

COUNCIL ELECTS NEW MAYOR



Councillor David Williams will become the city's 389th Mayor when he becomes Newport's first citizen in May.

Councillor Williams, who represents the Graig ward, will take on the chains of office at the council's annual general meeting in May. His wife Ruth will be by his side as Mayoress for the year.

David was born and educated in Barry, South Glamorgan. He moved with his family to Newport in 1972 to take on a farm in Bassaleg.

Although David is no longer a full time farmer, farming still forms part of his daily life as he tends the flock of sheep run on the farm come rain or sunshine.

David has served as a Councillor for Graig Ward for over 15 years; a role which he much enjoys, and finds very rewarding.

As well as sitting on a number of council committees David also sits on the board of governors of Pentrepoeth Primary School and Bassaleg High School.

Alongside his councillor role and his farming commitments, David also works for Farming Community Network, a national charity across England and Wales which supports farmers in times of need.

The first Mayor is recorded as taking up office in 1314 and previous Mayors of Newport have included the Chartist leader John Frost.

TRANSPORTER BRIDGE TRANSFORMATION BOOSTED BY £8.75M GRANT



Work will soon begin on restoring the Newport Transporter Bridge for future generations after the council secured an £8.75m grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The funding will help pay for both major restoration works to the bridge and gondola, as well as a brand new visitor centre which will help turn the bridge into a

major tourist destination within both the city and South Wales.

The new centre, which will be linked to the bridge via a walkway, will allow us to bring the history of the bridge to life through showcasing the personal stories of those who designed, built and use the bridge.

Facilities at the centre will include a café, toilets and changing facilities, shop, exhibition gallery

and community space.

There will also be more car parking spaces for visitors and an exciting activities programme including theatrical performances, art classes and mindfulness sessions.

Councillor Jane Mudd, leader of the council, said *"The Transporter Bridge is an icon of Newport, and a significant part of the story of Wales' industrial past, one that we need*

to preserve for future generations so that we can tell the stories of our shared history. I'm therefore delighted that we have been able to secure this funding from NHLF which will allow us to do exactly that.

"The restoration of the bridge is also important from a regeneration perspective. The development of a new visitor centre has the potential to create both job and volunteering opportunities, and enhance the city's reputation as a visitor destination, both of which will bring wider economic benefits to Newport."

Councillor Debbie Harvey, cabinet member for culture and leisure, said: *"We have worked incredibly hard to get to this point and our thanks go out to every single person who has supported, contributed and helped us raise awareness of this important project.*

"I can't wait for the work to begin and see a reinvigorated transporter bridge emerge on our city's skyline."

The council recognises the impact that this transformation could have on the city and has, therefore, also committed £1m of capital funding to the project, a move which helped us to secure the NLHF grant.

We are also currently exploring a number of other funding opportunities to complement both our investment and the grant.



For the latest updates from the project, follow Newport Transporter Bridge on social media - [@NPTBridge](#).

DISCOVER NEWPORT'S DIGITAL LIBRARIES

Our buildings may be shut right now but Newport libraries have a wide range of digital services that are free to members.

With access to a number of platforms you can download magazines or books direct to your computer or mobile device.

If you are looking for reference information the libraries also give access to trusted online resources to help with personal research and homework.

For those interested in researching their family tree, library members can access Ancestry UK to research family history at home - all free of charge.

If you have a young one who loves superheroes, or can't get enough of their favourite magazines, Newport library has got you covered!

With the RBdigital Wales Children's Library you can register for free eComics and eMagazines - safe in the knowledge that they can only access content appropriate for their age.

There's something for everyone at Newport libraries. For more information and to join visit newport.gov.uk/libraries



COUNCIL SETS BUDGET



Newport City Council's cabinet approved budget proposals for 2021/22 including a recommended council tax increase of 3.7 per cent.

The budget for the next financial year was based on the Welsh Government draft settlement as the final settlement was not due until 2 March – the day before council met to set the budget.

Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of Newport City Council, said: *"I appreciate that we had a more positive settlement than expected based on our growing population and I'm pleased the Welsh Government delivered on its commitment to social care and education.*

"It must be recognised that demands on our services continue to rise and, in real terms, our funding is still less

than it was more than a decade ago as a result of many years of austerity.

"However, while we have to make savings, I also wanted to invest in the city and its residents.

Newport, like many other places, is in a fragile position because of the pandemic and the very necessary restrictions that has brought. Helping Newport to recover is a priority as that will benefit residents, our local businesses.

"This is a budget for a responsible recovery; a green and just recovery that prioritises people and invests in place."

Cabinet recommended to full council that council tax next year should rise by 3.7 per cent instead of the proposed 5 per cent. A proposal to charge for some

household waste items deposited at the household waste recycling centre was withdrawn following feedback from the consultation.

Councillor Mudd added: *"We will be investing significantly in social care for both adults and children because looking after the most vulnerable members of our communities is so important.*

"We want to provide more training opportunities, including apprenticeships, for residents and there will be a key focus on sustainability and decarbonisation initiatives as well as projects to improve the local environment."

Councillor Mudd said they had also set aside funding for key regeneration projects as part of a wider package of investment to support of the city's future economic development.

EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME



Newport is home to thousands of EU, EEA, and Swiss citizens who contribute to our communities.

We want EU citizens to be able to continue living and working in the city and to be able to access all the services and benefits that they are entitled to.

To stay in the UK, EU citizens and their close family members will need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. Applications must be made before 30 June 2021.

There is a range of support to help you complete your application and help and advice is available in a range of languages.

To apply online visit gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families

To access support visit eusswales.com

To contact Newport City Council for advice, visit newport.gov.uk/brexit or email equalities@newport.gov.uk



MARATHON TO RETURN IN THE AUTUMN

The ABP Newport Wales Marathon and 10K, scheduled for Sunday 18 April, has been delayed until Sunday 24 October because of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

The event had already been pushed back from 2020, but hopes are high that the high-profile event will be able to take place later in the year.

Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of the council, said: "We were

incredibly disappointed when the ABP Newport Wales Marathon & 10K was originally postponed, and to still be in a position where we don't feel we can safely welcome competitors and spectators back to the city is very frustrating.

"However, as one of the most significant events we host, we know that when it returns, the marathon will be a real marker of how far we have all come and that we are truly on the road to recovery."

Matt Newman, Chief Executive of Run 4 Wales who organise the event, said: *"We recognise the frustration surrounding a further delay to the event and the time and considerable effort that goes into marathon training but have no choice in having to wait until the public health context improves. The health and safety of our runners, volunteers, and event staff remains our top priority."*

For more information visit newportwalesmarathon.co.uk



CHILDCARE OFFER FOR WALES

The Childcare Offer for Wales helps working parents with childcare costs for their three or four-year-olds.

The deadline for the spring term was earlier this month but to make a late application or to find out more about the scheme visit newport.gov.uk/childcare



MARCH 21 IS CENSUS DAY

From 19 March, the clock tower of the Civic Centre will be lit in purple to mark one of the most important events of the decade.

With the 2021 Census in full swing in Newport, letters, containing unique access codes, have all gone out and responses are already coming in.

“A successful census will help give the best picture of the needs of everyone living in England and Wales,” said Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics.

“It helps us understand what our society needs now and what it will likely need in the future. We’ve had a fantastic response so far, with so many of you completing the questionnaire on your laptops, phones and computers.

“It takes just 10 minutes per person

to take part and if you can’t get online, there are paper forms available for those who need them. Now is the time to make your mark on history.”

Operating in line with the Government’s latest Covid-19 guidance, field officers will be deployed across the country to contact those who have not responded. They will offer help and advice to those who need it. They will also remind people that their census response is required by law.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

To complete your census, or to find out how to get help, visit [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk) or call **0800 169 2021**.

At the time of the last census

- 145,736 people lived in Newport, including 9,211 students
- 829 people worked in customer service occupations

- There were 568 metal working production and maintenance fitters
- There were 23 ship and hovercraft officers
- Over 41,000 people used a car or van to drive to work, although more than

- 5,500 walked to work
- There were 127 households with eight or more people
- 376 people said they were Jedi Knights

The census is a unique survey that takes place every 10 years in England and Wales.

By taking part, you’ll help inform decisions that shape your community.

census2021



WORK COMMENCES ON NEW NEWPORT ACTIVE TRAVEL ROUTES



Last month the council began work on two new active travel routes in the city.

The routes at Tredegar Park and Monkey Island will add to the city’s existing active travel network, providing residents with more opportunities to make journeys either on foot or by cycling.

The Tredegar Park route will run through the park continuing through the pedestrian subway to provide a link to the old golf course by the A48.

The route will also make use of the same low level lighting which has been installed on the recently completed active travel route in Coed Melyn Park, which was

designed with the environment in mind and to minimise the effects of the lighting on wildlife.

The start of work on the Monkey Island ramp follows a public consultation last year.

The route will include a new unsegregated bridge to connect the north footway of the main road, the open space area and the housing estate so people do not have to use the multiple crossings on the SDR junction.

It will also provide a safe and inclusive route from the riverside city circular route to the commercial and residential areas in Lliswerry as well as the new links on Corporation Road that were installed last year.

ACTIVE TRAVEL – HAVE YOUR SAY!

There’s still time to let us know your thoughts on how we can improve walking and cycling routes in Newport.

We’ve had a great response so far to our active travel consultation, and there’s still a few weeks left if you want to have your say.

The easiest way to share your views is by visiting our consultation webpage at newport.commonplace.is

You can pop a pin on the map to let us know where you want to see new routes or improvements to existing routes, and there’s no limit to the amount of pins you can place.

Alternatively, you can ring us on **01633 656656** – just ask to speak to a member of the active travel team.



CORN STREET PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS



Works for temporary footway widening are taking place on Corn Street and Upper Dock Street to provide improved pedestrian access and space for social distancing in the city centre.

This includes road narrowing to provide additional space for pedestrians. Corn Street, Upper Dock Street, and Skinner Street are therefore currently operating with a one-way vehicle system.

As part of this work, disabled parking bays on Upper Dock Street are being reassigned to alternative locations including additional disabled bays in city centre off street car parks such as Emlyn Street and Faulkner Road. The disabled parking bays on nearby Skinner Street remain.

Further information including a map of the one way system is available at [newport.gov.uk/roadworks](https://www.newport.gov.uk/roadworks)

REPLACEMENT PERMITS

Residents have until 31 March 2021 to replace expired visitors parking permits.

Please return expired booklets along with your name and address via post to Newport City Council, Parking Permits, Information Station, Newport, NP20 4AX.

Replacements will be issued as soon as possible.

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL

Newport Youth Academy (NYA) works with young people aged 16 to 18 who are not in education, employment or training.

As an alternative to staying on in school or going to college, the academy delivers a variety of courses to help young people develop knowledge and skills and find their path to employment.

Many young people come through their doors and go on to realise their full potential.

Liam found it difficult at school, both academically and socially, and found it difficult to join in and progress in the school environment.

When he finished school he was working on a casual basis but felt that he didn't fit in and was finding

it difficult. He approached one of the tutors to explore the possibility of joining Newport Youth Academy to further his skills and knowledge.

When Liam first joined the academy he joined the engagement team who would help to build his confidence. He worked closely with his lead tutor and learner coach to address his health and wellbeing.

As his confidence grew so did his achievements and qualifications which led to progression on to the Level 1 sports programme. Here he gained more knowledge and practical experience of working with young people in various types of settings.

Liam supported the Newport Youth Academy in the delivery of various sport and fitness related projects in schools, workplaces and the community.

He also volunteered with local organisations where he was nominated as volunteer of the year with national partner, Street Games - which uses sport to create positive change in the lives of disadvantaged young people right across the UK.

All of Liam's hard work paid off when he gained employment with Newport City Council working with the teams providing childcare for key workers.

His tutor commented; *"Liam's personal development throughout his time at the academy was really pleasing to see. He has grown into a confident young man who is driven to be the best he can be."*

If you know of a young person who would benefit from the support of Newport Youth Academy visit newport.gov.uk/nya to find out more.



TIA'S STORY



having to worry about what I was going to wake up to, it showed me that it was ok to put yourself first.

"When I was growing up I was always the shy, quiet little girl who would say no to everything, I would just spend all my time at home and say no to any opportunity that would mean I would be around a lot of other people.

"Five years on now and I'm forever around a lot of people, I am involved in theatre with my foster mum which has given me the chance to meet so many new people that have brought my confidence out but has also given me the chance to become very close with my foster mum."

To read more about Tia's inspirational story or to find out how you could help Foster Newport by giving a child a loving home and make a real difference to a young life, visit newport.gov.uk/fostering



Tia went into a foster placement in 2015 when she was 11 – five years later this amazing young woman shares her story.

"When I first came into foster care I was so scared that it would be another thing people could treat me differently for! Being a youngster growing up in foster care at first was very hard and scary but it really helped me find myself and realise that I wasn't just someone who was caring for somebody else and

CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR ARMED FORCES CHILDREN

The council is committed to supporting Armed Forces families in Newport through its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant.

An area of this commitment is the work undertaken by the regional school liaison officer who provides support to understand the experiences and needs of Service children.

Since the start of the pandemic the support for Service children in Newport has not stopped. As well as carrying out daily check-ins with schools and responding to queries, virtual training sessions have been delivered to schools to raise awareness of the

experiences of Service children and the support they may need.

The Welsh Government announced that it will commit £200,000 for the 2020/21 academic year to support work with Service children. This will be distributed to schools by Supporting Service Children in Education Wales (SSCE Cymru) and the Welsh Local Government Association via Welsh local authorities.

Over the past two months work has been undertaken to gain a greater understanding of how many Service children there are in Newport and which schools they attend. There are just under one hundred Service children in schools across the city and gathering this information is vital so that the funding can be allocated appropriately.

Based on the needs and requirements of the schools, the funding will be used to provide virtual poetry, speech or song writing workshops. These activities will help to build confidence

and improve understanding of the experiences of Service children. Virtual health, wellbeing and resilience-building fitness workshops will also be delivered to Service children by the veteran run organisation Forces Fitness.

Supporting Service Children in Education (SSCE) Cymru is a Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) programme initially funded by the MOD's Education Support Fund and funded by Welsh Government from 2019.

For more information visit sscecymru.co.uk



HOW TO PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR NURSERY

Starting school or nursery is an important milestone in a child's life.

They are bound to be wondering what it will be like when they arrive and what sort of things happen during the day.

Preparing children for this next step is a great way to put to rest any concerns they may have and make the experience one to enjoy.

To help parents and carers the Welsh Government has produced a guide on how best to support children. You can view this via the council's website at newport.gov.uk/nurseryplaces



BRINGING NEWPORT TO INSTAGRAM

Follow us [@newportcitycouncil](https://www.instagram.com/newportcitycouncil) for the latest updates and tag your pictures using [#MyNewport](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/mynewport) for a chance to be featured.



GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS RETURN

The collection of garden waste bins started again at the beginning of this month.

Collected fortnightly, here is a reminder of what we can accept in your bins:

Yes please...



- Grass cuttings
- Hedge clippings
- Shrub and tree prunings
- Small branches and twigs
- Leaves and garden fruit
- Bedding small herbivore pets
- Plants, cut flowers and pot compost

No thanks...



- Plastic
- Soil, turf, stone and rubble
- Any household or DIY waste
- Harmful weeds e.g. Japanese knotweed
- Animal waste
- Cardboard

Find out more about recycling in Newport, including reporting missed collections or ordering new boxes and bags, visit newport.gov.uk/recycling



SCHOOL GROUNDS, PLAY GROUNDS NOW SMOKE-FREE

School grounds and play grounds across Newport are now smoke-free places following the introduction of new laws.

The laws, which build on the smoking ban introduced in 2007, ban anyone from smoking in these areas, as well as hospital grounds and the outdoor areas of children's daycare and childminding settings.

Anyone breaking the new laws could face a £100 fine.

Second-hand smoke workplace protections are also being extended to those working in others' homes. This will mean that workers such as care workers, cleaners and tradespeople will be able to work in a smoke-free environment.

Further legislation will be introduced in 2022, which will

ban smoking in hotels and guest houses as well as self-contained holiday accommodation such as cottages, caravans and AirBnBs.

The introduction of the laws will protect more people from the harms of second-hand smoke, particularly young people, and also help those trying to quit smoking for good.

Wales is the first nation in the UK to outlaw smoking in these areas, a move which will de-normalise smoking and reduce the chances of children and young people starting smoking in the first place, ultimately saving lives.

Those looking for help to stop smoking can access Wales' free NHS support service Help Me Quit on 0800 085 2219 or visit helpmequit.wales for help and support, including access to free stop smoking medication.

MAE'R LLEOLIADAU HYN YN FANNAU DI-FWG THESE LOCATIONS ARE SMOKE-FREE SPACES



MEYSYDD CHWARAE PLAYGROUNDS



TIR YSBYTAI HOSPITAL GROUNDS



TIR YSGOLION SCHOOL GROUNDS

Gall ysmygu yn un o'r mannau di-fwg hyn arwain at ddirwy o £100. Smoking in one of these smoke-free spaces could result in a £100 fine.



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF NEWPORT



Newport's local development plan (LDP) sets out areas of land use across the city and outlines proposals to shape the future growth of Newport.

The current plan runs until 2026 and work has started to create a replacement plan for the period 2021-2036.

The plan looks at how land should be used in the city. This includes providing land for houses and identifying where we can improve

access and provide more sustainable travel choices. It also looks at the use and protection of parks and green spaces; ensuring there is space for businesses; as well as protecting the environment.

Initial consultation on the preparation of the next LDP closed on 5 March. This focused on two key documents which included a review of what the replacement plan needs to consider and agreeing when and how engagement will take place over the course of developing

the new plan for Newport.

There are many stages in creating a development plan and we are currently at the start. The next step will be to submit the proposed timetable (Delivery Agreement) to the Welsh Government for approval in April. Once approved the process of creating a replacement plan can begin.

From June we will ask for the submission of potential sites for development or protection, known as candidate sites. Over the summer there will also be engagement on the vision and strategy for the plan. This is where stakeholder organisations and local communities will be asked to have their say in developing a range of future options; for example, how many houses and how much employment land should be planned for.

We will present a few options and you will be asked to provide comments on these options, or combination of options, to make the most appropriate choice for Newport.

These consultation processes are an opportunity for you to find out more about the plan and the allocations and policies set out in it because they have an effect on

planning decisions in your area and the direction of growth for Newport for the next 15 years.

To be kept informed of the review and replacement LDP, including consultation and engagement events, visit newport.gov.uk/ldp

HAVE YOUR SAY ON SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

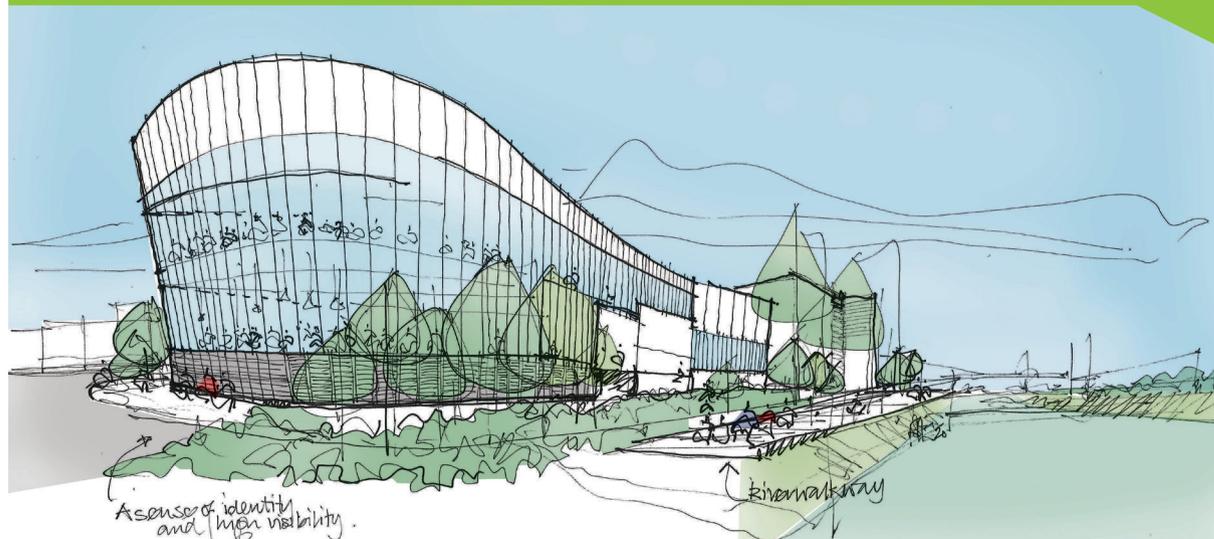
In addition to the Local Development Plan, Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) provides clear direction on a variety of planning and development issues.

We are now asking for your comments on three draft documents; a new shopfront design SPG and amendments to the existing affordable housing and flat conversions SPG's.

The consultation runs for eight weeks from 4 February to 1 April.

Find out more at newport.gov.uk/planning

NEXT STEP FOR NEW LEISURE CENTRE



Last month, the council's cabinet gave its backing to a proposed new leisure and well-being centre moving to the next stage.

As well as high-quality leisure facilities being created on a key riverfront site in the city centre, the plans include replacing Newport Centre with a new Coleg Gwent campus.

Cabinet considered the results of a consultation into the proposals which was held in December and January. More than 1,000 people participated with opinion almost evenly divided on the preferred facility mix for the new leisure centre.

Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of Newport City Council, said:

"It was great to have so many responses to the consultation which will help shape this exciting new development for our residents.

"We can now move to the next stage of the project which will involve refining and finalising the detailed designs and facilities to provide a great experience for those using the centre. It will form a key part of our priority to improve and enhance health and well-being."

Further consultation and engagement with residents and other stakeholders will take place as the project develops. This will include an opportunity to comment on a full planning application.

A proposed new leisure and well-being centre would include a pool, fitness studio and health and well-being areas as well as modern changing facilities and a café.

This would enable the vacated Newport Centre site to be used by Coleg Gwent for a £90m further education campus creating the Newport Knowledge Quarter and bringing hundreds of students and staff to the city centre.

The new leisure centre will be built to BREEAM excellent standards, with sustainability and future-proofing at its core. Together with the new campus, enhancements to Usk Way and the active travel connectivity, this will create a high quality place and "green lung" in the city centre.

RESIDENTS' EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Our email newsletter for residents is coming soon.

For the latest news and information from Newport City Council, subscribe to our mailing list at: newport.gov.uk/signup



MORDEN LANE IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements were made to a lane in St Julians earlier this year following complaints about fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.

Council officers worked with the landowners to secure private land in Morden Lane which runs from Caerleon Road to York Road.

It was hoped that the securing of this area would have a positive impact and protect the community from further anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Ray Truman, the council's cabinet member for licensing and regulation, said: "People who selfishly

dump waste have absolutely no consideration for other members of the community or the environment.

"In this case, as well as the financial cost to the landowner and the council, it has taken up the valuable resources of our environmental officers at a time when they are also dealing with significant extra regulatory duties as a result of the pandemic.

"It shows that, despite the additional work they have to undertake at the moment, they are still carrying out essential work to safeguard our communities. I would like to thank them for their dedication and commitment."



MAY ELECTIONS



At the time of going to press, elections to the Welsh Assembly and the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner were due to be held on 6 May.

For the latest information, including details of how people can vote, visit newport.gov.uk/elections

Every effort is being made to ensure that voters can use polling stations safely.

We would like to hear from anyone interested in working at a polling station to remind electors of the "face, space, hands" guidelines or joining a reserve staffing list.

USE YOUR VOTE!

Senedd Cymru elections due to be held this May.

For more information visit newport.gov.uk/elections

In Wales, legally resident foreign nationals are able to vote – so make sure you are registered and use your vote at the Welsh Assembly!



LIVE FEAR FREE

Support services for people experiencing domestic or sexual violence or abuse have continued to operate in Newport despite the pandemic.

Live Fear Free can provide help and advice to:

- anyone experiencing domestic abuse
- anyone who knows someone who needs help. For example, a friend, family member or colleague

- practitioners seeking professional advice.

All conversations with Live Fear Free are confidential and are taken by staff that are highly experienced and fully trained. Get in touch with Live Fear Free advisors free of charge by phone, online chat, text or email.

The helpline – 0800 8010 800 - operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for free advice and support or to talk through your options.



COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

Community connectors work with individuals, groups and organisations across the Newport area to provide information and advice about available support, help you to find local activities and meet more people in your community.

Whilst traditional forms of socialising may not be possible right now, community connectors have found a variety of online groups for you to enjoy in the comfort of your own home.

From arts and crafts to sport chats, you can find a range of new ways to socialise at newport.gov.uk/onlinegroups

