Tax Energy Rebate applies in England only, as Council Tax policy is devolved in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. As a result, the devolved administrations will receive around £565 million extra funding through the Barnett formula, which will enable them to provide similar support. They will be able to choose whether to spend this funding this year or next year.
- This comprises around £290million for the Scottish Government, £175million for the Welsh Government and £100million for the Northern Ireland Executive.

#### What other help is available for people struggling with the cost of living?

- These new measures are on top of the existing £12 billion support the government is providing for the cost of living this financial year and next. This includes reducing the Universal Credit taper rate, raising the National Living Wage, freezing alcohol and fuel duties and providing targeted help with energy bills.
- The table below shows the total available funding per household to support with energy bills, depending on eligibility.
- The government is continuing with plans to expand eligibility for the Warm Home
  Discount by almost a third and increase the rebate value to £150 each year (from £140).
   3 million vulnerable households will now benefit from the £150 supplier rebate. More
  detail will be published shortly in the government response to the consultation on this.
- A fuller explanation of how the government is helping with the cost of living is available in a separate factsheet here <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-support-for-energy-bits-and-the-cost-of-living-factsheets">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-support-for-energy-bits-and-the-cost-of-living-factsheets</a>

Measure	Eligibility and Beneficiaries	Value	
Universal Rebate	All GB households.	£200	
Council Tax Rebate	Households in England in council tax bands A-D.	£150	- 0
Warm Home Discount (WHD) (as per current consultation)	Households in receipt of Pension Credit, Guarantee Credit, and some working age benefits. 3 million households.	£150	
Winter Fuel Payment	All households with at least one member above state pension age. £200 per household to those under 80, £300 to those over 80. 11.2 million households.	£200-£300	
Total available funding (depending on eligibility)		Up to £800	



#### Looking after your mental health and wellbeing

#### Information for Children and Young People

#### Websites

Just Talk is a multi-agency campaign, steered by young people and coordinated by the Public Health team at Hertfordshire County Council. The website hosts helpful resources about current issues. The site is updated frequently, so keep checking back. https://www.justtalkherts.org/

Health for Kids / Teens cover subjects that promote a healthy body and mind. All the content has been produced by school nurses, other health and wellbeing experts, and most importantly young people.

Ages 11-19 https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/hertfordshire/

Primary age https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/ (There's also a section for parents and carers)

#### Apps / National websites

There are several apps to support mental health and Wellbeing. You are responsible for ensuring apps are appropriate for your age and needs.

You may consider the ThinkNinja app: As a direct response to the COVID-19 situation, Healios have updated ThinkNinja with specific COVID-19 content. This will bring self-help knowledge and skills to children and young people (10-18 years old) who may be experiencing increased anxiety and stress during the current situation. <a href="https://www.healios.org.uk/services/thinkninja1">https://www.healios.org.uk/services/thinkninja1</a>

Young Minds is the UK's leading charity fighting for children and young people's mental health. On this web page you will find lots of information about how to look after your mental health at this time <a href="https://youngminds.org.uk/">https://youngminds.org.uk/</a>

#### Information, advice and guidance

Herts Mind Network have a **helpline** for children and young people aged 10-17. The helpline provides a safe, non-judgemental space to talk to a Young People Advisor or Mentor who will provide emotional support, advice and information and discuss coping strategies. For opening hours and more information please visit the website

https://www.hertsmindnetwork.org/young-peoples-helpline.
The helpline number is 01923
256391. Herts Mind Network also have a Young People's online group for those over 15.
You can find out more here: https://www.hertsmindnetwork.org/young-peoples-online-group

Chat Health is a **text messaging service** for all secondary school aged pupils in Hertfordshire. It is a confidential service and available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. Young people can message for advice on all kinds of health issues such as sexual health, emotional health and wellbeing, bullying, healthy eating and any general health concerns. The text number is: **07480 635050**. Secondary school pupils can also follow the School Nurse Team on Instagram at **teenhealth.hct**.

Kooth is an online counselling service for anyone aged 10-25 in Hertfordshire. You can access a **chat / messenger** service, discussion boards, goal setting tools and a journal and a magazine. The website is moderated by trained professionals. You need to register but it is anonymous. https://www.kooth.com/

YC Hertfordshire Services for Young People provides youth work, information, advice, guidance, work related learning and support for young people. You can contact a Youth

Worker or Personal Adviser for one to one and project groupwork support by calling **0300 123 7538**, emailing yc@hertfordshire.gov.uk or visit https://www.ychertfordshire.org/

School – although staff at your school are very busy keeping everyone safe, you can still approach your pastoral team at school for advice and guidance.

#### **Further support**

If you are experiencing mental health difficulties that are significantly interfering with your ability to do the things you normally do, please contact (or ask your parents or carers to) Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust Single Point of Access **0800 6444 101**. This line is open 24/7 and can direct your enquiry to a number of specialist services depending on your needs.

The Wellbeing Service offers short term support to people that are 16 or over with mild to moderate mental health issues such as depression and anxiety (so you can let your parents or carers know about it too). You can visit <a href="https://www.northessexiapt.nhs.uk/hertfordshire">https://www.northessexiapt.nhs.uk/hertfordshire</a> for more information about the service and to self-refer.

There are four community counselling organisations covering Hertfordshire:

YCT (East and North Herts)	Youth Talk (St Albans)	
http://www.yctsupport.com/	http://youthtalk.org.uk/	
Telephone 01279 414 090	Telephone 01727 868684	
Rephael House (Welwyn and Hatfield)	Signpost (Watford and Hemel areas)	
https://www.rephaelhouse.org.uk/	http://signpostcounselling.co.uk/	
Telephone 020 8440 9144	Telephone 01923 239495	

Kooth is an **online counselling** service for anyone aged 10-25 in Hertfordshire. You can access a chat / messenger service, discussion boards, goal setting tools and a journal and a magazine. The website is moderated by trained professionals. You need to register but it is anonymous. <a href="https://www.kooth.com/">https://www.kooth.com/</a>

The School Nursing Team can provide some support around emotional difficulties and parents can refer directly from this page: <a href="https://www.hct.nhs.uk/forms/school-nursing-form.asp">https://www.hct.nhs.uk/forms/school-nursing-form.asp</a> You can read more about the School Nursing Team here: <a href="https://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing/">https://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing/</a>

#### Already working with a Service?

If you are currently receiving support from a service or have been recently discharged, you can contact the service if you are struggling with your mental health. Most have a duty line which you can find out by looking on a letter they have sent you.

#### Need help now?

If you, a friend or family member are experiencing a mental health crisis, please call: **0800 6444 101**. This line is open 24/7. If you need physical health treatment in an emergency go to your nearest Accident and Emergency department or call 999 and ask for an ambulance.

Childline: If you're under 19 you can confidentially call, email or chat online about any problem big or small Freephone 24h helpline: **0800 1111** 

YoungMinds Crisis Messenger provides free, 24/7 crisis support across the UK if you are experiencing a mental health crisis. If you need urgent help **text YM to 85258** 

April 2021

# BOOKS TO READ WITH CHILDREN - List available on Family Links site <u>here</u>

