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VCS Alliance

Here is this week's VCS Alliance update - all requests for information must now be submitted via an online form – [VCS Alliance](#) with any queries you have regarding VCS support for children, young people and families.

If you are working with families who need help to manage their money please take a look at

[Help with your money - Durham County Council](#)

There's lots of useful information including applying for free school meals, help with heating and energy bills, foodbanks, credit union, discretionary housing payments and much more.

2

Start for Life Fund 2024-2025

In County Durham, we are increasingly finding families that are struggling to cope with the rising cost of living, and this can result in unsafe practices of sleeping arrangements for babies and a lack of basic safety equipment when children become mobile.

To support families with these costs Durham County Council have been providing a 'Start for Life Fund' since September and we are pleased to announce that we have secured further funding to continue with this offer.

Professionals can apply for funding for safe sleeping equipment including cots, mattresses and bedding, prams/pushchairs/strollers and also home safety equipment such as fire guards and safety gates, ensuring that our most vulnerable families (with children 0-5 years) who are facing financial difficulties have access to safe sleeping (including prams/pushchairs/strollers) and home safety equipment to keep children warm, safe and secure.

[How to Apply \(all applications must be submitted by using the online link below\)](#)

[Please ensure that you read the guidance notes at this link before submitting an application.](#)

Applications must be submitted by a professional that is working with the family. The Family must be living in County Durham with children aged 0-5. Applications received directly from families will not be considered.

Online application forms can be found at [SFLF application](#) (from 9am 20th May 2024), alternative please scan the QR Code below.



We envisage that demand for this fund will be high, to receive a swift response to an application please ensure that all sections are completed in full.

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Sensory Worx

Parent Support Group - free to attend
Tuesday 21st May 2024
5.00pm - 6.15pm

Come for coffee/tea/juice/water, a biscuit and a friendly chat with people who experience family life similar to yours. Pick up some hints and tips with some of our staff. Talk about sensory issues and your child or anything else that helps. We'd love to see you and find out what's happening with you.

Sensory Worx, Suite 5, Traynor House, Peterlee. SR8 2RU

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Family Hub - CAMHS

New to Family Hubs - CAMHS Nurse Drop In

For parents and carers of children aged 5 - 19 year old. These drop ins are a chance to come and speak to a CAMHS worker about their child's need. There will also be a member of Family Hub staff present who can talk about our programmes for parents / carers and children.

These sessions may be useful if your child is struggling with;

Low confidence and self esteem
Low mood
Worrying and anxious feelings

Chester le Street Family Hub - Wednesday 10am - 12pm

- 5 June 2024
- 3 July 2024
- 31 July 2024

Stanley Family Hub - Wednesday 12.30pm - 2.30pm

- 22 May 2024
- 19 June 2024
- 17 July 2024

The CAMHS clinician will be unable to give any updates on open cases and ongoing CAMHS work during these sessions. Any questions like this should be directed to the CAMHS team support your Child / Young person.

To refer into CAMHS please contact the Single Point of Access on 0300 123 9296. Should you require Mental Health Crisis support please contact the CAMHS Crisis Team on 111 or 0800 51 61 71.

These sessions are a pilot within 2 Family Hubs. We will be gathering feedback over the summer and evaluating these sessions, looking to expand the offer in the autumn.

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DADLG

[Please click here to read the Summer newsletter](#)

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MAIN – Fab and Fun

MAIN are running a Summer youth group

From 6th July 2024

Saturday's

10:00am – 1:00pm (5 – 12 years)

1:30pm – 4:30pm (13 – 18 years)

Bishop Auckland Family Hub and Tudhoe Family Hub

In partnership with Durham County Council for our SEND children

Please contact us for more information and to book

Tel: 0191 3008556 / 01642 608012

Email – info@iammain.org.uk

VCS Alliance Team

Children and Young People's Service
Durham County Council

Email: vcsalliance@durham.gov.uk

www.durham.gov.uk

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