

Sensory and Physical Support Service (SAPSS)

Newsletter 9

Summer term 2025

Welcome to our summer term newsletter. We hope to see as many of you as possible at the following event:



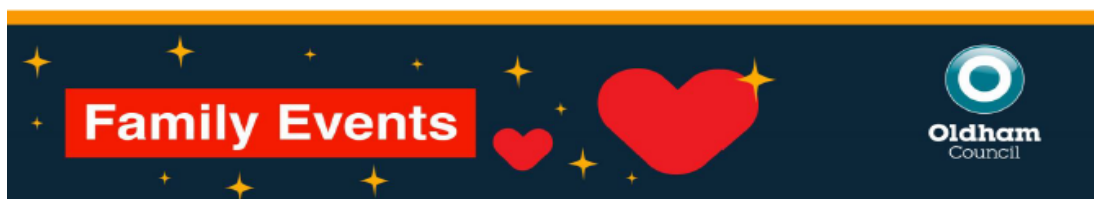
Vision Impairment Family Fun Day

Saturday 21st June

10am – 2pm

Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre,
Cultural Quarter, Greaves Street, Oldham,
OL1 1AL

- Representatives from a range of services including Henshaws, Lancashire Lions, Look UK, Oldham College, Oldham Council's VI team, RNIB, RSBC, POINT, Summit Up and VICTA.
- Craft activities from 11am-2pm including clay modelling, printing and plasticine painting.
- Sensory room sessions from 10am.



Circus Starr tickets



We have been given an allocation of free tickets for the Circus Starr performances at Queen Elizabeth Hall on Thursday 19th June 2025 at 4.45pm and 7pm. Please contact kay.davies@oldham.gov.uk if you would like some free tickets for this event. Please note, we have a limited number so the sooner you get in touch, the more likely it is we will still have tickets to allocate.

Post 16 support

If your son or daughter is due to finish year 11 soon then please see our Post-16 policy (<https://oldhamconnect.uk/Services/6336>) for details of the support the team offers from year 12 onwards. Please confirm post-16 places by emailing sapss@oldham.gov.uk by 31st August 2025.

British Wireless for the Blind charity

New options available through British Wireless for the Blind now include Echo Dot Kids and Echo Show Kids and a device called a Vox Block which looks worth exploring.

<https://blind.org.uk/voxblock/>

<https://blind.org.uk/equipment/>

To receive a free device, the recipient must meet the following criteria:

- Be resident in the UK
- Be living with Sight Loss
- Be in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Personal Independent Payment (PIP) / Attendance Allowance (AA) or Adult Disability Payment (ADP) in Scotland or receives a means-tested benefit (or parent/guardian if under 18).

Henshaws charity

Henshaws offer a wide range of support including access to dedicated Children and Young People Enablement Officers who provide support and run events for children and young people to attend in the school holidays for example.

The booking link for all activities is <https://henshaws-cyp.square.site/>

Henshaws also run a weekly VI youth group in Oldham for children aged 8 and above. This is held at Mahdlo on a Tuesday from 4.30-6pm.

Parents/carers can refer their child/ren to Henshaws by completing the following referral form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/MMdfzRrXrg>

The form can be completed on the phone, tablet or desktop for ease of use and a quick completion time. Please see your child's allocated QTVI if you need any support with this.

The National Deaf Children's Society

There are a number of useful resources on the NDCS website to help you support your child or young person's mental health. Here is the link:

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/parenting-and-family-life/emotional-health-and-wellbeing/>

The website also contains information about 'Technology Products' including alarms and alerting devices for deaf/hard of hearing children and young people.

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/technology-for-deaf-children-and-young-people/technology-products/>

Ongoing events

Preschool group

Come along to meet other parents and carers who also have a child with vision/hearing needs. There are lots of fun filled activities including arts and crafts, singing and free play. You are welcome to stay for the whole session or just pop in and spend as much time as you are able to.



Location:

Beever Family Hub, Moorby Street, Oldham, OL1 3QU

Time: 1pm – 2.30pm

Dates for the remainder of this academic year:

Wednesday 11th June

Please contact:

Joanne Jones (VI) via joanne.jones@oldham.gov.uk or 07790 543843 or

Kay Davies (HI) via kay.davies@oldham.gov.uk or 07790 543785 for further information.

Sign Language classes (Sign supported English)

For families of children and young people who use sign language, come along and learn too.

Oldham Parents' Sign and Support Group (in person) - held weekly during termtime from 11am-12pm every Monday in Meeting room 2 at Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AL.

Oldham Parents' Sign and Support Group (online) - held weekly during termtime from 10.30am-11.30am every Tuesday via Teams.

Please contact Zahrah Islam on 07801 204288 or via sapss@oldham.gov.uk for further information.

For all the groups, can we please ask that you don't attend if you or your child are unwell.

Oldham Connect

Please favourite and check out our webpage at <https://oldhamconnect.uk/Services/6336> which is kept up to date with service information, links to support available, links to charities and details of events.

Contact details

As always, please feel free to contact the team at any point via sapss@oldham.gov.uk or by contacting:

Joanne Jones, Team Manager for Vision Impairment Support, directly via email at joanne.jones@oldham.gov.uk or via telephone at 07790 543843 or

Team lead, hearing impairment via email at sapss@oldham.gov.uk or via telephone at 0161 770 1513.