

Knowsley Early Years Service Newsletter

Spring 2022

Easter Events

Over the easter holidays, we had a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny at one of the events located at Sawpit Park in Huyton.



MESSY PLAY FAMILY EVENT

On Thursday 14th April 9.30am-11am, we held a Messy Play Family Event for children aged 0-4 years old in our Southmead Childrens Centre, lots of our families attended the event and had lots of fun!



Ah we loved it! Will defo be back!

A comment from a parent

KNOWSLEY BOROUGH OF CULTURE – EARLY YEARS OWL

Here are a few children from Southmead Little Adventurers saying hello to our Owl.



We love seeing early mark making here at Knowsley Early Years.

So a huge thank you to our early years children across Knowsley Nurseries, Childminders and children accessing our early years activities at our Children's Centres who submitted images for decorating and those involved in the wings handprints.

Thank you to Culture Knowsley for this opportunity.

We can't wait to go on the Owl and the Pussy-Cat trail and see all the wonderful sculptures.

Looking great! Can't wait to see it in real life.

A comment from a member of the public

BABY MASSAGE

As part of our baby Massage programme lots of families have been attending, if you would like to access a place, please call one of our centres to book on!



I've just finished the baby massage course with my baby and it was absolutely amazing. I have made some lovely friends and we have already met up outside of the massage classes. Thank you so much for providing such a lovely atmosphere to learn baby massage and meet other parents.

A comment from a member of the public



Volunteering in Knowsley

Volunteering with the Early Years Service

Laura is an Early Years Volunteer and has been volunteering with the Knowsley Early Years Service for 3 years, supporting the delivery of early years provision. Whilst volunteering, Laura has been studying for a Degree in Children and Young People's Learning and development at Edge Hill University.

Laura is a single parent to a child with very complex needs. Home life can be very challenging for Laura due to her sons severe and complex behavioural needs. Despite her daily challenges and busy university timetable, Laura selflessly finds the time to help others through volunteering at Knowsley Early Years Service.

Laura's excellent commitment and hard work during her university studies has earned her two Academic Awards for achieving the highest Average Percentage Mark (APM) in the Department for Children, Education and Communities upon completion of level 4 and 5. As well as this, Laura has been awarded an on-course Excellence Scholarship in



recognition of her volunteer work with Knowsley Early Years Service, supporting the children and families in Knowsley. Laura has now completed her studies and has just been awarded a 95 for her dissertation, which she is told is the highest scoring dissertation recorded in the Faculty of

Education with additional offers of a publication.

Laura recently attended an awards ceremony at Edge Hill University to celebrate her Excellence Scholarship for volunteering and academic achievement award.



CULTURE KNOWSLEY

It's happening, The Owl and The Pussy-Cat sculpture trail is nearly here!

Put **20 June – 4 September** in your diaries and start preparing for your adventure around the

borough to explore the 32 huge and elaborately decorated creatures.

Read more **here**



Knowsley is Borough of Culture 2022

Knowsley is the Liverpool City Region Borough of Culture and will celebrate with a year-long programme of events and activities – from art and theatre to comedy, dance, food, sport and much more for more information please visit <https://www.cultureknowsley.co.uk/>



Knowsley's Early Years Service retains Investing in Volunteers standard

Knowsley Council's Early Years service has successfully been reaccredited for the "Investing in Volunteers Kitemark" standard.

Knowsley Early Years service support children aged 0-5years and their families to get the very best start in life.

The accreditation follows the completion of a self-assessment, development plan and an inspection over a 12-month period by Volunteer Now.

Investing in Volunteers is the UK quality standard for good practice in volunteer management and assesses the quality of volunteer management and improves the effectiveness of working with volunteers.

The Investing in Volunteers standard outlines six quality areas which must be met in order to achieve the standard. They are:

- **Vision for volunteering** – volunteering is embedded within the overall vision, values, culture and aims of the organisation and its impact is recognised and communicated
- **Planning for volunteers** – people, policies and procedures have been put in place to ensure volunteering is well-managed
- **Volunteer inclusion** – there is a positive approach to inclusion, equality and diversity and a proactive approach to making volunteering accessible
- **Recruiting and welcoming volunteers** – it is easy for people

to find out about opportunities, explore whether they are right for them and get involved

- **Supporting volunteers** – volunteers feel support at all times, that they are part of the organisation, and their contribution makes a difference
- **Valuing and developing volunteers** – volunteers are valued and there are opportunities for volunteers to develop and grow through their experience

A range of volunteer roles are undertaken in the Early Years service, including: Early Years Volunteer, MATCH (Men and Their Children) Volunteer, SEND Volunteer and Allotment Volunteer. If you're interested in finding out more about volunteer opportunities in the Early Years service, contact **0151 443 5633**.

The Assessor for the Investing in Volunteers Kitemark commented:

"Knowsley Early Years service has developed a welcoming, nurturing and empowering environment for its volunteers. The service is progressing their vision where volunteering is right at the heart of their strategy - a future where some services are volunteer led and volunteers are very much involved in the co-design and co-delivery of services to benefit their local community".



Opportunities for working alongside Knowsley Early Years

CAREERS IN CHILDCARE

Are you interested in a career in childcare, have a little look at the information below this may help you in taking the next steps.

Please visit <https://www.pacey.org.uk/news-and-views/pacey-media-centre/changedalife-campaign> for more information.



pacey
Partnership for Early Years

Careers In Childcare

Working in the childcare sector can be challenging but also extremely rewarding. Some of the benefits include having the opportunity to teach something new to children and seeing them develop from babies to young people. You will build amazing relationships and have the opportunity to earn money from doing something you enjoy. The hours can be really flexible and the joy of seeing children's faces when they have achieved a new skill is priceless.

Reasons to work in childcare:

1. The opportunity to teach something new.
2. Seeing children develop from babies to young people.
3. Build relationships.
4. A chance to earn money from doing something you enjoy.
5. Flexible hours to fit in around family commitments.
6. Seeing the children's faces when they have achieved a new skill.

Skills Required

There are a number of essential skills that are required to work in the childcare and early years sector. These include:

- Enjoying being with children.
- Having a good level of spoken & written English.
- Patience.
- A great imagination.
- A positive and friendly approach.
- Good communication and listening skills.
- Being a good team member.

Men in the early years workforce

It's true that men still make up a small minority of staff in early childhood education in the UK (and the rest of the world). But things are changing. Some employers are actively looking for male staff; many others would be delighted to consider male applicants, and remember that legally, no employer could reject you - or otherwise discriminate against you because of your sex. The MITEY (Men In The Early Years) project campaigns for greater gender diversity in the childcare sector. You can read case studies of men working in this field, and find a list of employers which have signed the MITEY Charter, at <https://miteyuk.org/>



KNOWSLEY Early Years Service Knowsley Council

Childminding - is it for you?

We are currently looking to recruit in Knowsley

Are you at home, looking after your children (or your children may have grown up)?

Are you thinking about returning to work, or about re-training for a different career?

Would you like to have a job which is rewarding and challenging, with new experiences everyday and offers great job satisfaction?

You could set up your own small business working from home, be available for your own children, earn extra money and access free training and support which could lead to further career opportunities.

If you would like more information on what options are available to you please contact the Childcare & Family Information service on 0151 443 5633 or by email Childcare.information@Knowsley.gov.uk

Early Years and Partner Updates

The Childcare Information Service is part of the Family Information Service and is here to help:

- We offer free help/assistance with finding childcare eg. a nursery, childminder or other early education provider
- Information on all forms of childcare and free early education for two, three and four year olds. Lists of childcare include Day Nurseries, Childminders, Pre-school Playgroups, Holiday Care and Out of School Clubs
- Funding information
- Local offer support with SEND

Please contact us if you need assistance looking for childcare on:

Email childcare.information@knowsley.gov.uk

Telephone **0151 443 5633 (option4)**

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Recruitment services

Our recruitment services are free to local employers, we can provide support if you are looking to recruit 1 member of staff – to over 100, we can hold open days, assessment centres and pre-screening activities depending upon your individual requirements, and we also have funding to support Apprenticeships.

Our Service includes:

- Initial consultation with the employer to obtain all relevant information on the job vacancy
- Support in completion of a Job description/Vacancy stencil should this be required
- Advertisement of vacancies via Knowsley Works Team, local partners and providers including JCP (if required)
- Arrange and holding recruitment/open days/assessment centres (if required)
- Deliver bespoke Sector Based Training to applicants (Designed to suit the business needs: including relevant occupational and company information, employability skills, skills required for the job etc.)
- CV/Application form matching and sifting
- Scheduling and arranging interviews
- Supporting interview processes (if required)
- Feedback to candidates

If you are interested in discussing our service in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact the team on **0151 443 5812** or email employment.team@knowsley.gov.uk for more information.

Working Well Grant



Working Well has been delivered in Knowsley since 2011 through a partnership between Knowsley Public Health and Knowsley Chamber of Commerce. The aim of Working Well is to support businesses so that they can be equipped to provide health and wellbeing support, activities and programmes, around physical health, mental health support, but also looking at the working environment and culture in place.

This is a grant of up to £500 for health and wellbeing purposes to support the workforce. Nurseries can also sign up to the Working Well programme and receive a bronze, silver or gold certificate.

Please contact please contact: Lorna Marshall on **07500 765 201** or email lorna.marshall@knowsleychamber.org.uk for an application pack.

Support and Guidance

Knowsley Chamber of Commerce/ Knowsley Council staff may guide you in the process, but they will not be able to complete the application on your behalf. If you would like to discuss your Working Well ideas before submitting an application or advice on completing the form.

New online booking system



We have now developed an online booking system for settings to access training via Knowsley Early Years service. In order for you to book training, all practitioners for every childcare setting will need to register their own email address on this [link](#).

Training will be identified by your Quality Assurance Officer or can be requested by the setting.

For Safer recruitment training you will still need to book via the **Safeguarding board**.

Yellow Hearts Campaign

Knowsley Unison Branch have given a special thanks to our member Sue Ruddick from Knowsley Early Years. Sue has kindly crocheted 100 yellow hearts which will be hung from railings at Arena Point as a special tribute to all our Northwest members who have lost their lives to Covid on both the

11th March (the second anniversary of when the WHO declared covid was a pandemic) and on Workers Memorial Day on 28th April. Once again – Thanks Sue

#LovefortheLost you'll see how the idea has really taken off and has been adapted in so many ways.



Staff retirement

Some of you may already know but we lost 2 members of our Early Years team at the end of March. Both Sue Mensah and Joyce Waite retired from Knowsley MBC on the 31st March.

Sue has worked for Knowsley for 30 years. Sue has really enjoyed her role as a Flexible Support Officer, supporting children and the settings and has said she is going to miss it when she retires.

Joyce started as Family Information Officer in 2007 and has been with Knowsley MBC for 15 years. Like Sue she has enjoyed her role and all the variations that it has taken over the years, including moving office 11 times as well as working with the different teams. The last few years learning how to work remotely and taking on the challenge of the marketing and communications have been great learning experiences and she will be sorry to leave her colleagues and the role but feels it is time for a new chapter in her life.

All the Knowsley Early Years team would like to thank you and wish you both all the luck in your new ventures.



Early Years Staff Updates

CAROLYN TYRER



Hi, my name is Carolyn Tyrer and I have recently been appointed as the Early Years Childcare and Family Information Officer.

In my previous role as Early Years Monitoring and Funding Assistant I supported with the termly Headcounts, financial audits and workforce development. Before that I worked with Knowsley Children's Centres as a Business Support Assistant. During this time I was also able to complete an apprenticeship in Digital Marketing.

In my role as Early Years Childcare and Family Information Officer, I will be supporting with managing and developing the Childcare Information Service (CIS), Family Information Service (FIS) and Knowsley's CIS Brokerage Service to parents and carers seeking to secure childcare provision. Also the Communications and Marketing for the CIS, FIS and Early Years Service. I am looking forward to bringing the knowledge I gained from my apprenticeship into this role.

Please do not hesitate to send me an email if you would like more information about my new role: carolyn.tyrer@knowsley.gov.uk

LISA YATES

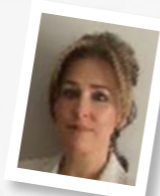


Hello, my name is Lisa Yates. I have recently commenced employment with Knowsley Local Authority, joining the Early Years SEND team as an Early Years Support Quality and Developmental officer.

My background consists of approximately 30 years of working with early years children. Initially I started as a nursery nurse in a private nursery in Sefton in which I progressed to Room Leader within 12 months and then Manager the following year. This also included me having the role of SENDCO and supporting the business side of the setting too. I then became a Portage Worker with St Helens Local Authority and was seconded out to a Sure Start Children's Centre for the first 5 years, before transitioning back to be based within the Early Years SEND team continuing with the same role. I also worked with setting SENDCO's and practitioners including PVI's, maintained and none maintained settings, delivering training in relation to early identification of learning and developmental needs, plus multi agency working and delivering group sessions for children and parent drop-in advice sessions.

I am hoping within this new role to engage with Early Years Practitioners within settings, to support and extend their delivery of meeting the needs of children who have been identified with areas of learning and developmental needs to aim to ensure they experience a quality early start to enhance their opportunities in accessing the support they may require to enable them to reach their full potential.

KAREN MCKENNA

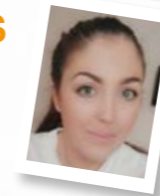


Hello, my name is Karen and I have recently been appointed as Flexible support practitioner working as part of the Knowsley Early Years SEND Team.

I have 22 years experience working in Early Years settings ranging from PVI settings and more recently in Primary Schools. I have worked with all age groups from 0-5 years and have extensive knowledge of working with children with SEND. I have been a Manager and a SENCO of a two-year provision and have worked with lots of professionals and outside agencies.

I am really excited to join the team and look forward to working with the children and families in Knowsley.

EMMA BURGESS



Hello, my name is Emma Burgess and I'm excited to join the Knowsley Early Years SEND team as a Flexible Support Practitioner.

I have worked in Early Years for over 14 years within PVI settings, taking a two-year gap to teach EAL in Italy. Within my roles I have always been a keen SENCO which is a role I really enjoyed. I'm really passionate about early years and strive to improve the outcomes for children and families in my care.

I look forward to bringing my passions into my new role and can't wait to meet the children, professionals and settings that I will support.

OLIVIA MURPHY

We would like to welcome Olivia Murphy who has started with us in the Early Years Service as a Business Support Assistant supporting the service and will be based at the Pride Children Centre.

Welcome to the team Olivia.



Social Media

Keep an eye on our Social Media accounts for more information.

- <https://www.facebook.com/knowsleyearlyyears>
- <https://www.instagram.com/knowsleyearlyyears/>
- https://twitter.com/Knowsley_EYS
- <https://www.facebook.com/KnowsleyFIS>
- <https://twitter.com/KnowsleyFIS>
- <https://www.facebook.com/KnowsleyPlacesToGo.ThingsToDo>
- <https://twitter.com/KnowsleyPlaces>



Parent Information and updates



HOW TO APPLY FOR 30 HOURS AND TAX-FREE CHILDCARE

WHEN TO APPLY

You can apply from when your child is 2 years and 36 weeks old.

| When your child turns 3 | When they can get 30 hours from | Recommended time to apply |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 September to 31 December | Term starting on or after 1 January | 15 October to 30 November |
| 1 January to 31 March | Term starting on or after 1 April | 15 January to 28 February |
| 1 April to 31 August | Term starting on or after 1 September | 15 June to 31 July |

You can apply outside of these recommended dates but you might not receive your code in time. You must have a valid code by the end of the month before a new term starts.

Check with your childcare provider to find out the exact date your 30 hours free childcare starts.

You have to reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months. If you apply more than 3 months before the term starts, you'll have to reconfirm your eligibility in your account in order to keep your code valid.

For more information please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



Funding secured to help children get the best start in life in Knowsley

Knowsley is to benefit from a share of the £302m Best Start for Life fund, which aims to improve access to targeted and specialist services to support children and families to get the best start in life.

on how to take care of their child and make sure they are safe and healthy, providing services including parenting and breastfeeding support.

“This funding will help us to ensure that our vulnerable families are getting the right support at the right time and ultimately supporting our children and families to thrive.”

This can include parent infant mental health services, supporting families through the pregnancy and post-natal period and during a child's first 0 to 5 years of their life.

Ensuring every child is properly supported throughout their life is vital to help them to thrive in the future as well as helping them to achieve their potential.

A programme to deliver the Family Hubs in now being developed. This will include parent-infant relationship and perinatal mental health support, improving access to a wide range of integrated support services for families with children aged 0-19 years, breastfeeding support services and parenting programmes.

Knowsley is one of 75 local authorities to have secured the funding which will include the creation of new Family Hubs to ensure the right targeted support is available, aligned to local needs.

Julie Moss, Executive Director for Children's Services, said:

“This funding will help our children and young people to get the very best start in life, helping them to achieve their potential as they move into adulthood.

The Family Hubs will focus on prevention and early intervention in order to prevent issues from escalating and ultimately, the aim is to improve the life outcomes of children and families in Knowsley. Importantly, it will also provide an invaluable support network for families who may not have anyone else.

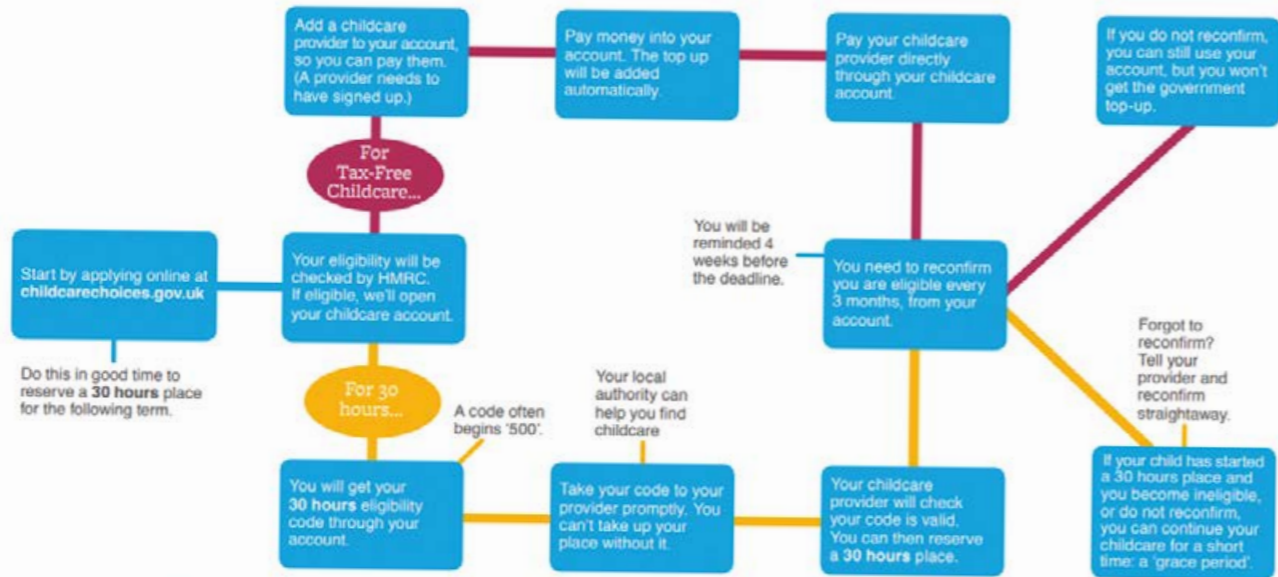
“Family Hubs will offer localised early help and intervention, from early years support to parenting classes – all of which can make a transformative difference in the lives of parents and carers who may not have a support network.

The hub will give parents advice



How to apply for 30 hours and Tax-Free Childcare

Use the joint application for both Tax-Free Childcare and 30 hours. Follow the steps below to get the most out of your childcare account and to access your 30 hours code.



Check your childcare options at childcarechoices.gov.uk



About the government's new childcare offers

What is Tax-Free Childcare?

Tax-Free Childcare is a government scheme to support working parents with childcare costs.

For every £8 you pay in, the government will pay in an extra £2. You can get up to £2,000 per child per year, or £4,000 for disabled children.

What is 30 hours?

Working parents of 3 and 4 year olds in England may be entitled to up to 30 hours of childcare, for 38 weeks of the year (or fewer hours over more weeks). This is an additional 15 hours of childcare on top of the 15 hours universal entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds in England.

Am I eligible?

Find out if you are eligible at childcarechoices.gov.uk. The website also has a Childcare Calculator where you can learn more about which government offers might be best for you.

How do I apply?

You can apply via childcarechoices.gov.uk

You, and your partner, if you have one, will need your:

- National Insurance number(s)
- Details of one or more of the following – your UK Passport, tax credits, P60 or a recent payslip.

In some cases, additional checks may be needed to confirm whether you're eligible, so it's important to apply in good time. If you are found ineligible we will tell you why.

When can my child access a 30 hours place?

You can claim 30 hours from the term after:

- your child turns three, and
- the date you receive your eligibility code from HMRC. Whichever date is later.

We recommend that you apply in good time, so that you receive your code the term before your child becomes eligible. You can apply up to 16 weeks before your child turns three.

Will I have to pay for additional charges if I am using 30 hours?

Just like at school, your childcare provider can charge for additional services, for example, lunch, trips or music classes. These charges cannot be a condition of accessing your 30 hours place and alternative arrangements should be made available. Any charges should be itemised and cannot be a supplementary 'top-up'. You should speak to your provider for further information about any additional charges.

Is 30 hours only available in term time or all year round?

Like the existing 15 hours, eligible parents are entitled to a maximum of 30 hours a week in each of the 38 weeks of the academic year. However, you can stretch this offer over the year, for instance, you can take 22 hours a week for 52 weeks, or just under 24 hours for 48 weeks. You should speak to your provider about how they are offering 30 hours.

Can I use Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as 30 hours?

Yes, you can get Tax-Free Childcare and 30 hours at the same time. You can't get Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as tax credits, childcare vouchers or Universal Credit but you can get 30 hours alongside these schemes.

I don't have access to the internet. How do I apply?

If you need assistance or do not have access to the internet, you can call the childcare service helpline on 0300 123 4097 and apply over the phone.





Contact information

- If you need to contact us by phone please call our main number and select an option. The number is **0151 443 5633**
Kirkby Centres **Option 1**
Stockbridge Village, Jubilee or Southmead centres **Option 2**
Huyton and Halewood centres **Option 3**
Childcare and Family Information Service **Option 4**
2 Year Offer enquiries **Option 5**
Child Development Team **Option 6**
- Or hold for other enquiries
- You could also contact us via our Early Years and Family Information Social Media platforms where we promote what is happening in the service and also to inform you of any relevant up to date information, advice and guidance for parent/carers, families and providers. Please feel free to follow our social media accounts to keep up to date.
 - Facebook - [@knowsleyearlyyears](#), [@knowsley FIS](#), [@Knowsleyplacestogo.thingstodo](#)
 - Twitter - [@knowsley_eyes](#), [@knowsleyfis](#), [@knowsleyplaces](#)
 - Instagram - [@knowsleyearlyyears](#)
- To find out more about us or some of the services we work with please visit our website www.knowsleyearlyyears.co.uk

Useful Information

Big Help Project – Knowsley Foodbank

Times and locations of Knowsley Foodbank distribution points are as follows:

Monday – HUYTON AND KIRKBY

12pm – 2pm: **St George’s Church**, 36 Primrose Drive, Huyton L36 8DW

12pm – 2pm: **St Andrews Church**, Highfield, Tower Hill, Kirkby L33 1ZF

Tuesday – KIRKBY

12pm – 2pm: **The Kirkby Centre**, Norwich Way, Kirkby L32 8XY (located underneath the library, look for Poco’s Coffee Shop)

Wednesday – STOCKBRIDGE VILLAGE AND PRESCOT

12pm – 2pm: **The Community Hub**, the Croft, Stockbridge Village L28 1NR

12pm – 2pm: **Salvation Army Prescott**, Warrington Road, Prescott L35 5UA

Thursday – HUYTON

12pm – 2pm: **St Dominic’s Church**, Southdean Road, Huyton L14 8UL

Friday – KIRKBY

12pm – 2pm: **The Kirkby Centre**, Norwich Way, Kirkby L32 8XY (located underneath the library, look for Poco’s Coffee Shop)

Saturday – HALEWOOD

10am – 12pm: **St Mary’s Church**, Kenton Road, Halewood L26 9TS

Link Road Depot, Link Road,
Huyton Business Park, Huyton L36 6AP

0151 482 6089

Foodbank Mobile: 017731 789 794

foodbankteam@big-help.info

www.bighelpproject.com

Registered Charity No. 1141024



You can find further information about the social supermarkets below by visiting their Facebook accounts.

The Park Pantry Community Food Club at Eaton Street Park PRESCOT

Wednesday 11.30am – 1.45pm in the Pavilion at Eaton Street Park

You pay £3.50 and receive around £12-£15 worth of food.

Centre 63, Social Supermarket KIRKBY

Wednesday 10.00am – 2pm

Buy a healthy weekly shop for under £10.

St George’s Church HUYTON

Wednesday 1pm – 3pm.

Selection of goodies for you to choose from including fresh, frozen and long life products.

Torrington Drive Community Association HALEWOOD

Tuesday & Thursday 9am – 3pm

Providing discounted products to Halewood Residents registered with the Social Supermarket.

Food Club at Stockbridge Community Hub STOCKBRIDGE VILLAGE

Tuesday from 12pm – 2pm

Designed to help the community to make their money go further

Incredible Edibles Community Food Club, Court Hey Park HUYTON

Friday 11am – 2pm

If you’re not a member don’t worry you can join on the day and still get a shop. Membership is free.