

## Family Action Thanks Volunteers for National Volunteer Week

Family Action in Stockton thanks its 27 volunteers with a special event on 6<sup>th</sup> June to mark National Volunteers Week.

National Volunteers Week runs from 1-7 June and is an annual celebration of volunteers across the UK. In Stockton, Family Action's Family Outreach and Volunteer Service works with children, young people and families, working together to build strong family relationships. The service operates in family hubs, in the community and within the family home, providing a range of support to families including; debt and budgeting, domestic abuse, parenting and family routines, mental health, and housing. Volunteering at Family Action forms an essential part of this service.

The Arc, Stockton Arts Centre that holds live performances, film screening and much more, donated 27 tickets for Family Action's volunteers, who all received the surprise gift with personal certificates in the post.

This special week culminated in a 'Thank You!' event held at The Employment and Training Hub in Stockton, where the volunteers were surprised even further, with a thank you presentation from all the Stockton Family Action team.

Louise Anderson, Volunteer and Community Engagement Coordinator at Family Action said: "Family outreach is about working in the community, with families from all backgrounds, and providing a helping hand with life's difficulties. We provide support both proactively and reactively, as well as empowering families to support themselves and we couldn't do what we do without our volunteers.

"For National Volunteers Week we wanted to give back to all of our volunteers and what better than to hold a surprise thank you event to let them know how much they are valued by all our team."

Volunteer Sam Vanderstock said: "I run the Stay and Play sessions at Redhill Family Hub and I also participate in peer support.

"I chose to volunteer as I was starting university and felt, not only did I want to gain more experience with children and families, but I could also give something back to the community.

"Through volunteering, I've improved my people skills and learned what different services are available for families, this has also built my confidence in how I can help the people who need it."

Volunteer James Bates said: "Volunteering has been highly beneficial for me, giving me confidence and inspiration. I have learned many skills, it has improved my self-esteem, helped me to meet new friends, increased my social skills and provided me with a sense of community. I really enjoy being a part of something that helps so many people and improves their lives."

Volunteer Debbie Wilson said: “What’s involved in my volunteering role? Mainly chatting! But also, some setting up the room, making drinks and tidying - but everyone usually chips in to help!

“The things I enjoy most about volunteering are meeting lots of new families and their gorgeous babies! I love seeing people supporting each other and making new friends with people who just get what life is like with twins or more!”

Louise Anderson concludes: “I would also like to thank The Arc for donating 25 tickets for our volunteers to treat themselves and enjoy a night at this fabulous venue. They really do deserve it.”

Family Action Stockton Family Outreach and Volunteering Service have a range of opportunities available for anyone who would be interested in volunteering and supporting families in the local community.

If you’d like to learn more about volunteering for Family Action, please email [stocktonvolunteers@family-action.org.uk](mailto:stocktonvolunteers@family-action.org.uk) or telephone 01642 721952 (option 2).

To find out more about Family Action visit: [Family Action](#)

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## Notes to Editors

### About Family Action

Family Action is a national charity committed to building stronger families and brighter lives. Since the charity was founded in 1869, we have continued to help children and families overcome the challenges they face through a wide range of practical, emotional and financial support.

Today we work with more than 60,000 families in over 170 community-based services, as well as supporting thousands more through our national helpline, FamilyLine, which offers free and immediate support to adult family members and national schemes like the National School Breakfast Programme.

We help families and individuals to manage their mental health and wellbeing, working with families to reduce the impact of social isolation, poverty, addiction and other significant sources of stress and pressure. We also support families affected by adoption, special guardianship, separation, special educational needs, disability, domestic violence and sexual abuse. In addition, we provide thousands of welfare and educational grants every year to people in financial crisis.

PRESS RELEASE: Immediate Release



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