Enabling Communities to Thrive

Connecting Communities

Everyone in the borough should have the opportunity to be part of and contribute to their community

Our team use an Asset Based Approach to support the development of universal services. This promotes sustainable, community driven development, which helps to organise existing assets around shared issues and aims within a community.

'What's Strong not What's Wrong'

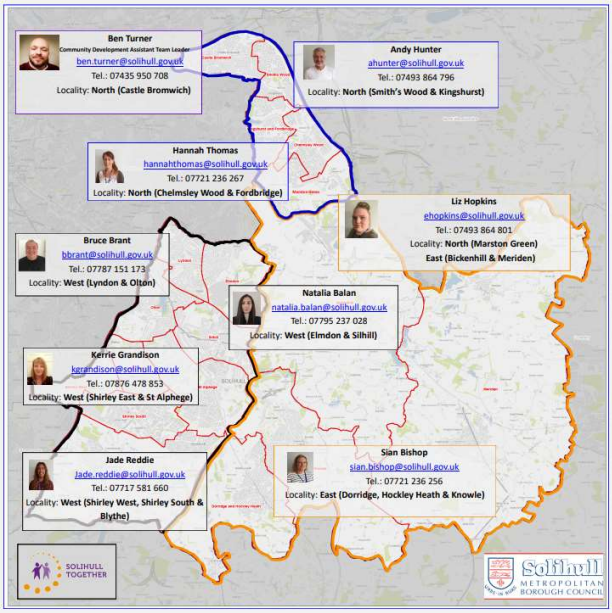
ABCD is a bottom-up way of working that **focuses on community strengths** and **assets** rather than on deficits and problems

If we ask people to look for deficits, they will usually find them, and their view of situations will be coloured by this. If we ask people to look for successes, they will usually find them, and their view of situations will be coloured by this (Kral, 1989).

Our Purpose:

To work in partnership to improve opportunities and outcomes for Children, Young people, Families and Adults in need

- ✓ To share Information, knowledge and intelligence
- ✓ By supporting individuals to access community based 'places to go, things to do with people to talk and listen'



Our Community Development Team

1 Team Leader
1 Assistant Team Leader
8 Community Development Workers

General Enquiries:
cdt@solihull.gov.uk

Esther Brooks,
Community Development Team Leader,
ebrooks@solihull.gov.uk
Tel.: 07493 864 780

Community Development Workers are aligned to Localities and Wards:

- ✓ Community and VCSE navigation, introductions and relationships
- ✓ Facilitating and supporting community collaborations
- ✓ Funding (e.g. Grantfinder)
- ✓ Developing broader and deeper professional networks
- ✓ Prevention and Early Intervention
- ✓ Enabling community action and ownership
- ✓ Community development informed by trends, priorities and issues identified in communities

CDT working in Partnership

Maximise use of Community Assets:

- Potential to use a variety of buildings to deliver community led activity or hold 121's e.g. use of a meeting room, community room, hall or outdoor space.
- Signpost residents that may want to set up community activity to develop their ideas and make things happen, especially focused to support early intervention and prevention, such as activities to enhance social connectedness to avoid social isolation and loneliness

Process of our work

Examples of our work to support:

- ✓ Community and VCSE navigation, introductions and relationships
- ✓ Prevention and Early Intervention

Accessibility tools and translation

solihull.gov.uk

My accounts A to Z Search Menu

Home ▸ Communities ▸ My Solihull Map

My Solihull Map

My Solihull Map

My Solihull Map connects you to your local community, where you can find places to go, things to do, and to actively engage in the vibrant services your local community provides. Our map highlights several activities and services:

- Free and low-cost
- All-age group
- Under-18
- Disability-focused
- Mental-health focused
- Faith groups
- Sports and physical activities

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Our map highlights several activities and services: Free and low-cost, All-age group, Under-18, Disability-focused, Mental-health focused, Faith groups, and Sports and physical activities.

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My Solihull Map

For best use press this to enlarge the screen

My Solihull Maps - Press h...

My Solihull Maps - Press here to search

The groups, organisations and places included in the map and directory are not recommendations but provid... more

Created: 3 December 2020

SHARE CLOSE

- Sports and physical activities
  - All items
- Free and low cost activities
  - All items
- Disability Focused Activities
  - All items
- Mental Health Focused Activities
  - All items

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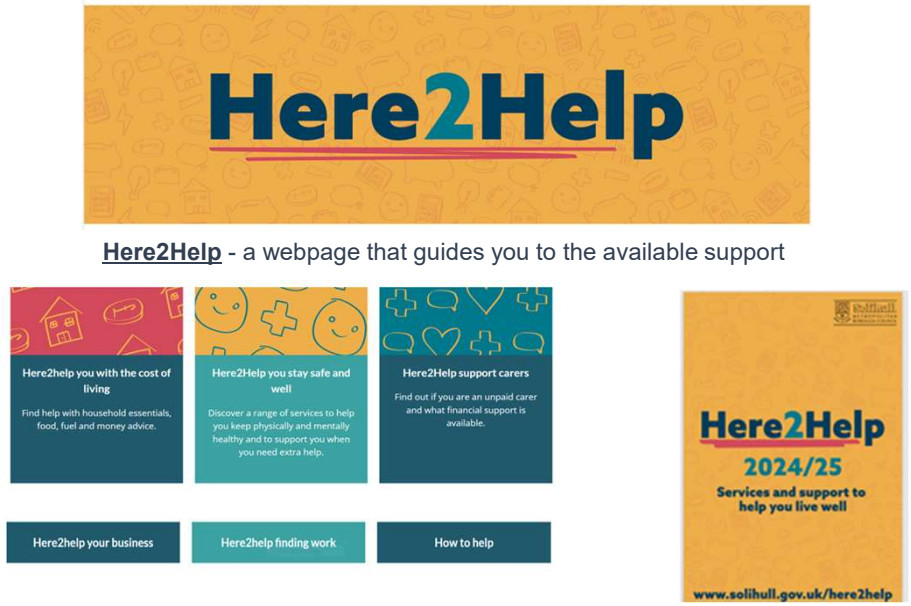
In addition, these links below are on the website too to help people access services.

- **The Waiting Room** - a free-to-access, online directory of hundreds of local health and well-being services available to communities in Birmingham and Solihull
- **Street Support Solihull** - connecting people and organisations locally to tackle homelessness in Solihull
- **Visit Solihull** - a webpage of all the exciting things and events that are going on in Solihull
- **Family Information Service** - a webpage where you can find the Family Information Service Directory (which allows you to search for activities and support services) and other resources such as information on HAF (Holiday Activities and Food), how to find childcare, and useful information for childcare providers



Here2Help - a webpage that guides you to the available support

SOLIHULL HAF Holiday Activities And Food

https://www.solihull.gov.uk/children-and-family-support/haf

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme
The Solihull HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) Programme aims to offer a healthy meal and enriching activities for children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals (FSM), during the Easter, summer and Christmas school holidays.
These are free of charge to the parent/carer of eligible children with a maximum number of sessions that can be booked per child per holiday period.

SOLIHULL HAF Holiday Activities And Food

Supporting eligible children to access holiday clubs
We ask that you encourage all known children and families who receive benefits-related Free School Meals to book places with HAF providers. Children who attend a Solihull school will have received an email to show proof of entitlement and the child's Solihull HAF code, which they must show to providers at the point of booking.
If you would like to see the locations of activities, then please visit our **activities page**.

Professional referrals
Referrals into HAF are only required for children who are not eligible under the FSM criteria but who are considered vulnerable and in need of a place.
Children who are non-FSM can be referred into the HAF Programme through completion of **our referral form**.
Priority must be given to those most in need

If you are unsure if a child is eligible for a HAF funded place as non-FSM then please get in touch at **HAFSolihull@solihull.gov.uk**

New Communities and Resettlement, SMBC

newcommunities@solihull.gov.uk

- Taking a professional lead on all matters relating to asylum, immigration and community cohesion on behalf of the Council, including asylum dispersal, refugee resettlement, Hong Kong BNO welcome programme etc.
- Development of Council capacity and expertise, recognising additional needs and specialisms concerned with refugee resettlement and welcoming of new communities.
- Working with partners, schools, individuals and families to connect people and partners to Solihull based services and support networks.

New Communities are available to contact if you would like any support or further information on how to help any families accessing your provision

Neighbourhood Networking Meetings

The Community Development Team facilitate informal events to help our Voluntary and Community groups, Charities, CIC's and other organisations to come together (we also invite local Schools, Adult Social Care, Childrens Services teams) :

- ✓ To connect and find out what others are doing within their community
- ✓ To share knowledge, data and intelligence
- ✓ To provide opportunities for joint working and initiatives
- ✓ To help SMBC and other public sector agencies to connect to communities

We host these meetings 3-4 times per year within each Natural Neighbourhoods or locality

SOLIHULL FOOD BANK NETWORK

Solihull College

citizens advice

Examples of how the
Community Development Team
are connecting with partners and our VCFSE Sector to support Early Intervention and Prevention within the local community

Connected Peterbrook School and Solihull Academy to Kairos Café

Kairos Café were running a gift giving scheme for Christmas. Bespoke requests were taken for specific children (collated by CDT) and then purchased and wrapped by customers and staff at the cafe. Other gifts were purchased such as gift cards and essentials such as underwear, gloves, scarves for under privileged young people CDT then collected and delivered these to the schools.
A total of 33 children and young people gifted. *"We can't thank the staff and customers at Kairos café enough for the gift and donations we have received they will go a long way to making their memories special. Thank you from Solihull Academy."*

Community groups and schools are hosting a food bank box (a red box) to support Solihull's Food bank Network, the network is a collaborative of emergency food providers working together to tackle food insecurity in Solihull.

Marston Green Infant School let the community know they offer Early Help!
20.12.23-SSCP-Newsletter.pdf (safeguardingsolihull.org.uk).

Our Community Development worker Liz worked with Nicola Roberts the Child and Family support worker at Marston Green Infants Academy to develop a Wellbeing Roadshow. The school wanted to create an event to showcase support and services that are available in their local area, for families and the local community. They decided to hold this during parents evening as parents would be attending school so this would ensure parents feel less pressured.

Liz invited 18 different organisations ranging from Action Energy, Colebridge Trust, Citizen Advice and Healthwatch. Tables were in the hall where parents walked through.
The event was advertised on their social media page as well posters in local shops.

Feedback was well received from both professionals and parents. Even staff gathered useful information such as advice from British Red Cross who run free life saver courses.
One family were able to arrange an energy assessment through Action Energy to save money on their energy bills, another signed up to Solihull Active to access SEN activities
The school also teamed up with Marson Green Library and Solihull College to offer our parents a story sack course for free.
The school felt the event was a great success and we will be arranging another one in the spring term.

A big thank you to Liz Hopkins from the Solihull Development team. I highly recommend contacting your local worker as they are a wealth of knowledge.

Sally Bull, Manager of The Courtyard,
SMBC Adults with Disabilities Day Centre Team

'I just wanted to share with you some of the ways you have helped our Courtyard venture. As you know we are all about connecting the community and bringing people together. You have put us in touch with so many people and helped us make great connections, The list is huge, and I can't do it justice in a few lines so apologies for those I haven't included.

You have connected us with Solihull College who have provided community courses for us and members of the local parish. Cava and the voluntary sector, Langley school drama section to look at joint working for a production, Veolia/Idverde who came and spent time clearing our garden, the local PCSO.

The community networking day you organised was such a success and from that we now have opportunities with local health, and fitness providers and friends of the local park group and an amazing volunteer who brings amazing craft skills once a month.

Above all when we have an idea, we always say let's ask Bruce he will know! You totally understand what we are trying to achieve, and the group are always look forward to seeing you'.

Our Contact Details

cdt@solihull.gov.uk