



EARLY YEARS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026

**Welcome to our latest Newsletter**, where we share key updates, insights and opportunities from across the Family Support Service.

This edition highlights how we're working together to improve access, strengthen support for families, and respond to emerging needs across Hertfordshire. From the rollout of the **Best Start Family Hubs** to supporting families through the Better Health Bus, we're continuing to build an inclusive, community-focused service.

You'll also find updates on **Health for Under 5s** and upcoming initiatives such as our **Summer Transitions** Campaign. Thank you for your continued partnership and support in helping families thrive.

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## Early Years Meetings

Join us for our summer Connect over Lunch or Coffee Early Years Network meetings. An informal chance to connect and network with colleagues from local early years settings. Drop in with your lunch or pop by for a coffee.

Book your **FREE** place today!



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## Best Start Family HUBs

New **Best Start Family Hubs** are being developed in Watford and Stevenage, building on the strengths of existing Family Centres in Hertfordshire.

As the programme grows, families will have improved access to advice, guidance and support, including for older children, SEND, and debt and welfare advice.



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## Summer Transitions

As summer approaches, many families will be preparing for the move to primary school in September. It's a big step for everyone, and we're here to help.

Join our **Peep Learning Through Play** sessions and Family Fun events for support, advice and quality time together.



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## Supporting Families with the Better Health Bus

The **Hertfordshire Family Centre Service** is proud to support the Better Health Bus with Hertfordshire County Council. Since July 2024, it has visited 150+ community events, delivered over 1,200 health checks and engaged with thousands of residents, bringing vital health support directly into local communities.



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## Strengthening our Family Support offer with Peep training

Peep is an evidence-based programme supporting positive outcomes for children and parents. Last year, members of our team became trainers in **Peep Learning Together** and Antenatal Peep, and are now upskilling colleagues to become confident Peep facilitators across the service.



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## Health for Under 5s website

We're pleased to highlight the **Health for Under 5s** website, a trusted, easy-to-use resource for parents and carers from pregnancy through early years. It complements local health and family services, offering evidence-based advice on child development, wellbeing, sleep, feeding, safety and common childhood illnesses.



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## Hertfordshire County Council's Young Carers Offer

From 1st April 2026, Hertfordshire County Council brought young carers support in-house as the Carers in Hertfordshire contract ended. Support for adult carers remains unchanged. Work with young carers and families is ongoing to ensure a smooth transition and continued, consistent support.



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