

## **Appendix 2: Family Support Derbyshire Overview Report 2021-22**

Over this period Family Support Derbyshire has continued to support local families with children under 5 living with them. We have received a total of 56 referrals over this period and have given support to these families through our service.

Home Visiting – This continues to be our main route of support for local families, a trained volunteer visits the families in their home for 2 – 3 hours per week to support with the difficulties and boundaries that exist around the role of parenting a baby or young child.

Group Work – We run focused parenting and socialisation groups from our premises in Church Street Swadlincote. We have had 23 families access this level of support either as a stand-alone service or as part of a home visiting service addition.

Phone support and resource support – This element grew in importance through the pandemic due to face-to-face visits being less accessible either due to restriction, but more often down to individuals concerns around risk of infection. Social media has played an increased part in supporting families over this period as well as posting out engaging activity packs from specialised input for a particular disability to more general activities to support development and routines.

Volunteer training – we offered three training course opportunities throughout this period with 7 new volunteers trained for South Derbyshire.

Over the pandemic we continued to support families face to face and through other forms of communication, we furloughed no staff, took no subsidies and had no break in service delivery, however the way we work and the legacy from working through the pandemic has strengthened our service. Socialisation and communication of our youngest has been hit hard over this difficult period and as we come out of the pandemic, we are seeing far more need in these areas. From speech and language delays to attachment concerns and lack of socialisation skills, family Support Derbyshire continues to work with all our families to support in removing these difficulties, building networks around our families and giving them skills to access their community.

Whilst the pandemic maybe subsided now and we are entering back into normality Family Support Derbyshire is working hard to build its capacity and its partnerships to bring more money and resources into the area so that we can direct more support to our youngest and most vulnerable in our community. We are strategically prepared for the increase in demand on our service in the area over the next three years and have ambitious plans to ensure our babies, toddlers and pre-school cohort are not left behind as a result of the pandemic and its knock-on socio-economic impact.