

Ashley Family Hub

Our vision

To support families with children from 0 to 19 to build a brighter future.

Our values

- * Everyone welcome**
- * Openness, honesty and respect**
- * Support and signpost in a non-judgemental way**

Our mission

To build positive and lasting relationships with local families

We are a free service that offers:

- Parenting courses
- On-line parent courses
- Child-health clinic
- Bookable consultations with a Parent Support Worker
- Debt counselling advice
- Local PCSO drop-ins
- Housing support
- Referrals to Basics Bank (food bank)
- Secondhand clothes exchange
- Book library
- Tips and advice on starting school and moving on

- Signposting to other agencies e.g. Citizens advice, Family Support Service, mental health support, domestic violence support, substance misuse agencies

- Weekly programme of activities e.g. parenting workshops, mental health and wellbeing, mindfulness and art therapy activities, workshops, baby massage course, first aid training, feed your family for £5,

- Monthly access to child health clinic for baby weighing and health visitor advice
- SENCo from Ashley Infant School visits monthly to advise parents of SEN children
- Portage due to open a special educational needs drop in service for parents of children under 5 from September
- Local police have regularly dropped in to maintain community links
- A chance to just meet with other parents for a chat and a coffee, form friendships and a self-supporting network of advice and support for each other

Impact

This is the only centralised support hub for families in the local area

Parents can access support in a timely way across a range of services

The modelling of good parenting and ideas to support children developing socially and cognitively have helped parents to develop good habits

We have a core group of parents that come along and use the hub weekly, they are also able to offer each other support.

Parents are confident to 'drop in' if they need support .

Parents of children with SEN have benefitted significantly – many parents who were previously feeling isolated and embarrassed to take their children out in public have formed friendships and gained support. Now organising events with each other in the school holidays.

Individuals that have struggled with mental health issues are now confident to attend weekly and encourage friends to do the same

Early help can be obtained prior to children starting school leading to better outcomes for children.

Schools have a better relationship with vulnerable families as they trust us to support them rather than pass judgement.

Children's services will name the hub as a resource for families on a CIN or CP plan. It also provides a stepping stone to independence for families coming off a support plan but not yet ready to have all support removed.

Transition between the schools has improved as the professionals involved with the hub are aware of families needing support and can provide this continuity.

The hub has worked collaboratively with the basics bank to produce a recipe book for basic bank users