

<b>CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 8</b>
<b>25 SEPTEMBER 2023</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	John Gregg, Executive Director Children Services and Young People	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Skills, Education and Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Gary Jones, Service Director, Children's Social Care and Targeted Support	Tel. 01733 863624

**PERFORMANCE AND OUTCOMES OF EARLY HELP SUPPORT REPORT**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Service Director, Children's Social Care and Targeted Support	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that Children and Education Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>1. Review and comment on the performance and outcomes of Early Help support and make recommendations as they see fit for future service delivery.</p>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report was requested by the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee following their group representatives meeting.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 This report details the performance and outcomes of Early Help support.

2.2 This report is for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference 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;*

*c) Children's Health and;*

*d) Targeted Youth Support (including youth offending).*

2.3 The report does not link to the Children in Care Promise as the Early Help Service is not aligned with service delivery for Children in Care.

**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 This report provides an update of performance and outcomes of Early Help Support in Peterborough.

### **4.2 Early Help achievements 2022/23**

#### **Supporting Families Programme**

Early Help currently have 1,363 families engaged on the Supporting Families Programme, with one identified Lead Professional, one holistic assessment and one Family Action Plan. We have worked with partners to improve the tracking and monitoring of progress and have updated the family action plan to help Lead Professionals understand what significant and sustained progress looks like for each of the unmet needs a family may be facing. The service has recently embedded into the Family Action Plan a list of signposting links of services that can support the identified need for a family and how to contact them.

100% of the Supporting Families Payment by Results (“PBR”) target of 316 claims for year 8 of the programme set by DLUHC for 2022/23 was achieved which secured an additional £252,800 in funding to continue to fund Early Help Services.

The PBR Target set by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (“DLUHC”) for the financial year 2023/24 for the local authority to achieve is 512, which is an increase of 200 families from the last financial year.

In the first financial quarter period April – June 2023, 100 PBR claims were submitted and approved. This has generated an additional £80,000 funding for Early Help Services. This is slightly below target, but this was predicted due to the significant increase in target for this year and the change in the national outcome framework.

In January 2023 the Supporting Families Fund was established to support the Supporting Families approach and meet the needs of families where Supporting Families outcomes cannot be met by mainstream services.

Any lead professional can apply for the funding for a family they are working with under the Early Help Assessment Framework.

Work has started to build a much more comprehensive data sharing feed to support the Supporting Families Programme. Currently there are Information Sharing Agreements in place to share information on individual family members with a range of partner organisations who may be asked to provide support to the family, together with consent for these partner organisations to provide information back to the council on levels of engagement, progress made and impact on outcomes. This ensures that the council can fully comply with Data Protection requirements.

The data project team are working on designing a flagship data warehouse. There will be two new systems to work alongside Liquid Logic (EHM and LCS). This will allow the Supporting Families Team to automate parts of the programme and improve data matching.

The first element of the project is the design and the construction of a data warehouse which will receive increased data feeds from partner organisations and match with families identified as on the programme. This is also a programme requirement and is attached to the up-front grant funding.

The second element will be the design and construction of a monitoring and tracking system which will allow the Supporting Families team to identify and monitor families that meet the eligibility criteria for the programme. This will also provide functionality for the processing of Payment by Results.

The ‘Access to Employment Programme’ working in partnership with the DWP (Department of Work and Pensions) continues to yield positive results with some of our most vulnerable families,

supporting them to engage with work-related activities, move into the world of work and become financially dependent.

#### 4.3 **Information, Advice and Guidance**

Early Help Information, Advice and Guidance has been updated with a range of new Early Help web pages on the Peterborough City Council website. The service is currently updating the FAQ documents on the Neurodevelopmental pathway for school aged children, one for parents/carers and one for professionals which will replace the current ones available on the Local Offer. This is being collaboratively worked on with CPFT (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust).

Early Help leaflets are available to families in eight languages and are available as hard copies or on the council website as a digital version.

#### 4.4 **Upskilling the workforce**

Early Help have a comprehensive training programme to upskill and increase the capacity with partner organisations on the delivery of evidenced based interventions. This has been through Train the Trainer programmes for Evidenced Based Parenting programmes for both Webster Stratton Incredible Years, Teen Triple P and Stepping Stones, all of which are recommended as appropriate early support for families wishing to seek a neurodevelopmental assessment. In this last financial year, the service has continued to engage partners in this training, 46 further practitioners have been trained since April 2022 and are being supported in rolling out their own training programmes direct to parents. An overarching Quality Assurance Framework for the delivery of Evidenced Based Parenting programmes for Peterborough following the de-coupling between Peterborough and Cambridgeshire LAs will be an area for the service to start to develop.

As part of the development of the Evidenced Based Parenting programmes, parent/carers are asked to complete a pre and post evaluation to demonstrate whether the intervention has been helpful.

More recently the service has sought feedback from the children/young people when a parent/carer have completed an Evidenced Based Parenting programme to capture not only what difference a parenting programme has made to a parent, but what is the lived experience of the child/young person now. An example of feedback received from a child - "my mum now spends more time with me, and I get to read a book at bedtime". The plan will be to continue to develop direct feedback from service users to contribute to the outcomes in the current Strong Families, Strong Communities strategy.

The Targeted Support Service currently co deliver with Cambridgeshire training to professionals which is a rolling programme on 'What is Early Help' and focusses on producing a good quality assessment, which is currently known locally as Back to Basics and can be accessed by booking on via the Safeguarding Board. The service also offers additional training to internal and external professionals for the use of the Outcome Star. Outcome Star is a suite of tools for supporting and measuring change with families and this is outlined as the current preferred measuring tool in Peterborough in the current strategy. There are plans to further promote the range of different stars available with the wider partnership to be used with families.

Training to access Liquid Logic EHM is available as an online training offer delivering a flexible approach, but the service can offer more bespoke training if this is required.

#### 4.5 **Recent feedback received from DLUHC**

##### Family Voice

The evidence provided was clear that feedback is sought for the intervention as a whole and feedback is provided to all professionals with a clear focus on embedding in whole family working. Evidence provided shows how PCC supports professionals in the TAF (Team Around the Family) approach, whole family working and training for Lead Professionals on plans and assessments but lacks evidence on what families' views of the services is.

### Workforce

You have demonstrated a good understanding of where Early Help is across the partnership and use the workforce table to support this. Motivational interviewing is in place across the partnership with a multi-agency workforce development plan. Training is monitored to ensure those that need it are getting appropriate training. All Early Help is QA'd through the Local Authority gateway with Early help Officers in place to support the partnership and help align pathways.

### Communities

Evidence provided demonstrated a clear involvement of the voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in the Early Help landscape. There are dedicated staff to gather and share community information and the VCS are included in all Early Help training and supported by the Early Help officers. There was a good range of VCS that engage with Early Help detailed in the assessment and evidence of plans to continue to build on VSC involvement in family support and hubs.

### Leaders

Population level measures were in the Early Help strategy but are in their infancy as development has slowed due to the transformation of the councils. As these continue to develop, we would recommend the Board understand the current demand and where the partnership would like to see the shift as this will help develop measures to monitor the impact of the partnership on demand.

#### 4.6 **Strong Families, Strong Communities Strategy**

The strategy written in 2021 is a shared 5-year strategy across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and will need reviewing by the new leadership team following the de-coupling of the two local authorities.

#### 4.7 **Outcomes achieved so far:**

Increasing the percentage of families who have made positive progress as a result of Early Help support. This is evidenced through the PBR results seen for the last financial year and will continue to be seen for this year's PBR claims.

Reducing the proportion of 16 and 17-year-olds who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

For the most recent quarterly reporting Peterborough City Council NEET figures have fallen significantly from 4.7% to 4.2%. This is largely the result of being able to source ESOL (English for Speakers Of other Language) classes for the placement of lone migrant children in the area.

The overall NEET key priorities for the next quarter are to:

- Continue to work with partners and providers to increase EET (Employment, Education and Training) opportunities and reduce NEET.
- Develop better links around improving apprenticeship figures.
- Inclusion of comparative Youth Justice data.
- Strengthen the links with the SEND service for 18–24-year-olds who are NEET.

#### 4.8 **Family Hubs Progress**

Since Peterborough was awarded funding by the DFE to develop a Family Hubs offer, there have been activities taking place to develop and meet some of the outcomes set for the Local Authority to ensure we have a strong 0-24 Family Hubs offer in place over the next two years. Below are some of the areas of progress.

Measuring Toolkits are being developed currently to meet the outcome of 90% of families being aware of the Family Hubs and how to access them by March 2025.

A digital platform landing page on CCS and PCC website has been developed and digital posts have been recruited to. A new digital platform is currently being developed to meet the outcome of a digital offer by the end of March 2025.

Parent/carer panels have been established and further work is currently underway with communities to broaden the parent engagement to meet the outcome of parent/carer panels in place by March 2023.

Online parenting is available via Triple P and a further Triple P offer for babies will be available in the Autumn as well as a universal suite of parenting courses from the Solihull Approach in place by the end of the year.

Three Family Hubs were officially launched in July this year to meet the outcome of a minimum of three Family Hubs to be opened by mid 2023.

A separate Families Hubs report will be presented to Scrutiny as the programme develops.

An Early Help Partnership Board needs to be re-established within the Local Authority which has been reflected in the DLUHC feedback recently received.

## **5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

5.1 *Consider how the recommendation links to the Council's Corporate Priorities:*

1. *The Economy & Inclusive Growth*
  - *Environment*
  - *Homes and Workplaces*
  - *Jobs and Money*
2. *Our Places & Communities*
  - *Places and Safety (including any rural implications)*
  - *Lives and Work*
  - *Health and Wellbeing*
3. *Prevention, Independence & Resilience*
  - *Educations and Skills for All*
  - *Adults*
  - *Children*
4. *Sustainable Future City Council*
  - *How we Work*
  - *How we Serve*
  - *How we Enable*

*Further information on the Council's Priorities can be found here - [Link to Corporate Strategy and Priorities Webpage](#)*

## **6. CONSULTATION**

6.1 Consultation not required for a general performance update of the Early Help Service.

## **7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

7.1 Scrutiny Committee is updated on the performance and outcomes being made against the current Early Help Strong Families, Strong Communities Strategy.

Councillors can scrutinise progress being presented to the committee by Officers.

## **8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the progress being made on the targets set for the Local Authority against the National Supporting Families Programme both for the current and the last financial year, and how this funding provides ongoing funding for vital Early Help Services.

## **9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 There were no alternative options to consider as this is an update on Early Help but would welcome comments.

## **10. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 10.1 There are no financial implications arising from this committee report for September 2023.

### **Legal Implications**

- 10.2 There are no legal implications arising from this committee report for September 2023.

### **Equalities Implications**

- 10.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this committee report for September 2023.

## **11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

- 11.1 Live Data available from Power Bi Data Performance Dashboard to provide the numerical data on number of Early Help Assessments.

Data from Salesforce to report on the numerical data for PBR Claims

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

## **12. APPENDICES**

- 12.1 N/A