

Families out in force to show their support for new hub of community²(Frome/Coleford)

Families from Coleford turned out in force to support the launch of the village's new community hub.

At The Hub is based at the old school building in Church Street and is run by a new social enterprise, which aims to bring together public agencies, community organisations and businesses, in a bid to tackle rural isolation.

The building, which is also home to Coleford's youth club, is available for local groups and individuals to hire and will act as a new meeting place for the village and surrounding area.

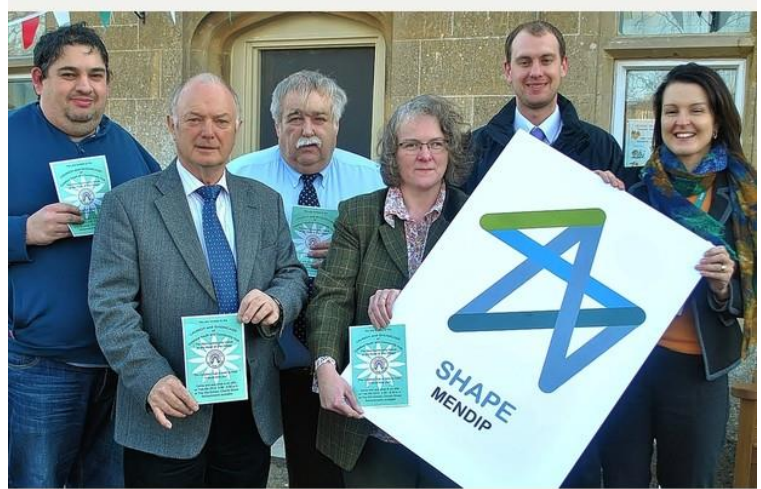
The not-for-profit social enterprise, which has been established with support from Mendip District Council, will encourage public agencies to make their services available through the hub, making it easier for people to access the services they need.

Organisations at the launch last Friday included the YMCA, You Can do Active Living Group, IT Help at Home, a local business mentoring group, Frome Men's Shed, neighbourhood police, Mendip Credit Union, Bluebird Care, Coleford Revival Group, Coleford Theatre Group, Coleford Parish Council, CAB, Mendip Community Support, Aster Homes and health and fitness groups.

Councillor Philip Ham, portfolio holder for policy and performance and district councillor for Coleford, said: "It was great to see so many people turn out to support the launch of the new hub and find out more about how it can help them connect with the services they need.

"Coleford has a very strong community, which has been the key to making this project a success. I'm confident that the new hub will be a real benefit to the people of Coleford and surrounding areas and I'm pleased that Mendip District Council has been able to support such a worthwhile initiative."

The new Coleford hub is a smaller version of the Shape Mendip public services hub in Shepton Mallet. Based in Cannards Grave Road, the Shape Mendip hub is home to Mendip District Council, Somerset County Council, Shepton Mallet Town Council, The Landscape Group and other public service providers. The police are set to relocate to the hub in early 2015.



Grand opening of At The Hub in Coleford with, from left, bookings secretary Phil Horler, social enterprise board member Henry Banks, Councillor Philip Ham, Jo Milling of Mendip District Council, Ross Welch of Willmott Dixon and Sara Skirton fr

² Frome Standard

<http://www.fromestandard.co.uk/Families-support-new-hub-community/story-26013368-detail/story.html>