

Cabinet

14 December 2022

Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme



Report of Corporate Management Team

John Pearce, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services

Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health

Councillor Ted Henderson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services

Councillor Chris Hood, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult and Health Services.

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide information regarding the launch of the government's Family Hubs and Start for Life programme and its implications for County Durham.

Executive summary

- 2 The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Department for Education (DfE) recently launched a three-year Family Hubs and Start for Life (SfL) programme to deliver a step-change in outcomes for babies, children, young people, parents, and carers. The Government's vision for Family Hubs and SfL is to provide a system-wide model of providing high-quality, joined-up, whole-family support services. Family Hubs will deliver these services from conception, through a child's early years until they reach the age of 19 (or 25 for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities).
- 3 The DHSC and DfE have developed a Family Hub and SfL programme guide, a programme framework and expectations document which describes the offer required of each Family Hub and SfL programme across the three-year implementation period.

- 4 County Durham is one of 75 LAs who will receive additional funding to develop its Family Hub and SfL offer. Durham is due to receive around £4.4 million funding over the three-year programme.
- 5 County Durham submitted a Family Hub and SfL 'Sign Up' document on 31 August, which outlined our readiness to implement the programme. This has been approved by the Government and we are due to receive year one funds in November 2022 and January 2023 subject to receipt of County Durham's Delivery plan.
- 6 Durham submitted a 'Trailblazer' application which DfE and DHSC will award to 15 LAs. Trailblazer LAs will need to demonstrate they can make the fastest and most ambitious improvements to services in year one and establish best practices to benefit all local authorities delivering the programme in three priority areas: breastfeeding, perinatal mental health/parent child relationships and parenting support. An additional £183,000 will be awarded to Trailblazer LAs. At the time of preparing this report Durham is awaiting feedback on this application.
- 7 The programme provides an opportunity to further build on our current Family Centre and broader system offer such as Health Visiting and Midwifery support to ensure we have a comprehensive, integrated, and accessible offer for children, young people, parents, and carers (0-19 years up to 25 for children and young people with SEND).
- 8 A multi-agency Family Hub and SfL Implementation Group has been established with programme management arrangements and five workstreams set up to drive the programme deliverables. Governance will be provided through the Prevention and Early Help Partnership - responsible for broader early help work and DLUHC's Supporting Families programme – with reporting up to the Children, Young People and Families Partnership, engaging with the Best Start in Life Steering Group, which has seven priority areas, including perinatal and infant mental health and breastfeeding.

Recommendation(s)

- 9 Cabinet is recommended to:
 - (a) note that this programme will sit alongside other work to support families and funding from the council, local partners and other government initiatives such as the Supporting Families Programme;
 - (b) note that the additional government funding referred to for this programme is available over a three-year period initially and future consideration will be required of any funding implications after 2025.

Background

- 10 Evidence shows that disadvantaged and vulnerable children suffer from poor outcomes across the four key domains of development, physical, cognitive, language, and social-emotional from conception to 19 years.
- 11 We know that a child's experiences from conception to age five play a critical role in their development, and that the early years represent a key opportunity for families, policymakers and the economy. However, we know that measurable gaps in outcomes between disadvantaged and vulnerable children and their better off peers can emerge early, before children are two years of age, and are difficult and costly to close once open.
- 12 As children grow older and move into adolescence, the risks to them not only come from within their families but also the wider community. These include child criminal and sexual exploitation, gang involvement, county lines and trafficking, as well as serious violence, and peer-on-peer abuse. These can take place in both physical and online spaces. These risks often co-occur and can be further exacerbated by a child or young person's own vulnerabilities, for example if they have a learning disability, or where they have already experienced adversity earlier in childhood.
- 13 There is evidence to show that a child's home environment, family stability and parent-child relationships are central to children and young people's development and their success in life. Local and national services have a vital role to play in supporting families with this and reducing disparities. However, disadvantaged and vulnerable families often experience significant difficulty as they interact with a complex service landscape and must constantly 're-tell their story' to different services. Often professionals working in these services face practical barriers to working together as a team around the family, such as information sharing.
- 14 For families, there is no consistent public-facing point for access, assessment, and navigation of family services that directs them to the services across the myriad of needs they might have, such as maternity services, support for SEND, mental health, housing, parental support, and debt advice.
- 15 An improved single gateway for more of these family support services, such as through Family Hubs, could improve join-up between organisations, offer a whole family approach with relationships at the heart of family help, manage statutory pressures more effectively, reduce waiting times for early help interventions and ensure that families are offered support at the first time of asking.
- 16 Innovations in digital and data may provide opportunities to support local areas to further develop integrated service offers. While the Covid

pandemic provides a challenging backdrop, it has also sharpened awareness of how some disadvantaged and vulnerable families risk being left behind and has encouraged local agencies to share information and collaborate in different ways.

National Family Hub and Start for Life programme

- 17 In the 2021 Autumn Budget, the Government announced a three-year Family Hubs and Start for Life programme to deliver a step-change in outcomes for babies, children, young people, parents, and carers. The Government's vision for Family Hubs is to provide a system-wide model of providing high-quality, joined-up, whole-family support services. Family Hubs will deliver these services from conception, through a child's early years until they reach the age of 19 (or 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities).
- 18 Family Hubs aim to make a positive difference to parents, carers, and their children by providing a mix of physical and virtual spaces, as well as outreach, where families can easily access non-judgmental support for the challenges they may be facing. They will provide a universal 'front door' to families, offering a 'one-stop shop' of family support services across their social care, education, mental health, and physical health needs, with a comprehensive SfL offer for parents and babies at its core. A Family Hub will be designed to be particularly accessible to families from lower socio-economic groups, families who have special education needs or a disability, or those from minoritized groups who are experiencing exclusion.
- 19 The Family Hub and SfL programme is delivered by the Department for Health and Social Care and the Department of Education who will allocate £301.75 million over the next three financial years to enable 75 upper-tier local authorities in England, including County Durham, to deliver a package of family support and Start for Life services. This includes:
 - (a) £100 million for bespoke parent-infant mental health support;
 - (b) £81.75 million to create a network of Family Hubs, improving access to a wide range of integrated support services for families with children of all ages;
 - (c) £50 million to establish multicomponent breastfeeding support services in line with local needs;
 - (d) £50 million to fund evidence-based parenting programmes;
 - (e) £10 million to support local authorities to publish a clear 'Start for Life offer' and ensure that parents' and carers' voices are heard in the design, planning and delivery of services.

- 20 A further £10 million will support trials of innovative Start for Life workforce models in a smaller number of areas. It will also include £28.7 million announced in August 2021 to train practitioners to support parents with the home learning environment.
- 21 15 local authorities (LAs) will be chosen to be a Family Hub Trailblazer and will access an additional £183,000. Trailblazer LAs will need to demonstrate they can make the fastest and most ambitious improvements to services in year one and establish best practices to benefit all local authorities delivering the programme in three priority areas: breastfeeding, perinatal mental health/parent child relationships and parenting support.
- 22 This investment underpins the Government's commitment to giving families and their children the best start in life. It sits alongside funding to further embed the DWP Reducing Parental Conflict programme in local areas and the previously announced £200 million uplift to the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Supporting Families programme.

Family Hubs Start for Life programme in County Durham

- 23 The Government's vision for Family Hubs builds on County Durham's current 15 Family Centre offer which provides a range of family support services for children, young people aged 0-19 years (up to 25 with SEND) and their parents and carers. The Government will expect all LAs to use the naming convention of Family Hubs for all building currently named as Family Centres in County Durham.
- 24 The programme will help further develop our current Family Centre offer, ensuring services such as Midwifery, Health Visiting, DCC's One Point Service (Early Help), both children and adult Mental Health Services, VCS and other key partner organisations, working with families, provide an integrated, accessible offer of support which is designed and delivered using co-production, based on the County Durham Approach to Wellbeing principles.
- 25 Our Family Hub vision is:
- Family Hubs will provide a system-wide model of providing high-quality, whole-family, joined up family support services from pregnancy, through the child's early years and later childhood, and into early adulthood until they reach the age of 19 (or up to 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities).*
- 26 Our aims include to:
- (a) make a positive difference to parents, carers, and their children, through providing a mix of physical and virtual spaces, as well as home visits for families to easily access non-judgemental support;

- (b) provide a universal front door to families, offering a one-stop shop of family support services across their social care, education, mental health, and physical health needs;
 - (c) develop and publish a comprehensive Start for Life offer for parents and carers;
 - (d) facilitate professionals across public sector, voluntary, community and faith sector to work together, through co-location, data sharing and a common approach to their work with children, young people, and families.
- 27 The outcomes we are working to achieving are:
- (a) improved health, wellbeing and developmental outcomes for babies, children, and young people;
 - (b) improved health and wellbeing outcomes for parents and carers;
 - (c) improved access, connections, and relationships within local family services;
 - (d) reduce inequalities; and
 - (e) a stronger evidence base on what works in difference delivery contexts.
- 28 The programme will be co-produced with system wide partners including DCC, VCS, Mental Health Services, Midwifery and Health Visitors and key partner agencies working with children and families, with a central focus on co-production with parents and carers with lived experience and will involve setting up of a Parent and Carer Panel to influence and shape service design and delivery. This will also build on the current strengths and assets of our communities in different parts of the county using the Approach to Wellbeing principles.
- 29 A multi-agency Family Hub and SfL Implementation Group has been established with programme management arrangements and five workstreams set up to drive the programme deliverables. Governance will be provided through the Prevention and Early Help Partnership reporting up to the Children, Young People and Families Partnership, engaging with the Best Start in Life Steering Group, which has seven priority areas, including perinatal and infant mental health and breastfeeding.
- 30 A regional Family Hub and Start for Life Network has been established with all LA leads to share implementation plans and best practice.

County Durham Family Hub Funding

- 31 County Durham funding allocation for the three-year programme ranges between £4.4 million and £4.6 million as set out in table 1 below. To

date the first tranche of year 1 funding has not to be allocated to LAs. DfE have confirmed there will be no facility to carry any unspent funding into year 2. The Family Hub and SfL Implementation Group appreciate it will be an ambitious task to utilise all available funding in year 1 but will ensure we maximise expenditure across the partnership.

2022-23	2023-24		2024-25		Total	
Total	Lower Range	Upper Range	Lower Range	Upper Range	Lower Range	Upper Range
£1,123,000	£1,796,000	£1,923,000	£1,485,000	£1,583,000	£4,404,000	£4,630,000

Table 1: County Durham Family Hub Start for Life funding allocation

32 The funding allocated to Durham is due to be divided across the programme's strands as set out in the programme guide as follows:

		2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
			(Lower Range)	(Lower Range)	
		£000	£000	£000	£000
50% of 2022/2023 allocation released on sign up (October 2022)	50.0%	562			
50% of 2022/2023 allocation upon completion of the delivery plan (December 2022)	50.0%	562			
		1,123	1,796	1,485	4,404
		2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000
Family hubs programme spend 20.7%	20.7%	232	371	307	910
Family hubs capital spend 5.2%	5.2%	58	93	77	228
Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships 30.3%	30.3%	340	544	450	1,334
Parenting support 16.1%	16.1%	181	289	239	709
Infant feeding support 14.8%	14.8%	166	266	220	652
Home learning environment services 10.0%	10.0%	112	179	148	439
Publishing 'Start for Life' offers and Parent and Carer Panels 3.0%	3.0%	34	54	44	132
Total		1,123	1,796	1,485	4,404
		2022/23			
		£000			
Trailblazers (if successful)					
Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationship support		100			
Infant feeding support		50			
Parenting support		33			
Trailblazers funding total		183			
Total for 2022/23 incl. Trailblazers		1,306			

Table 2: County Durham allocation of Family Hub and Start for Life programme

33 Although the Family Hub and Start for Life programme provides additional funding during the lifetime of the 3-year programme, the government has not provided guarantees of ongoing funding beyond 2025 and will therefore require the LA and partners to consider sustainability beyond 2025. A comprehensive national evaluation of the programme is planned which it is hoped will demonstrate the impact of

the programme on positive outcomes for children and families as well as providing value for money.

- 34 It must also be noted that compared with when government launched this programme, both the national and local funding position has changed significantly, and we are likely to need to make savings over the three-year period of the programme. It will therefore be imperative we continue discussions with DfE and DHSC about sustainable funding as well as working locally with our partners to capture and evaluate the impact of the programme on children and families as well as savings to the 'Durham pound' through new ways of local working.
- 35 The Family Hub and SfL Implementation Group have developed a funding application process within the programme to ensure that funding is spent where there is evidence of improving outcomes for babies, children, young people, parents, and carers. In line with Durham's Delivery Plan additional resources in the form of full-time posts will be required across the partnership. The Family Hub and SfL Implementation Group will agree all additional posts by the end of November 2022 and progress recruitment. Additional posts will include posts within partner organisations such as County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT) and Harrogate and District Foundation Trust (HDFT) and with a smaller number of posts within DCC, thus reducing any potential redundancy liabilities for DCC beyond 2025 if funding is not sustained after then.

Timescales for Implementation

- 36 The Family Hub and SfL programme guide with each LA funding allocation was released on 8 August 2022. All eligible LAs were encouraged to sign up to the programme by 31 August 2022. LAs wishing to apply to be a Family Hub and Start for Life Trailblazer were required to submit both their Sign-Up application along with Trailblazer application on 31 August.
- 37 After local discussions it was agreed to submit our 'Sign-Up' application and a Trailblazer application on 31 August 2022 under the delegated authority of the Corporate Director and with agreement from a range of required signatures as listed in Appendix 2.
- 38 A Briefing Note was also prepared to share with County Durham MPs and Council Members. (Appendix 3).

Implementation Progress

- 39 Several key development and implementation milestones have been achieved to date and include:
- (a) Family Hub and Start for Life 'Sign Up' document was completed with multi agency partners and submitted on 31 August 2022. The 'Sign Up' document set out County Durham's readiness to

change and initial plans to develop support aimed at improving outcomes for babies, children, and families in County Durham. This has now been approved by DfE and DHSC. The outcome of the Trailblazer application is still not known at time of writing the report;

- (b) Initial briefing shared with local partners, all councillors, and local MPs;
- (c) DCC has agreed and signed Memorandum of Understanding with DfE and DHSC;
- (d) A multi-agency Implementation Group has been established and a project plan is in place;
- (e) A range of workstreams have been established, including data and intelligence, accommodation, service design, culture and leadership and communications and marketing;
- (f) Specialist support has been secured to develop and implement the Parent and Carer Panel;
- (g) Agreement to start Birth Registrations at Woodhouse Close Family Centre before considering other locations in the county;
- (h) In October 2022 an initial workshop was held to agree our consensus for change and identify gaps in current support. Around 90 multi-agency partners attended the workshop including parents and peer supporters;
- (i) A funding application process has been established by the Family Hub and SfL Implementation Group to ensure that the additional funding is spent where there is evidence of improving outcomes for babies, children, young people, parents, and carers and sustainability is considered.

Next Steps

40 The future planning and delivery timescales are set out in table 3.

Production of a County Durham delivery plan	December 2022
Workshop 2: Agreeing Durham's Family Hub Approach	January 2023
Family Hubs operational	April 2023
Publish a Start for Life Offer	April 2023
Establish a Parent Carer Panel	April 2023
Review current provision across the system, identify what is working well, any improvements/gaps/duplication	Throughout 2023

Implement new pathways	2024
Review and adjust	2024/25
Fully implemented	March 2025

Table 3: Implementation timescales

Conclusion

- 41 The DHSC and DfE Family Hub and SfL programme provides an opportunity to further build on our current Family Centre offer to ensure we have a comprehensive, integrated, and accessible Start for Life offer for babies, children, young people, parents, and carers (0-19 years up to 25 for young people with SEND). The programme also provides an opportunity to utilise the County Durham Approach to Wellbeing principles ensuring key stakeholders, parents, carers, children, and young people are at the heart of service design and delivery. In the current economic climate, we will be seeking to maximise our local partnership offer to help families whilst having to carefully consider sustainability and efficiency savings in a number of service areas.

Background papers

- [Programme guidance documents 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/114444/Family_hubs_and_start_for_life_programme_local_authority_guide.pdf)
- Anna Freud National Centre for family hubs [National Centre for Family Hubs](https://www.familyhubs.org/)

Other useful documents

- The best start for life [The best start for life: a vision for the 1,001 critical days - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114444/The_best_start_for_life_a_vision_for_the_1,001_critical_days.pdf)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The DHSC and DfE Family Hub and Start for Life programme provides additional funding to Durham County Council and key partner organisations to develop and deliver a range of comprehensive and accessible family support services aimed at families with children and young people aged 0-19 years (up to 25 years where a child/ young person has SEND).

Finance

This new programme is expected to bring between £4.4 and £4.6 million ring-fenced grant to County Durham over the next three years. Future funding beyond this period is currently unclear and will need to be a consideration for the council and local partners as the programme develops.

Probity of DHSC and DfE Funding sits alongside existing government funding programmes to support children and families from DfE, DWP and DLUHC.

In the current economic climate, we will be seeking to maximise our local partnership offer to help families whilst having to carefully consider sustainability and efficiency savings in a number of service areas.

Consultation

The Family Hub and Start for Life programme will be co-produced with key stakeholders, parents, carers, children, and young people. See Appendix 2 for Senior Leaders required to agree to the Sign Up for the programme by 31 August 2022.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None directly.

Climate Change

The programme will encourage families to take up service offers through the network of local family centres/family hubs closest to where they live.

Human Rights

Equal opportunities: Access: There is a clear and simple way for all families with children of all ages and abilities to access help and support through a Family Hub building and a Family Hub approach.

Crime and Disorder

None directly.

Staffing

Additional staffing across the partnership will be required to support delivery of the programme and will be funded through Family Hub and Start for Life funding allocation. The Family Hub and SfL Implementation Group will agree all additional posts by the end of November 2022 and progress recruitment. Additional posts will include posts within partner organisations such as County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT) and Harrogate and District Foundation Trust (HDFT) and with a smaller number of posts within DCC, thus reducing any potential redundancy liabilities for DCC beyond 2025 if funding is not sustained after then.

Accommodation

Minor improvement funding within current Family Centre stock is available within the 5.2% capital funding allocation.

Risk

A risk log has been established by the Implementation Group. Risks highlighted include, not being able to recruit appropriately qualified and trained staff to provide additional support on offer to families.

The Family Hub and Start for Life programme provides additional funding during the lifetime of the three-year programme, the Government has not provided guarantees of ongoing funding beyond 2025 and will therefore require the LA and partners to consider sustainability beyond 2025.

Procurement

None.

Appendix 2: 'Sign Up' Programme Document Signatory Requirements and Consultation

Signatures required for Family Hub and Start for Life programme

DCC CEO

Director Children's Services

Director of Public Health

Chief Finance Officer

Leader of Council

Chair Health and Wellbeing Board

Consultation

Local Members of Parliament for County Durham

Dehenna Davison - MP Bishop Auckland.
 Mary Kelly Foy - MP Durham City
 Richard Holden - MP North West Durham
 Paul Howell- MP Sedgefield
 Kevan Jones- MP North Durham
 Graham Morris - MP Easington

Cabinet member for CYPS

Cllr Ted Henderson

Integrated Care Board Executive

David Gallagher

Local providers of services that are relevant to the programme. Including

- ✓ Local health systems, e.g. NHS trust, local midwifery team, health visitor leads.
 - ✓ Local third sector/voluntary and community/faith
-

Appendix 3: Briefing Note

Briefing Note

Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme Children and Young People's Service



To:	County Durham MPs and County Council Members
From:	Martyn Stenton, Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children Karen Davison, Strategic Manager One Point and Think Family Service
Date:	August 2022
Purpose:	To inform MPs and Members on proposals regarding Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme in County Durham

Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme

- 1 In the 2021 Autumn Budget, the Government announced a three-year Family Hubs and Start for Life (SfL) programme to deliver a step-change in outcomes for babies, children, young people, parents, and carers. The Government's vision for Family Hubs is to provide a system-wide model of providing high-quality, joined-up, whole-family support services. Family Hubs will deliver these services from conception, through a child's early years until they reach the age of 19 (or 25 for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities).
- 2 Family Hubs aim to make a positive difference to parents, carers, and their children by providing a mix of physical and virtual spaces, as well as outreach, where families can easily access non-judgmental support for the challenges they may be facing. They will provide a universal 'front door' to families, offering a 'one-stop shop' of family support services across their social care, education, mental health, and physical health needs, with a comprehensive Start for Life offer for parents and babies at its core. A Family Hub will be designed to be particularly

accessible to families from lower socio-economic groups, families who have special education needs or a disability, or those from minoritised groups who are experiencing exclusion.

- 3 The Family Hub and Start for Life programme is delivered by the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Department of Education (DfE) was launched on 8 August 2022. The Government will allocate £301.75 million over the next three financial years to enable 75 upper-tier local authorities in England, including County Durham, to deliver a package of family support and Start for Life services. This includes:
 - (a) £100 million for bespoke parent-infant mental health support;
 - (b) £81.75 million to create a network of Family Hubs, improving access to a wide range of integrated support services for families with children of all ages;
 - (c) £50 million to establish multicomponent breastfeeding support services in line with local needs;
 - (d) £50 million to fund evidence-based parenting programmes;
 - (e) £10 million to support local authorities to publish a clear 'Start for Life offer' and ensure that parents' and carers' voices are heard in the design, planning and delivery of services.
- 4 A further £10 million will support trials of innovative Start for Life workforce models in a smaller number of areas. It will also include £28.7 million announced in August 2021 to train practitioners to support parents with the home learning environment.
- 5 15 local authorities (LAs) will also have access to an additional £183,000 to be a Family Hub Trailblazer in three priority areas, breastfeeding, perinatal mental health/ parent child relationships and parenting support. LAs applying to be a Trailblazer will need to demonstrate they are able to make the fastest and most ambitious improvements to services in year 1 and establish best practices to benefit all local authorities delivering the programme.
- 6 This investment underpins the Government's commitment to giving families and their children the best start in life. It sits alongside funding to further embed the Reducing Parental Conflict programme in local areas and the £200 million uplift to the Supporting Families programme.

Family Hubs and Start for Life programme in County Durham

- 7 County Durham is one of the 75 LAs eligible for additional funding to develop and implement Family Hubs and SfL programme. The Government's vision for Family Hubs builds on County Durham's current 15 Family Centre offer which provides a range of family support services for children, young people aged 0-19 years (up to 25 with SEND) and their parents and carers. The Government have yet to decide as to whether a national branding will be used for all Family Hubs across all 75 LAs eligible for additional funding.
- 8 The programme will help further develop our current Family Centre offer, ensuring services such as Midwifery, Health Visiting, DCC's One Point Service (Early Help), VCS and other key partner organisations, working with families, provide an integrated, accessible offer of support which is designed and delivered using co-production, based on the County Durham Approach to Wellbeing principles.
- 9 Our Family Hub vision is: *In County Durham, Family Hubs will provide a system-wide model of providing high-quality, whole-family, joined up family support services from pregnancy, through the child's early years and later childhood, and into early adulthood until they reach the age of 19 (or up to 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities).*
- 10 Our aims include to:
 - (a) make a positive difference to parents, carers, and their children, through providing a mix of physical and virtual spaces, as well as home visits for families to easily access non-judgemental support;
 - (b) provide a universal front door to families, offering a one-stop shop of family support services across their social care, education, mental health, and physical health needs;
 - (c) develop and publish a comprehensive Start for Life offer for parents and carers;
 - (d) facilitate professionals across public sector, voluntary, community and faith sector to work together, through co-location, data sharing and a common approach to their work with children, young people, and families.
- 11 The outcomes we are working to achieving:
 - (a) improved outcomes for babies, children, and young people as set out in the County Durham Family Outcome Framework;
 - (b) improved outcomes for parents and carers as set out in the County Durham Family Outcome Framework;
 - (c) improved access, connections, and relationships within local family services;

- (d) reduced inequalities; and
- (e) a stronger evidence base on what works in different delivery contexts.

- 12 The programme will be co-produced with system wide partners including DCC, VCS, Midwifery and Health Visitors and key partner agencies working with children and families, with a central focus on co-production with parents and carers with lived experience and will involve setting up of a Parent and Carer Panel to influence and shape service design and delivery.
- 13 A multi-agency Family Hub Implementation Group has been established and five workstreams set up to drive the programme deliverables. Governance will be provided through the Prevention and Early Help Partnership reporting up to the Children, Young People and Families Partnership, engaging with the Best Start in Life Steering Group, which has seven priority areas, including perinatal and infant mental health and breastfeeding.
- 14 We will be holding three system wide workshops to gather views and identify key priorities for improvement, as well as specifying our Family Hub Approach and ensuring we are ready for implementation.

Family Hub Funding

- 15 County Durham’s funding allocation for the three-year programme ranges between £4.4 million and £4.6 million as set out in table 1 below.

2022-23	2023-24		2024-25		Total	
Total	Lower Range	Upper Range	Lower Range	Upper Range	Lower Range	Upper Range
£1,123,000	£1,796,000	£1,923,000	£1,485,000	£1,583,000	£4,404,000	£4,630,000

Table 1: County Durham Family Hub Start for Life funding allocation

- 16 The funding allocated for Durham is divided across the programme’s strands as set out in the programme guide.

		2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
			(Lower Range)	(Lower Range)	
		£000	£000	£000	£000
50% of 2022/2023 allocation released on sign up (October 2022)	50.0%	562			
50% of 2022/2023 allocation upon completion of the delivery plan (December 2022)	50.0%	562			
		1,123	1,796	1,485	4,404
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Family hubs programme spend 20.7%	20.7%	232	371	307	910
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Parenting support 16.1%	16.1%	181	289	239	709
Infant feeding support 14.8%	14.8%	166	266	220	652
Home learning environment services 10.0%	10.0%	112	179	148	439
Publishing 'Start for Life' offers and Parent and Carer Panels 3.0%	3.0%	34	54	44	132
Total		1,123	1,796	1,485	4,404
		2022/23			
Trailblazers		£000			
Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationship support		100			
Infant feeding support		50			
Parenting support		33			
Trailblazers funding total		183			
Total for 2022/23 incl. Trailblazers		1,306			

Table 2: County Durham allocation of Family Hub and Start for Life programme funding

- 17 The Family Hub and Start for Life programme provides additional funding during the lifetime of the 3-year programme, the government has not provided guarantees of ongoing funding beyond 2025 and will therefore require the LA and partners to consider sustainability beyond 2025.
- 18 The Family Hub and Sfl Implementation Group have developed a funding application process within the programme to ensure that funding is spent where there is evidence of improving outcomes for babies, children, young people, parents, and carers.

Timescale for Implementation

- 19 All eligible LAs are encouraged to sign up to the programme from the 31 August 2022. LAs wishing to apply to be a Family Hub and Sfl Trailblazer will be required to submit both their Sign-Up application along with Trailblazer application on 31 August. It is County Durham's intention to submit both 'Sign-Up' application and a Trailblazer application on 31 August 2022. The future planning and delivery timescales are set out in table 3.

Production of a delivery plan	December 2022
Family Hubs operational	April 2023
Review current provision across the system, identify what is working well, any improvements/gaps/duplication	Throughout 2023
Publish a Start for Life Offer	April 2023
Establish a Parent Carer Panel	April 2023
Implement new pathways	2024
Review and adjust	2024/25
Full implementation	March 2025

Table 3: Implementation timescales

Conclusion

- 19 The DHSC and DfE Family Hub and SfL programme provides an opportunity to further build on our current Family Centre offer to ensure we have a comprehensive, integrated and accessible Start for Life offer for children, young people, parents and carers (0-19 years up to 25 for children and young people with SEND). The programme also provides an opportunity to utilise the County Durham Approach to Wellbeing principles ensuring key stakeholders, parents, carers, children and young people are at the heart of service design and delivery.
- 20 Useful links:
- (a) [Programme guidance documents Family hubs and start for life programme: local authority guide - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
 - (b) Anna Freud National Centre for family hubs [National Centre for Family Hubs](#)
 - (c) The best start for life [The best start for life: a vision for the 1,001 critical days - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)