**PRESS RELEASE**

**Helping Hands Celebrates Lottery Funding with Community Event at Sandwell Valley**

Families, supporters, and professionals came together at the RSPB Sandwell Valley Nature Reserve to celebrate a major milestone for Family Action’s Helping Hands service – securing a second round of three-year funding from The National Lottery Community Fund.

The sunny celebration brought together over 40 attendees, including families supported by the service, volunteers with lived experience, local professionals, and representatives from Family Action. The event featured a presentation, creative activities, and workshops showcasing the work of Helping Hands which provides crucial support to families of children diagnosed with, or on a pathway to diagnosis for, autism and ADHD.

Helping Hands offers a range of services for parents and children including, monthly drop-in sessions, and school-based emotional well-being programmes. Thanks to the renewed funding, the project will now expand to deliver “This Is Me” (TIM) workshops, a new strand focused on strength-based approaches and peer learning.

Sam Edwards, Family Action Service Manager, said: “It was such a special day – a chance to celebrate not just the funding, but the strength of the families we work with and the amazing volunteers who share their lived experience. The new funding will allow us to reach even more families in Sandwell and continue developing supportive, inclusive spaces that make a real difference.”

Attendees were able to explore the tools and resources Helping Hands offers – from emotion cards and affirmation playdough to sensory books and visual aids – all designed to empower parents and carers to better understand and support their children.

For more information on Helping Hands or to access support, visit: [Helping Hands - Autism & ADHD Behaviour Support - Family Action](https://family-action.org.uk/services/helping-hands-autism-adhd-behaviour-support/)

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**Contact details:**

Email: Cathy Midgley - PR Manager at [media-pr@family-action.org.uk](mailto:media-pr@family-action.org.uk)

Phone: 07903 074 174

**About Family Action**

Family Action is a national charity supporting people through change, challenge and crisis, in local communities and through its UK-wide helpline, FamilyLine.

Founded in 1869, when societal norms about family were fixed and rigid, the charity that established the founding principles of social work has reinvented itself multiple times throughout its more than 150-year history. With its message that there are many ways to be a family, it’s relationships that matter, Family Action ensures it represents the changing needs of families and communities in the UK today.

Driven by the belief that family can shape the future, that early experience stays with us for better and worse and that everyone deserves dignity, respect and an equal chance at life, the charity runs specialist services that protect children and support young people and adults.

It provides direct, practical help to families and communities in need through a wide variety of programmes including help for new families, parenting, family and post-adoption support, counselling, youth mentoring, FOOD clubs and the National School Breakfast Programme.

For further information, please visit our website at [www.family-action.org.uk](https://www.family-action.org.uk/)

Registered charity number: 264 713

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