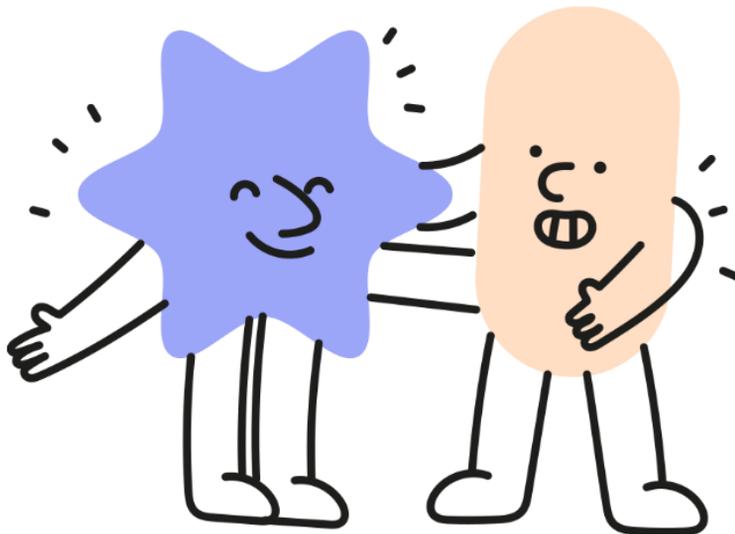




**Bolton
Family Hubs
Network**

February 2026

WORKFORCE NEWSLETTER

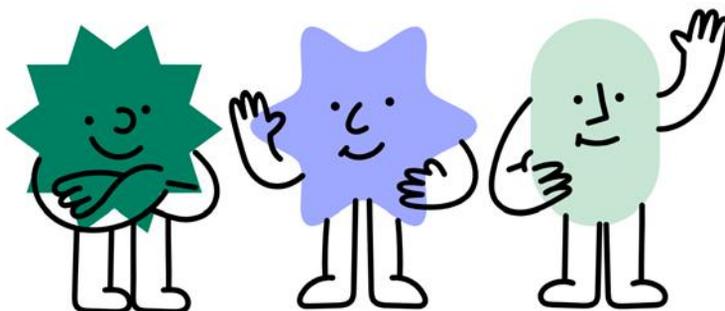


Your guide to what's happening in Bolton Family Hubs and across the wider network, as well as updates on useful resources and training opportunities



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Best Start Family Hubs: April 2026 – March 2029

From April 2026, all local authorities will receive funding to deliver the new Best Start Family Hubs programme, building on the successes of Family Hubs and the Start for Life programme. In Bolton, this marks an important next step in strengthening early help, support and opportunities for families across the borough.

What the Hubs Will Offer

Best Start Family Hubs will continue to develop what families value most, including:

Warm, welcoming spaces for parents to meet, access activities such as Stay and Play, and receive support from professionals.

Help with parenting, children's emotional wellbeing, health advice, and courses that boost parental confidence and support child development.

Clear links to wider services including health care, relationship support, employment and housing.

Funding and Local Delivery

Bolton has now received its funding allocation and is working with partners including GMMH, NHS Bolton Foundation Trust, Bolton CVS and Bolton Together to continue and innovate commissioned services.

Funding will support evidence-based work across:

- Parenting,
- Home learning,
- Communication and language,

And the delivery of Healthy Babies core services, including:

- Perinatal mental health
- Parent–infant relationships
- Infant feeding support

Cont.

Why the Best Start Family Hubs Matter

Best Start Family Hubs aim to make life easier for families by bringing services together in one place. This means parents can access midwifery, health visiting, parenting classes, help with conflict or housing, and more — without navigating a complex system.

Best Start Family Hubs will remain open to all, with a focus on supporting communities who need them most. They will continue to provide safe, non-judgmental spaces where families feel valued and confident seeking support.

Local Area Targets

As part of national Best Start in Life reforms, each local authority will work towards new statutory targets. In Bolton, the target for the end of the 2027/28 academic year is:

- 72.8% of children achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) at the end of Reception, and
- 61.8% of children eligible for Free School Meals achieving GLD — ensuring disadvantaged children benefit equally.

Best Start Family Hubs will play a key role in meeting these ambitions. A new Best Start in Life plan will be co-written and shared with partners and communities by April 2026.

Branding Updates

From April, Bolton will begin rolling out the new Best Start in Life branding across sites and materials. This includes:

- Replacing Start for Life branding with Healthy Babies branding as updates are made.
- Displaying the Best Start in Life logo alongside existing local branding.
- Ensuring all sites clearly display the “Funded by UK Government” logo.

FAMILY HUB PRACTITIONER UPDATE

Since December we have had two new Family Hub Practitioners join the team, Kiera and Tahera. Kiera is based at Farnworth Family Hub and Tahera is based across the Central Family Hubs, covering Great Lever, Alexandra and Harvey. Both are building relationships with the teams they are working with and families. If a family you're working with would like information about what sessions or support is available from Family Hubs, please put them in touch with the Family Hub Practitioner team using the contacts below.

FAMILY HUB PRACTITIONER (FHP) TEAM

SENIOR FAMILY HUB PRACTITIONERS:

- Hannah Brown Hannah.brown@bolton.gov.uk 07379077050
- Lizzie Simister Elizabeth.simister@bolton.gov.uk 07746535284 (T,W,T)



ALEXANDRA FAMILY HUB

- Nazia Khan Nazia.khan3@bolton.gov.uk 07386967376
- Tahera Chanchwelia Tahera.Chanchwelia@bolton.gov.uk 07379077041



BRIGHT MEADOWS FAMILY HUB

- Timea Kabdebon Timea.kabdebon@bolton.gov.uk 07379077153



FARNWORTH FAMILY HUB (Plus covering Kearsley area)

- Katie Campbell katie.campbell@bolton.gov.uk 07386967414 (T,W,T,F)
- Kiera Elliott Kiera.Elliott@bolton.gov.uk 07386967382 (T,W,T,F)



GREAT LEVER FAMILY HUB

- Fazila Lasania fazila.lasania@bolton.gov.uk 07435879034 (M,T,W)
- Tahera Chanchwelia Tahera.Chanchwelia@bolton.gov.uk 07379077041 (MTW,F)



HARVEY START FAMILY HUB

- Alpa Lad O'Connell Alpa.Lad-oconnell1@bolton.gov.uk 07379077034
- Tahera Chanchwelia Tahera.Chanchwelia@bolton.gov.uk 07379077041



OLDHAMS FAMILY HUB

- Janet Skinner Janet.skinner@bolton.gov.uk 07350416929 (T,W,T,F)



OXFORD GROVE FAMILY HUB (Plus Horwich & Blackrod and Westthoughton areas)

- Katie Worsley Katie.worsley@bolton.gov.uk 07386967388 (M,T,W)
- Lauren Hesketh Lauren.Hesketh@bolton.gov.uk 07379007146
- Leanna Brown Leanna.brown@bolton.gov.uk 07379077047



TONGE FAMILY HUB

- Tina Mather Tina.mather@bolton.gov.uk 07379077191



FAMILY HUB PRACTITIONER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Family Hub Practitioner team are in the process of reaching out to local schools, settings and community groups, building their connections and understanding of the offer for families in the areas they are working in.

They have been attending lots of school events such as coffee mornings and parent's evenings. They have also been delivering taster sessions of the groups we deliver in the Family Hubs, to help break down any potential barrier's families may have in coming into a Family Hub and talking them through what's on offer.

The team have also been joining local community alliance events, delivering activities for the early years and sharing information and advice with Family Hub stalls. If you would like Family Hub Practitioners to attend any upcoming events you have in your school, setting or community group, please contact your local Family Hub Practitioner using the contact details provided.



Special Approach to Making it REAL- Parent workshops

We have recently been piloting Special Approach to Making it Real parent workshop over January. We have offered a range of sessions for parents and carers to choose from, with face-to-face sessions, online sessions and blended sessions where it's a combination of the two.

The next set of sessions is due to take place on the 18th and 25th February. One session will be at Central Library and the other will be online, there are still spaces available!

If you know of a parent or carer of a child under 5 years who may have additional needs, please support them in booking on using the QR code.

These sessions support parents understanding of child development and give practical ideas about simple low cost, no cost activities that can be done at home to support the home learning environment.

Parents and carers get fantastic take home packs which includes early years resources they can use in their activities at home!



A Special Approach to Making it REAL

Free online parent, carer, guardian workshop on how to support your child's learning.

Small things make a big difference!

Join us to explore how simple low cost and no cost fun activities can support your child's **early language**.

Are you,

- A parent, carer or guardian of a child under 5 years old, who may have additional needs or a disability?

Would you like to,

- Explore 7 things you can do to stretch your child's mind.
- Encourage and recognise learning, language, and communication in everyday life.
- Explore how to tune in to your child's interests.

Join one of our three FREE fun workshops

Choose option 1, 2 or 3:

- ① 15 Jan and 22 Jan 2026, 10-11am (Tonge Family Hub)
- ② 27 Jan and 3 Feb 2026, 7-8pm (*Live online)
- ③ 18 Feb and 25 Feb 2026, 10-11am (*Live online / Bolton Central Library)

*Online workshops delivered via MS Teams

To book a place, click the link below or scan the QR code

<https://bit.ly/4a0XTar>



FAMILY HUB SOCIALS

Did you know all eight Family Hubs have their own Facebook pages which help to keep Bolton families up to date with activity happening in their local Family Hub, parenting tips and advice.

Please inform the families you work with that they can now find us on Facebook . It's your Family Hub in your pocket — simple, helpful, and local.



Bolton Family Hubs

Follow your local hub

Bolton Early Years 0–5s (activities, services and info for little ones across Bolton)

<https://www.facebook.com/boltonearlyyears>

Alexandra Family Hub <https://www.facebook.com/alexandrafamilyhub>

Bright Meadows Family Hub

<https://www.facebook.com/brightmeadowsfamilyhub>

Farnworth Family Hub <https://www.facebook.com/farnworthfamilyhub>

Great Lever Family Hub <https://www.facebook.com/greatleverfamilyhub>

Harvey Family Hub

<https://www.facebook.com/harveyfamilyhub>

Oldhams Family Hub

<https://www.facebook.com/oldhamsfamilyhub>

Oxford Grove Family Hub <https://www.facebook.com/oxfordgrovefamilyhub>

Tonge Family Hub

<https://www.facebook.com/tongefamilyhub>



Supporting Early Language and Home Learning Environment

Bolton's 5 Golden Rules for Communication

Bolton Start Well Quality and Outcomes Team in partnership with the Early Years Communication & Language Development Service are continuing to deliver face to face training that is open to **everyone** who works in Bolton with 0-5's.

We have delivered 6 training sessions in September 2025 to January 2026 and 114 Early Years Professionals have attended.



What people said about the training...

Really useful to gain deeper understanding, and also how to apply this to our work in our setting.

It was very interactive, we got to learn from different organisations.

Taking away how to spread the word amongst our practitioners and volunteers.

You can find all the 5 Golden Rules for Communication resources and more information about the training sessions here [Bolton's 5 Golden Rules – Bolton Start Well](#)

Raising Early Achievement in Literacy (REAL)

This term more Early Years Professionals have completed the 2-day REAL training and are ready to put the learning from the training into action through **supportive home visits and literacy events**, sharing simple low cost/no cost resources and modelling easy and fun ways to build literacy into everyday life.

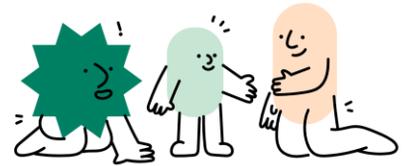
Well done! ★



Coming soon! More information about the Bolton Family Hub Network Literacy Event on 7th March 2026 at Bolton Central Library

Get involved and find out more here [Raising Early Achievement in Literacy – Bolton Start Well](#) or on Facebook #makingitREALinbolton

Parenting Support



Our Parenting Groups are designed for parents who would like a better understanding of responsive and effective parenting techniques.

The groups are open to all families living in Bolton with children under the age of 3 years. Parents do not need to be experiencing difficulties or a child experiencing behavioural problems to attend.

The goal of the groups is to establish a framework for understanding parent-child relationships, that can be made into a lifelong skill that can be used both now and in the future.

Each Solihull Approach Parenting Group consists of 10 sessions and lasts for two hours. Each week we'll cover a different topic and there will be discussion, activities and hopefully some fun as we develop our understanding of parent-infant relationships and gain new ways of thinking, strategies, and skills (children are welcome at the groups).

For more information or to book a place, call Families Together on 07514 484157. Families can self-refer or be referred by a professional.

TOGETHERNESS NHS
Bringing the Solihull Approach to the world
10 Free 2 hour sessions
open to all parents of children under 3 in Bolton

COMMUNICATION

JOIN US
at a group in your local area to explore...

BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

PLAY

PARENTING STYLES

EMOTIONS

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD
SOLIHULL APPROACH

BABIES & CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

CALL: 07514 484157
To book

To find out more or book a place go to families-together.org.uk



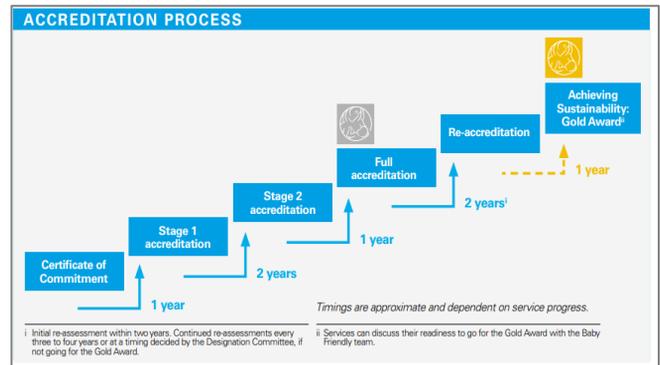
INFANT FEEDING



UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI):

Bolton Family Hubs are working towards achieving UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) accreditation, which will help us demonstrate how well we support families with feeding and developing close and loving relationships.

BFI accreditation is achieved over a series of stages and involves demonstrating the achievement of set standards.



For more information about the BFI standards and accreditation process, visit [BFI Standards](#)

CURRENT WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Vicky Davies attended the **Stage 1 Accreditation** meeting with UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative at the beginning of February 2026. We are waiting for the finalised report to come through in March which will hopefully confirm that the Family Hubs have achieved stage 1 accreditation.
- **Breastfeeding Friendly Bolton Scheme**

We're currently developing a proposal for a Breastfeeding Friendly scheme. Local organisations, businesses and venues will be supported to sign up to the scheme and implement a breastfeeding friendly policy to help ensure that all breastfeeding families feel confident, welcomed, supported and protected when breastfeeding their baby or toddler in public spaces in Bolton. We're planning to consult with families and potential future members of the scheme throughout March/April 2026 to help shape the criteria, process and branding before a phased roll out of the scheme this year.

If you would like to know more and/or be involved in the consultation process, please contact Elizabeth.simister@boltonft.nhs.uk

- **Cascading the Bolton Family Hubs Infant Feeding Policy:**
One of the requirements of BFI accreditation is that all staff working in the Family Hubs have read the Infant Feeding Policy, and that all new staff are orientated to this policy within a week of their start date. Following the approval of our Bolton Family Hubs Infant Feeding Policy in October 2025 we set about cascading the policy to all current staff working in the Family Hubs by asking staff to read the policy and complete a policy acknowledgement form via www.bolton.gov.uk/infantfeedingpolicy.

INFANT FEEDING

We still have a little way to go to capture all staff but so far **185 staff have completed the policy acknowledgement form**...THANK YOU to everyone that has completed this 😊

Managers are also working to add this link into their local service staff induction paperwork to help ensure new starters are made aware within their first week.

- **Delivering Infant Feeding Training to staff:**

All staff working with pregnant women, children, young people and their families that are based in and/or delivering in Bolton Family Hubs will need to attend initial infant feeding training at a level appropriate to their role within 6 months of starting. Following this, those attending training at levels 1, 2 and 3 will need to attend annual update sessions.

Vicky Davies, our Infant Feeding Coordinator for Family Hubs has trained an additional **29 staff** (at level 1 and 2) throughout December 25 and January 26, with a **total of 229 staff** overall (this doesn't include midwives or public health nurses).

Feedback received from recent training sessions:

- *"Good to have a refresh, lots of interactive points- kept entertained"* (L1)
- *"Knowing where to sign post people, it was brilliant thanks"* (L1)
- *"Good course , interesting informative and well presented"* (L2)
- *"Really enjoyed the training, thinks it's great to have a yearly update . Really engaging"* (L2)

To book a training place please email: infantfeedingtraining@boltonft.nhs.uk with which level of training and the date/time you would like to book, your name, your email, service/team, your role



TRAINING



Managers Infant Feeding Training

For team leaders/service managers and senior leadership roles who require an understanding of the policy, standards and their role in supporting BFI accreditation.

Day	Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday	24/2/26	9.30-11.30am	Tonge Family Hub, Community room
Thursday	21/5/26	9.30-11.30am	Tonge Family Hub, Community room

Level 1 Infant Feeding: Initial training

For staff/volunteers who come into contact with families with 0-19s but don't directly work with them (or only support 5yrs+) e.g. Admin, centre assistants, play & youth, consultants

Day	Date	Time	Venue
Monday	23/2/26	9.30am-12pm	Harvey Family Hub, Community room
Wednesday	13/5/26	1.30-4pm	Harvey Family Hub, Community room
Thursday	25/6/26	9.30am-12pm	Harvey Family Hub, Community room

Level 2 Infant Feeding: Initial training (1 x full day)

For staff/volunteers who work directly with children, young people and their families (especially 0-5's) but do not have specific responsibility for supporting breastfeeding.

Day	Date	Time	Venue
Thursday	19/3/26	9.30am-4pm	Harvey Family Hub, Community room
Monday	15/6/26	9.30am-4pm	Harvey Family Hub, Community room

Level 2 Infant Feeding: Initial training (2 x half days –attend both dates)

For staff/volunteers who work directly with children, young people and their families (especially 0-5's) but do not have specific responsibility for supporting breastfeeding.

Day	Date	Time	Venue
Thursday	23/4/26	9.30am-12.30pm	Harvey Family Hub, Community room
Thursday	30/4/26	9.30am-12.30pm	Harvey Family Hub, Community room

Level 1 Infant Feeding: Update training

For staff/volunteers who come into contact with families with 0-19s but don't directly work with them (or only support 5yrs+) e.g. Admin, centre assistants, play & youth, consultants

Day	Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday	4/3/26	1.30-3pm	Harvey Family Hub, Community room
Tuesday	19/5/26	10am-11.30am	Tonge Family Hub, Community room
Thursday	2/7/26	10am-11.30am	Harvey Family Hub, Community room

Level 2 Infant Feeding: Update training

For staff/volunteers who work directly with children, young people and their families (especially 0-5's) but do not have specific responsibility for supporting breastfeeding.

Day	Date	Time	Venue
Monday	2/3/26	9.30am-12pm	Harvey Family Hub, Community room
Thursday	26/3/26	9.30am-12pm	CANCELLED
Thursday	7/5/26	9.30am-12pm	Harvey Family Hub, Community room
Wednesday	3/6/26	1.30pm-4pm	Harvey Family Hub, Community room
Tuesday	7/7/26	9.30am-12pm	Tonge Family Hub, Community room

0-19 PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING TEAM



Launch of new team contact times:

The 0-19 Public Health Nursing Team introduced new contact times in November 2025. This means the phone lines for each of the teams listed below will be open for general enquiries between **9-10am & 2.30pm-5.00pm Monday-Friday** (excluding bank holidays).

Bolton safeguarding teams have been provided alternative phone numbers for any urgent enquiries.

Public Health Nurse Team	Based	Telephone number
Brightmet & Little Lever Team	Tonge Family Hub	01204 338063
Chorley Roads Team	Oxford Grove Family Hub	01204 338188
Crompton & Halliwell Team	Crompton Health Centre	01204 463050
Farnworth & Kearsley Team	Farnworth Family Hub	01204 332750
Central & Great Lever Team	Great Lever Family Hub	01204 335019
Horwich & Blackrod Team	Winifred Kettle House	01204 462902
Rumworth Team	Alexandra Family Hub	01024 337578
Turton Team	Crompton Health Centre	01204 463661
Westhoughton Team	Winifred Kettle House	01204 463346

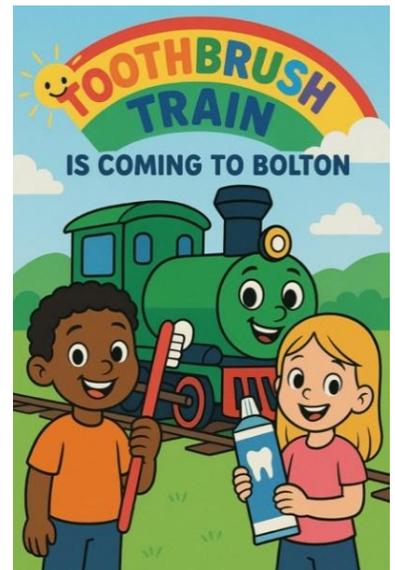
ORAL HEALTH

Bolton's Supervised Tooth Brushing Programme.

We have now got all our existing settings on board with the new toothbrush train holders, and new toothbrushes and toothpaste. We are now concentrating in settings that are situated in the areas of greatest deprivation according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD of 1 & 2).

We have 5686 children engaged and we are hoping to increase the number of children participating in the supervised tooth brushing programme in Bolton this year.

The supervised tooth brushing programme entails staff training, offering parent sessions and auditing the programme. We are currently working on some more media / videos to support the programme.



We have received the new dental resources funded by Greater Manchester Primary Care, these will be distributed at the 6 weeks, 9–12-month, 18 month and 2-year mandated contacts. At these visits, our Public Health Nursing teams and Family Hub Locality Practitioners will be promoting oral health, dental access, dietary advice to reduce tooth decay and to encourage parents and carers to start early tooth brushing routines as soon as the first tooth appears.

For more information, contact Lorna.dibnah@boltonft.nhs.uk



Bolton Parent and Infant Relationship Service (PAIRS)



Family Facing

Baby In Mind continue to offer Information Advice and Guidance sessions in the Bolton Family Hubs and these can be found in the Guide to What's on in Bolton.

Workforce Development

We have designed and developed a Network Bites Training which is located on the Bolton's Safeguarding Childrens Board for all professionals to access. This covers an introduction into Parent Mental Health and Parent Infant Mental Health as well as covering services to support families with each of these difficulties.

We have recently delivered an 18th Month Old training for Locality Practitioners to support their role in assessing this age group. This training is now going to be offered to the wider network on Tuesday 10th March 9.30 – 11.30 at Harvey Family Hub. Please can any practitioners wanting to book onto this email babyinmind.pairs@gmmh.nhs.uk

We are delighted to offer a training session designed for practitioners working with 3 year old which has been a request from some of our previous training sessions. This will be delivered on Wednesday 11th March at Harvey Family Hub from 2-4pm. Practitioners can book onto this through emailing babyinmind.pairs@gmmh.nhs.uk

The Babies Can't Wait training was recently delivered to a range of practitioners from all areas of infant facing role across Bolton, including nursery nurses, Family Hub Practitioners, Homestart practitioners and more. This training is something we hope to offer as part of an induction for new practitioners across Bolton.

Coming Soon

- We are contributing the Bolton Bump to Baby Fair which is an exciting opportunity to show case our work in the antenatal period.
- We have met with the Care Leavers and Staying Close teams and considered how we can work more collaboratively to support this vulnerable group of young parents.



Bolton

Together



**Bolton
Family Hubs**

October to December Early Years Report Highlights:

- Infant Feeding support continued to achieve fantastic outcomes, with 100% of parents reporting improved outcomes across breastfeeding, parenting and peer support, alongside 183 one-to-ones, 145 home visits and 1,615 support calls/messages delivered.
- One-to-one infant feeding support increased, rising by 62 parents compared to the previous quarter.
- Parent and Perinatal Infant Mental Health support delivered consistently good outcomes, with 79-100% of parents reporting increased confidence, feeling listened to, and improved relationships with their babies across NHS GM and Family Hub funded provision.
- Engagement with fathers increased through Dad Matters, with 75 fathers engaged via hospital-based outreach including antenatal, postnatal and NICU settings, and group provision is now scheduled from January 2026.
- Parent and Carer Panels continued to shape service development, with 134 parents and carers contributing feedback since September 2025, highlighting demand for practical, accessible provision including ESOL, travel support, SEND sessions and more opportunities for dads.
- LGBT+ parent engagement activity showed high confidence in Family Hub access, with 93% feeling comfortable using services and over 85% comfortable engaging with Health Visitors, while clearly identifying system-level barriers requiring organisational change
- Stay and Play provision exceeded delivery targets, reaching 557 adults and 669 children this quarter across Start Well and Family Hub funded sessions delivered in Family Hubs.

Please click this link to read our latest Bolton Together Early Years Delivery Report in full: [Bolton Together Early Years Report Oct-Dec 2025](#)

“Attending the sessions has helped me better understand my child’s development, particularly around confidence, independence, and physical skills. I’ve noticed increased curiosity, willingness to explore new environments, and improved balance and coordination during outdoor play. My child is also more comfortable engaging with natural materials and trying new activities at their own pace. The sessions have helped me recognise how valuable outdoor play is in supporting their overall development and how small everyday experiences can have a big impact.”
(Parent attending Little Bats Learning Forest School)



(Bolton Toy Library)



ITHRIVE NAVIGATORS FOR NEURODIVERSITY



Our IThrive Navigators are trained professionals who support families exploring neurodiversity, including autism and ADHD. We understand how difficult it can be when your child is struggling, especially with neurodiverse needs. We also understand how tricky it can be to navigate a rather complex system. That is where our navigators help. They will guide, inform, and connect you with the right services whilst you explore Neurodiversity and your child.

- **First point of contact:** Answer questions and provide guidance
- **Information & signposting:** Help you find local services, groups, and resources.
- **Listening & planning:** Work with you to understand your child's needs and ensure their voice is heard.
- **Support pre- and post-assessment:** Explain processes, next steps, and available options.
- **Resource development:** Create accessible guides, toolkits, and information for families.

- **Early help guidance:** Connect you to support around sleep, behaviour, emotional wellbeing, communication, and parental support.
- **Collaboration:** Connect you with schools, health, local authority, and community partners.
- **Empowerment:** Help you explore options and make choices that suit your family's needs at your pace.

Your journey matters, and you know your child best. Our Navigators are here to listen to your experiences, and help you explore the options that fit your family. Together, we can make sense of the next steps, connect you with the right support, and celebrate your child's strengths at a pace that feels right for you.

Resources

- **Bolton Together Website:** [iThrive for Neurodiversity](#)
- **Neurodiversity Booklet:** [Lets Talk Neurodiversity](#)
- **ADHD Booklet:** [Lets Talk ADHD](#)

HOW TO CONTACT US

To refer to the navigators, go to the link here: [referral form](#) or search <https://bolton-together.org.uk/ithrive-2-19-years-referral-form/>. For resources to support you and your child, click [here](#), or go to the Bolton Together website

Dad Matters

Dad Matters is a Home-Start HOST project supporting dads who are expecting a baby or have a baby under 2 years old, to better understand their baby and their role as a dad. We support dads to develop the best relationship possible with their baby through One-to-One Peer Support, Monthly Walk and Talks and more.

Dad Matters Walk & Talks are a great way for you to connect with other dads and chat about being a dad. You'll get support from our coordinators and some fresh air for you and your little one!

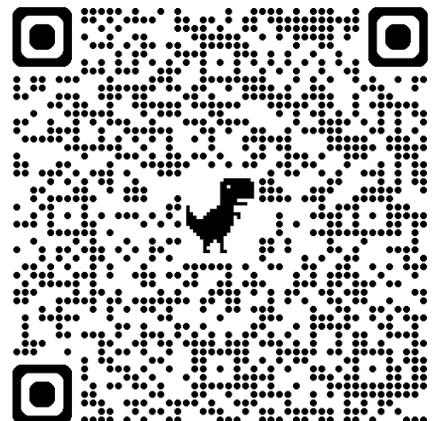
Upcoming dates:

- **Saturday 25th April 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. Moses Gate Country Park, BL4 7QS.**
- **Saturday 16th May 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. Moses Gate Country Park, BL4 7QS.**
- **Saturday 20th June 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. Moses Gate Country Park, BL4 7QS.**

To book your free place, please scan the QR Code

For the latest details or any questions contact
richardsmith@homestarthost.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DadMattersGM>



PARTNER UPDATES



Welcome to Our New Smokefree Homes & Families Advisor – Niamh Linehan

We're delighted to welcome **Niamh Linehan**, who joins the Family Hubs team on **2nd February 2026** as our new Smokefree Homes & Families Advisor. This community-based role strengthens our support for families across Bolton and contributes to our shared ambition to give every child the healthiest start in life.

Niamh will work across Family Hubs and community settings to help families create **smokefree home environments**, reducing children's exposure to second-hand smoke and improving long-term health. The role is part of a national programme funded through the **Local Stop Smoking Services & Support Grant (LSSSG)** and aligns with the government's goal of *"Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life."* Locally, it supports the **Smokefree Bolton** campaign.

In her work, Niamh will:

- **Talk with families** about why smokefree homes matter and how small changes can make a big difference.
- Encourage parents and carers to use the **Local Community Stop Smoking Service** for **FREE**, practical quit support.
- Share simple tips to help families cut down or stop smoking.
- Act as a **smokefree champion** within Family Hubs, promoting healthy habits and consistent messages.
- Keep in touch with families making a quit attempt, offering ongoing encouragement.
- Promote access to the **£50 shopping voucher** scheme for families engaging with quit support.
- Provide brief training sessions to Early Years staff on smokefree conversations.
- **Work with partner agencies** to support more families to become smokefree.

Niamh brings a passion for improving child health and a positive, non-judgemental approach to supporting families. She's looking forward to working with colleagues across Family Hubs, Early Years, Public Health and wider partners.

You can contact Niamh at: Niamh.linehan1@bolton.gov.uk

Please join us in welcoming her to the team!



PARTNER UPDATES



Nicola, a Family Hub Worker, and Jen, Senior Development Officer at Bolton CVS, have been visiting organisations across the VCSE sector to meet with staff and volunteers and talk about what support is available through Bolton's Family Hubs. The aim of these visits is to build stronger links, raise awareness of services, and make it easier for families to get the right help when they need it.



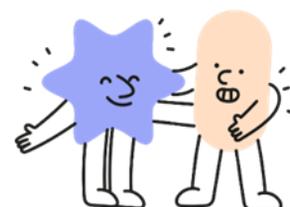
During the visits, Nicola and Jen share information about the different Family Hub services and sessions, as well as the training opportunities that VCSE organisations can access. They also spend time talking with staff and volunteers about how the families they support would prefer to hear about Family Hub services. This helps make sure information is shared in ways that work best for each group and community.

Following these conversations, Nicola has been invited to run pop-up sessions, give short talks, and join existing groups to chat informally with families. Meeting families in places they already know and trust helps to create relaxed conversations, where families feel comfortable sharing what they need and what support might be helpful for them.

When Nicola meets with families, she talks through what the Family Hubs can offer and encourages families to share their views and experiences. This feedback is passed on to Family Hub practitioners so services can be shaped around what families actually want and need. These links often lead to tailored sessions being delivered in community settings and new ways of working together.

Jen also offers development support to VCSE organisations. This can include help with specific issues, as well as support around safeguarding, governance, and general organisational policies. Jen can also support organisations to work towards the Bolton Mark. This is a Bolton Council accreditation that shows an organisation is well run, safe, and sustainable. Having the Bolton Mark can strengthen funding applications and give confidence to families, partners, and other organisations.

If you're part of a VCSE organisation and would like a visit, or know an organisation that would benefit, you can contact Jen at Jen@boltoncvs.org.uk



RESOURCES

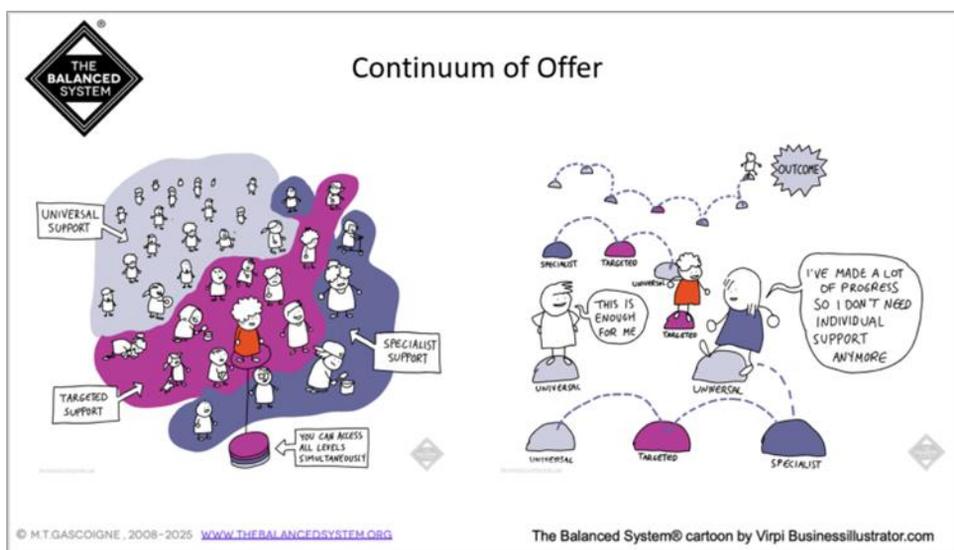


Transformation of Speech, Language and Communication (SLC) support for Children and Young People in Bolton using the Balanced System®



The GMCA ambition is to shift from a linear pathway approach which follows a refer-assess-treat model to a whole system, outcomes focused approach to prevention and early intervention to improve access to timely, high quality SLC support for Children and Young People (CYP)

Engagement with the whole system has started. There will be a live online webinar on Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 9am-12noon. This webinar will be an opportunity for all partners to hear from Better Communication the developers of The Balanced System Framework, to ask questions and start us thinking about the Transformation of SLC for CYP in Bolton. We'll find out more about the core delivery principles.



Following the webinar the attendees will be invited to express and interest in joining a face to face workshop, to explore easy access, place based and continuum of support for SLC in Bolton.

Look out for an invite to join the webinar or email lyndsey.longworth@bolton.gov.uk if you would like to come along.

Find out more about the Balanced System [The Balanced System - YouTube](#)

RESOURCES



Kooth

Free and anonymous digital mental health support whenever you need it.

Sign up for Qwell

qwell.io

Whether I'm lost in a story or sharing my own on Kooth.

There's always a place I belong.

kooth.com

#ChildrensMentalHealthWeek

DWP Bolton Job Centre

Mobile drop in service
by Jobcentreplus

advice
work skills
careers
opportunities
support

WE CAN HELP WITH:

- Local job opportunities
- CV support
- Training and courses
- Career change
- Interview preparation
- General benefit advice/signposting
- Options when leaving education
- Apprenticeships
- Working with a health condition
- Work search guidance
- Job application assistance

For any benefit payment enquiries, please contact us by phone on 0800 328 5644 or visit your nearest Jobcentre.

Mobile drop in service
by Jobcentreplus

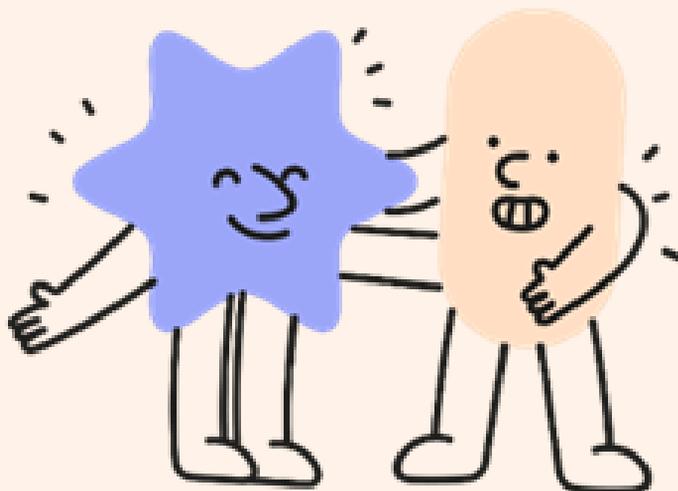
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- Career change
- Interview preparation
- General benefit advice/signposting
- Options when leaving education
- Apprenticeships
- Working with a health condition
- Work search guidance
- Job application assistance

For any benefit payment enquiries, please contact us by phone or visit your nearest Jobcentre.

TIMETABLE
Bolton

LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Horwich Leisure Centre, Victoria Rd, Horwich, BL6 5PY	Mon 23 rd February	9:30am to 1pm 2pm to 4pm
Slaterfield Community Centre, BL3 6YE	Tues 24 th February	9:30am to 1pm 2pm to 4pm
Bridge Church, 109 Bradford St, BL2 1JX	Thurs 26 th February	09:30 to 1pm 2pm to 4pm
Asda Astley Bridge, Moss Bank Way, BL1 8QG	Fri 27 th February	9:30am to 1pm 2pm to 4pm
Horwich Leisure Centre, Victoria Rd, Horwich, BL6 5PY	Mon 2 nd March	9:30am to 1pm 2pm to 4pm
Westhoughton Community Hub, Central Drive, BL5 3DS	Tues 3 rd March	9:30am to 1pm 2pm to 4pm
Tesco Little Lever, Crossley St, BL3 1AA	Wed 4 th March	9:30am to 1pm 2pm to 4pm
New Bury UCAN Centre, 53 George St, BL4 9PU	Thurs 5 th March	9:30am to 12:30pm
St Catherine's Academy, Greenroyd Ave, BL2 5DD	Thurs 5 th March	2pm to 4pm
Masjid-e-Noorul Mosque, Prospect St, BL1 3QH	Fri 6 th March	11am to 3pm



FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS

Please let us know your feedback regarding the content of this newsletter and whether you have found the information useful. We would also welcome any suggestions for future editions.

Please email fhworkforcenewsletter@bolton.gov.uk if you would like to be added to the newsletter distribution list.