

<b>CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
<b>4 OCTOBER 2022</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Nicola Curley Director of Children's Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Lynne Ayres Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Lisa Riddle, Head of Service - Early Help	Tel. 07785 521391

<b>FAMILY HUBS AND START FOR LIFE</b>
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<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Director of Children's Services	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that Children and Education Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Endorse proposals from the service in relation to programme sign up and how we spend grant monies received as part of the national Family Hubs and Start for Life programme.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to Children and Education Scrutiny Committee following a request from Cllr Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to ask committee for endorsement of the way we plan to sign up to and spend grant monies received from the Department of Education (DfE) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) as part of the national Family Hubs and Start for Life programme.

2.2 This report is for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:

1. Children's Services including
  - a) Social Care of Children;
  - b) Safeguarding; and
  - c) Children's Health.

2. Education, including
  - c) Special Needs and Inclusion;

2.3 This paper, and the funding/framework related to Family Hubs and Start for Life links to the corporate priorities of financial sustainability and services.

### 3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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### 4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 A Family Hub is a system-wide model of providing high-quality, joined-up, whole-family support services. Family Hubs deliver these services from conception, through a child's early years, right up until a young person reaches the age of 19 or 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- 4.2 Family Hubs are underpinned by three key principles (access, connection and relationships) and include access to services via physical hubs and a single joined up digital offer.
- 4.2.1 **ACCESS:** There is a clear and simple way for families with children of all ages to access help and support through a Family Hub building or joined up digital offer and a Family Hub approach.
- 4.2.2 **CONNECTION:** Services work together for families, with a universal 'front door', shared outcomes and effective governance. Professionals work together through co-location, data-sharing, and a common approach to their work. Families only tell their story once, the service is more efficient, and families receive more effective support. Statutory services and voluntary and community sector (VCS) partners work together to get families the help they need.
- 4.2.3 **RELATIONSHIPS:** The Family Hub prioritises strengthening relationships and builds on family strengths. Relationships are at the heart of everything that is delivered in Family Hubs.
- 4.3 A concept first laid out by the Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP in [The best start for life: a vision for the 1,001 critical days - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#), the Family Hubs agenda is gathering pace nationally; the Anna Freud National Centre for Family Hubs was established in November 2021 to support development and the government committed funding for 75 top tier local authorities in the autumn spending review.
- 4.4 The autumn spending review also announced 'Start for Life' funding for the same 75 top tier local authorities. The funding is aimed at improving access to, and outcomes from, parenting support, infant feeding, home learning environment, parent/infant relationships and perinatal mental health support.
- 4.5 In April 2022, Peterborough City Council was named as one of 75 top tier local authority areas eligible for Family Hubs and Start for Life funding from the spending review and a portion of 302million pounds worth of investment.
- 4.6 Since the announcement in the spring, officers from the Council have worked with the DfE and DHSC to design the programme framework and support the development of the sign up and reporting processes.
- 4.7 Formal sign up to the programme will take place between August and October 2022. Between October 2022 and April 2023, planning, design and procurement will commence with transformation and delivery beginning from April 2023 onwards. The total funding envelope of between 3.3 and 3.4 million, covers a three-year period (2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25), with guidance issued from DfE/DHSC regarding the proportion of spend for each programme area as detailed below:

<b>Strand</b>	<b>%</b>
Family hubs programme spend	19.3%
Family hubs capital spend	4.8%
Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships	31.2%
Parenting support	15.4%
Infant feeding support	16.7%
Home learning environment services	8.9%
Publishing 'Start for Life' offers and Parent and Carer Panels	3.7%

4.8 The announcement of funding is hugely positive for Peterborough, enabling us to transition to a Family Hubs model of delivery and enhance the availability of services to families under the Start for Life offer.

4.9 Key issues for consideration:

4.9.1 Earlier this year, Peterborough City Council undertook a feasibility study into the development of a Family Hubs model of delivery. The study, which took place prior to the national funding announcement, involved rigorous review of best practice and significant engagement with partner agencies, children, young people and their families. Recommendations from the study, which demonstrated considerable levels of support to begin a journey of transformation, will support the development of a three-year development plan.

4.9.2 National funding for Family Hubs and Start for Life programmes will be paid to the local authority on the completion of key project milestones and on receipt of returns outlined in the national framework (for example, funding this year will be paid in two parts, one on successful completion of sign up and the second in early 2023 upon receipt of an approved delivery plan).

4.9.3 As outlined in the table in section 4.1, a funding % is allocated to each strand within the programme. A national framework document outlines minimum and go further delivery expectations for each area and a series of appendices documents show how funding should be spent.

4.10 Full guidance and the national framework is available here:

[Family hubs and start for life programme: local authority guide - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/103122/family-hubs-and-start-for-life-programme-local-authority-guide.pdf)

## **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 In late 2021, the DfE awarded Peterborough City Council funding to undertake a feasibility study into the development of Family Hubs across the city.

5.2 The feasibility study took place between January and April 2022, and included in depth engagement with partner agencies, children, young people and their families, leading to the recommendations within the report. In total we consulted with 140 service users and 155 professionals from 67 partner agencies.

5.3 The study found there is significant support for transformation to a Family Hubs model of delivery from partners and families who were consulted and is fully endorsed by the service and key strategic partners. The proposals also build upon existing work undertaken through Best Start in Life and Strong Families, Strong Communities strategies and related workstreams.

The executive summary of the Peterborough Family Hubs feasibility study is available as an appendix

5.2 The national framework includes a requirement to establish, engage, consult and co-produce alongside a funded Parent Carer Panel. This will build upon current participation activities of the service and partnership.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 The national programme aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- provide support to parents and carers so they are able to nurture their babies and children, improving health and education outcomes for all
- contribute to a reduction in inequalities in health and education outcomes for babies, children and families across England by ensuring that support provided is communicated to all parents and carers, including those who are hardest to reach and/or most in need of it
- build the evidence base for what works when it comes to improving health and education outcomes for babies, children and families in different delivery contexts.

6.2 The programme will achieve this by investing in:

- transforming the way services are designed and delivered
- increasing the number of local authority areas with a Family Hub model supporting children of all ages
- improving how local services share information and work together to provide holistic support for families (to address the fragmented services some families currently experience)
- ensuring that the Start for Life offer is clear, accessible and seamless, and voices of parents and carers are sought to influence the continuous improvement of the offer universal Start for Life and family services
- enhancing and expanding services which seek to identify and address needs at an early stage before more specialist support is required
- tailored support for vulnerable communities
- ensuring additional targeted interventions which support vulnerable and under-served populations are included as part of the offer and delivered through the Family Hub model workforce capacity and capability
- creating capacity through new workforce models that incorporate skill mix
- facilitating join-up of the multi-professional workforce to provide continuity of care to all families
- improving multi-agency training, addressing existing skill gaps, and ensuring empathy is at the heart of practice understanding what works and sharing best practice
- robustly evaluating against a set of measurable quantitative and qualitative objectives in a variety of contexts
- establishing communities of practice across the country to share best practice, and supporting a group of 'trailblazers' to lead the way on delivery

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 Sign up to the national programme, delivery expectations and areas of subsequent related spend are set out for all local authorities by DfE and DHSC in the framework and associated documents. Our recommendations align with national guidance and will ensure investment of between 3.3 and 3.4 million into Peterborough services for families over a period of three years. Failure to deliver the programme in line with national guidance may result in less funding.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 The feasibility study considered three options – a fully funded transformation, part funded and no change. The study found high levels of enthusiasm to convert to a Family Hubs model across families and partner agencies, and we therefore feel no change is not an option. To access national funding a full transformation to Family Hubs model of delivery is required, and any part funded model would need to be paid for from existing budgets. For this reason, we recommend sign up to the national programme.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 Sign up to the national programme will help to secure additional investment in services over a 3-year period.

### **Legal Implications**

- 9.2 As the programme develops, opportunities to commission new services/products or support may arise which may require legal input.

### **Equalities Implications**

- 9.3 As part of the planning stage of the project an Equality Impact Assessment will be completed.

### **Rural Implications**

- 9.4 The Family Hubs model promotes accessibility to all families – in a hub, through a hub or digitally/virtually. Outreach is a key feature and will be explored during the design of the delivery plan.

### **Carbon Impact Assessment**

- 9.5 There is neutral impact on carbon emissions.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 Peterborough Family Hubs Feasibility study 2022  
Family Hubs and Start for Life national guidance 2022

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 Appendix 1 - Peterborough Family Hubs feasibility study executive summary 2022

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