

NEWSLETTER



New Year, New Opportunities At Tees Valley Women's Centre

Happy New Year from everyone at Tees Valley Women's Centre! As we move forward into 2026 we remain dedicated to empowering women and creating meaningful opportunities.

Together with partners, we delivered 271 accredited qualifications last year and supported women through vocational courses, advice services, and our safe, welcoming environment. From our Eco Shop and Warm Space to celebrating our nursery's 'Good' Ofsted rating, we continue helping women build brighter, more independent futures.

Here's to another year of growth, strength, and brighter futures together.



Citizens Advice @ Tees Valley Women's Centre

An exciting new partnership between Tees Valley Women's Centre and Citizens Advice Redcar and Cleveland has launched, bringing free, confidential advice directly to women and families in South Bank.

The launch event welcomed partners, funders, and community members to learn more about the service and share views on the challenges facing local families. Feedback highlighted how vital it is to have trusted advice available close to home.

A qualified adviser is now based at the centre Monday to Thursday, offering support with benefits, debt, money management, housing, energy costs, and family matters. The service aims to improve financial resilience, reduce hardship, and prevent problems from reaching crisis point. Urgent help is also available for issues such as food shortages, bailiff action, court claims, or risk of homelessness. Quarterly workshops on budgeting, energy costs, scam awareness, and online safety will also help women build confidence and practical skills.

This work has been made possible thanks to funding from the Woodsmith Foundation and the Mercers' Charitable Foundation, whose support enables vital advice services to be delivered directly within the community.

This partnership reflects a shared commitment to strengthening community support and ensuring women and families in South Bank can access the right help at the right time. Both organisations look forward to building trusted relationships, listening to community feedback, and continuing to develop services that make a meaningful difference.



Darlington, Redcar & Cleveland



To book an appointment, contact Amanda Summerhill, our Financial Inclusion Advisor, on 07857 740471 or email amanda.summerhill@citizensadvisedrc.org.uk, Alternatively call the centre directly on 01642 296166.

New Courses This January at Tees Valley Women's Centre

Tees Valley Women's Centre has launched an exciting new programme of courses for January 2026, continuing our commitment to empowering women across Tees Valley. We're offering a range of educational, vocational, and wellbeing courses to help women build confidence, learn new skills, and take positive steps towards employment, further education, and personal growth.

- ✓ **Qualifications & Career Pathways – Maths & English Functional Skills, Supporting Teaching & Learning, Counselling, Adult Social Care, and Essential Skills in Safety**
- ✓ **Creative & Wellbeing Courses – Art for Wellbeing, Positive Mindset Journaling, Stitch and Create, Yoga.**
- ✓ **Communication & Life Skills – Makaton and Asian Cooking.**

Courses are free for women aged 19+ living in Tees Valley. With the continued support of our partners and stakeholders, we're proud to keep creating accessible opportunities and pathways to brighter futures for women in our community.

Christmas Celebrations at Tees Valley Women's Centre

Tees Valley Women's Centre was filled with warmth, laughter and festive spirit as we hosted our annual Christmas Lunch in December, for friends, volunteers and members of our community.

The event was a joyful celebration of the year and a heartfelt thank you to the incredible women who give their time, energy and compassion to support the centre. Our dedicated volunteers prepared and served a delicious Christmas dinner for 80 guests, creating a truly special afternoon for everyone involved.

Alongside the meal, guests enjoyed festive games and a raffle, raising vital funds to help sustain the services we provide to women across Tees Valley. Events like this not only bring people together but also play an important role in supporting our work throughout the year.

We are incredibly grateful to the generous businesses and individuals who donated raffle prizes and gifts, helping make the day such a success. Special thanks go to Tesco (Coulby Newham), Morrisons (Berwick Hills), Marks & Spencer (Teesside Park), Primark (Teesside Park), Country Valley Foods, SES Engineering Services, and Mission Christmas, alongside many wonderful local supporters and individuals.

From everyone at the centre, thank you to all who volunteered, donated, and attended. Your kindness and generosity help us continue making a difference to the lives of women across Tees Valley.



Festive Donations Make a Lasting Difference

Donna and Kally visited North Durham Academy to collect a generous donation of toys organised by Katie Coates through the Mission Christmas appeal.

Katie has supported the centre in this way for several years, helping ensure children at our onsite nursery, Tees Valley Tots, receive gifts at Christmas. These donations also allow us to provide extra support to families facing financial hardship.

We extend our sincere thanks to Katie and North Durham Academy for their continued kindness and commitment to local families — your support truly makes a lasting difference.



New Laptops Boost Support for Women Seeking Work

We were delighted to receive a donation of brand-new laptops, thanks to the generous support of Thirteen Group and SES Engineering Services.



The laptops will make a real difference to women accessing our services, particularly through our fortnightly Job Club delivered in partnership with Beyond Housing. With improved access to technology, we can offer more hands-on support to help women build digital skills, search for jobs, and explore training opportunities in a friendly, women-only space.

Job Club sessions provide free help with CV writing, job applications, interview preparation, and finding training or volunteering opportunities. Sessions run every other Thursday from 9:30am to 11:30am at the centre and are open to any woman looking to grow in confidence and move towards employment or further education.

Tees Valley Women's Centre
JOB CLUB

GET SUPPORT WITH

- ✓ CV writing & job searches
- ✓ Application forms & interview prep
- ✓ Training & volunteering opportunities
- ✓ Friendly, women-only environment

THURSDAY 9.30AM - 11.30AM - EVERY 2 WEEKS

Free support to help you build confidence and take your next step!

Tees Valley Women's Centre, Upper Albion Street, South Bank, TS6 6XG



We extend our heartfelt thanks to Thirteen, SES Engineering, and Beyond Housing. Your support is helping women across Tees Valley gain skills, confidence, and brighter futures. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Thirteen, SES Engineering, and Beyond Housing. Your support is helping women across Tees Valley gain skills, confidence, and brighter futures.

Tees Valley Tots Nursery, operated by Tees Valley Women's Centre, has once again been rated GOOD following it's latest Ofsted inspection in September. The Ofsted report highlights that:

"This nursery provides a welcoming space where children feel safe and ready to learn."

This achievement reflects the dedication and professionalism of our fantastic nursery team, who work tirelessly to provide high-quality, nurturing early years education and care for children in our community.

We would also like to thank all the parents and carers who contributed their feedback during the inspection – your trust and support are deeply appreciated.

Tees Valley Tots Nursery is a valuable childcare facility for the community and an integral part of our mission at Tees Valley Women's Centre.

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Community Come Together for Macmillan Coffee Morning

Back in September, we held our Macmillan Coffee Morning, raising a fantastic £560 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to everyone who came along, donated, baked, bought cakes, and joined the tombola. The centre was full of warmth and community spirit, with every cup of tea and slice of cake helping to support a cause close to many of our hearts.

A special thank you goes to the fantastic volunteers from SES Engineering Services (Leeds Branch), who gave their time to help the event run smoothly. Their support made a big difference on the day. To everyone who supported the coffee morning, thank you!



Celebrating Success at Tees Valley Women's Centre

Every woman's journey is unique, and we're proud to celebrate the incredible achievements of those who have taken steps toward positive change through our Centre. From gaining qualifications to rebuilding confidence, sharing their inspiring stories show just how powerful support, determination, and community can be.

Claire's Story: "I Finally Did Something for Me"

After moving to Redcar and Cleveland with her three sons, Claire Henderson had spent years focused on family life. But once her children were settled in school and nursery, she decided it was time to do something for herself and build a new future.

Claire had always wanted to work with children, particularly those with special educational needs, but didn't know where to start. That changed when she spotted a course through Tees Valley Women's Centre on Facebook. She visited the centre the very next day and enrolled on a Level 2 Supporting Teaching and Learning course delivered with Prior Purslove College.



Balancing study with childcare wasn't easy, but support with childcare costs and flexible learning options helped Claire stay on track. With encouragement from tutors, she built her confidence, improved her IT skills, and gained valuable experience through a school placement. Now continuing onto further qualifications, Claire feels excited about the future and her goal of working in an educational setting.

"Finding out about the centre has opened new and exciting doors for me. The support from staff and tutors has been amazing." Claire's journey shows it's never too late to learn new skills and follow a passion — and that the right support can make all the difference.

Celebrate International Women's Day at

Tees Valley Women's Centre

Save the date!

**Monday 9th March
10.00am - 2.00pm**



Supporting

International Women's Day