

Hampshire's Supporting Families Programme

More than 4,500 families in Hampshire have been helped during phase two of the County's Supporting Families Programme, with over 700 experiencing significant improvement in their circumstances. In addition, an independent evaluation by Solent University shows that between 2015-19, the support given to families to get back on their feet successfully, translated into savings or costs avoided of £27million to the public purse.

Hampshire's Supporting Families Programme began in 2012, as part of a national initiative to support families facing multiple issues such as persistent unemployment, poor education, poor health, crime and antisocial behaviour, domestic violence and young people failing to thrive. The programme takes a 'whole family' approach involving everyone in the family including grandparents, parents, young people and children. It allows families to build on their strengths while helping them to overcome some of the concerns, difficulties, challenges or obstacles they may have in their lives.

Calshot Activity Centre

Hampshire County Council's Calshot Activities Centre has a brand new aerial trekking, auto-belayed climbing, bouldering and interactive climbing facilities, thanks to a £320,000 investment. Most of the new facilities are open for booked visits now, and from the start of the Easter school holidays they will be available in a flexible 'pay and play' format, during holidays and weekends, subject to availability of sessions. To book online and secure a session in advance, visit www.calshot.com The new activities include:

- **Aero Trek** – New indoor high-ropes course including balance beams, tightrope bridges, stepping stones and zip wire, whilst visitors are attached to a continuous safety system.
- **Take Off** - Varied fun climbing walls with an automated safety system, so that people can get climbing and having fun safely and quickly, without the need to learn the about ropes and belaying.
- **Laser Climb (available from the start of the Easter holidays)** – an innovative interactive bouldering game, which invites anyone, from the youngest kids to hard-training adults, to have fun and get great physical exercise.
- **Bouldering Cave** – State-of-the-art bouldering cave with improved indoor rock climbing, enabling climbers to move freely and flexibly between climbing holds.

Hampshire's Country Parks

Investment of £19 million into country parks around the County is successfully increasing visitor numbers and ensuring the parks are on track to become financially self-sufficient in the future. Improvements to the country parks include refurbished buildings, improved play equipment, new trails and new catering facilities. New Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems at the parks has also seen payment compliance for parking increase to nearly 100%. This ensures a fair system for everyone and enables funding to go back into maintaining the parks. Work is now under way to improve facilities at Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Staunton Country Park, River Hamble Country Park, Manor Farm and Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve.

Teacher Apprenticeships

A new apprenticeship programme run by Hampshire County Council is giving school staff eg teaching assistants, a chance to train as teachers while continuing in their paid jobs. Anyone who would like further information about teaching and other education based apprenticeships can contact Claire Allen, Development Manager School Apprenticeships at Hampshire County Council. [Claire.allen@hants.gov.uk]

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