



Happy New Year

2023 saw the introduction of the new Family Hubs across Leicestershire and over the past 10 months we've worked, and continue to work towards building a sustainable foundation for the Hubs.

The project aims to create a network of Family Hubs that will provide support and assistance to families as and when they need it. The Hubs are designed to offer a range of services, including childcare advice and guidance on parenting, and access to health and social care support and services for young people.

Over the past year, we have made significant progress. We have worked closely with partners in libraries and launched 19 hubs in different parts of Leicestershire, and we have seen a steady increase in the number of families accessing our services. 2024 will see the launch of our final 7 hubs in Northwest Leicestershire, Charnwood and Harborough District. Starting with Loughborough Library on 18th January

Our team has been working tirelessly to ensure that the Hubs are fully operational and equipped with the necessary resources to deliver high-quality services to families. Our hubs have a wide range of partners delivering advice, guidance and support from hubs across the county including health visiting and midwifery teams, community police officers, library staff, wriggly readers sessions, adult



learning service, volunteers run a range of stay and play sessions. We run Saturday dads groups, we have SEND parents support groups, groups for young people with SEND, youth groups, and parenting support groups both virtually and in person and much more.

Looking ahead, we will continue to focus on providing high-quality services to families. We will be expanding our digital and outreach offer to reach more families across Leicestershire. We are working towards having a self help area in receptions where people can access the family hub website where there will be a range of information and links to other services. We are also talking with partners to make sure that families who live in remote areas of Leicestershire can access support as easily as other people can.

Overall, we are pleased with the progress that we have made in the development of the Family Hubs. We are confident that the Hubs will continue to provide valuable support to families across Leicestershire, and we look forward to continuing our work in 2024.

familyhubsleicestershire.org.uk



FAMILY HUB LOCATIONS

- Coalville
- Loughborough West
- Hinckley
- Melton
- Market Harborough
- Huncote
- Coalville
- Shelthorpe
- Wigston Magna
- Braustone Town
- Earl Shilton
- Barwell
- Bagworth
- Greenhill
- Lutterworth
- Castle Donington
- Wigston Library
- Syston Library
- Earl Shilton Library
- Hinckley Library
- Lutterworth Library

Coming soon ...

Loughborough Library 18/1/24

Measham 23/1/24

Moir 12/2/24

Broughton Astley 16/2/24

Thurmaston 20/3/24

PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH LIBRARIES

As we enter 2024, we are continuing our partnership with Leicestershire Libraries and launching Family Hubs in library buildings across the county.

Libraries are an essential resource within the community and have something to offer everyone. From traditional books to digital reading material, they have a wealth of services and provide access to computers and printing services. They also have regular sessions like Wriggly Readers and one-off events like Bollywood Dance, puppet theatre performances, or seasonal craft sessions.

Several libraries have local groups that meet weekly to sew, craft, or read while having a cup of tea and a chat, a welcoming and safe environment where everyone is welcome to join.

Libraries continue to run their online Winter Mini Challenge (until 19th February 2024), inviting children aged 4-11 to read three or more books.

The libraries are also part of the Safe Spaces network and will help anyone in the community who is feeling anxious, scared, or at risk.



NEW HEALTHY TEETH WORKSHOPS

We're delighted to announce that we will host Healthy Teeth workshops throughout 2024. These workshops will take place during our weekly stay-and-play sessions across the county. They will provide an excellent opportunity to share important messages about good dental hygiene with families in our fun and interactive 0-5 playgroups.

If little ones are nervous about visiting the dentist, a dentist chair will be available at every session; we will also offer fun activities like roleplay, crafts, puppets, and stories to help make their next appointment more enjoyable.

We are proud to partner with the organisation 'HENRY – Healthy Start, Brighter Future', which aims to change family lifestyle habits and behaviours to provide all children a healthy start in life.

FAMILY HUBS 2023

Throughout 2023 our Family Hubs have been successful in fostering community support and providing opportunities for families across the county, here's just a few snippets of the work we've been doing.

FAMILY HUBS FESTIVE FUN

In December, the Family Hubs team hosted a fun and informative drop-in event for local families at a local community centre. A free event, it was an excellent opportunity for parents and carers to seek guidance and support on family-related topics like money and benefits, family health, local support services, and staying active.

The team had organised a toy swap event, a win-win for the children, parents, and our environment, and story time from the Leicestershire Libraries Wriggly Readers. It was great to see families come together.

At our Lutterworth Family Hub, families were able to enjoy festive activities, Christmas crafts and enjoy a mince pie with our team and other local families. And, of course, a visit from Santa is always a hit with the little ones!



SUPPORTING FAMILIES OVER CHRISTMAS

Working with the Family Wellbeing Service, we distributed over 1095 presents, festive hampers and food vouchers to hundreds of families over Christmas from our Family Hubs.

Between our Family Hubs in Hinckley & Bosworth, Charnwood, North West Leicestershire and Blaby, Oadby & Wigston hubs, and with the support of the Salvation Army, local communities and businesses, Hinckley Food Bank, Gem radio station and the Prisoner Service Charity we provided:

- 1,095 presents for children
- £17,000 worth of food vouchers
- Christmas treat hampers including Christmas dinner store cupboard staples, fresh fruit and veg well as Christmas crackers, games and festive fun ideas.
- An additional 247 children received toys and selection boxes.
- Gifts were delivered to 65 refugee and asylum seeking children.
- 108 families have received gifts from Santa.
- Holiday Activities and Food scheme (HAF) also ran between Christmas and New Year.





MAKEOVER FOR OUR GREENHILL HUB

As part of our ongoing efforts to transform Family Hubs across Leicestershire, we enlisted the help of local artist Thomas Goddard to work his magic on the exterior of Greenhill Hub in Coalville. During his time on site, Thomas collaborated with a group of young people to perfect the style of writing and wording in his artwork. The result is a vibrant and welcoming centre that we hope the local community will enjoy as much as we do!

MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON PREGNANCY HEALTH

We're currently working in Loughborough to promote maternity equity in the area. Maternity equity focuses on making a positive impact on pregnancy health, ensuring mothers and babies achieve the best possible health outcomes.

We will support families in our communities, emphasising the importance of booking early appointments with a midwife, attending scans, and practising good infant feeding. We are recruiting volunteers to act as maternity champions, who will go out in the community to share key messages about good pregnancy health. They will also chat with families about any concerns, empowering them to give every child the best possible start in life, and share information and support with hard-to-reach families.

Our work also feeds into a regional campaign that is due to launch in 2024, which will encourage families to book early ante-natal appointments and see their midwife as soon as possible.

EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE 2023



The Family Hubs team attended the Early Years Conference at Beaumanor Hall in November 2023. It was a great opportunity to network with other early years providers from across Leicestershire and talk about the importance of recognising ongoing parental conflict. We shared information on the tools and training settings that can be used to ensure that children in Leicestershire are growing up in resilient families.

We discussed the developments of Family Hubs and discussed with partners how we can work collaboratively to support families and children. We shared updates about our website and what it will provide to families and partners. Additionally, we discussed how local settings can signpost families to other community services. The Family Hubs Team will also be attending the Early Years Conference in March 2024.

FAMILY HUBS SUPPORT LEICESTERSHIRE CARE LEAVERS

Care leavers already have a regular evening session in local Family Hubs as an opportunity to keep connected with their peers and access support from professionals. In addition to this, the Children in Care team are busy finalising a drop in offer around the county so that young people who need support outside of their evening group, can drop in to see a worker as and when they need to.

The children in care team have been working alongside family hubs colleagues to develop an initial leaving care package. Each young person moving to live independently will receive a storage box with essential resources they might need for their first few weeks.

In addition to this we are working in partnership to run some therapeutic art workshops for young people. The final art pieces will be displayed in hubs across the county. We can't wait to see the end results.



WORKING TOGETHER TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY FRIDGES

A selection of our Family Hubs have community fridges; these amazing resources help support local families and children.

Our community fridges are managed by a team of 19 volunteers who work tirelessly liaising with local food retailers, ensuring the fridges are well stocked, helping to distribute the goods amongst service users and the wider communities and keeping the community fridges clean.

The fridges rely on generous donations from retailers, including local independent stores, Greggs, Lidl, Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury's and the Coop. Our community fridges also support the environment by reducing food waste while positively impacting our communities and reinforcing the importance of diet as part of the best start in life.

Over 42,000 kilograms of food were donated and distributed to over 11,000 visitors in the last year alone. The Family Hubs also provide cook-and-eat sessions, skill sharing, and other support services to help families make the most of the food they receive.

Recently, the Shelthorpe community fridge has been improved with new fridges and a compost bin, thanks to funding from the Family Hubs. They can now receive, store, and distribute even more food while reducing waste and associated costs. It's lovely to see such a positive impact being made in our community!



WORKING TOGETHER

Family Hubs are all about collaboration and effective working partnerships to support families across the county. Over the coming months we're building further on our professional engagement work, meeting with partners from libraries, NHS, GP surgeries, DWP, and district council reps to further raise awareness about the network of Family Hubs and promote joined up working and the benefits this has for families. We're confident that these ongoing efforts will lead to building on the already established relationships across Leicestershire resulting in sustained impact for families, young people and their community.