

Funding for Early Years Childcare Providers

The Government has recently committed further funding for additional free childcare places which is an investment in children's early development and helps to recognise the important work that early years' childcare providers do. The Early Years National Funding Formula provides the governance on how funds will be distributed and 95% of this funding is required to be passed on to providers. A proportion of the money will go towards ensuring nurseries and childminders can support some of the most disadvantaged children, with an increase in hourly funding for local authorities offering 15 hours free childcare for eligible two-year olds. Those providing free 30 hours places, for working parents of three and four-year olds, will also receive an increase in the hourly rate. It will also provide continuity funding for a further years for the three local authority maintained nurseries.



In Hampshire, over 95% of childminders who are qualified to provide early years education, nurseries and pre-school providers are judged to be Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. That's 2% more than the national average. Of the Hampshire families who are eligible for free early years childcare for two-year olds, 72% are taking up their funded place entitlement – which is also better than the national average. There is also high take up of the entitlement for eligible three and four year olds (98%) and, in 2019, the number of three and four year olds benefiting from the free 30 hours scheme has reached more than 11,200 children. For more information on FREE Early Years Education email – childrens.services@hants.gov.uk or ring 0300 555 1384.

Support for Carers

A Hampshire Carers' Support and Dementia Advisor Service is provided by Andover Mind, is available to any Carer aged over 18 years who looks after another adult. This service is for all Carers, not just those caring for someone with dementia, and offers:

- one-to-one assistance, either over the 'phone Monday-Friday 9.00 am – 5.00 pm, online or face-to-face with a trained carer support worker at a time that is convenient for the individual;
- general information and advice on carer-related topics online and over the phone;
- local carer support groups held across Hampshire.

For more information visit www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/dementia or telephone the Carers' Support and Dementia Advisor Service support line on 01264 332297. To support carers in an emergency, the **Carers' Emergency Planning Service** is provided by The Princess Royal Trust for Carers in Hampshire - <https://carercentre.com/index.php> - and helps Carers develop their own emergency plan so that they can arrange care in an urgent situation, and at short notice. Find out more on the website or contact the service on 0800 169 1577.

Hampshire Men

The Men's Activity Network in Hampshire brings men together through social, community or interest-led groups. This growing network is currently working with 20 men's groups across the County and is looking for more to sign-up to reap the benefits of membership. Visit -

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/publichealth/mensactivitynetwork>. Other projects to support men in Hampshire include:

- The shed-in-a-bus scheme - <https://shed-in-a-bus.org.uk/> - in Basingstoke involving a local men's group converting a double-decker bus which will travel around Hampshire, inviting men to step aboard to make and mend things for themselves or their community. It brings the benefits of meeting like-minded people, as well as developing practical skills, which has a positive impact on health and wellbeing;
- The Strong Grandpa initiative - <https://www.facebook.com/stronggrandpa/> - helps men to connect with each other through Facebook for mutual support across the generations;
- The County Council's Be Size-Wise - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/publichealth/besizewise> - encourages men to stay healthy in middle age. Research has shown that men in this age group often find it difficult to recognise that they are overweight, so the campaign, designed and tested with Hampshire men, highlights the support available to those who would like to lead a healthier life and shed a few pounds.

Going green

Hampshire County Council is making significant financial and carbon savings with the introduction of zero emission vehicles for use by our streetworks team, inspecting utilities works, and in the day to day work of highways inspectors, engineers and technicians. The electric vehicles have a range of over 150 miles and will cost only 2p per mile to run,

compared with the 13p cost per mile of the diesel vehicles they have replaced. These new highways vehicles are part of a total fleet of 28 Nissan leaf vehicles plus 7 Nissan e-NV200 Vans we have in use, with plans to increase this as current leases expire. Over the past decade, we have made over £30 million in carbon savings from our estate and operations. By the end of the year, 80 new electric car charging points will be installed across Hampshire, along with charging infrastructure at our offices and depots. It is part of a programme to convert all our small vehicle fleet to electric vehicles, helping to reduce emissions and improve air quality across Hampshire, and forms part of our wider commitment to embed environmental considerations in all the work we do.

Bus Passes

The overall budget for the Hampshire Concessionary Travel Scheme is £13.1 million and at a recent Decision Day the Executive Member for Economy, Transport & Environment agreed that as from 1st April 2020 there will be no automatic renewing of older people's concessionary bus passes which have not been used in the 12 months prior to their renewal date. However, on request an eligible older person would be issued with a pass. This will help to reduce unnecessary cost of issuing passes to people who have moved away from the area or distress to relatives where a pass-holder has died. It will also help to reduce the potential for fraud if a pass is delivered to an address where the pass-holder no longer lives.

Traineeship Plus

Traineeship Plus will improve your chances of getting a job or apprenticeship by helping prepare you for the world of work. The programme gives you the opportunity to learn English and maths through tasks like the ones you will experience when working. You will gain skills in employability that will help you search for jobs and succeed in interviews. The Traineeship Plus programme - over 20 weeks you will:

- complete a 2 week induction including: confidence and team building, health and wellbeing, equality and diversity and health and safety
- learn English and maths through engaging activities relevant to the work place throughout the traineeship
- complete a 16 week high quality work placement (2-3 days a week)

All you need to apply

- Motivation to learn and develop your skills in English, maths and employability
- Have a minimum grade 3-9 or A-D GCSE in English and/or maths (non-GCSE qualifications will be considered on an individual basis)
- To be aged 16-24 years old

What we give you

- Work placements in areas like Health and Social Care, Business Administration, Construction, Customer Service, Highways, Countryside and Catering
- A weekly bursary is available to those that are eligible and will be discussed on an individual basis
- Level 1 employability qualification
- English and maths qualifications
- Support for 4 months after the traineeship to help you achieve your goals

Completing the Traineeship Plus programme can open many options to you such as:

- apprenticeships
- full time jobs
- further education

Start dates are in September and March each academic year (other programmes may run at other times of the year if applications are high). Applications are accepted all year round and will be considered for the next available start date. To apply for our next available programme or to find out more email hyip@hants.gov.uk or 'phone 01962 846193

It only remains for me to wish you a very happy time at Christmas, with your family and friends. With all good wishes -

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