

Citivismision

News...features...plus more about how the city is bouncing back from COVID-19

Special Edition



• A personal message from Cllr George Duggins, Leader, Coventry City Council.

Managing services in the best way possible

The strike by bin lorry drivers has affected us all, and we are doing everything we can to mitigate the inevitable disruption this action – which is out of our control – has caused.

We are determined to lawfully resolve it as quickly as possible and I'd like to thank people for their patience and their community spirit in helping out friends and neighbours.

This is an ever-changing situation and there are more details on page 5 and on our website: www.coventry.gov.uk/bindays

As well as bin collections, we provide around 700 services, and we are continuing to lead on projects to benefit the welfare of people of all ages and build a city that is a great place to live, work and study in.

In this edition, you will find details of Radio 1's Big Weekend, the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and the International Children's Games as well as our year as UK City of Culture.

There are also many examples of innovation applied across services, from transport to building, and housing to care. This helps us manage the Council's finances in the most effective way possible – exactly as you would expect.



Standing with Giants - a recent exhibition of silhouettes of health and care workers at Coombe Country Park.

Thank you NHS and carers

This March, the nation will mark the second anniversary of the first COVID lockdown and the time when life changed for everyone. In the two years since, the country and the city have seen lockdowns, mass testing, the vaccination programme, quarantine periods and so much more. It has also seen such courage and selflessness by so many. Our health and care services and frontline workers have risked their own safety to keep others safe, and people from all walks of life have volunteered to take up vital positions in new areas such as shielding and testing centres.

Social supermarkets, food hubs and neighbourhood friendship/support groups supported people across the city, and many of these are still operating today. The anniversary on 23 March will give everyone the chance to take a moment to look back, remember those we have lost, and say their own personal

thank you to those who have kept us safe. Cllr Duggins said:

"The response from people across the city over the past two years has been amazing. No-one could have seen the enormous and long-lasting changes that COVID would bring, but as a city we rallied and worked as one

– organisations, businesses and residents – to help one another and protect the most vulnerable. People went through such a lot. We were kept apart from loved ones in hospitals and care homes, many were isolated and alone, but I am so proud at the way we came together as One Coventry to offer support and help where we could. We know we are not yet free of the pandemic and we must now learn to live with it as a part of our lives. We must continue to be careful, to test and get the vaccine when offered - but we can also start to look to the future and a return to a more normal way of life. That has been made possible because of the sacrifices and work of all in the city – thank you."

He added: *"On 23 March, please take some time to think of those we have lost and those who have done so much to protect us, and please continue to keep safe and help to beat this virus."*

Superfast solution to fix city's potholes

Potholes in Coventry will be patched and fixed in super quick time after the Council's highways service purchased JCB's revolutionary pothole and patch fixer.

The Council took part in a trial demonstration on Abbey Road, last summer, where the machine repaired in excess of 100 m² of patches in the road in just two hours. A stretch of road that usually takes four days to repair.

After closely monitoring the potential impact on road repairs

the Council ordered the machine and it is now working on city roads.

The JCB PotholePro breaks the road and cleans the hole, without the need for any hand working, so a permanent repair can be carried out.

Cllr Patricia Hetherington, Cabinet Member for City Services at Coventry City Council, pictured below, said:

"Freezing conditions affect our roads during winter and have a big impact - so innovations like this are really important."

"We've almost 900 kilometres of road to look after. So, anything that can speed up the process of repair and maintenance and save money is a win-win."



Walking in a Window Wanderland



Credit: Jamie Gray

In early 2022, homes across Coventry and Warwickshire will once again light up their front windows and gardens.

Anyone can join in, and we hope everyone can encourage their neighbours up and down the street to get involved too. Last year's Window Wanderland brought so much joy to Coventry, with hundreds of windows across the city decorated with homemade artwork, and this year promises to be even bigger.

To take part, simply visit the City of Culture website and find

Find links to the area pages, an online resource pack, window inspiration and more by heading to coventry2021.co.uk

out when it will be happening in your area, then register your address on your area's Window Wanderland page. When the time comes, release your inner artist and create a display in your window or garden for everyone to enjoy. Whether it's some tissue paper and glue, or something more elaborate, get stuck in and be part of bringing colour and light to our streets.



Scheme to promote safest pubs

A new scheme is underway in the city to increase the numbers of pubs and licensed venues that create a safer night-time environment.

Best Bar None accreditation scheme is supported by the Home Office and drinks industry. It aims to improve standards in the evening and night-time economy and reduce alcohol related disorder. The Council operates the programme which is supported by the Business Improvement District, West Midlands Police, the Destination Management Partnership and

the local Pubwatch scheme.

Best Bar None accredited venues so far include Flying Standard, The Holyhead, Earl of Mercia, The Spon Gate, City Arms, Turtle Bay, JJ's Nightclub and Phillip Larkin.

Accreditation covers venue management, staff training and care, customer safety and welfare, and customer service and community.

Gary Holloway, manager at JJ's, said:

"Hopefully people will recognise that those venues that have been through the process are the ones that are striving to be safer, and achieve higher standards of customer care."

For further information contact licensing@coventry.gov.uk



Radio 1's Big Weekend 2022

BBC Radio 1's annual flagship live music event is expecting more than 70,000 music fans when it hosts the biggest names in international music from 27 – 29 May 2022.

Cllr George Duggins, Leader of Coventry City Council, said:

"We're incredibly pleased that Radio 1's Big Weekend 2022 will be held in the city's War Memorial Park."

"It is the perfect way for our city to finish its year as UK City of Culture."

Full broadcast information, along with line-up and ticketing details, will be announced soon.

Could you help to tell the city's story?



COVENTRY NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU

BECOME A CITY HOST
COVENTRY2021.CO.UK/CITYHOSTS

2021

It's not too late to join the City Hosts with lots more events planned in 2022 for the UK City of Culture. Applicants will have the opportunity to volunteer at some of the amazing events planned to finish the year. Imagine being able to say *"I was a part of that."*

To sign up visit coventry2021.co.uk/cityhosts



Credit: Refik Anadol Studio

The UK's first permanent immersive digital art gallery is opening in Coventry

Following on from the huge popularity of immersive art spaces around the world, this new state-of-the-art visitor attraction will feature innovative art commissions and will be a prominent feature of the City of Culture programme in spring/summer 2022 and beyond.

The Reel Store opens in Spring 2022 with an exhibition by internationally renowned artist **Refik Anadol, Machine**

Memoirs: Space, which will be a 360-degree cinematic experience suitable for the whole family.

Tickets go on sale in **February 2022**, sign up to the newsletter at coventry2021.co.uk to be among the first to find out more.

Apply for your Go CV card and start saving now

Everyone who pays their Council Tax to Coventry City Council is eligible for a **FREE** Go CV card and you can apply online at www.go-cv.co.uk/register

There are loads of benefits to having a card including exclusive offers at some of the city's attractions, events and activities.

In partnership with:

www.go-cv.co.uk/register



Funding award to build 2022 Commonwealth Games legacy

Sport England has awarded £624,624 of new funding to Coventry as part of its wider investment into the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The aim of the funding is to tackle inactivity in local communities and engage underrepresented groups, such as people on lower incomes and disabled people.

The National Lottery-funded investment has been awarded to Coventry City Council as part of a £3m Commonwealth Active Communities Fund to support

the creation of a wide range of opportunities to help people get active locally.

Coventry will host judo, rugby sevens and wrestling at Coventry Arena during the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games from **28 July to 8 August 2022** in addition to a community arts festival in the city.



Pictured: ICG 2022 partners at the official launch.

Countdown to International Children's Games in Coventry

Running from **11-16 August** the event sees over **1,500 young athletes**, including 'Team Coventry', representing **80 cities across five continents** competing in a number of sports.

Coventry aims to make the Games the greenest ever, making environmentally conscious decisions at every stage, while 2022 will also see the first time in the history of International Children's Games where the event will be fully inclusive, through hosting disability sports.

Find more information and to keep up to date on the International Children's Games by heading to www.coventryicg2022.org



MotoFest looks back to the future

MotoFest Coventry is returning on **10 and 11 September** with its unique Ring Road circuit, live motorsport across the city centre, and a look into the motoring future.

The 2022 festival will also provide the finale for Our Future Moves, a project showcasing the region's work in world leading transport innovation, and involving Coventry City Council, MotoFest Coventry and other regional partners.

Cllr Abdul Salam Khan, Cabinet Member for Events, at Coventry City Council added:

"Coventry has an amazing history and ongoing exciting story to tell on transport, innovation and how we are at the forefront of automotive design and technology."

The festival will also showcase the latest alternatively fuelled vehicles, electric cars and advanced automotive technology.

For more details visit www.coventrymotofest.com

Rugby League World Cup confirms new match date

Rugby League World Cup 2021 (RLWC2021) organisers have confirmed the dates for 2022, including Coventry's match that will now take place on **Friday 21 October**.

Australia v Scotland match will take place at Coventry Building Society Arena. Tickets are available now at rlwc2021.com and start at **£15**.

Cllr Kamran Caan, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport, said:

"I am thrilled that the Rugby League World Cup team has secured the dates in 2022 for the postponed matches."

"2022 is going to be a year full of sport and cultural activity in the city as Coventry's RLWC2021 match will take place shortly after the International Children's Games and the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games."

"We really look forward to taking the sports from these major events and delivering them at grassroots level to our communities so everyone will get to enjoy the celebrations and get active."

Tell us your story

To mark Coventry as UK's City of Culture the Royal British Legion has created a website to commemorate 100 years of service and sacrifice from the people of Coventry.

If you have a relative who has served, or who is serving, then the Legion want to hear their story. For details www.wcs-group.co.uk/royal-british-legion

Get vaccinated and get your booster dose

All adults in England have now been offered at least two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccines are safe and effective. Getting fully vaccinated is the best way of protecting you and others against COVID-19.

If you have not yet received the COVID-19 vaccine, you should get vaccinated. Evidence indicates that two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine provide very effective protection against hospitalisation.

However, to maintain this high level of protection,

Visit one of the drop-in clinics in the city:

www.coventry.gov.uk/coronavirusvaccinationdropinclinics

Or make an appointment at one of the vaccination sites via the national booking system:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/

Latest guidance

Following the latest guidance will help you to understand situations where there is a greater risk of catching or spreading COVID-19 and the steps that you can take to stay safe and protect others. Every action you can take to help reduce the spread will help reduce pressure on the NHS.

For latest details visit: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Turning the lives of rough sleepers around



People supported by the Council's rough sleeper outreach team often enter the service in dire need of help.

But with the right package of support many rough sleepers have been able to make more positive lifestyle choices and have moved on to live in secure accommodation.

John Toman, Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator, explains that with a secure space to live they can pursue hobbies and engage in more fulfilling activities.

John said:

"Before I started working with rough sleepers, I thought finding a place to live was the end of the journey when in fact I've learned it's just the beginning. For many the draw of the streets is strong and some people don't stay in their new flats or rooms.

"Ex-rough sleepers will often lose their new accommodation either for not staying there or for not paying rent and bills. They need lots of support to help them settle and get used to paying bills."

Change into Action donations Katrina Kavanagh, who is a Senior Outreach Worker with the Rough Sleeping Outreach Team, said:

"We've managed to help people that little bit more through Change into Action, which is a public donations scheme.

"Over Christmas our passionate rough sleepers team arranged gift boxes to all our clients, gifts were provided for clients who were visiting children and family members and even those with dogs receive a doggy stocking.

"Donations of Christmas Trees, decorations and hampers were given to those who were spending their first Christmas under their own roof.

Additional help through Change into Action, included equipment for a DJ, bus passes for those wanting to work and gym memberships."

John added:

"Ironically the kindness of people handing cash directly to people sleeping in the city centre can draw them back to the streets.

"Change into Action allows people to donate money, but 100% of the money is spent directly on something a rough sleeper really needs.

"It is used to buy items to help people either move into a new place or something that helps them settle and stay there."

Shop front donations

Coventry Building Society is also funding touch points where you can make a £3 donation via a contactless card payment to Change into Action at Coventry Building Society High Street, McDonalds in the Burges and Timpsons in Broadgate.

For details visit www.changeintoaction.org.uk

Wellbeing for Life

Did you know that the little things you do can improve your health and wellbeing and the 5 Ways to Wellbeing could be the key.

Find out more at www.wellbeing4life.co.uk

Help us keep Coventry moving

When you're managing a long-term health condition, everyone has their own starting point to help them to keep active and weareundefeatable.co.uk offers advice and tips to get moving.

If you are unsure about the suitability of any of the exercises get professional medical advice on your plan, and build up gradually to minimise any risks.

weareundefeatable.co.uk

16 Weeks of Action against sexual violence and sexual assault

For anyone in the city who may be a victim of sexual assault and abuse, or if you are worried that a family member or friend may be at risk, there is help and support available.

The 16 Weeks of Action campaign is raising awareness of the support services across

Coventry and Warwickshire until 28 March. If you have been a victim of sexual assault or abuse in Coventry or Warwickshire, contact the Police on 101 or if you don't want to report to the Police you can contact Blue Sky Centre on **01926 507805** 24/7 365 days per year.

CLlr Pervez Akhtar, Chair of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, said:

"It is absolutely vital that people are aware that there is support available. It is a crime that can often go unreported and more needs to be done. We have to do everything we can so that the victims know that police and other agencies are there to support them whatever the circumstances."

If you are a survivor of sexual abuse in the past and you live in Coventry then contact **CRASAC Helpline** on **024 7627 7777** for advice - **Monday to Friday 10am-2pm, Monday and Thursday 6pm-8pm.**

Views needed on local pharmacies

Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council are working with the NHS to understand how people use pharmacies and how they could be improved.

Give your views at letstalk.coventry.gov.uk/candwpharmacy or ask for a paper version by emailing PNAsurvey@coventry.gov.uk or calling **08085 834333**.

Controls on houses in multiple occupation

Plans, to help control the numbers of residential properties turned into houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) in parts of the city, has the support of senior Coventry Councillors.

A public consultation is being planned in the summer to change rules which at present enables landlords and property developers to turn some residential homes into (HMOs) without planning permission.

The proposal, called an Article 4 Direction, would place restrictions on residential property conversions in areas which already have high levels of HMOs. All HMO conversions would need planning approval if an Article 4 is implemented.

Councillor David Welsh, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, said:

"We want to manage the development of HMOs and there are areas of the city where we need to have the ability to control their numbers."

"Housing developments must meet housing needs in the city. That means good quality affordable homes that serve all of our residents delivering the right amount of open space including areas for play and recreation, and that have a positive impact on our neighbourhoods."

Temporary bin collection arrangements

The union Unite, which represents bin lorry drivers, recently confirmed that their strike action was set to escalate, with no collections at all during February and March. This is affecting all residential and commercial operations.



We are working hard to lawfully end the dispute and we want to get drivers back to work as soon as possible so they can deliver the service all residents want and deserve.

We opened drop sites for you to take your waste to in an attempt to ease the situation, but with the escalation in action, we are now working with Tom White Waste to provide fortnightly collections of green-lidded (household) bins.

The fortnightly collections will use Council vehicles rented to Tom White Waste and the Council's own collection teams. **The service will run Tuesdays to Fridays, with Mondays dedicated to collections from flats and businesses.**



Household Waste

You can find out when your next scheduled collection is:

On line

www.coventry.gov.uk/bindays

By calling the contact centre on –
08085 834333

Popping into your **local library**



Recycling

Recycling can be taken to any of the drop sites which are open seven days a week.

www.coventry.gov.uk/dropsites



Garden Waste

Garden waste collections are currently suspended.

We would like to thank every resident for their patience. We know there has been a real community effort here and we thank everyone who has helped a friend, neighbour or family member to get waste to a drop site or to make sure they know when their next collection is.

No need to book, just turn up.

Drop sites, are often busy, so please allow time for your visit. You will be guided in and asked to place securely bagged waste in a holding area.

This will ensure we keep people moving as quickly as possible.

For the most up to date information visit www.coventry.gov.uk/bindays
These details were accurate at the time of going to print 7 February 2022

Planning support for major battery production site

The West Midlands Gigafactory joint venture has taken the next step in its journey to deliver a Gigafactory in the West Midlands with planning committees supporting the outline planning application for its site in Coventry and Warwickshire.



Warwick District Council and Coventry City Council have resolved to approve outline plans for a Gigafactory, and Michael Gove the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has decided

not to review the application.

It will result in £2.5bn investment, creating up to 6,000 new highly skilled jobs directly alongside thousands more in the wider supply chain in Coventry, Warwickshire and the

surrounding region.

With many major automotive manufacturers based in the West Midlands region, the site is production ready from 2025, the 530,000sqm facility will manufacture high-tech lithium-ion batteries for the global automotive and energy storage industries.

Cllr Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change at Coventry City Council, said:

"The Gigafactory will put us at the front of the green industrial revolution bringing significant investment and job creation to our city."

"The next step is to secure an investor to ensure that the wider automotive and battery ecosystem in Coventry and the West Midlands continues to contribute towards increased economic growth, job creation and skills development."

West Midlands Gigafactory is a public-private joint venture between Coventry City Council and Coventry Airport Ltd. It has support from a unique alliance of West Midlands industrial groups, local government and academic institutions.

£8.6m cycle route underway

Work has started on the Binley Cycleway in Coventry.

The 6km segregated cycle route will allow people to safely travel by bike from the city centre along Binley Road to University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire via the Binley Business Park on Harry Weston Road.

Coventry City Council and Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), which is part of the WMCA, have developed plans to deliver a cycle scheme that will form part of a wider 10km strategic East-West connection, linking with the Coundon Cycleway under construction.

The final scheme has the potential to increase the number of daily cycle journeys taken in the area by more than 400.



What will transport look like in the future?

A draft transport strategy for the city has been developed that could change the way that people travel around the city in the future.

It aims to provide a transport system where cars are used less, and it is convenient, and safe to walk, cycle, and travel on public transport. Planned improvements including the

innovative Very Light Rail system, fully segregated cycleways, expanding electric vehicle charging points, and the an all-electric bus fleet all form part of the document.

Tell us what you think at www.letstalk.coventry.gov.uk/covtransportstrat
Consultation ends 13 March.

130 electric buses ordered for city



A £50 million scheme to make Coventry the UK's first All-Electric Bus City has taken a huge step forward. National Express Coventry has put in an order for 130 fully electric double decker buses.

National Express Coventry's brand-new zero-emission buses will enter into service in early 2023.

Agreements with other bus companies and those running subsidised services are likely to follow, with the aim of putting a total of 262 electric buses on the streets of Coventry by 2025.

In addition to new vehicles, TfWM, which is part of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), is also working with Coventry City Council to create the necessary charging infrastructure, including pantograph overhead charges,

to power over 250 new buses. This will include upgrades to bus depots and charging points at Pool Meadow Bus Station.

National Express Coventry has been operating 10 fully electric buses across the city since summer 2020.

Each of the 10 buses can charge up in four hours and can run for 220 kilometres in the winter or 280 kilometres in the summer before needing another charge.

Coventry residents could save money on their energy bills by accessing free energy efficiency advice and grants. To apply you need to be the homeowner of an energy inefficient home and fit the low-income eligibility criteria.

>> To find out more, please call Act on Energy – 0800 988 2881

Businesses based in Coventry and Warwickshire can access the Council's Green Business Programme which provides grants and free energy and resource efficiency audits to identify where savings can be made.

>> To apply please email greenbusiness@coventry.gov.uk

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE
GREEN BUSINESS
NETWORK >>>>

St Mary's Guildhall described as 'best example of historic restoration work'

Restoration work at the 600-year-old St Mary's Guildhall has been described as one of the best conservation projects in the country according to the venues project manager.

Andrew Hutchings, of Crofts Building and Conservation Ltd, which is leading on the restoration scheme, said:

"It has been a challenging but fascinating project to work on, and one of the most interesting restoration projects I have ever been involved in."

"From the stained glass, to the amazing wall paintings, it has been incredible the number of artifacts and architectural works we have been able to restore and reimagine."

More than £6 million has been invested in restoring many parts of the beautiful Grade 1 listed venue with funding from the Cultural Capital Investment Fund, which is resourced from Coventry City Council, Arts Council England and the Getting Building Fund through the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Highlights will include:

A new display case which will preserve the specially conserved tapestry for future generations

and enable it to be better displayed for residents and visitors to enjoy.

The best-preserved Medieval Kitchen in the country; fully restored and uncovered for the first time in centuries.

Conservation of previously faded or covered wall paintings to bring them back to their original glory and all the stained glass has been fully conserved.

Cllr David Welsh, Cabinet Member for arts and heritage in the city, said:

"I've been regularly visiting the Guildhall and the



transformation is fantastic.

"The work to conserve so much of the history of this jewel in the city, has been to a very high standard. I think local people and visitors will be really impressed with what has been achieved."

The redevelopment of the hall is one of more than a dozen great cultural capital projects that are being achieved through more than £40m of external funding.



Pictured above and top right: Cllr O'Boyle and Cllr Welsh take a closer look at the restoration work

A new insight into the city's history

The Guildhall will showcase a new visitor experience and will be a key part of the city's emerging Cathedral Quarter.

No Ordinary Hospitality Management will manage the venue and will be organising a programme of events, public and private tours, special talks and a programme of community engagement from

primary school children through to adult learners. A digital tour, which guides visitors around the Guildhall uncovering the history of the hall where events of the past will come to life will be among the modern features of the visitor attraction.

Interactive activities will enable visitors to learn more about the lifestyle of the people that would have occupied the hall in the 1300s.

Room guides and family trails and multi-sensory experience (soundscapes, smells, talking portraits) will also feature as part of a new visitor attraction.

Cllr Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, said:

"It is a real gem of a building and its transformation will turn it into a unique and brilliant visitor attraction and will be a major part of the city's fantastic tourism and business offer."

"I visited the building at the beginning of the restoration and refurbishment work and the transformation is unbelievable. We worked hard to secure the £6m investment and the craftsmanship has been excellent."



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Coventry & Warwickshire
Local Enterprise Partnership



Made possible with
Heritage Fund



West Midlands Combined Authority

Jaguar pub refurb boost to arts

A £1.1 million project by Complex Development Projects (CDP) to convert the un-used Jaguar Pub on Corporation Street into a digital space for the nearby Belgrade Theatre will open in March.

Up to 100 people will also be able to watch short films, stand-up comedy, poetry and music in the venue with two apartments for visiting performers.

The project has been funded by the Council's Cultural Capital Investment Programme as part of the Belgrade Theatre Capital Project through Coventry City Council, Arts Council England and the Government's Getting Building Fund and Local Growth Fund through the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise



Pictured: From the left, Laura Elliot (Belgrade Theatre), Ian Harrabin (Complex Development Projects), Vera Ding (Belgrade Theatre), Corey Campbell (Belgrade Theatre) and Cllr David Welsh (Coventry City Council)

Partnership (CWLEP), the Wolfson Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation, Foyle Foundation, The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, and The Higgs Charity.

Warm welcome at family hubs

Parents, children and young people who experience early help at eight family hubs in the city say they are made to feel very welcome.

That's based on recent feedback from more than 1000 local people who use the Council's early help whether that is visiting our Here to Help service, attending a health appointment or attending one of the groups on offer to families and young people.

The family hubs are based in Wood End, Willenhall, Bell Green, Gosford Park, Hillfields, Foleshill, Radford and Tile Hill.

Cllr Patricia Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said:

"The better we understand the experience of people using early help can help us continue to improve our offer."

Despite social distancing restrictions as a result of the pandemic, families have continued to access the help and support they need from their local family hubs.

98.6% of those who responded to the survey said they would visit the family hubs again in the future while 99.5% said that they were made to feel welcome or very welcome.

Cllr Seaman added:

"From the feedback it is good to know that family hubs have a strong presence in their local community where families can access support."

"We know how challenging life can be for so many of the people who use our services."

To find out more about early help service in Coventry visit www.coventry.gov.uk/earlyhelp

New children's home to help young people with disabilities

Councillors have approved plans to create a new home in the city for children who are looked after by the authority and have a disability.

Currently any child with a disability has to live outside Coventry because there is no appropriate home within the city boundary, following the closure of a privately run home.

Councillors have now voted to refurbish a vacant building in the city. Work will also begin to investigate the possibility of building a new home.

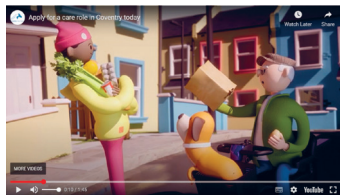
The £1m plans would mean looked-after children with disabilities were kept close to their homes.

Cllr Patricia Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said:

"In Coventry we are determined that all children are given the very best start in life and we have an excellent team who help to look after those who come into our care."

"It is the right decision for the children, they should not have to move from their city and their families."

Make a difference, work in care



Coventry City Council has produced a new animated video and campaign 'Apply for a Care Role' which looks at the fulfilling role of working in care.

For details visit: www.coventry.gov.uk/asccarejobs

For details of job opportunities visit www.findajob.dwp.gov.uk and search Coventry care roles.

The video explains more about a wide range of jobs that the Council and its partners are recruiting to in Coventry.

Cllr Mal Mutton, Coventry's Cabinet Member for Adult Services, said:

"Working in social care enables people to positively change someone's life, whether it's helping families, the elderly or individuals going through some of the most difficult circumstances."

"We are pushing the government to improve salaries for caring roles, and we'd love you to experience what a rewarding and fulfilling career it can be."

Training the social workers of tomorrow

The Council's Social Worker Academy is going from strength to strength.

The Academy was launched in 2018, and just a year later won an award from The Guardian for workforce learning and development. It gives newly qualified social workers training and support through their first steps in the profession, and last year it grew to accept four intakes.

Cllr Patricia Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said:

"The Academy has been a success and is helping us to achieve the best outcomes possible for children and families in the city."

To learn more, visit www.coventry.gov.uk/socialworkacademy

Need help with household bills?

A fund is available (up to 31 March) to support families and individuals to pay for food, energy bills and other items. To apply for the fund complete the online request at www.coventry.gov.uk/localsupportgrantscheme or call 08085 834333 for help with making an application.

Caring for a loved one or friend

Carers' Trust Heart of England are keen for people who care for or support a loved one or friend, to take up their entitlement for a carer's assessment.

The value of having a carer's assessment is to help provide extra support to carers.

The Trust work in partnership with the Council, to support unpaid carers across the city.

If you want to request a carer's assessment, please contact the Carers' Trust Heart of England on 024 7663 2972 option 1.

Could you be a foster carer?

FOSTER FOR COVENTRY

Foster carers are needed now more than ever to help keep children in safe, positive and nurturing homes.

Join our fostering community and you will receive: full training, excellent support, good rates of pay and career progression routes.

Find out more at www.coventry.gov.uk/fostering t. 024 7683 2828