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People from across Cambridgeshire are being encouraged to get involved in their local Child and Family centre by becoming a volunteer.

As part of National Volunteers Week, which started on Friday (June 1), a special information event is taking place at Ely Library on Tuesday, June 5 from 10-11am for people to find out more.

Volunteers support staff in various groups, activities, or office tasks and help new parents accessing the centre for the first time.

Cllr Simon Bywater, Children and Young People Committee chairman at Cambridgeshire County Council, said:

“Volunteers are an integral part of our Child & Family Centres and have an active role to play in supporting staff and parents. In turn, they will learn new skills, feel valued in their local community and can get support seeking employment opportunities as a direct result of volunteering. If you would like to make a difference to your community, go along to the event next week and find out more.”

Having the opportunity to volunteer at a Child and Family Centre has helped two mothers develop employment skills and gain more confidence as part of Cambridgeshire Time Credits, a scheme where people give up their time to help others in the community.

Roxi Beldean began volunteering at Soham Child and Family Centre in 2016, supporting a range of activities and services in East Cambridgeshire and joined the Time Credits scheme. She was encouraged to apply for a Child and Family Centre Worker vacancy and is now working in that role and has grown in confidence.

“I have been able to gain knowledge and experience during my volunteering role that has in turn increased my confidence and has allowed me to feel capable to apply for work,” she said.

Jessica O’Shea began earning Time Credits about 18 months ago by regularly helping at a baby and a toddler group at Littleport Child and Family Centre.

“The volunteering has been a step to studying and I’ve been able to do various courses,” she said. “It’s given me confidence to do that and I wouldn’t have had that without volunteering at the children’s centre.”

Throughout Volunteers Week, Cambridgeshire County Council is celebrating its dedicated band of volunteers through its 'BeTheOne' campaign on social media. Among these are an impressive 3,500 School Governors and over 900 library volunteers aged 12-93 work in 20 different roles from digital buddies to running code and lego clubs.

Follow @CambsCC on Twitter and use the hashtag #BeTheOne to say how much volunteers make your community, a better place.



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