

## Locality & Community Support Service

Support for Professionals Working with Children and Families to deliver Early Help  
Early help brings together relevant services in Oxfordshire to support families in a co-ordinated way



# Early Help and the Locality Community Support Service (LCSS) Newsletter

Sept 2024

Welcome back to the new academic year 24- 25.

LCSS will continue to work with all partners to support Early Help in the community and we are excited to continue our support across the localities supporting partners and families where emerging need arises.



**CELEBRATE** – increase in Early Help approach across Oxfordshire:

**Last year 23/24 saw 5732 completed Strengths and Needs and 5682 completed social care assessments so now families are more likely to receive Early Help approach than a statutory intervention.**

This is brilliant for children who are more likely to receive help earlier for emerging need. Thank you for all your hard work in this area across the partnership.

## LCSS

Emily Smout LCSS Countywide Team Manager is taking an 18-month secondment as Research Lead in Social care on 16<sup>th</sup> September. Emily has led LCSS since its inception and has felt privileged to work with partners supporting families via Early help over the last 8 years.

Maz Rice already job shares with Emily but will now take on the lead as LCSS manager. Eliza Marland is the Service Manager for LCSS and Family Help.

The 3 Locality Managers are:

North – Kate Capps

South – Anna Phillips

Central – Hannah Alder

Please email LCSS if you wish to know who your settings link worker is:

[LCSS@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:LCSS@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Some key information we want to remind you about is:

- All professionals should be able to talk to families about what Early Help is – you can book onto the Early Help Skills training to upskill yourself in this area: [Early Help Training - Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board \(oscb.org.uk\)](https://www.oscb.org.uk/early-help-training).
- Ensure your setting shares the Early Help Guide with families: [Early-help-guide-for-families-Sept-2023.pdf \(oscb.org.uk\)](https://www.oscb.org.uk/early-help-guide-for-families-Sept-2023.pdf)

LCSS will continue to offer Named Conversations for partner agencies – please make families aware of these calls and ensure the Early Help Privacy notice is shared with families [Early Help privacy notice | Oxfordshire County Council](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/early-help-privacy-notice).

LCSS and the privacy notice is also discussed in the Early Help Guide for families so even more reason to share with all your families at the beginning of this academic year!

Here are some top tips in relation to sharing information about children: [A 10 step guide to sharing information to safeguard children | ICO](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/a-10-step-guide-to-sharing-information-to-safeguard-children)

## Networking events – Mailchimp RSVP

Across 23- 24 LCSS held 15 Locality Networking events with 333 attendees. 7 North (127 attendees), 3 Central (92); 5 South (114 attendees). Positive feedback was given by partner agencies where professionals felt this was making positive difference to families and communities.

We are therefore committed to holding these and have a new way to sign up via:

LCSS Networking events – please RSVP via [Mailchimp Survey \(list-manage.com\)](https://mailchimp.com/surveys/list-manage.com) to let us know you plan on attending. QR code below which will take you to booking for Networking Events:



### Helpful webpages to support Early Help

Please visit recently created webpages for families and partners that support Early Help in the Community: [Family Information Service | Family Support Toolkits \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#).

This includes tools and free Apps for families to use to support where parental conflict exists. [Family Information Service | Strengthening Family Relationships \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

### King Alfreds Wellbeing parents Evening July 24

King Alfreds organised and hosted a wellbeing event for parents. The idea came after a community around the school offer (CASO) meeting took place which LCSS lead. The wellbeing event was an action from the CASO to provide parents with information about local services and support available for their children in the area. Around 40 parents attended.

The Locality and Community Support Service (LCSS), Mental health support team (MHST), Targeted youth support service, Cranston, Sweatbox, School counsellor and senior leaders for King Alfreds all had stalls for parents to visit and find out their information.

LCSS and MHST gave short presentations about their Early Help and their services and how this can support children and families. LCSS were able to inform parents about what Early help is and the Strengths & needs and Team around the family process.

Parents were keen to chat to services and felt empowered hearing about what is available and how they can access them. LCSS had a number of conversations with parents and about Early help and provided advice and signposting.

The event was really positive and a model a lot of schools could adopt to increase parents' awareness of services and support for their children/family to bring about positive change.



## COMMUNITY PARENTING SUPPORT:

Thank you to all those who completed the Parenting Support Survey which was circulated in the Spring. There were 143 responses and the Family Nurturing Programme- developed by the Centre for Emotional health (formerly Family Links) and the SWIFT programme (for children with communication and interaction needs) were the two programmes that were most delivered by both schools and voluntary settings.

As a result, the Oxfordshire Parenting Forum are facilitating a network meeting for those settings who currently deliver, planning to deliver in the future or who are interested in creating and participating in a more joined-up way of delivering the nurturing programme.

**Wednesday 23rd October from 5-6.30pm with refreshments  
At the Centre for Emotional health, Bobby Fryer Close, Cowley OX4 6ZN**

Please e-mail [opfemail@gmail.com](mailto:opfemail@gmail.com) if you would like to attend so we have a feel for numbers. Thank you - Oxfordshire Parenting Forum

## Other parenting support:



### **Rose Buds**

'Rose Buds' runs weekly at the Rose Hill Community Centre in Oxford. Run in collaboration with the Community Centre and Oxford City Council, 'Rose Buds' is a free stay and play group for 0-5s and their parents and carers.

#### **Fridays**

**10-11.30am**

**Rose Hill Community Centre, Oxford, OX4 4HF**

### **'Little Splashers' Baby Group (Witney)**

A free group for babies under 1 and their parent / carer with singing, sensory play & story time.

#### **Tuesdays**

**1.00-2.00pm**

**Witney Methodist Church, High Street, Witney, OX28 6HG**

Numbers are limited so you must register for a place.

To join please email [Jan@HomeStartOxford.org.uk](mailto:Jan@HomeStartOxford.org.uk)

### **'Puddle Jumpers' Stay & Play Group (Witney)**

A free group for 0-5s and their parent / carer with crafts, messy play, singing and story time.

**Mondays: 9.15-10.45am at Ceewood Hall, Witney, OX28 5AR**

**Wednesdays: 9.30-11am at Witney Methodist Church, Witney, OX28 6HG**

Numbers are limited so please arrive early.

Once a month we will do a buggy walk instead of the indoor session – keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#) for details (@homestartwitney).

### **Growing Minds Stay & Play Group (Littlemore)**

A friendly group aimed at children aged 0-4 and their parent / carer with crafts, messy play, singing and story time.

**Mondays: 9.00-10.00am at John Henry Newman Academy, Littlemore, OX4 4LS (FREE)**

**Tuesdays: 9.00-10.15am at John Henry Newman Academy, Littlemore, OX4 4LS (£1 towards refreshments)**

**Thursdays: 10.00-11.30am at St Mary & St Nicholas Church, Littlemore, OX4 4PP (FREE)**

Please note the Monday and Tuesday sessions are run term-time only.

For more information, please email [admin@homestartoxford.org.uk](mailto:admin@homestartoxford.org.uk)

### **SEND Parent Peer Support Group (Littlemore)**

An opportunity for parents to chat and share their experiences alongside a stay and play session for the children.

The group is a partnership between Growing Minds and John Henry Newman.

**Tuesdays (fortnightly)**

**2.00-3.00pm**

**John Henry Newman Academy, Littlemore, OX4 4LS (FREE)**

For more information, please email [admin@homestartoxford.org.uk](mailto:admin@homestartoxford.org.uk).

Family Learning - [Family Learning - Abingdon & Witney College \(abingdon-witney.ac.uk\)](http://Family Learning - Abingdon & Witney College (abingdon-witney.ac.uk))

We offer a range of **FREE** community courses for parents and carers across Oxfordshire.

If you are a school, early years' setting, family/community centre or charity please get in touch, and we can arrange to deliver one of the courses below at your centre or even create a bespoke course to meet the needs of your stakeholders.

**Courses include:**

- Family Learning ESOL/EAL
- Family Links – The Nurturing Programme
- Me and My Healthy Family
- HENRY Programme
- Keeping up with English and Maths
- Supporting Your Child with Maths Homework (Online)
- Phonics Explained
- Reading with Your Child
- Managing Children's Feelings and Behaviour
- Learning Through Play
- Effective Communication for SEN