

June 2026 Newsletter

A note from: Laura Bowey - CEO



We wanted to let families know about an important development for Umbrella.

Next week, we will be saying goodbye to Umbrella House as we have agreed the sale of the building. This decision has been made as we have grown our services to the point that Umbrella House no longer has sufficient space to meet the needs of our services and the children and young people we support.

As a result, our office-based staff will be moving to new office premises. This move will not affect the services that families receive from Umbrella. Our youth groups, holiday activities, short breaks and day opportunities will continue as normal. Some services that have run at times from Umbrella House may run from other locations, and families will be kept informed of any changes.

Alongside this move, we are strengthening our relationships with other organisations to improve access to suitable community venues. We have recently agreed a partnership with St Edmund's Church in Allenton and Shelton Lock, which will provide additional space for activities and services. We have also identified other community venues across Derby that can be utilised as needed, giving us flexibility as we develop our services.

Umbrella House has been an important part of our story, and many families, staff and volunteers have fond memories of the building. While it will be sad to leave, we are excited about the opportunities this change creates.

This change does not impact Annie's Place, which we are retaining as our main service base. As Umbrella grows and develops, we will continue to consider our long-term needs, including requirements for a second permanent base.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support as we take this next step in Umbrella's journey.



40 Years Of Umbrella



CELEBRATING
40 YEARS

Join us for a day of celebration, community, inclusion and embracing abilities.

SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER
📍 THE MARQUEE, THE CENTRAL CO-OP COUNTY GROUND, DERBY, DE21 6DA
🕒 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

GAMES & ACTIVITIES **LIVE PERFORMERS** **SPECIAL GUESTS** **FOOD VAN & DRINKS** **AND MORE TO COME...**

RSVP HERE!

A celebration for disabled children, young people, adults, their families and everyone who has supported Umbrella over the last 40 years.

Sponsored by: **COSY Foundation**

You are invited to celebrate with us!

This year marks 40 years of Umbrella Derby and Derbyshire!

We're excited to be hosting a day of celebrating everything Umbrella and the wonderful community that surrounds it.

The day will be full of inclusive games and activities, live entertainment, special guests and much more to announce!

We hope to see you there!



RSVP HERE!

[OR CLICK THIS LINK](#)

As part of our 40th Anniversary celebrations, we're sharing 40 Stories for 40 Years across our website and social media channels. These stories highlight the incredible people, families, volunteers, supporters and staff who have helped shape Umbrella over the past four decades.

We're also raising funds for our Play and Leisure Service (PALS) as part of our 40-year campaign, with a goal of raising £4,000. Every donation will help disabled children and young people access fun, inclusive activities, build friendships, develop confidence and create lasting memories. If you'd like to support our campaign, you can make a donation here:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/40-years-of-umbrella>



Family Support

WOW – what a busy few months we have had!

Our Family Support team has seen some exciting changes recently, with two new Family Support Workers joining us. We are delighted to welcome them to the team and look forward to the positive impact they will bring.



Our Support Groups have continued to be well attended, with some wonderful guest speakers joining us to share relevant, informative and helpful advice with attendees. Alongside these sessions, we have also enjoyed some creative activities, giving them the opportunity to take some time for themselves.

Our evening carers group have been enjoying a variety of activities, from quiz nights to bowling evenings. Meanwhile, our Boys and Girls Groups continue to have fantastic evenings together, with different activities sparking new friendships!

What a fantastic few months it has been! One of our highlights was the recent course at Hannah Field's Community Garden. The whole group thoroughly enjoyed the experience and time spent together.

We hope to offer similar opportunities in the future - so keep your eyes peeled for what's coming in September...



A huge thank you to all our families who continue to join us for our Family Fun Adventures during the school holidays. Swimming, park trips and bowling are just a few of the activities we've enjoyed so far this year, and we can't wait to create even more memories together over the summer.



Fundraising

As we celebrate our 40th year, we want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has fundraised for Umbrella so far this year. Whether you've taken on a challenge, organised an event, made a donation, or supported one of our campaigns, your generosity helps us continue providing vital services, activities and opportunities for disabled children, young people and adults across Derby and Derbyshire. Every pound raised makes a real difference, and we are incredibly grateful for your support.



A special thank you goes to Shelton Striders, a Derby community running group who have chosen Umbrella as their Charity of the Year for 2026/27. They have set themselves an ambitious fundraising target of £5,000 to support our Play, Activities, Life-skills and Sports (PALS) project, which supports hundreds of disabled children and young people across the region. We're also excited to be working with Shelton Striders on a fundraising event next year to help raise even more money for Umbrella.

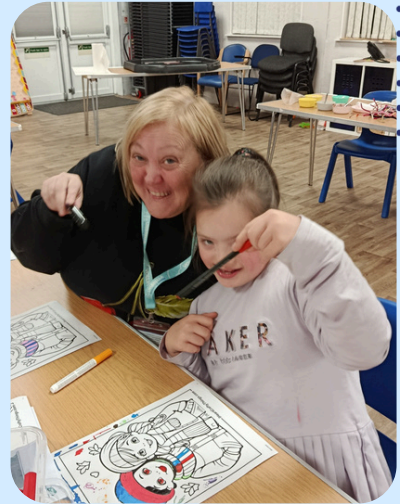
We would also like to recognise Farina and Laura, who recently completed the incredible four-day Inca Trail trek to Machu Picchu. Hiking 27 miles through the Peruvian Andes, they raised an amazing £1,500 for Umbrella. This challenge was particularly meaningful for Farina, whose siblings have accessed Umbrella's services for more than 15 years. Their determination, commitment and support mean so much to our community, and we are incredibly thankful for everything they have achieved.



Early Intervention

Our team would like to highlight the incredible outcomes families have achieved over the last few months. Positive steps have helped build stronger relationships, support more informed decision-making and strengthen advocacy for their children.

We are also excited to share that a new Early Intervention Group has started with the support of schools across South Derbyshire, and we look forward to seeing how this develops in the future.



As many of you are aware, Alisha McGuinness will be retiring in July. As a team, we will all miss her enormously. Her dedication, care and support over the last 23 years have been outstanding and have made a lasting difference to so many families.

We wish Alisha all the very best for her retirement and truly hope she takes some well-deserved time for herself and enjoys this next chapter.



Play & Leisure Services

Easter Holiday Fun

It's been a busy and exciting few months for the Play & Leisure service!

Over Easter, we delivered our Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) play scheme, welcoming children to enjoy a range of fun and engaging sessions. The children had a fantastic time playing outdoors at Annie's Place and the Scout Hut.

A real highlight was a visit from Matt's Mini Beasts, where everyone loved getting up close to a variety of amazing creatures. The children also explored and tasted different foods inspired by The Very Hungry Caterpillar, which was a big hit!



Summer Scheme

We will be running a summer scheme. If you have a child with a mild-to-moderate disability who does not need 1-1 support and receives free school meals. We would love to hear from you, as you may be able to access the Umbrella Holiday Activity & Food scheme.

Please contact

Nicola.green@umbrella.uk.net for more information.



Circus Starr

We were very lucky to receive free tickets for families to watch the Circus Starr performance. Families had a great time and had a wonderful evening.

We currently have spaces in the following sessions:

Tuesday Youth Club

Weekly | Tuesdays
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Hilton Youth Club

Fortnightly | Saturdays
2:00pm - 4:30pm

Sawley Youth Club

Fortnightly | Saturdays
10:00am - 1:00pm

Friday Youth Club

Fortnightly | Fridays
6:30pm - 9:00pm

Raindrops Choir

Mondays
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Walking Group

Thursdays
Local Derby Parks
2:00pm - 4:00pm

Non-Contact Boxing

Weekly | Saturdays
10:00am - 12:00pm

Children's Services

Our children's groups have recently enjoyed lots of fun activities that supported confidence, communication, independence and wellbeing, while giving children the chance to have fun, try new experiences and spend time with friends.



One group visited Attenborough Nature Reserve, travelling by bus from Derby and spending time outdoors exploring the natural environment. The journey helped children practise road safety, use public transport and build confidence being out in the community.

At the reserve, children enjoyed walking, birdwatching, looking for wildlife and feeding the birds. The visit supported physical wellbeing through fresh air and gentle activity, as well as mental wellbeing through time in nature and shared positive experiences.

Another group took part in a communication-themed day at Annie's Place. Children explored different ways of expressing themselves, including talking, visual aids, creative activities, music, games and sensory-based play.

Activities included making postcards and keepsakes, string-and-cup telephones, picture-based resources, puzzles, communication games, songs and charades. The day helped children share choices, ask for help, listen to others and feel heard.



Adult Services

It's been a busy and exciting few months for our adult services! Thanks to our fantastic minibus, we've been able to explore new places and enjoy days out that are often difficult to reach by public transport. The young adults have loved helping to plan their trips alongside their support workers, creating plenty of memorable adventures along the way.



Recent highlights have included a visit to the Great Central Railway, tobogganing at Swadlincote Ski Centre with the INDE group, enjoying the beautiful scenery at Ilam Park in the Peak District, and meeting some furry residents at Trentham Monkey Forest.



Alongside all the fun, we've continued developing important life skills. From baking and preparing lunches together to planning shopping trips and buying ingredients, our young adults have been building confidence and independence every week.

This month, we also said a fond farewell to one of our long-standing young adults. Dan has reached the ripe old age of 31 (those who know Dan will understand this joke!) and is moving on to an exciting new chapter. Dan has been part of Umbrella for many years and has made an incredible contribution to our community.

Many will remember his participation in the BBC One Show Rickshaw Challenge, where he helped raise vital funds for Umbrella, as well as his enthusiasm for representing the charity at events and supporting fundraising activities. Perhaps most importantly, Dan has always been a friendly and welcoming face, helping new young people settle into our services. The INDE group certainly feels a little quieter without him! We will miss his cheeky sense of humour and wish him every success and happiness for the future.

