

Horizons 2026 – Paid supported work placements with Buckinghamshire Council

Buckinghamshire Council is expected to open applications during the week beginning Monday 13 July for its Horizons 2026 programme.

Horizons offers paid six-month work placements for people who face barriers to finding employment. As well as gaining workplace experience, participants receive training, coaching and ongoing support throughout the programme. Autism Bucks has again been invited to act as an approved Referral Partner. This means that members who apply for Horizons will need a referral from Autism Bucks to support their application, and we will be happy to provide this.

Two Autism Bucks members took part in the programme last year and both successfully completed their placements. One has since secured a permanent part-time role with Buckinghamshire Council.

For more details, see guide:
<https://autism-bucks.charity/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Horizons-Guide-v1.0.pdf>

For more information on how you can get involved, visit:

www.factbucks.org.uk



FACT Bucks Promoting SEND Awareness Across Buckinghamshire

FACT Bucks contributed to the Buckinghamshire Family Hub Network Conference on 1 July, helping professionals better understand SEND and improve signposting for families.

The conference brought together family support services and partner organisations across the county. Why it matters: Better-informed professionals means families can be directed to the right support earlier. Check out the 4 questions on page 11

<https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/family-hub-network/about-buckinghamshire-family-hub/>

New Family Hub Network locations are making it easier for SEND families to connect, share experiences and access support closer to home. For example The White Hart Buckingham, 18th August 2026, anytime between 10am and 12 midday for a coffee and a chat. Children are welcome too.

[#Send](#) [#ParentingSupport](#)



**SEND
Peer Support**
Drop-ins for parents and carers

START

The White Hart, Buckingham
Third Tuesday of every month

Family Hub Network
Buckinghamshire



HAVE YOUR

SAY

**Help shape
short breaks**

What are short breaks?

Short breaks give children and young people with SEND the chance to:

- **Have fun and play**
- **Make friends**
- **Try new activities**
- **Build confidence and independence**

They also give parents and carers time to rest and recharge

Drop-in sessions – just pop in!

Chesham Family Hub
Mapledean, High Wycombe
Southcourt, Aylesbury

Wednesday 22 July 11am – 1pm

Monday 3 August 10am – 12pm

Wednesday 5 August 10am – 12pm

Online sessions

04th August 18:00-19:00pm.

To reserve an online place, please contact: Beth@factbucks.org.uk

We'd love to hear from you...

- **Tell us what your child enjoys doing**
- **Tell us what could be better or easier**
- **Tell us what's working well for your family**
- **Tell us your ideas for activities and support**

**Come along and chat with us, no booking needed
and children are welcome.**



**Buckinghamshire
Council**



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you can get involved, visit:

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Carer's Allowance

Following the Carers Partnership Board Fact Bucks were made aware that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has launched a Call for Evidence to gather views on how Carer's Allowance could be modernised and made fairer, clearer and more suited to modern working patterns. The consultation is open from 7 July to 18 August 2026.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/carers-allowance-call-for-evidence>

For carers and SEND families, the most significant potential change is the possibility of an earnings taper, which could allow carers to increase paid work without immediately losing Carer's Allowance

New dates for from Yeti Nuggets
for SEND families in the West
Wycombe area

Save the date

FACT Bucks AGM

Buckinghamshire SEND

Information Day

20 October 2026, at The
Oculus, The Gateway, Aylesbury
9am-1pm

The venue has now been booked and preparations are underway. Invitations and further information, including details of the programme and attending organisations, will be circulated over the next couple of weeks.

We look forward to welcoming families, professionals, and partners from across Buckinghamshire for a morning of information sharing, networking, and updates.



Fri 11th Sep
Fri 9th Oct
9.30-11.30am

The Walled Garden,
West Wycombe

SEND

Coffee
& Chat

For Parent/Carers
/Grandparents
of SEND Children



yetinuggets.co.uk



What is FACT Bucks?

For more information on how
you can get involved, visit:
www.factbucks.org.uk

Have you used the Autism Early Support Portal?



Buckinghamshire Council is looking for feedback from parents and carers for the All-Age Autism Strategy Annual Report.

If you have used the Autism Early Support Portal, we would love to hear about your experience. A short reflection of 2–4 sentences about how the portal has helped you or your family would be greatly appreciated.

Please send your comments to FACT Bucks or Autism Early Support.



What is FACT Bucks?

FACT stands for Families and Carers Together. We are Buckinghamshire's Parent Carer Forum.

We are an independent group of parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities and/or special educational needs in Buckinghamshire.

We are here to give parent carers a voice. By joining our forum, you'll be part of a collective effort to enhance and improve the services our children need

Membership is free, and your participation can make a real difference. Join us today!

Go to our website:
www.factbucks.org.uk/get-involved/

or email us on:
admin@factbucks.org.uk

Buckinghamshire SEND DATA

The latest data release offers a concise snapshot of how the county compares with the South East and England – and raises important questions about early identification, assessment delays and access to support.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/education-health-and-care-plans-england-2025>

What the Data Shows

- EHCP numbers are rising more slowly than regional and national trends
- More children are receiving SEN Support
- Assessment requests have fallen, but delays have increased sharply
- Only 8% of EHCPs were completed within 20 weeks

What Buckinghamshire families should be looking out for

- Long waits between raising concerns and receiving support.
- Children remaining on SEN Support for years without clear progress.
- Schools saying support is available, but families seeing little impact.
- Delays in educational psychology, therapy or assessment services.
- Whether needs are being identified early, particularly in nursery and Key Stage 1.

For a deeper dive into the trends, charts and analysis, visit our website where you'll find the full SEND data summary and additional commentary.

<https://www.factbucks.org.uk/latest-news/what-does-the-latest-send-data-tell-us-about-buckinghamshire/>

Family Hub Open Sessions

Save the date



Free activities for young people
up to 10 years old



- Arts and crafts
- Outdoor activities
- and more

If you have any questions, email
Aylesburyfamilyhub@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

**Friday
31 July**

10am to
12 midday
Southcourt
Family Hub

**Tuesday
4 August**

1:30pm to
3:30pm
Berryfields
Family Hub

**Tuesday
11 August**

10am to
12 midday
Buckingham
Youth Centre

**Thursday
20 August**

1:30pm to
3:30pm
Best Start Family
Hub Elmhurst

**Tuesday
25 August**

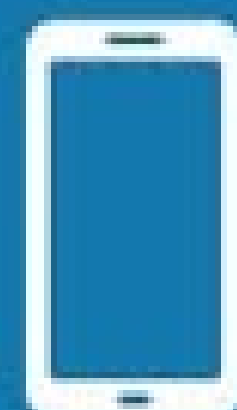
10am to
12 midday
Wing
Family Hub



Buckinghamshire
Council



SCAN
ME





**FACT
BUCKS**
Parent Carer Forum

DfE Consultations Update: July 2026

As of July 2026, the main live DfE consultations relevant to SEND, EOTAS and schools are:

1. SEND Reform: Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS)

Close date: 18 September 2026

Focus areas:

- Strengthening duties on local authorities for children educated outside school
- Improving oversight and quality of alternative provision
- Ensuring children receiving EOTAS have access to a suitable, full-time education
- Clarifying responsibilities for safeguarding and attendance monitoring

2. Upfront Funding for Mainstream Schools: Local SEND Inclusion Formula

Close date: 18 September 2026

Purpose: To establish a new local funding formula that provides mainstream schools with upfront, predictable resources to support children with SEND – reducing reliance on individual EHCP-linked funding and enabling earlier, more inclusive provision.

Recently Closed but Important

SEND Reform: Putting Children and Young People First – closed 18 May 2026

Topics covered:

- National standards for SEND provision
- A single national EHCP template and digital system
- Mediation and tribunal reform
- Strengthened accountability for outcomes

Other Live School-Related Consultations

- School Attendance: Statutory Guidance Update – closes 30 August 2026
- Revised Behaviour in Schools Guidance – closes 12 September 2026
- Changes to School Admissions Code (in-year admissions) – closes 25 September 2026

Particularly Relevant for FACT BUCKS families who have EHCPs educational, health care plans

The EOTAS consultation is especially important for Buckinghamshire families. Many children with SEND in the county are educated outside school settings, whether through alternative provision, home tuition packages or elective home education following a breakdown in placement. This consultation offers a direct opportunity to influence how duties on local authorities are strengthened and to ensure that children who are not in school still receive the quality education and support they deserve.

It is also vital that families respond to protect the legal rights currently provided through Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), including access to independent Tribunal appeals when support is not agreed or delivered. These safeguards play a crucial role in ensuring children and young people with SEND can secure the provision they need.

We encourage all FACT Bucks members to respond before 18 September 2026 and help shape the future of SEND support and education provision across England.



What is FACT Bucks?

For more information on how
you can get involved, visit:
www.factbucks.org.uk

Got a Minute? We'd Love Your Feedback!



Your insights help us
improve and better support
families. Scan the QR code
to share your thoughts.

Thanks for being part of our
community!

Parent Carer feedback form



After several years providing a digital carer support service to thousands of carers in Buckinghamshire, Mobilise has now been commissioned to provide the full All-Age Carers Service in the county from 1st July. This includes support for Young and Young Adult Carers as well as Adult Carers, and also includes in-person support.

The service is free and open to all unpaid carers living in Buckinghamshire - people who look after a family member, partner, or friend because of a disability, illness, mental health condition, or older age.

<https://www.mobiliseonline.co.uk/>



0300 123 3393
(Open 9am-6pm, weekdays)
mind.org.uk



0808 801 0525
(Open 9.30am-4pm, weekdays)
rethink.org



116 123 (free to call)
(Open 24/7)
samaritans.org



Text SHOUT to 85258
(Free and open 24/7)
giveusashout.org



Online chat service
(Open 4pm-11pm)
themix.org.uk



Parents Helpline
0808 802 5544
(Open 9.30am-4pm, weekdays)
youngminds.org.uk



SEND Holiday Club

Friday 31st July

2-4:30

**Bouncy
Castle**

£3 Per
SEND
Child

Hazlemere
Youth Centre,
Rose Avenue
HP157UB

**Arts &
Craft**

Parents Please Stay

Tombola

**Tuck
Shop**

**Wheelchair
Accessible**

**UV
Sensory
Room**

**Safe
Garden**



Come and Meet New Friends!

Not About You Without You

Without critical thinking, we risk assumptions.
Without conversation, we risk silo working.
Without collaboration, we risk "doing to" rather than "doing with".
Without creativity, we struggle to imagine new possibilities and solutions.

Community development isn't just about delivering activity.
It's about creating the conditions for people to think, connect, work together, and co-create change using their strengths and unique insights.

If you want to get more involved please contact us at FACT BUCKS



1. THE CHALLENGE

The problems we're tackling

- Unequal access to SEND support across education, health and social care
- Limited understanding of co-production and family needs
- Poor relationships and trust with parent carers
- Barriers to engagement due to caring responsibilities and burnout
- Lived experience not always valued





2. WHAT WE DO

How we make a difference

-  Listen to parent carers' experiences and understand their needs
-  Represent the collective voice of parent carers
-  Connect families with information and services
-  Co-produce improvements with partners and decision-makers
-  Gather and share insight to drive positive change



3. IMMEDIATE CHANGES

What we achieve together

-  Parent carers feel heard and confident to contribute
-  Stronger relationships and trust between families and services
-  Services better understand the real issues and needs of families
-  Families better understand services and how to access them
-  Clearer understanding of what a parent carer forum does



4. LONGER-TERM IMPACT

Lasting change for our community

-  Co-produced, inclusive solutions built with parent carers
-  Strong, trusted partnerships between families and decision-makers
-  Informed and empathetic decisions based on deep insight
-  Families access services that better meet their needs
-  Parent carer voice is central to SEND policy and service provision



OUR ENDURING GOAL

The voices of parent carers shape SEND services so every child and young person gets the support they need to thrive.





Changes in Government: What Happens Next for SEND Support?

The reappointment of Schools Minister Georgia Gould has been seen by many in the SEND sector as a sign that the government's current direction of travel on SEND reform is likely to continue for now. Gould has played a central role in developing the proposed reforms and has remained in post following the recent ministerial changes at the Department for Education.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ministerial-appointments-july-2026>

While no major changes to the reform programme have been announced, the government has repeatedly stated that it is listening to families, professionals and organisations as proposals are developed. Some elements of the plans have already been adjusted following feedback during consultation and engagement events.

At this stage, nothing changes immediately. Existing SEND legal protections, EHCPs and appeal rights remain in place while proposals continue to be considered.

However, many parent carer groups, charities and SEND organisations remain concerned about aspects of the reforms, particularly around:

- The future role of EHCPs.
- How support will be accessed in mainstream schools.
- Whether families will retain strong legal rights and routes of appeal.
- How consistently support will be delivered across different areas.

For Buckinghamshire families, this means it is important to stay informed and engage with discussions about the future of SEND provision. The decisions made over the coming months could shape how children and young people access support for years to come.

Have your say

Parent carers who have views about SEND reform are encouraged to:

- Share your experiences with FACT BUCKS Buckinghamshire's Parent Carer Forum.
- Contact your local MP.
- Respond to consultations and engagement opportunities where available.
- Continue sharing real-life experiences of what is working well and what needs to improve.

The summer period provides an opportunity for families to ensure their voices are heard before any future policy decisions are made. The message from many campaigners is simple: if changes are being considered, families should be part of the conversation.



What services of support would you like to be able to access at your Family Hub?

What resources and equipment would improve the current offer at your Family Hub?

What activity groups and courses would you like to see at your local Family Hub?

What are the best ways to make sure that families are aware of what is on offer in Family Hubs?