

# EARLY HELP YARDLEY DISTRICT



## EARLY HELP NETWORK MEETING

The theme for the Network Meeting will be

### THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS & POVERTY SUPPORT

#### GUEST SPEAKERS:

Jane Ager, Jayanti Champaneri,  
Thomas Gillam,  
Laura Howard & Sharmina Akhtar

Jane and Jayanti will be guiding us about the referral pathways and how to access DWP project /support and sharing tips on advice to give families.

Please join us Via Teams  
Wednesday 2nd November,  
10.30 am – 12.00 pm.

If you are not registered with us already, please email:  
earlyhelpyardley@barnardos.org.uk

Thomas Gillam has an update for round 3 of the Household Support Fund.

Laura and Sharmina will feedback from the Cost-of-Living Event for Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector.



We will have the roundtable as normal to hear news from all partners.  
See you via Teams! Thank you, Yardley Early Help

## CALLING ALL VENUES!!

Is anyone able to host Yardley Early Help Network Meetings in the future?

Whilst we can hold these purely online we know people like the chance to come together in person at times so we want to keep this an option – every couple of months.

Upcoming dates are: 7th December, 25th January 2023, 15th February 22nd & March.

We would need: Tea and coffee making facility, Space for 15-20 people & Screen for presentation and internet connection for Teams link. If you can facilitate this, please email earlyhelpyardley@barnardos.org.uk

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Attachments:

New date for the DRC benefits chat  
Look Say Sing Play Launch Event  
New Fox Hollies Timetable

If you would like to refer a family into our Early Help service please complete one of our family Connect Forms on: <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/Covid19CYPF>



We accept Professional referrals and Self referrals.



Here are our contact details: [earlyhelpyardley@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:earlyhelpyardley@barnardos.org.uk)  
or Call Our Duty Line: 0121 289 4875

### Early Help Training Workshops delivered by Yardley Community Connectors

#### What's covered in the training?

Early Help and Prevention System Training Workshop delivered by Yardley Community Connectors

A quick 45-minute training to give an insight on: Birmingham Early Help and Prevention System, connecting families into locality Early Help teams, ECINS, key outcomes and impact to date, Early Help commissioned services and an opportunity to ask questions.

The training is held virtually over MS Teams.

#### Available training slots for 2022/23:

Every Monday 10:00 am – 10:45 am

Every Thursday 13:30 pm – 14:15 pm

Please book through EventBrite:

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/birmingham-early-help-prevention-system-training-tickets-172973316847](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/birmingham-early-help-prevention-system-training-tickets-172973316847)



You can also contact our Community Connectors to book a bespoke session for your staffs at a time of your choice either face-to-face or online that suits your service needs.

Amina Mushtaq

[amina.mushtaq@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:amina.mushtaq@barnardos.org.uk)

075 68600384

Abigail Hastings

[abigail.hastings@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:abigail.hastings@barnardos.org.uk)

### The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) are offering Training Sessions

DWP Disabilities Advocacy Team are offering training sessions to External Partners who may want some upskilling and awareness around Access to Work. It's more important than ever that our partners understand how ARW can support Disabled people into work and remain in work.

Please see the list of dates below. Copy the link to Eventbrite and register on which session and date you wish to attend. DWP will send out a Teams Invite 8 days before the event. Once registered on Eventbrite please add a 'save the date' to your calendar for the event you have chosen.

Each session is the same they just pick what date best suits. Each session has 70 free tickets. So if you can't get on one, then there are other dates.

#### External Upskilling and awareness Links for access to work

#### These session include our ATW mental health provider

05/10/22 - 2pm - 3:30pm -

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/391630345907>

20/10/22 - 2pm - 3:30pm -

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/391778539157>

12/10/22 - 2pm - 3:30pm -

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/391782460887>

25/10/22 - 2pm - 3:30pm -

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/391783554157>



## Yardley Early Help Steering Group update



An update from conversations in the Yardley Early Help and Birmingham Forward Steps (BFS) Steering Group:

- We have started talking about Family Hubs in Yardley as I'm sure many partners have as well. This is going to be an ongoing agenda item for the Steering group. Most recently looking at the 24 key services – and where we have gaps as a Network. We want to be as representative of these services and the community – as we have mentioned before we would like to see more community groups and faith groups from Yardley join us. If you feel your organisation, or an organisation you know, should be part of these conversations for Yardley and join the Steering Group please contact Tom [thomas.gillam@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:thomas.gillam@barnardos.org.uk).
- We know from Yardley's Family Connect Form data that the key themes for families in Yardley are food poverty/cost of living, housing, SEND and wellbeing (including child and adult Mental health). These themes overlap with learning via our BFS partners – where poverty, infant mortality and SEND have been raised as important themes. They match too with conversation we have at Network meetings, and from joining in different partner's events. Whatever we set out will be in addition to citywide priorities – around SEND, Education and Domestic Abuse. Does this match what you see? Are we missing something?  
Please email us on [earlyhelpyardley@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:earlyhelpyardley@barnardos.org.uk)
- In response to this learning, we have agreed that network meetings should be themed around these topics in 15-30 minutes presentation slot and/or a separate event/workshop/training where we can potentially interact with professionals and/or families in and around Yardley. You should notice this when updated Network meeting invites come out for the next few months.
- If you are doing work around any of these themes please email Early Help Yardley [earlyhelpyardley@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:earlyhelpyardley@barnardos.org.uk) to see how we can help promote this –such as having a slot at the Network meeting, a newsletter article etc. We want to make use of what is already out there - where partners in Yardley or the across the city have a relevant event, we can promote this and encourage attendance, such as BVSC's planned Cost of Living Event - 1 November – see: <https://www.bvsc.org/News/bvsc-announces-cost-of-living-emergency-event>

We hope that's a helpful update – please do come back to us with responses to the above or any other questions.

Tom Gillam

## WELCOME OUR NEW COMMUNITY CONNECTOR FOR YARDLEY

My name is Abi Hastings, and I'm the new Community Connector with the Yardley Early Help team. I am originally from Southampton and am a recent English Literature and International Relations graduate from Aston University. I began this role at the end of September, and it is my first post-graduate role, however I have previously worked for The People's Orchestra in West Bromwich, and have also performed a range of teaching roles. In addition to my Early Help role, I work part-time at Birmingham Vineyard Church, supporting the work of the church with Foodbank and Growbaby, among other organisations.

As soon as I moved to Birmingham in 2018 to study, I knew I loved this city and wanted to stay here if possible, so I am delighted that I am able to work and live in a city that I love and where I am passionate about the work I am doing. I'm really keen to get to know the wider Yardley area well, to provide the best support possible, and am excited to learn as much as possible about the area and from the team. I have been really well welcomed into this role, and am grateful to the team, and for this opportunity to work in and for this city that I love!

Abigail Hastings - [abigail.hastings@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:abigail.hastings@barnardos.org.uk)



## Grants and benefits to help residents through the winter

At Citizens advice there is a good, simple guide which they have put together to support citizens this winter. This is very useful to advise parents and families to look at or to share the following link with below.

Energy Price Guarantee  
Energy Bills Support Scheme  
Warm Home Discount Scheme

Fuel Voucher  
Winter Fuel Payment  
Cold Weather Payment  
Grants to pay off energy debts



All information can be found on:

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-help-paying-your-bills/grants-and-benefits-to-help-you-pay-your-energy-bills/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-help-paying-your-bills/grants-and-benefits-to-help-you-pay-your-energy-bills/)

## Warm Welcome - Approach to Warm Spaces in Birmingham

Launching on 24th October. Warm Welcome is a cross-sector response to the cost-of-living crisis. It brings together the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector, Business and Birmingham City Council. Warm Welcome aims to ensure that our communities have access to safe, welcoming, warm spaces where the focus is not upon poverty or an inability to afford heat. We do this by offering hospitality and connection; connecting people to each other, services, wellbeing activity, opportunity, and warmth.

Can your organisation provide a Warm Welcome in Warm Spaces to the citizens this winter?

Register your warm space: [www.welcomedirectory.org.uk/Register-Now.php](http://www.welcomedirectory.org.uk/Register-Now.php)

The Welcome Directory Sign up to Warm Welcome Charter: free, warm, welcoming, safe and consistent. Support is available in form of grants, comms pack, training, setting up etc. Fred Rattley, CEO of Thrive Together Birmingham, is leading on this project. For more information contact Fred at [fredr@cofebirmingham.com](mailto:fredr@cofebirmingham.com)



## No parent should have to make the impossible decision between heating and eating

But that's the reality facing millions of families across the UK today



Right now, 3.9 million children are living in poverty in the UK. That's about 8 children in every classroom. And the cost-of-living crisis is getting worse and more frightening every day. For many children, living in poverty can mean going to school hungry, sleeping in a cold bedroom, and feeling worried and anxious about the stress at home. It shouldn't be this way. No child should grow up in poverty.

That's why Barnardo's taking action right now. Barnardo's is calling on the government to provide free school meals for all primary school children in England, as well as asking for more to be done to tackle 'holiday hunger'.

We're standing up for every child waking up in a cold home. For every parent or carer who's struggling to put food on the table. And for every family worried about how they're going to make ends meet this winter.

**BUT WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE!**

**JOIN US NOW AND SAY 'NO' TO CHILD POVERTY BY SIGNING OUR PETITION.**



Please use the link below to find the petition and further information:  
[www.barnardos.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/child-poverty](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/child-poverty)

## **Birmingham City Council given government go ahead to introduce a Selective Licensing Scheme in Birmingham**

Birmingham City Council has been granted permission by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities under the Housing Act 2004 to introduce a Selective Licensing Scheme for all private rented properties in 25 wards in the city, delivered through a team of 130 staff.

The Council have launched a licensing scheme for private sector houses in 25 wards including: Small Heath, South Yardley, Sparkhill, Tyseley and Hay Mills, Yardley West and Stechford.

The scheme will target wards where the private rented sector is above 20% of properties and there are high levels of deprivation and/or crime. The scheme will be the largest in the UK covering between 40,000 - 50,000 properties. It will last five years and come into force on 5 June 2023.

Councillor Sharon Thompson, Cabinet Member for Housing & Homelessness for Birmingham City Council (BCC), said: 'The Selective Licensing Scheme will allow BCC to work with all landlords to drive up standards across all private rented sector properties and join up with other services such as the police to tackle issues such as the high levels of crime that have blighted these wards for too long. Improving standards in the longer term will lead to safer and more stable communities, enabling more tenants to fulfil their potential especially children.'

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1192/birmingham\\_city\\_council\\_given\\_government\\_go\\_ahead\\_to\\_introduce\\_a\\_selective\\_licensing\\_scheme\\_in\\_birmingham](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1192/birmingham_city_council_given_government_go_ahead_to_introduce_a_selective_licensing_scheme_in_birmingham)



## **HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is encouraging families across the UK to not miss the opportunity for government-funded help towards their childcare costs.**



Families could save up to £2,000 a year towards their childcare costs to help pay for October half-term holiday clubs and wraparound care during the school terms, reminds HMRC.

More than 391,000 families saved money on their childcare costs in June 2022, worth a total of £41.6 million in top-up payments, and HMRC is urging thousands of other families to not miss the chance to save up to £500 every 3 months, or £1,000 if their child is disabled.

[www.gov.uk/government/news/2000-in-government-funding-available-to-help-with-childcare-costs](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/2000-in-government-funding-available-to-help-with-childcare-costs)

Thank you for taking some time out to read this month's newsletter. Please remember if you would like anything to be promoted in our Early Help Yardley Newsletter's, please send information to [laura.howard@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:laura.howard@barnardos.org.uk)

Thanks again

