



23rd October 2024

Here is the information bulletin for this week. Remember if you need any further details about anything shown in the bulletin, please don't hesitate to contact one of our Family Liaison Officers.

News from Sparkle and our Children's Centres

- ★ Month at a glance October
- ★ Family Liaison Service
- ★ Sparkle Survey What childcare solutions do you want to see for children with disabilities?
- ★ Sparkle Halloween Events
- ★ SNAP Cymru
- ★ Contact Free Wellbeing Programme for Parent Carers in Wales @ Serennu
- **★** ISCAN Process
- ★ RDP Law Charity Quiz for Sparkle

UK and news from Gwent

- ★ Neurodivergence Wales Parents & Carers Virtual Advice Session Staying Safe Online
- ★ Contact Facebook Q&A DLA or Child Disability Payment
- ★ Contact Cymru Let's Chat / Sgwrsio Online Parent Carer led Drop in, Wales
- ★ ERIC Constipation & Autism
- ★ Trinity Protocol
- ★ Accessible Walks
- ★ Cerebra Sleep Seminar's
- ★ Bristol Aquarium Even Calmer Days
- ★ Techniquest Relaxed Sessions
- ★ Buzz quiet session
- ★ Family Fund workshops
- ★ The Aubergine Cafe

Local news

- ★ Torfaen Help shape Torfaen's food strategy
- ★ Torfaen play Go Play Session
- ★ Torfaen Disability Gym Sessions
- ★ Ebbw Vale Family Disability Swim Session
- ★ Torfaen Lending Library Sports Pack
- ★ Monmouthshire Cost of Living Events
- ★ Wild Tots Blaenau Gwent
- ★ Blaenau Gwent Barnardo's event
- ★ Blaenau Gwent Owls at the Library
- ★ MonLife Stay & Play Sessions
- ★ Monlife Spooky Party
- MonLife Halloween at the Attik





News from Sparkle and our Children's Centres

Month at a glance – October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Unpaid Carers Coffee Morning Blaenau Gwent Brynmawr Rugby Club, 10-12pm (Every Tuesday)	2nd SNAP Cmyru sesions @ Nevill Hall 10am-12pm Please book a slot National Youth Advocacy Drop In Session @ Serennu 10am-12pm	3rd Newport Autism support group @ Serennu 10am-12pm	Sparkle Coffee Group @ Serennu 10am - 12pm	5 th	6 th
7th Last Chance to book on to the CCP Sleep workshop Autism Family Support Monmouthshire Coffee & Chat Together Works Caldicot 9.30pm-11.30pm	Autism Family Support Monmouthshire Coffee & Chat Bridges Centre 9.30pm-11.30pm SNAP Cmyru sesions @ Serennu 10am-1.30pm Please book a slot	gth .	10 th	11 th	12 th Dad's Group Gwent @ Serennu 10am-12pm	13 th
14 th CCP Introduction to Sleep (online) 12:30-2:30pm	15 th	16 th Last Chance to book on to the CCP Transitions & Separations Workshop	17 th ADHD+ support group @ Serennu 10am-12pm	18th Information Day @ Serennu Please email to book time slot 9:30-11am 11am-12:30pm 1-2:30pm Caerphilly Carers Coffee Afternoon @ The Old Library Caerphilly 2pm -3:30pm	19 th	20 th
21 st	22 nd	23 rd CCP Transitions & Separations workshop (online) 10am-12pm	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th Sparkle North Halloween Event
28 th	29 th	30 th Sparkle South Halloween Event Blaenau Gwent Small Steps Group Blaina ICC 9:30-11:30am	31 st			





Family Liaison Service

As a service we now have one generic email address

ABB.FamilyLiaisonOfficer@wales.nhs.uk

Please use this email to contact the service, one of our Family Liaison Officers will get back to you.

Family Liaison Service



- Do you have a child or young person diagnosed or undergoing an assessment for a disability or developmental difficulty?
- Do you live in Gwent?
- Do you want to know about local services and activities which you or your child/young person can access?
- Do you sometimes find it difficult knowing who to turn to for help, information or advice?

Our Family Liaison Officers are extremely passionate about promoting appropriate services and support that is available.

We act as a first point of contact for all families, to help with enquiries about services and leisure activities that children and young people can access.

We offer guidance and support to help families navigate the 'system', signpost to the correct professionals and provide support and resources.

We ensure that families are provided with access to appropriate services and to obtain feedback to inform service development.



Email our team of
Family Liaison Officers
ABB.FamilyLiaisonOfficer@wales.nhs.uk

Speak to a Family Liaison Officer Serennu Children's Centre - 01633 748013 Nevill Hall Children's Centre - 01873 732712 Caerphilly Children's Centre - 02920 867447







What childcare solutions do you want to see for children with disabilities?

We understand that there are a number of barriers to childcare for families with children with disabilities.

Sparkle is conducting a survey on behalf of the Childcare Expert Group Wales, with the aim of understanding childcare priorities among families of children with disabilities and providing clear recommendations for improvements to childcare to be shared with Welsh Government.

Please take a few minutes to share your views (anonymously) here:

https://www.research.net/r/disabilitychildcaresolutions





Sparkle Halloween Events

to book please follow the link

https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/select/eFRcolvhXWNm







SNAP Cymru

Snap Cymru will be at our children's centres over the next few months for drop-in sessions. You can attend any centre to speak to a representative from SNAP Cymru.



Serennu	Nevill Hall	Caerphilly
12 th November	6 th November	Dates to be confirmed
10am-1:30am	10am-12:30pm	
10 th December	19 th November	Dates to be confirmed
10am-1:30am	10am-12:30pm	
	17 th December	Dates to be confirmed
	10am-12:30pm	

If you would like to book on to any of the drop-in sessions above, please email the relevant centre

Serennu – <u>ABB.FamilyLiaisonOfficer@wales.nhs.uk</u> Nevill Hall - <u>ABB.FamilyLiaisonNorth@wales.nhs.uk</u> Caerphilly - <u>ABB.FamilyLiaisonWest@wales.nhs.uk</u>

Snap Cymru

For issue that involve school I recommend Snap Cymru. Snap Cymru is an Independent parental support by SNAP Cymru (Special Needs Advisory Project Cymru).

SNAP Cymru is a charity that offers information and support to families of children and young people who have special educational needs. The service is: Free, Confidential and Independent.

What Can SNAP Cymru Do?

Talk to you about your concerns. Visit you at home if you want them to. Help you understand how your child can be helped. Help you write down your views about your child. Support you at meetings, school, visits and discussions with professionals who are working with your child if you wish. Give you information about the services in your area and how you might be able to find the support you need.

Contact Information

Talk to someone on 0808 801 0608
Email on: gwent@snapcymru.org
Visit their website at: www.snapcymru.org





Contact - Free Wellbeing Programme for Parent Carers in Wales @ Serennu

FREE 8-Week Programme for Parents of Children with Disabilities or Additional Needs

Are you a parent of a child with disabilities or additional needs? Contact Cymru is offering a free 8-week wellbeing programme starting this November in Newport.

Our series of workshops will help you to build resilience and confidence, manage stress and make positive changes. The sessions are informal, fun, and supportive and you'll walk away with new skills, connections, and a sense of empowerment!

Weekly starting 5th November. Sessions mostly run on Tuesdays from 10am-12.30pm

Cocation: Serennu Children's Centre, Newport, Wales

To sign up or learn more, please visit:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/building-resilience-well-beingworkshops-for-parent-carers-in-wales-tickets-1038799395957?aff=oddtdtcreator



Free Wellbeing Programme for Parent Carers in Wales

An 8 session programme to build confidence and resilience, manage stress and carve out time for YOU



Serennu Children's Centre, Newport



contact For families with disabled children





ISCAN Process

(Integrated Support for Children with Additional Needs)

Follow the link below for more information

ISCAN (Integrated Support for Children with Additional Needs) :: Healthier Together (cymru.nhs.uk)







Calling all Quiz Fans

We are thrilled to announce that RDP Law Limited, one of our charity partners of the year, is hosting a Quiz Night Holiday Inn Newport to raise money for Sparkle.







UK and news from Gwent



Staying Safe Online

Emma Durman, Autside

Thursday, 14th of November 2024, 10:00am - 12:00pm

About the session

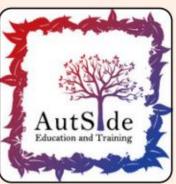
The online world has many benefits for autistic people. However, with these positives come risks. This session will focus on managing those risks and helping parents/carers keep their autistic/neurodivergent young people safe online. The session will include:

- · maintaining privacy
- Cyberbullying
- Grooming
- · Vulnerability to exploitation
- · Setting healthy boundaries

About the presenter

Emma Durman is co-director of Autside Education & Training, a company based in South Wales that specialises in Autism and related conditions. Autside provides a range of training to families and professionals focussed on supporting neurodivergent needs. Emma is a late diagnosed autistic woman who also has ADHD and multiple co-existing conditions. She is also mum to an Autistic teenager who also has ADHD. Emma has a MSc in Autism and related conditions and is co-author of the recently published book 'Supporting Autistic people through pregnancy and childbirth'.





To book your place please use this link:

https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/26a99a34-b7fc-4c89-ba96c3e24ed66cff@6850a7f1-4cc1-4482-a1c1-79439f679966

(Please note: this session is for parents & carers only)





Contact - Facebook Q&A DLA or Child Disability Payment

If you're a parent wondering if DLA or Child Disability Payment is a benefit you can claim for your child, or you're in receipt already, this is your chance to ask our helpline advisers any questions you might have — such as who is eligible, how to claim it, dealing with renewals and changes in circumstances.

We're running a special Q&A session on Thursday 24th October at 10-11.30am in our closed (private) Facebook Group for parent carers.

Join our group here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/ContactFamiliesGroup







Contact Cymru - Let's - Chat / Sgwrsio - Online Parent Carer led Drop in, Wales

Building Resilience Project funded by The National Lottery Community Fund.

Contact Cymru Online Drop-in for Families of Children with additional needs living in Wales. Let's Chat



Get the kettle on, grab a biscuit, and join us for an introduction to Contact Cymru, meet our Wales Parent Volunteers, and chat with other parents. A welcome session for all parents of children with any additional needs living in Wales, no diagnosis necessary.

Help for families - For every shape and size of family, whatever they need and whatever their child's disability, we're here. Find out how we can help you!

Everybody is welcome, come along to chat or just listen. Feel comfortable joining with your camera or sound / off or on. You can come along for the full session, or just pop in to ask a quick question.

Drop ins are delivered in English.

For more information follow please follow the link below

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lets-chat-sgwrsio-online-parent-carer-led-drop-in-wales-tickets-1053294104019?aff=oddtdtcreator&fbclid=IwY2xjawGEUhRleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHQo5s-nmzq9hf5df2FYzhOuZsE-LnL5s3JcWPlYZFn6XG U3uj7upkcaqw aem Rgg8vP9W hT4qgwcS1BfQw





ERIC – Constipation & Autism

Do you think your autistic child might be constipated?

While many autistic children have no difficulties with constipation, it can often be a problem. This can cause a delay in potty training and your child achieving reliable bowel and also bladder control.

Constipation can also cause pain and anxiety for children and parents on top of the other issues faced day to day.

Check out the Children and Autism page on our website (https://eric.org.uk/constipation-and-autism/) for more information and support to help your child with constipation including...

Reasons why autistic children become constipated

How can you spot constipation?

How to relieve constipation











HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE 'TRINITY PROTOCOL'?

The 'Trinity Protocol' is an opportunity for parents and carers to register the details of those with additional needs, such as Autism, Global Developmental Delay (GDD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or other learning difficulties, on our systems. People can also register themselves, if they have additional learning needs.

It increases officers' awareness of an individual's needs and helps the police, should they come into contact with the individual, adapt their response and provide more appropriate support.

The protocol is a risk reduction tool and named after Caerphilly's Trinity Fields Additional Needs School, where Gwent Police introduced the UK's first police cadets scheme in an additional needs setting.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

The form contains vital information about the person that can be added to our police systems, preferably with a recent photograph.

This allows officers to have important information available, that could save precious time and help officers reassure the person if they need assistance.

The person does not need to have had previous contact with the Police to complete a form.

To request a form, or if you are part of a Neighbourhood Watch, community group or support service and would like to find out more about Trinity Protocol, please get in touch at **crimeprevention@gwent.pnn.police.uk**.

If you require assistance in completing the form or have any enquires please email: **NeuroDiversity@gwent.police.uk** where someone will contact you at the earliest opportunity.



Trowch drosodd am fersiwn Cymraeg.









Accessible walks

This website is a useful resource to find out about accessible walks in Wales

https://naturalresources.wales/days-out/places-to-visit/accessible-visits/?lang=en



Accessible visitor centres



Improving access to our places for all



Accessible walking trails



Trails for users of adaptive equipment





Cerebra Sleep Seminar's



We understand that if you have one child that doesn't sleep, the whole family suffers. Our range of sleep services will help your child - and everyone in your family - get a good night's sleep.



Sleep Seminars

Our online Sleep Seminars aim to give you the knowledge, skills and confidence to deal with sleep issues so the whole family can get a good night's sleep.

They take place on Zoom and are a shorter version of our in-person sleep workshops. Sessions are limited to 15 places so our Sleep Practitioners can answer questions and interact with participants so booking is essential.

Understanding and supporting children's sleep for parents and carers of children with brain conditions aims to:

To build on your knowledge and understanding of sleep and what impacts/improves it

To increase your skills when addressing issues of settling, night waking, early rising and sleeping alone

To improve your confidence to apply information gained to your own situation.

Upcoming Seminars

Thursday 30th November, 10am – 12.30pm

Book Now

Sleep Seminar Booking Form - Cerebra







Bristol Aquarium – Even Calmer Days

Even Calmer Days to allow visitors to explore the aquarium on weekends. Our next Even Calmer Day is **Friday 15 November.**



Our dedicated Even Calmer days create a more relaxing sensory experience for any customers who may need it. We will be turning off our music, and children's rides as well as increasing our lighting levels for the whole day. We will be open at 10am with late opening until 6pm, last entry 5pm.

Accessibility | Visitor Information | Bristol Aquarium





Techniquest Relaxed Session



We run Relaxed Sessions on a Sunday morning once a month, usually on the first weekend.

Next Sessions 10th November

If you choose a 10am or 11am entry ticket, you'll find that our usual operational model will be dialled down a little to allow guests to enjoy a slightly more relaxed experience of Techniquest for a few hours on a Sunday morning.

During that time, we'll be making a few adjustments including:



<u>The Pod</u>, our small and private room where you can get away from the usual hustle and bustle of the floor briefly should you need to, will be available as usual: you can find it on <u>the map</u>, just along the corridor from the show portal, on the way to the Science Theatre.

Everyone is welcome to come along to Techniquest on these Sunday mornings, and **the Relaxed Session tickets will be valid for the whole of the day** — but we will gradually return to standard operating model from 12 noon onwards, re-introducing Star Tours in the Planetarium and Live Science Shows in the Science Theatre for the afternoon in the usual way.

And don't forget, we have ear defenders that can be borrowed and <u>Sensory Bags available to hire</u> at the front desk should you need any additional support when the relaxed hours are over.

To experience one of our relaxed sessions, simply choose General Admission tickets in the usual way via our online booking site, and select either 10am or 11am on the first Sunday of the month.

To book - Relaxed Sessions • Techniquest



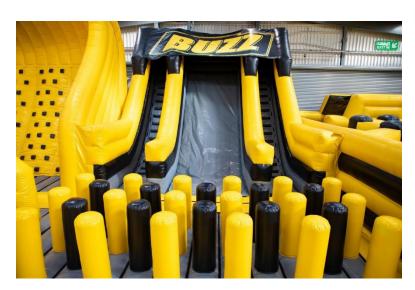




BUZZ Parks Cardiff

Quiet session, Friday the 1st of November 9.45am

BUZZ Cardiff, Ty Glas Avenue, Llanishen, Cardiff CF14 5DX Tel: 02920 099899





Booking available via the website.

Home (booknow.software)







Family Fund Workshops

A range of workshops are delivered by specialists and Family Fund staff. Workshops are a safe space to learn new skills with other families raising disabled children.

These workshops also include -

iPad workshop: Halloween pop up pictures

Date: Wednesday 30 October
Time: 10.30 am to 11.30 am
Location: Online via Zoom

Halloween pop up picture creative workshop - Weds 30 Oct, 10.30am (smartsurvey.co.uk)

Halloween badge buddies

Date: Wednesday 30 October
Time: 1 pm to 2 pm
Location: Online via Zoom

Halloween badge buddies creative workshop - Wed 29 Oct, 1pm (smartsurvey.co.uk)

Follow this link to see the full range of workshops on offer:

Workshops - Family Fund







The Aubergine Café

36-38 Cathays Terrace, Cardiff CF24 4HX

The Aubergine Café is the vision of a small team of autistic adults to empower other autistic people, while also providing ethically sourced, nutritious and affordable plant-based food to local people in the wider community.

Alongside being a food business, they are also an arts organisation, developing partnerships with local creatives allowing the café space to function as a versatile platform for creative expression, uplifting autistic voices and providing a cultural and social hub for autistic thinkers, performers and creators, hosting a variety exhibitions, workshops, film screenings and performance events featuring their work.

Email: hello@auberginecafe.co.uk
Website: Aubergine Cafe Cymru

Upcoming events at the Aubergine Arts Café. In-person Events:

Creative Writing

24th October (3 pm to 4 pm) Book Creative Writing (£6.50)

Felting Class

27th October (3 pm to 5 pm) Book 27th Felting Class (£5)

Poetry Workshop

30th October (6 pm to 8 pm) Walk in event





Local News

Torfaen Help shape Torfaen's food strategy

The Torfaen Food Partnership (see below for info about the partnership) is in the early stages of developing a sustainable food strategy for the borough. We'd appreciate your help to ensure it accurately reflects the challenges and opportunities of the community.

By completing the survey, you will help build a strategy that will aim to address key issues related to food security (includes access to affordable, healthy food), health, and environmental sustainability.

Your feedback will be crucial in shaping a strategy that not only promotes healthy eating but also supports local food businesses and reduces the environmental impact of food production and consumption.

The importance of this strategy lies in its comprehensive approach to improving the overall well-being of Torfaen's residents. It aims to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, nutritious food while also fostering a sustainable food economy.

The strategy will work alongside the borough's broader goals of reducing health inequalities, supporting local businesses, and promoting environmental sustainability. By setting clear aims and ambitions, the Torfaen Food Partnership hopes to create a resilient food system that benefits both people and the planet.

Have your say by completing the form below no later than noon on Friday 11 November, 2024.

ATTEND A FACE-TO-FACE EVENT

Want to know more or complete the survey on paper? Come along and chat to the food partnership team at the following locations:

Saturday 19 October (10am-2pm) at Cwmbran Market

Tuesday 22 October (10am-2pm) at Torfaen Works shop, Cwmbran town centre

Thursday 24 October (10am-2pm) at Cwmbran Library

Saturday 26 October (10am-2pm) at Pontypool Indoor Market's Halloween event

Monday 28 October (10am-2pm) at the Well-being event at Blaenavon Constitutional Club, James St, Blaenavon, NP4 9EJ

Saturday 9 November (10am-2pm) at the family day at Blaenavon Workmen's Hall







help shape our FOOD STRATEGY









@chwaraetorfaentorfaenplay



Chwarae Torfaen Torfaen Play



@torfaenplayservice



torfaenplay@torfaen.gov.uk













Family Disability Swim Session

Join us for an inclusive family swim session for children with disabilities to enjoy alongside their siblings and parents or guardians/carers this half term.

Monday 28th & Wednesday 30th October

10am - 11am

P Ebbw Vale Sports Centre

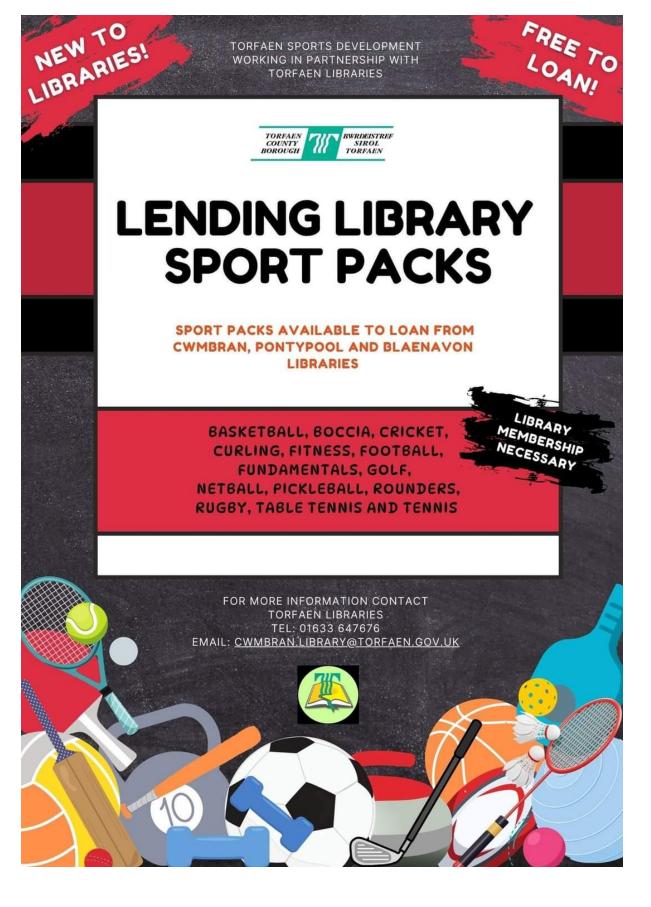
FREE access to disabled children and siblings with a paying adult/carer. Booking is essential - please call Ebbw Vale Sports Centre on 01495 357777. For more info on our half term activities and swim times visit

https://www.bglife.co.uk/half-term-activities-october-2024













COST OF LIVING ADVICE LIVING Play and craft sessions, pumpkin decorating, and more. ADVICE LIVING Play and craft sessions, pumpkin decorating, and more.

Free family activities: food sustainability,

The Community
Development Team have
teamed up with partners
to run a series of events
across Monmouthshire to
help residents, join us for
support, advice and ideas to
help with the cost of living.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- Citizen's Advice
- Local foodbanks
- Severn Wye Energy Agency
- Warm Wales
- Welsh Water
- MCC Council services
- DWP (Department for Work and Pensions)
- Gateway Credit Union

EVENT LOCATIONS AND DATES

Tuesday, 29th October Bridges Centre, Monmouth 11am-4pm

Wednesday, 30th October Chepstow Drill Hall 11am-4pm

Thursday, 31st October Abergavenny Market 11am-4pm

More events to follow!

Anyone can fall behind with bills and get into debt, but it's NEVER too late to seek help and advice, you may be surprised at how much can be done to help you get back on your feet!





COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

MCC Community Development Team. For further advice and support: **Community Development** Team.







OLDER SIBLINGS WELCOME DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

30th October

Augusta Park, Ebbw Vale. NP23 8DN

1st November

Grounds of Bedwellty House, Tredegar. NP22 3XN









Fun Quiz, Lunch & Raffle.

Join the ACT & ACT+ team for a parent/carer well-being activity.

Tuesday 5th November 12pm – 2pm

Tabor Centre, Davies St, Brynmawr.

This activity is for parents/carers of disabled children and young people (0 – 24 years) who live in Blaenau Gwent.

We are able to accommodate a maximum of <u>two adults</u> <u>per household-these must be immediate family</u> <u>members.</u> We are unable to accommodate children at this activity.

If you would like to attend, please email **joanne.harper@barnardos.org.uk** before 27th October.

Please confirm the names of the adults who will be attending and state any allergies/dietary requirements.











Our Halloween themed Stay and Play is Back! Join in and dress up in your favourite fancy dress and get into the spirit of Halloween with face painting! - Please note that parental supervision is required for children under the age of 11!

Chepstow - Bulwark Community Centre, Wednesday 30th October, 10:00am - 11.30am

Magor and Undy - Magor Hwb, Wednesday 30th October, 1.00pm -2.30pm

https://bit.ly/3ZYbYzR



CHWARAE GWEITHREDOL ACTIVE PLAY AM DDIM

Join in and dress up in your favourite fancy dress and get into the spirit of Halloween with face painting! - The Active Play Engagement sessions are for children aged 5-11 years old to engage in a variety of activities such as sports, arts and crafts, and play based activities. All sessions are free of charge to attend.

https://bit.ly/3ZSEeE3





Join us for our Spooky Halloween party at Monmouth Leisure Centre!

SGWISG FFANSI - FANCY DRESS SGEMAU -GAMES CERDDORIAETH- MUSIC

25/10/24 6-8pm













Follow us on our social media channels

Facebook & Instagram @sparkleappealofficial
Twitter @sparkleappeal

www.sparkleappeal.org

The Family Liaison Service is available Monday to Friday across all three Children's Centres

Please see contact details below.

There may be occasions where we cannot answer my phone but if you leave a message and we will respond as soon as possible. If your matter is urgent, please see the contact details below for the team.

Family Liaison Service











Meet our Team

of

Family Liaison Officers

ABB.FamilyLiaisonOfficer@wales.nhs.uk

Speak to a Family Liaison Officer Serennu Children's Centre - 01633 748013 Nevill Hall Children's Centre - 01873 732712 Caerphilly Children's Centre - 02920 867447