

The Vine

child contact centre



Newsletter July 2021

Reopening with COVID-19

As a centre we have had to consider how we would do contact safely for every family using the contact centre. We started by reducing the number of families we could have in the hall at any one time. This has currently halved the number of families that can currently access contact.

We then had to look at how we would create a safe space for each family to adhere to government guidelines and the 2m rule, to ensure none of the families crossed over. We provided each family a gazebo for during contact.



We have created a sanitising station where all masks, tissues, sanitiser, and wipes are kept for all to access. On each family table we provide a handwashing guide, bottled water and sanitiser to ensure cleanliness is maintained throughout the time of contact.

COVID has been a time where we have had to be very imaginative to ensure we made the contact centre still feel warm and welcoming with the use of limited resources.

Good News Story

A dad started contact because he needed to build his bond with his son after not seeing him from being 5 months old. He was with the centre for 6 sessions, spanning over 3 months. Near to the time of the contact coming out of the centre we were unsure if contact would continue in the community as mum was reluctant and hesitant for contact to move forward. On speaking to dad, he confirmed that he has had regular contact fortnightly with his son unsupervised. Dad shared that he has been having a fantastic time with his son and finally introducing him to his extended family.



Thank You

Goodbyes – We have temporarily said goodbye to our Student Assistance Volunteer Eliza as she is due to become a mum in September. Congratulations and we all cannot wait to celebrate with you when baby arrives.

We are so fortunate that we have Sophie, Mary, Abi, Mrunalini and Abhishek who are all such wonderful volunteers.

Golden Oldies – We love that some of our volunteers have been with us for such a long time! Thank you to Imogen, Jane, Naomi and Michelle.

Everyone has adjusted with how we now do contact. We really appreciate each of you and are extremely grateful for all your hard work and continued support to the families,



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13 children spent time with their non-resident parent.

6 families are currently using the centre for contact.

4 weeks waiting time from first enquiry to first use.

9 volunteers covering the contact sessions.

0 new volunteers recruited.

Fundraising

COVID had certainly got in the way of the contact centre doing any face-to-face fundraising, but it did not stop Sophie, who is one of our volunteers organising a way of fundraising on her own.

In the month of April, Sophie set herself a challenge to run 60K within the month. This challenge was completed with 2 days to spare, and the total time was 5 hours 45 minutes.

With all the sponsors, Sophie helped raise £118.00 to go towards the families that access and use the contact centre.

Thank you, Sophie, for your efforts and to all those that donated towards her challenge.



New services coming

We have had visions for what and where we can move forward with the contact centre by looking at offering additional services to or families. In the pipeline we are looking to set up a dad's group and a Parenting Plus service.



DADS GROUP

6-week course for dads run by men. A time for men to connect on a deeper level of the importance of their role as a father.

PARENTING PLUS

More for families that have self-referred for contact to take place. Both parents to come together to make next step arrangements prior to moving on from the contact centre. A mini agreement to be written up and signed by both parents,



Both projects are in the early stages of preparation so please do make contact if you would like to hear more.

Gifting

Please feel free to support the work of the vine child contact centre. Regardless how you give, please also complete a [gift aid declaration](#)

[Donations](#)

[Online shopping](#)

