

Independence Hub

The first in a series of ‘Independence Hubs’ has opened, offering post-16 education tailored specifically for young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). Based within the Alton campus of further education college HSDC, the first Hub, funded by Hampshire County Council, showcases how high quality, specialist provision for young people with severe learning difficulties and complex needs can prepare them for adulthood, focusing on the essential skills needed for independent living, employment and good health.



With over a third of the 13,000 young Hampshire people with Education, Health Care Plans currently in post-16 education, and the forecast predicting this number to rise in the coming years, it is important that the County Council is able to increase the number of inclusive places available for those young people within Hampshire’s special schools and further education colleges. Establishing the Hub within the existing college enables the young people attending to positively engage with the wider college curriculum and community. Already, a group who will be moving on from secondary to further education next year is using the unit once a week as part of their transition, ahead of the Hub opening fully in September 2022. Further Independence Hubs are planned to open across the county in 2022 and 2023.

Helping Young People get to Work & Going Green

A Hampshire County Council scheme, which enables young people to hire mopeds at an affordable rate so that they can get to work or vocational training, is going green with the addition of five electric mopeds to its fleet of conventionally powered bikes. The electric mopeds are now available to hirers through Wheels to Work, see - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/wheelstowork> - a scheme which helps young people aged 16 to 25 years old in some rural areas of Hampshire by loaning them their own form of transport. Public transport options may be limited where they live, and they generally have no transport of their own because they don’t have the money to fund this yet.

Young people aged 16 to 25 years can hire a moped from £20 per week, those people over 25 years may also be able to benefit from the scheme in specific circumstances.

What's included

- A 50cc, 100cc or electric moped, fully taxed and insured
- Full break down and service cover
- Helmet provided free of charge
- Gloves and jacket provided for a nominal contribution
- You must have at least a provisional licence for motorbikes, which you can obtain by applying via gov.uk - <https://www.gov.uk/>
- You will need to have passed your Compulsory Basic Training (CBT). If you have not already passed your CBT we can arrange this for you and even cover the cost of this. Moped hire charges range from £20 to £23 per week.
- The scheme is operated by Communities First Wessex and their Wheels to Work co-ordinator will explain more about the scheme and provide you with an application form. For residents in the Winchester District contact
- Mobile: 07896 212198
- Landline: 01425 482773
- Email: mopedloan@cfirst.org.uk

Unpaid Carers

Financial grants continue to be available to support unpaid carers of vulnerable adults. Following a decision by Government earlier in the year to provide additional funding to adult social care, the County Council has chosen to extend their carer grant scheme to March 2022 so they can reach more people who would really benefit. The grants are designed to address the individual carer’s needs and reduce the risk of infection; for example, financial help with technology, equipment or personal care. **It is open to anyone providing regular, unpaid care to an adult who lives in the Hampshire County Council area, including young carers (under 18 years) providing care to an adult.** Anyone who has already received

a one-off grant is not eligible for further funding. For information on how to apply for a grant, or for practical support, call any of the following:

Andover MIND - 01264 332297 (select option 3). Monday to Friday: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm. enquiries@andovermind.org.uk

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers in Hampshire - 01264 835246. Monday to Thursday: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm / Friday: 9.00 am - 4.30 pm. info@carercentre.com

Carers Together - 01794 519495. Monday to Friday: 9.30am- 3.30pm (answer machine outside these hours). admin@carerstogether.org.uk For general information on support available to carers visit <https://www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/carers>

New Free Weight Loss Programme – Don't Make Resolutions, Create Habits

A new 12-week weight management programme has been funded by Hampshire County Council for residents who want to achieve a healthier weight. Offering free professional support either in-person, through regular online meetings or via a mobile app, [Shapeup4life Hampshire](#) is available to anyone with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or above and combines exercise and food choices to make positive lifestyle changes rather than a prescriptive diet. The new service forms a key part of the Hampshire Healthy Weight Strategy 2022 to 2026 which aims to change current trends in the prevalence of excess weight and obesity. To find out more, check your BMI and to self-refer, go to - <https://www.shapeup4lifehampshire.co.uk/> - or ring 023 8218 0287/0800 246 5170. The offer applies to anyone living in the Hampshire County Council district, excluding Southampton and Portsmouth.

500+ years of Historic Records available Online

Anyone with Hampshire roots anywhere in the world will be able to learn more about their ancestors thanks to an agreement between Hampshire County Council and Ancestry®, a global leader in family history. As part of the agreement, access to the Ancestry website will be **available free of charge** at Hampshire's public libraries and Record Office from January. You can find out more including opening hours, events and collections by visiting: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/archives>.

Domestic Abuse Support

The Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership is a group of local services in Hampshire, working together to provide help and support for:

- Victims and survivors of abuse
- Children living with domestic abuse
- People who may be abusing or hurting someone
- Professionals seeking advice
- See web page <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/domesticabuse>

Call the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Helpline (run by Stop Domestic Abuse) on 03300 165 112 for advice, help, and access to services, including refuge. In an emergency call 999. If you are worried about your behaviour towards someone else, seek advice from the Hampton Trust's Advice Line on 02380 009898.

Support for vulnerable households

Hampshire County Council has received £7.124m from the Government's Household Support Fund to support households in need with food, energy and water bills, as well as wider essential costs and housing costs. The County proposes to deploy this funding (which must be spent by 31st March 2022) through its "connect4communities" programme. The programme includes support for free school meals in holidays and half terms, support with utility bills, community pantries giving access to discounted food and community grants, which could be used for example to assist unpaid carers.

Details can be found at connect4communities.org where it is possible to apply for community grants, and at HCC's online directory ([connect4communities](https://connect4communities.org) | [Family Information and Services Hub](#) (hants.gov.uk)) which will also be a useful resource for families and individuals in need of food and fuel support.

Residents can also apply for half term support for food and activities at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/holidayactivities/holiday-activities-hants>

Roads update

Statistics have been published by Hampshire Highways for last November. In that month 406 emergencies were attended, 21,173 square metres of carriageway were resurfaced, 18,436 gullies and other drainage were cleared and 7,295 potholes were fixed. In addition, they also coped with Storms Arwen and Barra, keeping the roads clear of fallen trees and other vegetation, debris and excess water.

General road problems should be reported online at <http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems>. Hampshire County Council has agreed to put extra “recurring” funding into highway maintenance, equating to about £7 million per year, from April this year.

Apologies I cannot be with you this evening, but if you have any questions you can always contact me, please see below. Meanwhile, may I wish you a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

Patricia Stallard
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