

Parents' Network

eBulletin for parents in Solihull

June 2017

This eBulletin contains important information for parents. There is a separate section with items for parents who have a child with additional needs or a disability.

30 hours free early education for eligible 3 and 4 year olds

Parents of children who will be 3 years and above on 31st August 2017 can now apply for the extended early education funded entitlement. This means that families who meet the set eligibility criteria can access up to 30 hours per week rather than up to 15 hours per week from September this year.

The online application will allow you check eligibility and you can apply for 'Tax Free Childcare' at the same time.

- If you have applied and are successful you will be given a code to take to your childcare provider/School. Please pass this onto them so they can validate the code and discuss your options for taking the additional hours.
- You will be asked to re-check your eligibility every 3 months. Please follow any instructions given by HMRC in order to retain the funding.
- If you no longer meet the criteria for the extended funded hours you will be permitted a 'grace period' whereby your child will still have access to 30 hours entitlement for a set number of weeks.

You will be told how long the grace period is when your application has been re-checked. If the grace period has lapsed and you still no longer meet the criteria you will revert back to the standard 15 hours entitlement.

- Please note you must apply before the term starts in order to get the additional funded hours for the term. If you apply once the term starts you will have to wait until the following term to receive the extended entitlement.

So if you would like your child to access the 30 hours funding for the Autumn 2017 term you must apply before 1st September 2017.

[Click here for more information](#)

[Click here to apply](#)

For free, friendly and impartial information contact the Family Information Service.

Call: 0800 389 8667 Email: familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk

Visit: www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo

Fiveway Cafe

Does your child experience stress or worry? Are they lacking in confidence and have issues with self esteem?

The FIVEWAY Café was created to provide a safe space for children and young people aged 11 to 16 where they can drop-in and have a chat with someone about how they are feeling. The Fiveway Café team will help them to explore some of their thoughts, feelings and emotions, and will listen to anything that is going on in their life right now that they may need help in working out.

The group runs every Wednesday 6-8pm at Three Trees Community Centre, Heddingham Grove (Craig Croft), Solihull B37 7PT.

[Click here for more information for parents/carers](#)

[Click here for more information for Young People](#)

Solihull Civic Honours

The Solihull Civic Honours Awards are a way of recognising the local unsung heroes who go above and beyond to make the borough a better place.

Do you know someone who has made a difference in Solihull and deserves recognition? Perhaps a person who has volunteered for years at a local club or group? Or an unsung hero who works tirelessly in your community?

We are looking for people for the following categories:

- **Creative Arts:** An individual who has made a significant contribution to the arts in the Borough, e.g. visual art, theatre, music, photography or dance
- **Community Involvement:** An individual or group who has made a real difference in their community
- **Inspirational Young Person:** Someone aged 25 or under who is a real inspiration to their community or who has gained exceptional achievement in their chosen field
- **Making a Difference for Young People:** Someone who has given up their time to make a difference for young people in the Borough
- **Sport:** A person who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to promote sport in Solihull
- **Mayor's Award:** Someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the lives of people of the Borough, or who has raised the profile of Solihull regionally, nationally or internationally

[Click here for more information and to submit a nomination](#)

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Coventry Godiva Festival Friday 7th July – 9th July 2017

Coventry Godiva Festival is billed as the UK's biggest free family music festival and is now in its 19th year. Based in the city's historic War Memorial Park, the three-day event offers great live music, family entertainment, international food and drink, craft village and children's fun fair!

Organised by Coventry City Council with the support of partners, the festival prides itself on offering the best of Coventry and Warwickshire backed up by top national artists and performers. This years line up includes The Stranglers, Example and DJ Wire and The Darkness. There is a 'family field' with a range of activities on Saturday and Sunday 12 noon – 5pm.

Godiva Festival is a free and ticketless event.

[Click here for more information](#)

Summer Activities Booklets 2017

The Family Information Service will be producing the popular Summer Activities Booklets again this year which should be available for families in early July.

If you are arranging any local activities or events (or just aware of any) which are running during the 6 weeks summer holidays please email the details to familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk and we would be delighted to include them in the booklets. We will require contact details, dates and a brief description of the activity/event.

We will email all members of the Parents' Network when the Summer Activities Booklets are available.

Family Information Service web pages

Our web pages have lots of useful information for parents and carers all in one place. There's a wide range of helpful topics including childcare, child safety and bullying, children with additional needs, children's centres, education, employment and volunteering, family relationships, money and housing, parenting support and things to do.

You can also find out about local and national services and get information specific to the age of your child. Visit our website at www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo or for information around services for children and young people with additional needs and/or disabilities please visit our local offer website <http://socialsolihull.org.uk/localoffer/>

Opt in/out of Parents' Network

If you know someone who would like to join the Parents' Network, ask them to email their details to parentsnetwork@solihull.gov.uk or visit www.solihull.gov.uk/parentsnetwork

To opt out of the Parents' Network email: parentsnetwork@solihull.gov.uk

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Solihull Carers Centre Roadshow

Carers Week will be taking place Monday 12th June- Sunday 18th June 2017. Carers week is a national annual campaign to raise awareness of family carers, highlight the challenges they face and celebrate their contribution to our communities. This year's theme is "Building Carer Friendly Communities"

Solihull Carers Centre will be carrying out a Roadshow across Solihull. They also invite carers and professionals to join in with a range of activities including drop ins, tea party, workshops and a day trip to Drayton Manor.

[Click here for more information](#)

Contact A Family Workshops

The Contact a Family Midlands team organises a number of FREE workshops for parents and carers of disabled children. Booking for both sessions is essential so to book a place please email westmids.office@cafamily.org.uk or call 0121 415 4624.

Moving to Adulthood

Wednesday 21st June from 10.30am-12.30pm at Church Lounge, Selly Oak Methodist Church, Langleys Road, B29 76HT.

A workshop to help parents think about and plan as a young person with special needs moves to adulthood.

- Preparing and planning with your young person as they move towards adulthood. Looking at education, training, work, housing and living in the community.
- Linking this in with the legal framework (Children and Families Act 2014 and the new Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice).

Sleep workshop

Thursday 29th June from 10.30am-12.30pm at Church Lounge, Selly Oak Methodist Church, Langleys Road, B29 6HT.

A workshop to help parents of disabled and special needs children understand the science of sleep and to learn strategies to promote better sleeping patterns for their children.

A Message from Anne Lowe (Head of SEND 0-25 Service)

Hello everyone

I am now almost three months into post as the Head of SEND 0-25 team and as you can imagine I have been keeping very busy!

I have met some parent / carers and young people but would very much like the opportunity to meet more. If you are part of a parents group for SEND young people in Solihull and would like to arrange for me to come out and join a meeting, please let me know and I will be pleased to arrange this.

I look forward to hearing from you

Kind Regards

Ann Lowe

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