

New Forum launched for Young people with Additional Needs and Disabilities

Young people across Hampshire with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) have an exciting opportunity to join a new Youth Forum to voice their opinions and share experiences directly with decision makers from the local authority on topics that directly affect them – such as education, training and employment opportunities



Anyone aged 14 to 25 years with SEND can join the new SEND Youth Forum – you **don't** need to have a formal diagnosis or an Education Health and Care Plan.

Members will have opportunities to make new friends, learn new skills, feedback their firsthand experiences of education, work and training, gain insight into how decisions that affect them are made, and influence those decisions at times too. The Forum has been set up in collaboration with learners currently enrolled in the County Council's Supported Internship programme, which offers real workplace experience alongside support and training with a range of Hampshire employers.

For further information on the Forum or the supported internship programme, contact visit the [Supported Internship pages](#) on the Hampshire County Council website:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/participation-lifelong-learning/hampshire-achieves-yp/supported-internship-young-people>

Funding to Plant Disease Resistant Elms

In a boost for nature recovery, communities across Hampshire are being invited to apply for funding to plant disease resistant elm trees. The once abundant species has been decimated by disease in recent decades, but new varieties are now taking root across the county. The initiative to support its comeback is possible thanks to a grant from The Tree Council secured by Hampshire County Council's Forest Partnership.

The disease has killed nearly all the mature elms in Britain, an estimated toll of 60-100 million trees. With support from The Tree Council, HCC are taking positive steps to bring this iconic species back to Hampshire's landscape as part of our plans to plant one million trees by 2050. We are inviting green-fingered communities to get behind the drive to reinstate elm trees. It's a great opportunity to enhance local spaces and provide essential habitats for wildlife including tussock moths and white-letter hairstreak butterflies. The Hampshire Forest Partnership has already supported 1,205 disease resistant elm trees to be planted across Hampshire's green spaces by farmers, landowners, and local communities.

Enquiries are open now for the 2024/25 tree planting season which starts from the autumn. Organisations such as town and parish councils, local groups and landowners can find out more information including how to apply for disease resistant elms on the Hampshire Forest Partnership webpage:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/hampshireforestpartnership/get-involved/people-communities>

Creating a Smoke-free Generation

Up to £23 million will be spent from April 2025 over the following seven years to support Hampshire smokers to quit, and to help stop people taking up the habit in the first place. Smoking is the single biggest preventable cause of ill health and premature death in England, costing the taxpayer millions and placing a huge burden on the NHS and social care. Helping people to quit smoking therefore is vital and is one of HCC key statutory responsibilities.

The County Council's current commissioned service, Smoke-free Hampshire <https://www.smokefreehampshire.co.uk/> offers stop smoking support that is personalised to meet the needs of its clients, whether this is support with the help of an advisor or self-support with a digital coaching. Currently some 3,500 people in Hampshire are supported to quit each year via this service.

Future plans additionally include more support for children and young people to quit electronic cigarettes (vapes) via a dedicated service working through local schools and colleges – this builds on current prevention work to establish smokefree sites and provide resources for teachers and parents around smoking and vaping. More targeted work to reach groups who traditionally do not engage with formal support services will also take place, alongside plans for training up Hampshire's wider health and social care workforce to be confident in encouraging, advising and signposting smokers to the quit services available.

In 2022, it was estimated that 10.5% of adults living in Hampshire smoked. It is also estimated that some 4,500 Hampshire residents die, and 8,600 residents are admitted to hospital each year because of smoking.

Local Authorities' Public Health budgets are 'ring-fenced' by Government. This means they cannot be spent on funding other services.

Boys Need Bins

Male toilets in Hampshire County Council's premises, including Country Parks and libraries, will have sanitary bins added to cubicles, in support of Prostate Cancer UK's 'Boys Need Bins' campaign. This comes as the County Council confirmed it will install over 200 sanitary bins in male toilets across its buildings used by the public and staff. County Council buildings will now provide facilities for men to safely, and hygienically, dispose of incontinence products and other sanitary items.

One in eight men will get prostate cancer, and some will experience urinary and bowel problems as a side effect of their treatment. As many as 69% of those treated with surgery for prostate cancer may experience urinary incontinence as a result and may need to use pads, pouches, stomas, catheters, colostomy or ileostomy bags. One in eight men will be diagnosed, rising to one in four for Black men.

As the Boys need Bins campaign has highlighted, it is important to tackle the taboos surrounding this issue and to understand the huge difference that small practical changes can make. By providing sanitary bins in male toilets, we can offer people dignity in managing with what has been an invisible, yet potentially embarrassing, problem.

The County Council will add sanitary bins to the male toilets in its five Country Parks, libraries, outdoor centres, and office buildings used by staff. There are already bins in place in male toilets at several County Council visitor attractions including Manor Farm, Staunton Farm and Sir Harold Hillier Gardens near Romsey.

Evening Wildlife Walk

Our very popular evening walk is back!

10th May 2024 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/titchfield/things-to-do/whats-on/evening-wildlife-walk>

Join our experienced ranger for an evening guided walk exploring the Titchfield Haven's wildlife after close! £10 per person.

Please call 01329 662145 to book.

Get Up & Go - History & Heritage walks

5th March 2024 10.00am to 2nd July 2024 11:30 am

This is a recurring event see

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryparks/staunton-country-park/events/get-up-and-go-history-heritage-walk?date=202405071000>

These walks will be short (approximately 1 mile) along an easy-access path circumnavigating Staunton Lake taking in the stunning views and vistas of the Parkland. Walkers can choose from two themed walks focused on the 'Flora and Fauna' or the 'History and Heritage of the Park'. The first Tuesday of each month will be a 'Heritage' walk and the third Tuesday will be 'Flora and Fauna'. The Flora and Fauna walks will vary in content as the seasons change throughout the year. The History and Heritage of Staunton Country Park walks take in the Regency landscape created by George Staunton and his successor William Stone and its range of follies, Grade II listed buildings and ornamental lake.

Dates: Guided walks take place on the first and third Tuesday of the month. 10.00 am meet at the Coach House/Visitor Centre for a 10.15 am start - 11.30 am (Approximately).

Cost: There are no costs to the walks, however you will be able to make a donation at the end if you wish, of which proceeds go to the Friends of Staunton Country Park.

Patricia Stallard

Winchester Southern Parishes

[Denmead, Newlands, Boarhunt, Southwick, Knowle, Wickham, Soberton, Newtown]