





Family Liaison Officer Weekly Bulletin

19th February 2025







Here is the information bulletin for this week. Remember if you need any further details about anything shown in the bulletin, please don't hesitate to contact one of our Family Liaison Officers.

News from Sparkle and our Children's Centres

- ★ Month at a glance February
- ★ SNAP Cymru
- ★ ABUHB WhatsApp Updates
- ★ Gympanzees Lending Library @ the Children's Centres

UK and news from Gwent

- ★ Kids Eat Free or for £1 February Half Term
- ★ Collier's ALN session
- ★ Caudwell Sensory Pack
- ★ Behaviour Support Hub
- ★ Cwtch Together
- ★ Autistic Calm Down Square
- ★ Me Time
- ★ Parent and Carer Section on Neurodivergence.org
- ★ Techniquest Relaxed Session

Blaenau Gwent

- ★ Family Disability Swim Sessions
- ★ Cuppa & Catch up!
- ★ Evening Provision
- ★ World Book Day Costumes

Caerphilly

- ★ Story time for Children with ALN
- ★ Rec Rock
- ★ Roller Skating Disco
- ★ Train & Lego Club
- ★ Recycling preloved clothes

Monmouthshire

- ★ Drum Yourself Smart
- ★ MonLife Wheelchair Carriage
- ★ Exclusive GPCN ALN Session Kingdom Come (tomorrow)

Newport

- ★ Wheels for All
- ★ Newport Mind Wellbeing Group
- ★ ...and breathe

Torfaen

- ★ Hope GB Stay & Play
- ★ Torfaen Youth Booth
- ★ Go Play ASD Sessions







News from Sparkle and our Children's Centres

Month at a glance – February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1st Sparkle Coffee Morning @Caerphilly Children's Centre 9:45am -11:15am	2 nd
Monmouthshire Coffee Morning for Parent Carers 9:30-11:30am GPCN Office - NP7 588	4th Monmouthshire Coffee Morning for Parent Carers 10-11:30am Chepstow Garden Centre	5th National Youth Advocacy Drop In Session @ Serennu 10am-12pm Monmouthshire Coffee Morning for Parent Carers 9:30-11:30am Bridges Centre NP25 5AS	6th Newport Autism support group @ Serennu 10am-12pm ADHD+ Support Group @ St James ICC 10am -12pm	7th Sparkle coffee morning @ Serennu 10am-12pm Hope GB Coffee & Chat Aspris College 10-11:30am Joined by Tracey from GPCN	8th Dad's Group Gwent @ Serennu 10am-12pm	gth
10 th CCP Supporting anxiety in Children workshop (online) 10am-12pm	SNAP CONTU SESIONS. Serennu 10am- 1.30pm Please book a slot Carer's Caerphilly Coffee Morning 12pm – 1:30pm The coffee Mill BISCS Blaenau Gwent NAS Coffee Morning 9:30-11:30am Tredegar Officer	12 th	13 th	14th Neurodiversi, Tea & Chat Friendship group (Parent/ Carer) Cefn Hangoed Community Centre 10am - 12pm Monmouthshire Coffee Morning for Parent Carers 9:30-11:30am Mia's Coffee Shop NP26 3HY Blaenau Gwent NAS Coffee Morning 9:30-11:30am Ebbw Vale Wetherspoons	15 th	16 th
17th SNAP CONYCUL SESSIONS @ Caerphilly 10am-1.30pm Please book a slot	18th SNAP CONTU. SESIOUS @ Nevill Hall 10am-1.30pm Please book a slot	19 th	20th ADHD+ support group @ Serennu 10am-12pm	21st Carer's Caerphilly Coffee afternoon 2pm - 3:30pm The Old Library Caerphilly	22 nd	23 rd
24 th HALF TERM	25 th	26 th CCP Supporting communication workshop (online) 10am-12pm	27 th	28 th		







* Exciting News! *

Sparkle has been selected for the Tesco Stronger Starts Blue Token Vote Scheme! 🤌 This amazing opportunity will help us upgrade our beloved Woodland Walk, allowing us to add new features and refresh some of the older ones. 🚳 🐒

When you shop at any of the participating Tesco stores, you'll receive a blue token to cast your vote. We would be thrilled if our Sparkle families and friends could support us by dropping their tokens in our box!

31 Voting Period: January 25 - March 25

Please help us make our Woodland Walk even more magical! 🚳 💥









SNAP Cymru

Snap Cymru will be at our children's centres over the next few months for drop-in sessions. You can attend any centre to speak to a representative from SNAP Cymru.



Serennu	Nevill Hall	Caerphilly
11 th March	18 th February	17 th February
10am-1:30pm	10am -12.40pm	10am-1:30am
8 th April	11 th March	31 st March
10am-1:30pm	10am -12.40pm	10am-1:30am

If you would like to book on to any of the drop-in sessions above, please email

ABB.FamilyLiaisonOfficer@wales.nhs.uk

Snap Cymru

For issue that involve school I recommend Snap Cymru. Snap Cymru is an Independent parental support by SNAP Cymru (Special Needs Advisory Project Cymru).

SNAP Cymru is a charity that offers information and support to families of children and young people who have special educational needs. The service is: Free, Confidential and Independent.

What Can SNAP Cymru Do?

Talk to you about your concerns. Visit you at home if you want them to. Help you understand how your child can be helped. Help you write down your views about your child. Support you at meetings, school, visits and discussions with professionals who are working with your child if you wish. Give you information about the services in your area and how you might be able to find the support you need.

Contact Information

Talk to someone on 0808 801 0608

Email on: gwent@snapcymru.org

Visit their website at: www.snapcymru.org







WhatsApp Updates

Stay Updated with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board on WhatsApp!

How to join:

 Scan this QR code, it will take you directly to our WhatsApp channel.

 Tap 'Follow' in the top right corner.













charity number 1189375

© (f) in S □ 0 @GympanzeesUK







We are pleased to announce, following collaboration with Gympanzees,

Serennu & Caerphilly Children's Centre

are now a lending library hub for sensory equipment.

This collaboration allows families to borrow specialist disability and exercise equipment from Gympanzees with children's centres acting as a collection hub.

Families can now order equipment through the Gympanzees website: www.gympanzees.org/lending-library.

The equipment is loaned to the family for 4 weeks after which they return the equipment to the centre and can place an order for new equipment if they wish.







UK and news from Gwent



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2025



moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

MORRISONS

Spend £5 from the hot menu and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

BILLS

Kids eat free Mondays - Fridays from Monday 17th - Friday 28th February 2025.

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 Daily at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

LAS IGUANAS

Download the app and join 'My Las Iguanas' for free meals for mini Iguanas under 12.

WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase any adult meal (Via App)

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

BURGER KING

From Friday 14th - Friday 21st Feb 2025, Kids Eat Free with every adult meal purchased via the app.

EMBER INNS

Kids eat for £1 from Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November 2024 (excludes weekends)

COCONUT TREE

One child (under 10) eats free every day Monday 10th - Sunday 23rd February 2025

SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Sun to Weds. All Day Thursdays

HARVESTER

From Monday 10th - Friday 28th Feb 2025, kids eat for £1 with every adult meal via the app

TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 get free breakfast daily with one paying adult!

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

BREWDOG

Pre-book online using code: **KIDS EAT FREE** and Kids under 13 eat free (various dates, see link)

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

SA BRAINS PUBS

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

Copyright of MONEY SAVING CENTRAL







ALN SESSION

Join us for an exclusive ALN Session.

These sessions are quieter, calmer and specifically for children with Additional Learning Needs.

Friday 21st February 5:30pm-7:30pm

Please call 01443 711772 to book your space.
Limited spaces available







caudwell children

Is your child autistic? ☆ Discover our Autism Sensory Pack, only £22 with charity funding (worth £107.81)! ⑤

Packed with sensory-friendly toys and resources, specially designed to bring comfort to autistic children, up to 18 years-old, supporting their individual needs! 🐇

What's included...

- O Dark Den Tent
- Subble Lamp with Fish
- Shake and Shine Glitter Lamp
- Tambourine
- Set of 4 Spikey Rugby Balls
- Fidget Gel/Glitter Shapes
- **V** UV Puffer Balls
- Fidget Pad with Multi-coloured Keys
- Green Ooze Tube
- **V** UV Kit (including Mini UV Torch)
- Ocean Wave











Would you like support with...

Meltdowns?

School issues?

Child's behaviour?

Understanding Autism?

The diagnosis process?

Understanding ADHD?

Our Parental Peer Support sessions provide friendly advice and support.

Join our Parental Peer Support

All sessions 10am - 12pm Regular guest speakers No diagnosis required No booking required Our services are free



Support Hub

Contact us

- 01443 492624
- 0 07562 223697
- info@behavioursupporthub.org.uk

www.behavioursupporthub.org.uk

Training Hub: 33 Gelliwastad Road, Pontypridd, CF37 2BN Registered Charity Number 1201797























MeTime

Online support sessions for carers

February to March





Monday 3 February, 2-3:30pm: Carer Voice and Influencing Training

This session will clarify the roles and responsibilities of different organisations making up the health and social care system in Wales, provide advice on your rights and getting your voice heard at every level of decision making and explore the recent policy developments impacting carers you need to know about.



Wednesday 5 February, 1.30-2.30pm: Homefront WWII with National Museum Wales

What was life in Wales like during WWII? Explore WWII related objects with our facilitator, discover the stories behind them and be inspired to investigate how your local area contributed to the war effort.



Wednesday 12 February, 12.30-1.30pm: Mental resilience and wellbeing for carers

In this session we are joined by Kerry Seymour from Inspired To Change and will look at: what is meant by resilience and wellbeing? the impact of stress, how stress is created in the brain, tools and techniques to reduce stress and boost resilience.



Tuesday 18 February, 11am-12pm: Wellbeing in nature

Dawn Parker, a horticultural therapy practitioner and project development officer, works within a community garden and woodland in Pontypridd, South Wales. She will discuss how gardening and nature can serve as therapeutic interventions to enhance physical and mental well-being.



Wednesday 19 February, 11am-12pm: Collage Art

In this online session, we are joined by artist Lucilla to learn more about designing and creating your own collage art. Blank postcards will be posted to you in advance. Completed postcards to be posted to Carers Wales (further info will be provided). This session is for beginners and those with previous experience of collage art. Spaces are unlimited.



Monday 3 March, 2-3pm: Book Club

Come along to our informal and relaxed Book Club session! The session is a chance for carers to get together and take some time for themselves, have a chat with like-minded people and share the escapism of getting lost in a good book. If it is your first session, just bring your favourite book, we'd love to hear a bit about why it's your favourite.



Wednesday 5 March, 12-2pm: Self Advocacy session for unpaid carers

This session will look at key tips and strategies that can support you to get your voice heard when dealing with services, organisations or people involved with you or the person you care for.

We'll cover topics including: your rights as carers, ways to communicate more effectively, preparing for meetings, dealing with emotions that inhibit self expression, the importance of self-awareness



Wednesday 12 March, 11am-12pm: Welsh Water Dwr Cymru

Are you a carer or being cared for by someone? Did you know that you may be eligible for a cheaper water bill, and other free support services from Welsh Water. Join Jody on the call to learn something new, and get the help that you may be missing out on.



Wednesday 19 March, 11am-12pm Carers Rights

Join our Information & Advice Officer Nia to explore carers rights in Wales and what you can do to secure your rights.



Thursday 20 March, 1-2pm: Watercolour Paints Workshop

Relax with this gentle watercolour painting session. Learn and practice watercolour techniques guided by Lucilla. Get your ideas onto paper and find some headspace to feel creative in this watercolour workshop and add your art onto your own postcard. We'll send you materials and a blank postcard to decorate. This is an informal session, we look forward to seeing you!

To Register:

www.carersuk.org/wales/onlinesupport







Parent and Carer Section on Neurodivergence.org



The resources within this section were developed in partnership with neurodivergent people, parents and carers and professionals. The resources are aimed at increasing the knowledge, skills, understanding of neurodivergence and practical tools for parents and carers of neurodivergent people.

<u>Parents & carers - Niwrowahaniaeth Cymru | Neurodivergence Wales | National Neurodivergence Team</u>

What is ...?

What is Autism?

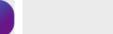
This section helps to build a better understanding of autism. A range of resources have been developed in partnership with neurodivergent people, parents and carers and professionals that clearly explain what autism is and how it affects autistic people's interaction with the world around them.

What is ADHD?

This section helps to build a better understanding of ADHD. A range of resources have been developed in partnership with neurodivergent people, parents and carers and professionals that clearly explain what ADHD is and how it affects people's interaction with the world around them.

What is Tourettes?

This section helps to build a better understanding of Tourettes. A range of resources have been developed in partnership with neurodivergent people, parents and carers and professionals that clearly explain what Tourettes is and how it affects people's interaction with the world around them.















We run Relaxed Sessions on a Sunday morning once a month, usually on the first weekend.

Next Sessions 9th March

If you choose a 10am or 11am entry ticket, you'll find that our usual operational model will be dialled down a little to allow guests to enjoy a slightly more relaxed experience of Techniquest for a few hours on a Sunday morning.

During that time, we'll be making a few adjustments including:



<u>The Pod</u>, our small and private room where you can get away from the usual hustle and bustle of the floor briefly should you need to, will be available as usual: you can find it on <u>the map</u>, just along the corridor from the show portal, on the way to the Science Theatre.

Everyone is welcome to come along to Techniquest on these Sunday mornings, and the Relaxed Session tickets will be valid for the whole of the day — but we will gradually return to standard operating model from 12 noon onwards, re-introducing Star Tours in the Planetarium and Live Science Shows in the Science Theatre for the afternoon in the usual way.

And don't forget, we have ear defenders that can be borrowed and <u>Sensory Bags available to hire</u> at the front desk should you need any additional support when the relaxed hours are over.

To experience one of our relaxed sessions, simply choose General Admission tickets in the usual way via our online booking site, and select either 10am or 11am on the first Sunday of the month.

To book - Relaxed Sessions • Techniquest







Blaenau Gwent



Booking is essential







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ning Provision **Ebbw Vale Colleg**

Every Wednesday 6pm-7:30pm (For ages 16-25 years)

Activities include:

Health & fitness (gym, nutritional advice), employability support such as Careers Wales, application form writing, job searching, peer support, opportunities to explore future goals, Safe place to relax & reflect. Snacks provided with tea & coffee!



To book your place please Scan the Scan here OR Code!

For more information

Call James Christie on 07812731583 or Rhyan Mansfield on 07816640143 acebook: **BG-Youth** Service









Blaenau Gwent Youth Service

Cuppa and Catch Up!

Come and join us for a chat and to find out what's going on in your community - from training/work opportunities

Social
Opportunity
for 16-25
year olds

to wellbeing activities!



Enjoy a

FREE

cuppa and
a bite to
eat with
us!





Contact Nicole on tel: 07970 828885 to find out more! TUESDAY EVENINGS 6PM-8PM

The Coffee Bar at Ebenezer Baptist Church Park Place NP13 1ED



BLAENAU GWENT



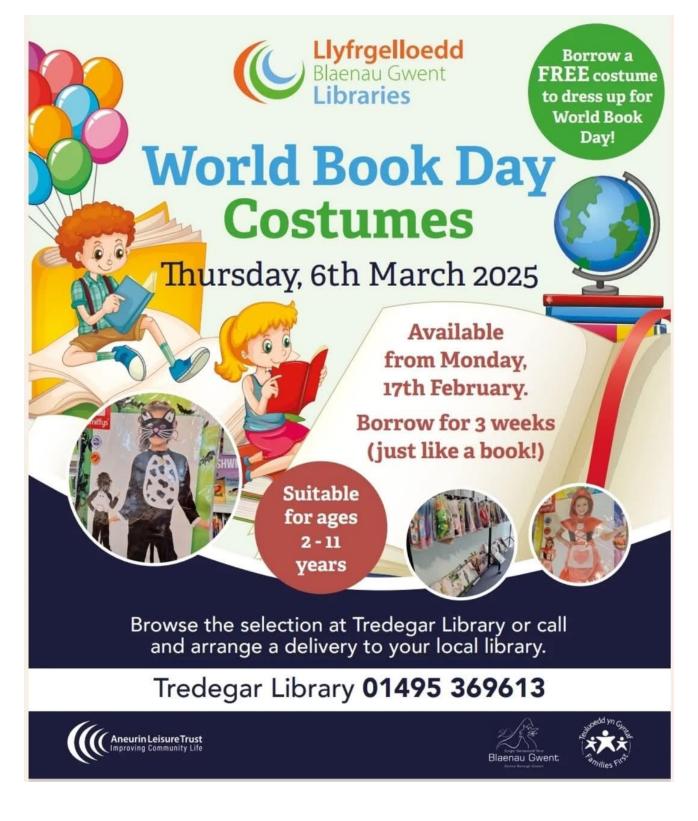
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LEVELLING

UP —













Caerphilly





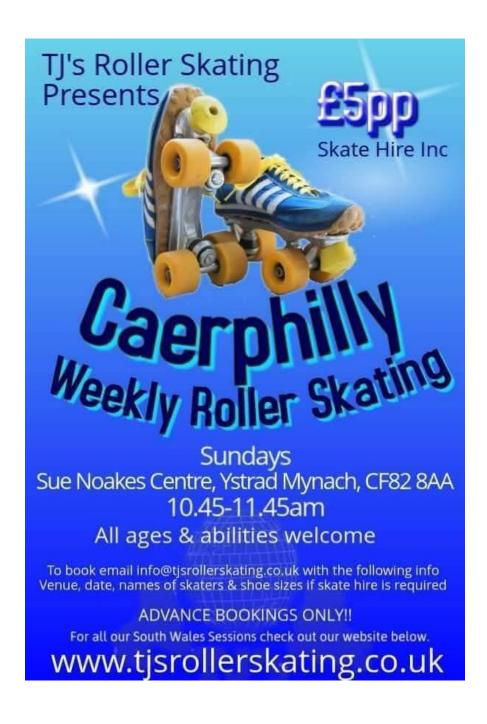




















Contact Details

- (Telephone 029 2167 4242
- Website www.caerphillyminerscentre.co.uk
- Email events@caerphillyminerscentre.org.uk

Caerphilly Miners Centre Watford Road Caerphilly CF83 1BJ











IF YOU ARE A FAMILY IN NEED OR YOU ARE WORKING WITH A FAMILY IN NEED THEN WE CAN HELP YOU!

Everyone needs a little extra helping hand once in a while.

Why not pop in to see us or give us a message we will do our very best to source the items you are in need of, anything from babies to adults, shoes, coats, uniform and much more!

Did you know by recycling pre-loved clothes you are reducing the waste on landfill by 7% every year.

Monday-Friday
Opening Time
9.30am - 2.00pm



Bargoed YMCA CF81 8JA



For more information, call 01443 875444





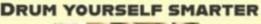


Monmouthshire

Meal Deal









- Unlock the magic of numbers with our engaging Music activities
- Explore the fascinating relationship between maths and music.
- Everyone will feel welcome in these fun inclusive sessions exploring different percussion disciplines and techniques with Upbeat Dave!

IF YOU ARE AGE 19 OR OVER AND DON'T HAVE A GCSE MATHS C OR ABOVE – THIS FREE COURSE IS FOR YOU!

Day: Wednesdays 4 Week Course March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Time: 10.30am - 12pm

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:

CONTACT DAVE ON 07784 PISIOO OR INFO@UPBEATMUSICANDARTS.CO.UK

Venue:

The Gathering Tudor St, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 5DH

MULTIPLY

To end an enjoyable morning why not stay for a hot meal and drink for £5.

Book in advance suggested.
Please let us know of any
allergies or intolerance.
07565597893

the.gathering.comm.group@gmail.com











CALLING WHEELCHAIR USERS OF ALL AGES

to try out the new wheelchair accessible carriage on the miniature railway at Old Station Tintern NP16 7NX



THERE WILL BE:

- · A free train ride
- Hot coffee or tea and a selection of delicious cakes available.
- · A children's activity trail
- An off road wheelchair to try too!

The carriage is accessible for one manual wheelchair (L 106cm x W 61cm). We have a manual wheelchair available on site to use if you can transfer from an electric wheelchair without the aid of a hoist.







Tomorrow



Exclusive ALN Sessions

2025

30th January 2025 20th February 2025 20th March 2025 22nd May 2025 19th June 2025 17th July 2025 18th September 2025 20th November 2025 Exclusive sessions for children with additional needs and their siblings

3:30pm until 5:30pm

To book

visit: Gwent Parent Carer Network on Facebook

email: gwentpcn@gmail.com







Newport









Wellbeing Group

for young people aged 7-11 yrs

A wellbeing and resilience based group for young people aged 7-11, as part of our Families First Preventative funding via Newport Council.

Want to meet other young people and learn more about wellbeing and resilience?

We will be running these as 6 sessions, focusing on the following different topics each week.

Basic, Belonging, Learning, Coping, Core self and Goal setting.

This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with peers, share experiences, and build valuable skills in a supportive environment

4:30-6:30pm Wednesdays - please contact us via the QR code on this poster or email ella.evans@newportmind.org

Scan the QR code to register your interest

















... and breathe

Parent/carer support group for those who have children or young people with disabilities.

A safe place to talk, relax and seek support from others in similar situations.

Meeting Times: Every Friday 9:30am-II:30am Starting from 1st March 2024

Location:
Y Sifil
Shannon Close
Bettws
NP20 7DU



For more information please email andbreathegroup@hotmail.com or look up "... and breathe " on Facebook







Torfaen





Hope GB Stay & Play

Enriching lives affected by autism

Join us on **Friday 28**th **February** for some Half Term FUN

We are holding Stay & Play Sessions at our Centre in Thornhill, Cwmbran for autistic children aged 3 - 11, their siblings and families. Sessions will be 10am until 11.30am then 12 until 1.30am. Limited spaces available.

Places are £5 per child and include a snack and drink.

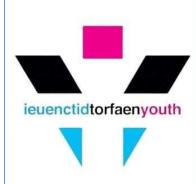
Please contact our office to book your place/s!



Hope GB C/O Thornhill Community Centre, Leadon Court, Thornhill, Cwmbran NP44 5TZ





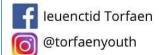


Youth booth

YOUTH CLUB

- Every Tuesday
- 5pm-7pm
- Activites available include: Cooking, Arts and Craft, Issue based sessions, Sports and Youth and Community support.
- This group is targeted at at young people 11-25 with additional learning needs looking to meet new people, gain new skills and explore new opportunities

For more information on how to join in please contact us via our social media or email chaise.Williams@torfaen.gov.uk / Helen.keeble@torfaen.gov.uk











Go Play ASD Sessions

We offer an exclusive ASD friendly sessions at our Go Play in Cwmbran Stadium

These are designed to offer a more peaceful play.

Plenty of space – reduced capacity

Music turned down – no loud announcements

Go Play - Torfaen Leisure Trust









Facebook & Instagram @sparkleappealofficial

Twitter @sparkleappeal

www.sparkleappeal.org

The Family Liaison Service is available Monday to Friday across all three Children's Centres

Please see contact details below.

There may be occasions where we cannot answer my phone but if you leave a message and we will respond as soon as possible. If your matter is urgent, please see the contact details below for the team.

Family Liaison Service

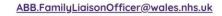












Speak to a Family Liaison Officer Serennu Children's Centre - 01633 748013 Nevill Hall Children's Centre - 01873 732712 Caerphilly Children's Centre - 02920 86744



