



COVID-19: Weekly

Family Support Hubs Newsletter

29 April 2020





This edition includes:

- Helplines NI
- Kinship Care NI COVID 19 **Community Response Project** & Community Food Bank
- The Rainbow Project
- Belfast Trans Resource Centre HERE NI
- Ground Work NI Men's Shed **Phone Befriending Service**
- Men's Action Network Helpline
- Men's Advisory Project
- Domestic & Sexual Abuse Helpline
- Men's Action Network Isolation Helpline for Men 50+
- Don't take risks with a sick child Employers for Childcare –
- **Family Benefits Advice** Service
- TinyLife Service Update
- NHSCT Autism Helpline
- WHSCT Health Visiting **Helplines for Parents**
- Autism NI Sensory Bottle Ideas & Calm Down Box Ideas
- Barnardo's –Grieving during **COVID 19 Leaflet**
- ASCERT Parent/Carer Support Sessions
- CYPSP Daily Updates
- Family Support Hub NI
- Stay Well at Home Workbook for young people 11-19
- Include Youth
- Steps to Cope
- DAISY Helpline
- Ashton CORE Project Free **Driving Lessons**
- EA Eat Well Live Well
- Youthscape

- Family Mediation NI
 - Benefits of Mediation
 - Probation Board for NI Changing Lives App & Helplines
 - NIACRO
 - Prison Fellowship NI
 - STARS Project
 - Scam Wise NI 15 common coronavirus scams
 - The Law Centre NI Update on Changes to PIP Response to COVID 19 in NI
 - Advice NI Weekly Updates
 - HSC Remote Sign Language Interpreting Service
 - Crohn's & Colitis UK
 - Here 2 Help App
 - St Vincent De Paul
 - Christian Against Poverty
 - StepChange
 - Advice Space
 - Advice NI
 - Community Advice Antrim & Newtownabbey
 - North Belfast Advice Partnership
 - Community Advice Armagh
 - Community Advice Lisburn & Castlereagh
 - Community Advice North Down & Ards
 - Community Advice Newry, Mourne & Down
 - Community Advice Banbridge
 - Society of St Vincent De Paul Newry
 - Community Advice Craigavon
 - Community Advice Fermanagh
 - Mid & East Antrim Community Advice Services
 - Advice North West
 - IRIS
 - Support Services in SEHSCT area
 - Addiction NI
 - North & West Belfast Soup Kitchen
 - Down Armagh Rural Transport Partnership
 - Things to Look Forward To
 - Good News Stories– Autism NI & YMCA PAKT Project Carrickfergus

This edition of the newsletter provides advice, resources and project updates as of 29th April 2020.

The Family Support Hubs continue to be open for referrals during the current situation. They will try to access Family Support agencies during this time but this will be subject to individual projects ability to respond.

If you want to advise us of any changes to service provision or have particular needs you want to source during the current situation please contact Helen.dunn@hscni.net and we will try to connect with the appropriate information.

There are 29 family support hubs across Northern Ireland supporting families. www.cypsp.hscni.net/family-support-hubs/#ffs-tabbed-23

If you would like a service to be included in the next edition of the newsletter please send details to: cypsp@hscni.net



www.helplinesni.com

New COVID-19 helplines added to website offering a wide range of support **Community Helpline Diabetes Helpline**

HMRC Helplines for businesses

and many more!





ublic Health



COVID-19 Community response project

Are you a **grandparent carer**, aged 60-75 years) bringing up your **grandchildren**?

Are you a **sibling carer**, aged 18-25 years) bringing up your younger **brothers** and **sisters**?

Are you self-isolating and in need of support?

Do you or the children you are caring for have pre-existing health conditions which places you and/or your children at great risk of contracting COVID-19?

Our Community Response Project provides kinship carers and their children with:-

- Accurate and up to date advice and information on the symptoms of COVID-19 and self-isolating measures.
- > Advice and assistance on benefit entitlements
- > Food parcels and other essentials.
- > Toys, books and arts and craft materials for children
- Other practical and emotional support to help support you and your children at this uncertain time.
- For more information email info@kinshipcareni.com
- f or send us a PM via our Facebook Page (Kinship Care Northern Ireland)



Caring During COVID-19 COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Kinship Care NI have launched a Community Food Bank to provide food and other essential items to individuals and families in the community who are experiencing considerable hardship as a result of COVID-19.

OUR COMMUNITY FOOD BANK WILL PROVIDE FOOD AND OTHER ESSENTIAL ITEMS TO

OLDER PEOPLE 😡	YOUNG PEOPLE	FAMILIES
limited	aged 18-25 years are have lost their jobs and who live alone with no	with children who are not receiving the free school meal payment and
the way of family support.	income and are struggling to buy food.	who are facing considerable hardship.

Community Food Banks will operate out of our Centres in **Derry/Londonderry**, Strabane, Magherafelt and Newtowncunningham, Co. Donegal. For more information or to enquire about receiving support please PM our Facebook Page Kinship Care Northern Ireland

or email info@kinshipcareni.com





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COVID-19: ADVICE & SUPPORT

We want to reassure our clients and anyone who has ever thought of contacting The Rainbow Project for advice or guidance, we are here for you now and we'll be here for you throughout this challenging time.

For the quickest response send us a message on Facebook/ Twitter/ Instagram and a member of staff will get back to you as quickly as possible.

Call us, 02890319030 and if we aren't able to answer please leave a message and we will respond as quickly as we can.

rainbow

project

Alternatively you can email us info@rainbow-project.org

www.rainbow-project.org







if you need advice, support or advocacy, please contact

support@transgenderni.org.uk 0300 302 3202

https://belfasttrans.org.uk/





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Men's Shed members across NI Are you experiencing loneliness or isolation?

Men's Shed Phone Befriending Service

Available every Wednesday from 10am-1pm & 2pm-4pm

Email mensshed@groundworkni.co.uk to schedule a time to chat

#TogetherApart



www.groundwork.org.uk/hubs/northernireland/

MFN EXPERIENC **ABUSE TOO**

PHYSICAL ABUSE

VERBAL ABUSE

ISOLATING BEHAVIOUR

FINANCIAL CONTROL

THREATENING Behaviour

SEXUAL ABUSE

EMOTIONAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

If you are a male living with the experience of Domestic or Sexual Abuse / Violence and would like to talk to a counsellor in confidence,

Please call us when it's safe for you to do so. Leave your details and a call back time that's safe for us to call you.

Or text: 07544802916 with your details and again, a safe time for us to call you back.



See our leaflets for more information

www.man-ni.org

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www.mapni.co.uk

Email: info@mapni.co.uk

Call The Mens Advisory Project today, for confidential support and information on

Belfast. 028 9024 1929 Foyle. 028 7116 0001

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE HELPLINE

Calling the Helpline may be the first time you've spoken about your experiences

Our Helpline operators provide a safe & confidential place to talk. They are available to help and you can contact us by phone, email and by webchat.

Telephone: 0808 802 1414 – 24/7 Confidential & Free Email: help@dshelpline.org Webchat: www.dsahelpline.org domestic and sexual abuse helpline 0808 802 1414





Men aged 50+

Listening Ear

Community Information

Signposting

Register your interest for a call back:

02871377777

admin@man-ni.org





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Don't take risks with a sick child

If your child is unwell and you are worried contact your GP.

If you think your child is seriously ill you should take them to the nearest Emergency Department. Ring ahead if they have a respiratory condition.

Our GPs and most Emergency Departments are still open for business and are ready to care for sick children.



Employers For Childcare

Do you have questions about Tax-Free Childcare?

- Am I eligible?
- How does it work?
- How much money could I save?
- Can I use it along with Childcare Vouchers?

Call our Family Benefits Advice Service on 0800 028 3008 for free, impartial and confidential advice.



TinyLife provides support to parents of babies who have been born prematurely (before 37 weeks) or have spent time on a Neonatal Unit from birth due to illness. Due to the current restrictions in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic they have made some changes to TinyLife support services to ensure that families of premature and neonatal babies in Northern Ireland can continue to be supported during this very difficult time.

View service update here

www.tinylife.org.uk

HSC Northern Health and Social Care Trust Helpline for families of children & young people with Autism or those waiting assessment

Monday - Friday

COVID-19

9:30AM - 4:30PM

028 2563 3777

PaediatricAutismService@northerntrust.hscni.net

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Health Visiting Helpline for Parents

Continue to contact your Health Visitor if you have a concern about your child's health and development

Contact:

Londonderry/Limavady/Strabane: 07557174129 Enniskillen Area: 07825196981 Omagh Area: 028 82835555



Autism NI have developed a range of resources to help autistic individuals, professionals, parents/carers and family members to gain access to knowledge and information that they may find useful.

Resources include 'Sensory Bottle Ideas' and 'Calm Down Box Ideas'. These, along with other resources are available to download via their website at <u>http://www.autismni.org/resources.html</u>





Barnardo's Child Bereavement Service have produced a useful leaflet for dealing with bereavement.

<u>Child Bereavement Service</u> <u>Grieving during covid-19 Leaflet</u>

Advice Line for children, parents and carers Tel. 07867372711

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ASCERT Parent/Carer Support Sessions

In response to the growing need for parent support groups within Northern Ireland, ASCERT are adapting our usual face to face support to provide on-line parent support.

We have developed 8 support sessions with specific subjects so you can access the ones you are interested in or attend them all – it's entirely up to you.

Sessions will begin Tuesday 28th April @ 7pm- 8.30pm via Zoom.

To join this group please follow the link below which will direct you to the ASCERT Parent/Carer closed group

https://www.facebook.com/groups/883771135427888/



LINK TO GROUP: https://www.facebook.com/groups/883771135427888/





If you would like to find out more about family support services in your area please see the Family Support NI website at: <u>www.familysupportni.gov.uk</u>

A workbook to help young people aged 11-19 cope with feelings of frustrations and anger during the lockdown.



This free resource pack of activities, exercises and worksheets can help young people explore their feelings, better understand their anger triggers, and develop positive coping strategies. This has been specifically developed to do alone or with the support of a professional (or other trusted adult), helping children and young people keep mentally and emotionally healthy during lockdown.

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Come and Join our online Programme and be part of the Youthscape Community



EAT WELL LIVE WELL

A 5-day food box providing breakfast & lunch of nonperishable goods. For young people aged 4-25 years who are members of an EA registered youth organisation.

ea Education Authority

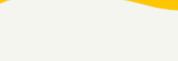
www.youthonline.org.uk



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WE'RE OPEN!

Family Mediation NI continues to offer mediation sessions via online platforms to those separated parents who wish to engage in child focussed mediation

FMNI now provides online mediation* Call us to avail of HSCB funded service for separated parents

Sessions offered to parents wishing to avail of mediation during COVID-19 and beyond*

*subject to suitability

fmni

family mediatior

> For more information, please contact 02890 243265 or enquiry@familymediationni.org.uk or administration@familymediationni.org.uk visit www.familymediationni.org.uk



COVID-19 SEPARATED PARENTS GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

In the current circumstances, in making decisions about the movement of children between parental households, there is an onus on parents to work out a temporary arrangement through cooperation and compromise. This will require them to undertake a reasonable assessment of the family circumstances, including the child's health, the risk of infection and the presence of any recognised vulnerable individuals in one household or the other.



www.familymediationni.org

FMNI would encourage those separated parents who cannot see their children for health and safety reasons that contact is maintained via online platforms to ensure well-being of children of all ages.

www.familymediationni.org.uk

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HOW TO MEDIATE HOUSEHOLD CONFLICTS

Agree which members of the household would like to act as Peacemaker/Mediator.

If a dispute arises those in dispute call in the services of the Peacemaker/ Mediator before the situation escalates out of control.

The role of the Peacemaker/ Mediator is to help the disputants to reach a workable compromise or resolution.

The Peacemaker/ Mediator should chair the meeting and set the ground rules: when one person is speaking no-one will interrupt, everyone will communicate respectfully, all issues will be raised and discussed and the Peacemaker/Mediator will assist everyone to find a resolution.

FORMULA FOR MEDIATION

- Peacemaker/ Mediator listens as each party outlines their point of view as to what the issue is.
- Peacemaker/ Mediator asks each party to offer options that might help resolve the problem and to number these in their order of preference.
- The Peacemaker/ Mediator writes these on a sheet and explores them with the parties.
- The Peacemaker/ Mediator encourages the parties to see how they can resolve the problem taking into account everybody's needs.

This formula could help reach agreement on most areas of household activities and ensure that everyone has their preferences taken into account to some extent.



BENEFITS OF MEDIATION



ENCOURAGES RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER

YOUR FAMILY DECIDE YOUR OWN SOLUTIONS

STATISTICS SHOW A SUCCESS RATE FOR PROFESSONAL MEDIATION AVERAGING

80%

CONTACT A PROFESSIONAL MEDIATOR

WWW.THEMILIE

HOUSEHOLD ISSUES THAT MEDIATION CAN HELP TO RESOLVE INCLUDE:

Boundaries and Personal Space

Agree to;

- Where possible, give each other personal space
- Be patient with each other
- Communicate respectfully and early where there is a problem
- Nominate a "peacemaker" for each week

Family Entertainment

- Agree family/household TV viewing times
- Agree use of computers and game consoles.
- Agree daily exercise/outdoor activities
- Agree family/household games

Household Chores

- Agree who will do the next shopping, and run a list
- Set out a weekly household chores rota
- Agree a weekly meals preparation rota and washing up

Work/study

- Agree private time/space for those working from home
- Agree private time/space for those studying at home
- Agree private time/space for those needing some "downtime" i.e reading, playing an instrument etc.

Contact with family members

- Continue co-parenting arrangements where there are two homes, subject to any Covid-19 restrictions
- Where scheduled co-parenting cannot continue ensure ample communication with the other parent via digital platforms or telephone
- Schedule Grandparent/extended family time online
- Schedule time with friends online

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Probation Board for Northern Ireland

As probation staff and many others work differently to deliver services, the use of technology is more important that ever. PBNI app 'changing lives' can be downloaded for free to help individuals identify thoughts & feelings & find helpful resources.



CHANGING LIVES

Putting Justice, Mental Health, Addiction and Victim support services at your fingertips.

Using the App you can:

- Track the state of your Wellbeing & Mental Health
- · Use the calendar for date reminders
- Get advice on Mental Health and Addiction issues
- Have health service contacts at your fingertips
- Find out what it means to be supervised by Probation
- Quickly contact your local Probation Office
- Register with Probation if you are a victim of crime

The App has been designed to help you understand what to expect from Probation, to help reduce any anxiety you may have if coming into contact with Probation, and to help you access mental health and addiction support.







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Prison Fellowship is a Christian ministry responding to the spiritual, emotional, social and physical needs of prisoners, released prisoners and their families. Offering hope and a new beginning.

E: info@pfni.org T: 02890 243691

www.pfni.org

RESTORATIVE PRACTICE UN KNOWLEDGE ICLUSION RECONCILIATION FORG

The STARS Project (Striving To Achieve a Restorative Society) provides FREE restorative training to community and statutory workers, supporting their personal and professional development. We offer a range of accredited training with 1:1 mentoring support throughout to support individuals on their restorative journey. Our objective is to expand their knowledge of restorative practices and how it can be applied to their work and life. Restorative justice and practices is a method used to deal with conflict and repair the harm in a peaceful way while building or preserving relationships. Generally it involves the victim, the community and the offender.

The programme is delivered by CRJI (Community Restorative Justice Ireland) NIA (Northern Ireland Alternatives) and is funded by Cooperation Ireland and The Executive Office.

For further information, contact: Andrea McLoughlin, Restorative Practices Co-ordinator Community Restorative Justice Ireland, 27A Colinglen Road, Belfast BT17 0LR

Tel: 028 9521 2133 Email: amcl@crjireland.org

Delivered by

Restorative Practices works in eight areas

North Belfast

Derry/Londonderry

Larne and Carrick.

• Lurgan

PRP

Funded by

across the North:

West Belfast

East Belfast

North Down

ORATI.

Shankill

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Alternatives

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COVID-19: ADVICE & SUPPORT







Free COVID-19 testing

Free supermarket vouchers

Pension scams



DVLA refunds



Investment scams



Free school dinner vouchers



Tax rebate scams

IseN



Fake competitions



Travel scams



Automated messages from your service providers



fake PPE

Free payments from the government

Websites selling Charity scams eg posts asking you to donate to a sick loved one



Doorstep scams eq collecting

groceries/cleaning services

Fake fines for leaving your property

Report scams to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or the PSNI on 101



Changes to PIP in Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Northern Ireland

The Law Centre NI team are working hard to bring you the most up to date information on changes to social security provisions in Northern Ireland.

Update with all the key information on Personal Independence Payment (PIP), following the Disability Consultative Forum held in April, can be viewed here.

www.lawcentreni.org



Coronavirus weekly updates from the Advice NI Policy Team are now available online at: https://www.adviceni.net/tags/covid -19-policy-update. These cover a range of issues including social security changes, announcements and information, HMRC updates and much more.

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INTERPRETERNOW

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE REMOTE SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING SERVICE

A free remote interpreting service for British Sign Language (BSL) and Irish Sign Language (ISL) users in Northern Ireland has been introduced to provide the Deaf community with access to NHS111 (Northern Ireland COVID-19 advice line) and all health and social care services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Further information and details on how to access the service is available at: <u>http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/interpreting-</u> <u>service-bsl-isl/</u>

H

help now

H Ihave a

EVERYONE

CROHN'S COLITIS UK Important information

If you've got

Crohn's Disease or Ulcerative Colitis

and you're worried about Coronavirus or if you want to read the latest guidance on how to take extra precautions visit:

www.crohnsandcolitis.org.uk

STAY AT HOME

PROTECT THE NHS

💛 save lives

INFO + ADVICE 24/7

A free app, designed to give **quick advice** on many subjects and **fast contact info** for a majority of life's problems.

Download it today as a source of great info...





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St Vincent De Paul (Northern Ireland) – Belfast

(028) 90351561 info@svpni.co.uk

Derry Office (028) 71265489 svp.derry@svpni.co.uk

> <u>West Belfast</u> (028) 90601899

https://www.svp.ie/home.aspx



Christians Against Poverty can help if you are feeling the weight of debt, struggling to find work or just need a bit of help budgeting.

Freephone: 0800 328 0006

https://capuk.org/i-want-help



StepChange provides free and impartial advice on debt and money management

https://www.stepchange.o rg/how-we-help/debtadvice.aspx



0300 1233 233

www.advicespace.me



EU Settlement Scheme Advice Freephone 0800 138 6545

Text EUSS to 66644 or email euss@adviceni.net Monday to Friday 10am-4pm

Debt Advice Service

Freephone 0800 028 1881 Monday to Friday 8am-6pm Text ACTION to 81025 or email: debt@adviceni.net

Independent Welfare Changes Helpline Freephone 0808 802 0020 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm or email: welfarechanges@adviceni.net

Tax and Benefits Advice Freephone 0800 988 2377 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm or email: tax@adviceni.net

Business Debt Service Freephone 0800 083 8018 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm or email: bds@adviceni.net

https://www.adviceni.net/

Are you currently in a financial crisis?

Contact us on 02895 906505 for advice on discretionary support and contingency fund grants

> COMMUNITY ADVICE Antrim & Newtownabbey

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WE HAVE MADE CHANGES TO OUR SERVICES, PLEASE TELEPHONE OR EMAIL FOR ADVICE AND INFORMATION Please contact any NBAP Service for advice on Benefits,

Entitlements, Debt and Crisis Support.





Contact arrangements during COVID-19

Advice Line: 9.30am-3pm, Monday to Friday 07892712394 / 07753427622

Alternatively you can email your name and contact number to: <u>donna.morris@communityadvicearmagh.com</u>





Our phone lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm and our fully qualified advisors can advise on benefits, employment, debt, furlough, consumer advice, housing issues etc.

Whatever the question we should be able to answer it or signpost you to someone who can.

Tel: 02892662251 Email: <u>calc@calcni.com</u>

COVID-19: ADVICE & SUPPOR

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A Message from the Society of St. Vincent De Paul, Newry

We are here to help. If you are struggling financially during these difficult times, contact us today. All calls are treated confidentially.

St. Joseph's Conference, Mill Street 028 3025 2968 Sacred Heart Conference, Bridge Street 075 9232 1453 St. Brigid's Conference, The Meadow/Derrybeg 075 1717 0286



"Fear not; calm will follow the storm and perhaps soon." St. Vincent De Paul

If you need any advice and/or information, give us a call on

028 406 22201

Leave your name, number, postcode, and brief details of your query.

Alternatively, send us an email to advice@cabanbridge.org.uk with the same details.

Our advisers will return your call as soon as possible.



CURRENT OPERATIONAL

enquiry@advicecraigavon.com

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Our Advice Line is open for all our clients living across Co. Fermanagh

If you need advice or information, please give us a call and we will do our very best to help you.

Please call us on 07394921753 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday.

If the line is busy, please leave a message and we will get back to you. Your query is important to us.

Alternatively, you can e-mail us 24 hours per day to <u>speoples@communityadvicefermanagh.com</u>, and we will respond within 24 hours.



MEA Community Advice Services remain open for business.

9am-5pm, Monday-Friday

028 96 001333 Option 2



ADVICE NORTH WEST

DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS WE WILL

BE PROVIDING ADDITIONAL OPENING HOURS

FOR ALL OF YOUR ADVICE NEEDS

TELEPHONE AND EMAIL ADVICE ONLY

WED-THU 5PM - 7PM

SAT 9AM - 1PM

PLEASE CONTACT US ON

0300 30 33 650

OR ADVICE@ADVICENORTHWEST.COM

FOR DEBT ADVICE CALL 02871370337

OR DEBTADVICE@ADVICENORTHWEST.COM

FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.advicenorthwest.com

twitter.com/north advice

facebook.com/advicenorthwest

WHERE ADVICE IS FREE AND PEACE OF MIND PRICELESS

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advice

north



Have you been raped, sexually assaulted or have you experienced childhood sexual abuse?

Available in

the Newry,

Mourne &

Down Area

What is IRIS?

IRIS is a specialist **domestic and sexual violence and abuse (DSVA)** training, support and referral programme for general practices. It is a partnership between health and the specialist DSVA sector. IRIS provides in-house DVSA training for general practice teams and a named advocate to whom patients can be referred for support.

What is the Advocate Educator?

The advocate educator is a specialist DSVA worker who is linked to the practices and based in a local specialist DSVA service. The advocate educator provides training to the practice teams and acts as an ongoing consultant as well as the person to whom they directly refer patients for expert advocacy.

If you choose to talk to us, we can:

Support you directly

RIS

• Help you get the specialist support you need

PRACTICES WHO HAVE SIGNED UP TO THE IRIS PROJECT ARE...

Scarva Street Surgery, Loughbrickland Ballyward Surgery, Castlewellan Cornmarket Surgery, Newry Clanrye Medical Practice, Newry Mourne Family Surgery, Kilkeel Shanlieve Surgery, Kilkeel Summerhill Surgery, Warrenpoint Newtownhamiliton Surgery, Newtownhamilton Newtownhamilton Health Centre, Newtownhamiliton

> If you feel you would like to access this service and are registered with any of the practices listed **please speak with your GP** and ask them to refer to the IRIS programme or alternatively **please contact 028 3839 7974** and ask to be put through to the **IRIS worker**



Looking after yourself and others.

Details of support services with in the South Eastern Health and Social Care area.

View Services Here

PLANNING For Covid-19 KEEP YOURSELF SAFE

The risk of a fatal overdose is much higher if there is nobody around to help.

If you are socially isolating and aren't using in the company of your usual group, connect with your family, friends, support workers and neighbours to discuss how you can keep yourself as safe as possible.



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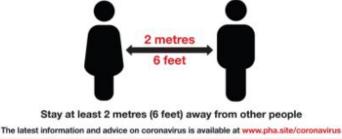


NORTH AND WEST BELFAST SOUP KITCHE



8813639<u>39</u> or go to our ook page, "North and West Belfast Soup Kitchen"







We CARE - free delivery support for Care Home Staff, Residents & Families. Our Access NI checked drivers will collect & deliver your supplies, food, prescriptions, PPE and sundries.

As part of our COVID-19 response DART is now supporting the Care Home sector, including care homes, residents and families of residents with FREE daily collection and delivery across the ABC Council area.

Contact Down Armagh Rural Transport Partnership TEL: 02838317810 EMAIL: info@dartpartnership.co.uk www.dartpartnership.co.uk

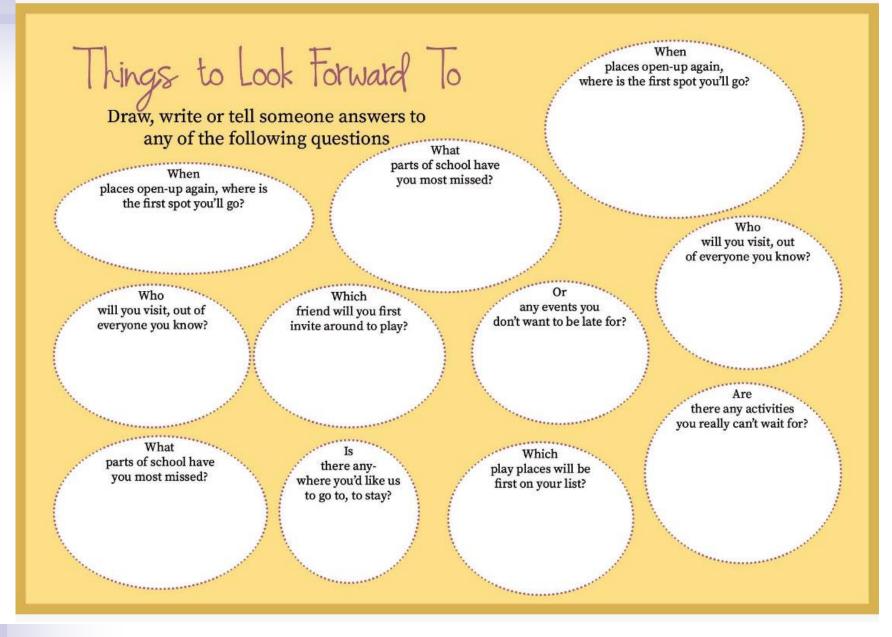


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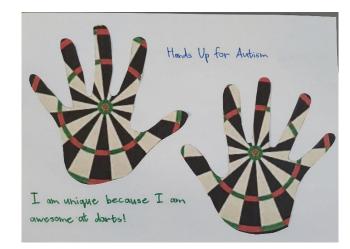


Autism NI wanted to spread some positivity this Autism Awareness Month and show how unique we all are.

We asked for children to paint or draw their hand prints, write under it what makes them unique and share their pictures (with help from parent/carer) using the hashtag #HandsUpForAutism

We then used these to brighten up our timelines.

We have had a fantastic response from children across Northern Ireland. #autismawarenessmonth #AutsticAndUnique #staypositive





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The YMCA PAKT Project in Carrickfergus have been encouraging the children and their families to establish a routine and engage in a range of activities.





These have included cookery on a Friday night when the ingredients are dropped off with the families and the children cook the dinner.

Every Saturday a local restaurant supplies 250 meals and the PAKT staff deliver some of these to families in the area. Parents have reported this this been a lifeline.

Also the youth leader Maurice Shearer has made use of the CYPSP Children's Resource Pack with the children starting with PE with Joe every morning and craft work during the day as well as the David Walliams Book Club.

Many thanks to Children in N.Ireland for their support with this work. Looks like they are all having a lot of fun including the adults!





For further information on Family Support Hubs in your area? Contact: Helen Dunn, Regional Coordinator of Family Support Hubs Email: <u>Helen.dunn@hscni.net</u>

COVID-19: Weekly Family Support Hubs Newsletter

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