



Newsletter

1 February 2024

Financial Support for Families with Children 0-5 Years

The Household Support Fund (HSF) is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions to help those hardest hit by the cost of living crisis.

For parents with a child under the age of 5 who are struggling to afford essential items, help is available to ease the burden with a one-off emergency payment. For more information contact your health visitor, midwife, local children's centre, nursery, pre-school or childminder. In addition to this, a number of local organisations are now able to process applications, these include food banks in Ledbury, Hereford and Leominster. To access the full list of organisations/agencies, please visit the [Talk Community Directory](#).

If you run a Talk Community Hub, community group or public space, in Herefordshire, please visit our [Community resource page](#) where you can download posters to help spread the word about the Household Support Fund.

Visit the [Herefordshire Council](#) website to find out more about the Household Support Fund.

You can get more information and advice around the Cost of Living on the **Money on Your Mind** section of the [Talk Community website](#).



From Wildplay to WoW events – Explore our Half Term Activity List

If you're looking for ideas to help you and your family stay active and entertained during the forthcoming February half term, there are lots of different activities and events taking place across Herefordshire.

There's everything from a curious time-travelling adventure to the 20th Century at the Museum Resource and Learning Centre, to an interactive theatre show (Robots included!) plus free Wildplay sessions and much more!

Find activities for you and your family on the [Talk Community Directory](#) and don't forget to also check out our [what's on calendar](#) for even more inspiration!



Measles is currently circulating in the West Midlands

There are especially high numbers of measles cases currently spreading across the West Midlands.

Unvaccinated children and adults are the most affected, with a significant proportion having to go to hospital.

Two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, via your GP practice, offers the maximum protection for children and adults. It's never too late to get the jabs if you've missed one or both.

Measles is likely to continue to spread rapidly unless more people are vaccinated urgently. Join the more than 9 out of every 10 Herefordshire residents who have protected themselves through vaccination so far and help spread the word amongst the community.

If your family avoids pork, a MMR vaccine is available that does not contain any pork products. Contact your GP Practice to request this.

Read the full article on the [Talk Community Directory](#) where you can also download information leaflets to share with your organisation or community group. More information about measles and the MMR vaccine can be found on the [NHS website](#)



Making arts accessible with the Courtyard Community Group Scheme

The Courtyard have launched a Community Group Scheme. The programme is targeting local community organisations and services, with the goal of making arts more accessible to all. The offer is aimed specifically at organisations working with local people who may otherwise struggle to engage with the arts, whether that's due to financial, geographical or other reasons.

On offer are free theatre and cinema tickets, heavily discounted offers, notice of future 'Pay What You Like' events, plus invitations to special events and launch parties. Other benefits of becoming a Courtyard Community Group member include exposure of the organisation with logos featured on The Courtyard's website.

To find out more, or to apply on behalf of your organisation visit the [The Courtyard's website](#).



Don't miss out on these funding opportunities from Herefordshire Community Foundation!

A reminder that the deadline for applications to the [High Sheriff Fund](#) is Monday 5th Feb.

Read about the [Herefordshire Together Fund](#) – applications close on Monday 12th Feb.

Herefordshire Natural Flood Management (NFM) Project

Herefordshire Council has secured funding to continue their Natural Flood Management (NFM) project until 2027 in seven priority areas.

They've previously run a successful pilot project from 2018 to 2021, implementing various NFM measures like soil management, water retention, and tree planting. The new project aims to build on this success, offering free advice to landowners and supporting initiatives like attenuation ponds to reduce flooding risks. Residents can also get involved by volunteering, joining Flood Group meetings, and attending information days.

For more information about the NFM project, visit the [Herefordshire Council website](#), or email the Natural Flood Management team: nfm@herefordshire.gov.uk



State of the Sector Survey

The State of the Sector Survey is still live!

Building on a previous study in 2020, the survey aims to answer questions about the number, activities, and contributions of these voluntary organisations and community groups in the county. As well as contributing their insights, organisations that complete the survey can also enter a draw to win £500!

So, if you are part of a local organisation (no matter how big or small), and have 15 minutes to spare, then get involved to help create a comprehensive understanding of the sector's social and economic impact.

The survey closes on February 28th, and any inquiries can be directed to: claire@impactconsultancy.co.uk

[Complete the survey here.](#)



Norovirus Awareness

Norovirus cases are increasing in our area. This illness, causing symptoms like sickness and diarrhoea, can spread quickly and is quite unpleasant. Thankfully, for most people, it's a short-lived illness, typically lasting only two to three days without needing medication.

The best way to prevent norovirus from spreading is by washing hands frequently with soap and water, especially after using the toilet and before handling food. It's also worth noting that alcohol-based hand gels aren't effective against norovirus.

If you're experiencing [symptoms](#), it's crucial to stay home until you've been symptom-free for at least two days, as this is when you're most contagious. Do not go to work or school, visit care homes or hospitals whilst you have symptoms. For more information, you can check the [NHS website](#) and search for 'norovirus'.



What's new on the Talk Community Directory?

February is officially here (where has the time gone?!), and it's the start of a whole new month of events in Herefordshire. Whether it's support, information or an activity, we hope you can find what you need on our directory - you can even add your own services and events.

Here are this week's additions to the directory:

[Warm Space and Warm Welcome at Staunton-on-Wye Village Hall](#)

[Free art activities at Leominster Community Centre for Children's Mental Health Week](#)

[Children's Art Drop in at Queenswood Country Park and Arboretum](#)

Our socials are a great way to keep in touch with what's on too, whether you're

- a [Facebook](#) fan
- tuned in to [Twitter](#)
- or instantly on [Instagram](#)

Herefordshire Cares Do you want to make a difference to people's lives every day? Working in social care is a rewarding career – to find out more about a career in adult social care, visit the [Herefordshire Cares website](#).



**BRINGING
HEREFORDSHIRE
TOGETHER**

For more updates, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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Alternatively, please email talkcommunityengagement@herefordshire.gov.uk**

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