

Local early help for families in Birmingham Monday 20th April.



Families have told us about the many challenges they face as a result of the Coronavirus. So partner services across Birmingham are grouping together to support families who are asking for help in each locality. Community, voluntary and faith sectors, health, family support, social work, police, schools, further education, nurseries, children's centres, health visitors and GPs are all coordinating local help.

This is being delivered in ten localities in the city: Edgbaston, Erdington, Hall Green, Hodge Hill, Ladywood, Northfield, Perry Barr, Selly Oak, Sutton Coldfield and Yardley.

Councillor Kate Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing said: "This is a hugely challenging time for families in Birmingham. I'm proud how our communities are pulling together, and how the local authority, police and health are working hand in hand with voluntary services and schools. "The money and new locality support arrangements we have announced today will make a big difference, but it is the commitment and tireless determination from thousands of professionals and volunteers that will be critical for many children, young people and families." In each locality, families in need can access:

1. Support from voluntary, community and faith groups. Birmingham City Council is investing £0.8m in a community fund to increase local help.
2. Mental health support for young people aged 11 to 25 through www.kooth.com.
3. A resilience fund will be available soon to help vulnerable families with emergency items such as food, nappies and supplies.
4. Advice and guidance through telephone support in each locality. Partners are working together to contact more families that are asking for help, to make sure they have what they need to cope during the Coronavirus restrictions.

Details of the support available for families can be found at <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/Covid19CYPF>

Note that all support will observe social distancing rules whilst restrictions are in place from central government. Across the city there is more early help for families:

1. Emergency response hub for vulnerable citizens provided by Birmingham City Council on 0121 303 1116 or <http://tiny.cc/w12smz>
2. Parent Link Contact Line for advice and guidance on 0121 303 8461, support for carers on 0333 006 9711, and the Covid-19 Council helpline 0121 303 1116 for other support such as food supplies, essentials, medication and social contact.
3. www.kooth.com for mental health support for young people aged 11 to 25. The Pause service for young people's emotional wellbeing is now accessed by telephone on 0207 841 4470. And mental health support for adults is through 0121 262 3555.
4. Free School Meal voucher scheme for supermarkets — these are emailed to parents or available from schools.
5. Local offer for families including for children with special educational needs at www.birmingham.gov.uk/localoffer.
6. Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid for domestic abuse, telephone 0808 800 0028.
7. Local advice and guidance on Coronavirus is available from www.birminghamandsolihullccg.nhs.uk/your-health/coronavirus.