

**Children and Young People's  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**13 November 2023**

**Family Hub and Start for Life  
Programme in County Durham**



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**Joint Report of John Pearce, Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services and Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health**

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To provide a progress update regarding the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme in County Durham following a briefing note in October 2023.

**Executive summary**

- 2 The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Department for Education (DfE) launched a three-year (2022- 25) 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 (see background papers) which describes the minimum and 'go further' offer required of each Family Hub and SfL programme across the three-year implementation period.
- 4 County Durham is one of 75 LAs receiving additional funding to drive the transformation required to deliver the programme offer. County Durham will receive £4.6m of funding over the three-year programme. County Durham is also one of fifteen Local Authorities (LAs) who were successful in receiving an additional £183,000 to be a Family Hub Trailblazer in three priority areas, breastfeeding, perinatal mental health/parent child relationships and parenting support.
- 5 A multi-agency Family Hub and SfL Implementation Group has been established. Governance is provided through the Prevention and Early Help Partnership - responsible for broader early help work and Department for

Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Supporting Families programme – with reporting up to the Starting Well Partnership. There are also clear lines of communication with the Best Start in Life Working Group, which has a number of key priority actions linked to the Start for Life offer.

- 6 To date the County Durham Family Hub and SfL programme has made good progress against the key programme expectations including the development and implementation of an integrated Start for Life offer. Additional resources and learning and development opportunities has increased the capacity and capability of the Family Hub workforce to deliver additional infant feeding, perinatal mental health and parenting support offers. The development and implementation of a vibrant Parent and Carer Panel has also facilitated authentic coproduction of all offers of support across County Durham.

### **Recommendation(s)**

- 7 Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:
  - (a) note the contents of the report and
  - (b) provide comment to inform future Family Hub and Start for Life developments.

### **Background**

- 8 There is strong evidence on the importance of the first 1001 days of life, recognising the lasting impact this has on health outcomes and life chances. It is an important period for brain development, impacting a child’s social and emotional resilience in later life, and for ensuring children start school ready to learn.
- 9 We know that a child’s experiences from conception to 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.
- 10 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.

- 11 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 Hubs and Start for Life programme**

- 12 The DHSC and the DfE launched a three-year (2022- 25) 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).
- 13 The 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 and
  - (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.
- 14 The intended outcomes include
- (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.
- 15 The DHSC and DfE have developed a Family Hub and SfL programme guide, a programme framework and expectations document (see background papers) which describes the minimum and 'go further' offer required of each Family Hub and SfL programme across the three-year implementation period.
- 16 The DfE and DHSC have appointed the Anna Freud Centre for Family Hubs to support LAs with programme development and implementation support.
- 17 A Regional Family Hub and Start for Life Network has also been established, supported by colleagues from the National Centre for Family Hubs and DfE Regional Advisers. The network provides an opportunity for LA Leads and national colleagues to share good practice and ongoing local, regional and national challenges.

### **Family Hubs and Start for Life programme in County Durham**

- 18 County Durham is one of 75 LAs receiving additional funding to drive the transformation required to deliver the programme offer. County Durham will receive up to £4.6 m of funding over the three-year programme. County Durham is also one of fifteen Local Authorities (LAs) who were successful in receiving an additional £183,000 to be a Family Hub Trailblazer in three priority areas, breastfeeding, perinatal mental health/parent child relationships and parenting support. It must be noted that the focus of the funding is directed at the Start for Life period (ante-natal and first 2 years of a baby's life), with the Home Learning Environment element focussed on 3- and 4-year-olds. There are small elements of funding which can be used for broader transformation and capital expenditure to ensure our Family Hubs and warm and welcoming spaces for our children and their parents and carers. Funding does not include any new build Family Hubs.
- 19 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).*

### **Progress to date**

- 20 A multi-agency Family Hub and SfL Implementation Group has been established to drive the transformation required to achieve our intended outcomes. Governance is 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 Starting Well Partnership, with clear lines of communication with the Best Start in Life Working Group, which has a number of key priority actions linked to the Start for Life offer. County Durham data and intelligence has been utilised to ensure our developments are focused on improving the life chances of babies, children and their families especially those deemed disadvantaged.

- 21 A comprehensive Family Hub and Start for Life Delivery Plan has been developed, utilising local data and intelligence, theory of change and logic model approaches to ensure our developments are rooted in evidence and research as well as co-produced with Durham's Parent and Carer Panel. As per DfE expectations Durham has completed a self-assessment against all expected minimum and go further support expectations.
- 22 All offers of support through the Start for Life period and beyond to families with children 0-19 years (up to 25 years with SEND) will be delivered in an integrated way through collaborative working. In many of the Family Hubs co-location of health and council staff, such as Midwives, Health Visitors, Early Help Practitioners is supporting integration. There is more work to undertake to co-locate more Midwifery teams and where co-location is not possible, building adaptations are underway to provide clinical spaces for the delivery of Midwifery and Health Visiting care, including antenatal appointments, enabling prospective parents to receive their antenatal care near to home and experience Family Hub offer early in their pregnancy and their transition to parenthood. We see this as a critical element of transformation programme, recognising the potential impact of offering antenatal care from within the Family Hub provides an opportunity for improved integrated working arrangements and access to additional support at the earliest opportunity.
- 23 Over the summer we have launched and rebranded our 15 Family Hubs (previously One Point Family Centres). The branding and logo for Family Hubs has been co-produced with parents and carers from County Durham. For more information about the locations of our Family Hubs visit <https://www.durham.gov.uk/FamilyHubs>
- 24 Three stakeholder workshops have been held since the launch of the programme ensuring all key partners have been engaged in service design and delivery.

## **Parent and Carer Panel**

- 25 In line with the government's vision, Durham, has developed a Parent and Carer Panel which consists of both parents and professionals working together to coproduce support services to meet the needs of local families

and ensure our Family Hubs are warm, welcoming and non-stigmatising places for families to attend. We currently have a vibrant and enthusiastic panel of parents and carers who engage and contribute to a wide range of consultations effecting service design and delivery. Within the early stages of development parents supported professionals to develop role descriptors for panel members and agree a range of values and principles within which the panel would work. The panel now meets monthly, and the co-chairs of the PCP are members of the multiagency Family Hub and Sfl Implementation Group.

- 26 The PCP have been involved in a very wide range of service design and developments including all published literature, job role descriptors, influencing how groups, clinics and drop-in sessions should be conducted and offered as well as participating in stakeholder workshops and recruitment panels. PCP representatives recently spoke with inspectors during the Thematic Review of Start for Life in Durham. Feedback from inspectors found the PCP to be a real strength stating: *“Parent and carer panel is well embedded, dynamic and inspirational. Parents feel listened to, and things are responded to / acted on quickly”*. Durham has been requested to share a case study on our PCP implementation process with the National Centre for Family Hubs as an example of good practice.
- 27 Members of the panel report *“One thing I’ve really enjoyed was seeing the new branding and launch information on social media pages. I felt quite proud to see something I’d been involved in creating finally out there in the public domain”*. Six months in and we are able to strongly evidence a “You Said We Did” approach. *“It’s wonderful to see how our suggestions are being taken on board and implemented in as little as a few weeks, so I can see what a difference we are making. It’s been great to work with people from all sorts of backgrounds too to hear varying opinions.”*

### **Start for Life Offer**

- 28 In line with governments expectations Durham has developed in coproduction with parents and carers a ‘Start for Life’ offer available to ALL parents and carers. The ‘Start for Life’ offer specifically refers to the antenatal period and up to a child reaching 2 years of age. All expectant and new parents will be provided with this offer in both paper form and digitally. Please see Start for Life Leaflet which will be shared with every prospective and new parent in County Durham. (Appendices 2) The leaflet also contains a QR code to enable families to register with our Family Hubs which will enable us to proactively invite parents to future offers of support. The Start for Life offer includes:
- (a) access to a comprehensive Healthy Child programme;
  - (b) preparation for parenthood support;

- (c) infant feedback support during the antenatal and post-natal period;
- (d) drop-in sessions for new and expectant parents to provide social spaces to meet other parents;
- (e) group based programmes aimed at supporting parenting and child health and development;
- (f) access to a range of welfare and financial support;
- (g) provide additional support should issues such as perinatal mental health, domestic abuse, parental conflict be identified.

## **Progress updates relating to the 4 funded strands.**

### **Infant Feeding**

- 29 Breastfeeding plays an important role in the prevention of illness and reducing health inequalities. If sustained for the first six months of life, breastfeeding can make a major contribution to an infant's health, wellbeing and development and is also associated with better health outcomes for the mother. Breastfeeding rates for County Durham have remained almost unchanged over recent years despite continued promotion and high-quality support for breastfeeding mothers. 2021/22 figures show rates for England at 49.2% compared to County Durham at 30.5%.
- 30 The Best Start for Life: A Vision for the 1,001 Critical Days (See report in useful documents) the government's Early Years Healthy Development Review recognised that many parents struggle with breastfeeding and that different mothers and babies have different needs. The review consequently set out a vision for breastfeeding support to be available to all parents and carers as part of the universal Start for Life offer, including practical help with breastfeeding, early diagnosis of issues such as tongue-tie, and help with formula feeding where that is more appropriate.
- 31 The associated Family Hub and Start for Life funding associated with Infant Feeding strand has enabled the partnership to:
- (a) commission breastfeeding insights research: In-line with the Family Hub Programme's commitment to responding to the unique needs and experiences of mothers and infants within the community, Blue Grass Research Ltd has been commissioned to conduct comprehensive research to gain local insight into the barriers and enablers of breastfeeding. This research aims to investigate attitudes, decision making and beliefs around infant feeding, to inform and strengthen future service provision;

- (b) enhance infant feeding support -With County Durham experiencing steep drop-off rates in breastfeeding between initiation and 10-14 days, the proactive, skilled support provided by the infant feeding advisors during pregnancy and in the early postnatal period aims to help women overcome early difficulties and sustain breastfeeding as long as they wish. Additional Maternity Care Assistance and Infant Feeding Advisers provide access to 1:1 and group-based support during both the antenatal and early post-natal period delivered from a local Family Hub.

## **Parent and Infant Relationships and Perinatal Mental Health (PNMH and PIR)**

- 32 The Family Hub and SfL funding relating to parent and infant relationships and perinatal mental health is intended to support the early identification of perinatal mental health and parent–infant relationship needs to prevent difficulties emerging and to better support families where low-level needs are identified. To this effect the funding aims to increase the existing workforce's capacity and capability to identify a perinatal and infant mental health need and ensure that need is met.
- 33 To progress the work a multi-agency Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Working Group has been established. The group is developing a perinatal and infant mental health strategy and will ensure associated actions are aligned to the minimum and go further expectations of the Family Hubs and SfL programme. The funding to date has enabled Durham to:
  - (a) create a Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Specialist Health Visiting Team which includes a Specialist Health Visitor, a Staff Nurse and three Family Peer Supporters, who will provide access to a range of low-level support using various evidenced based interventions such as Triple P Baby and Video Interactive Guidance;
  - (b) develop and implement a bespoke group-based model of perinatal mental health support, Nurturing Little Minds, a 6-week programme for low to moderate PIMH, they will also deliver 1:1 and group wellbeing walks;
  - (c) The Specialist HV will provide access to learning and development opportunities and provide supervision to key practitioners delivering support;
  - (d) develop a learning and development programme for the broader Family Hubs workforce, which includes NHS and voluntary and community partners, and includes perinatal mental health training relating to mothers as well as a module covering paternal perinatal mental health and LGBGTQ;



- (e) train midwives and Sports, Leisure and Tourism Teams in 'Aquafusion' and reinstate the offer of aqua natal classes across the county;
  - (f) commission Northeast Young Dads and Lads (NEYDL) to work with 40 young dads per annum, providing 1:1 and group support for vulnerable young dads with a perinatal mental health need in County Durham aged 25 and under during the perinatal period;
  - (g) implement a New Parents Community Connectors Project to provide 1:1 support to individuals/families who are either about to give birth or have recently given birth and have low mood or a perinatal mental health need identified. They are supported to build their confidence to connect with a range of support offers to meet their needs such as registering with GP and dentist, attend Baby and Me group and provide access to financial and wellbeing support;
  - (h) develop a booklet "Supporting your emotional wellbeing" has been co-produced with parents and perinatal and infant mental health clinicians. It details all perinatal and infant mental health support available in County Durham and how to access. Further work will take place between September-December 2023 to update the current developing offer. It is planned that the leaflet will be given to all people at their midwifery "booking appointment" and made available throughout the County through our partners in places that families attend. All information is also available online [www.durham.gov.uk/helpforfamilies](http://www.durham.gov.uk/helpforfamilies);
  - (i) ensure all Family Hubs offer a universal offer for new parents: Baby and Me and Toddler and Me groups on a weekly basis which focus on building positive, nurturing family relationships, promote learning and development, address safety and wellbeing for both parent and child.
- 34 In addition to developing PNMH and PIR support we also intend to train a number of Family Hub practitioners to deliver parent and infant bonding support through baby massage. This training is not funded through Family Hubs however it encourages parents to connect with their baby promoting the parent and infant relationship both physically and emotionally.
- 35 The County Durham Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Service delivered by Tess Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust (TEWV) is available to women and birthing people who are pregnant or gave birth within two years, who have been identified with a moderate to severe perinatal mental health need. The development of the low to moderate offers of support from with the Family Hub provides an opportunity to identify and address lower level needs as well as a robust pathway into more specialist support where required. The

specialist service currently delivers Consultant clinics in two Family Hubs buildings.

## **Parenting Support**

- 36 A key expectation of the SfL offer is to provide access to a universal parenting offer, supporting the transition into becoming a parent. This offer will include access for all prospective and new parents to:
- (a) Solihull 'Preparation for Parenthood' programme available both face to face and digitally;
  - (b) Baby and Me and Toddler and Me sessions in each of our Family Hubs weekly, supporting nurturing family relationships, child and family wellbeing, child development and promotion of learning;
  - (c) Targeted parenting programmes - Incredible Babies (0-2 years) and Incredible Toddler (3-5 years) and Triple P Baby (0-2yrs);
  - (d) Sleep Scotland training undertaken by Health Visiting teams to be able to deliver specific preventative and early help to families who are experiencing poor sleep routines. The Portage Service will also undertake this training.
- 37 We will continue to provide a range of group-based programmes aimed at promoting emotional wellbeing of children and young people (Chill Kids, Teen Zone, Safer Choices). Targeted support for Domestic Abuse will also continue to be offered, co-delivered with Harbour Domestic Abuse Service including Inspire and new DART programme for children and their parent. (See Appendices 2 Family Hub Activity and programme guide).

## **Home Learning Environment (HLE)**

- 38 Early language acquisition impacts on all aspects of babies' and young children's non-physical development. It contributes to their ability to manage emotions and communicate feelings, to establish and maintain relationships, to think symbolically, and to learn to read and write. The HLE covers the interactions parents have in and around the home with their children from birth. The quality of the HLE is a key predictor of a baby's and child's early language ability and future success. Disadvantaged children are less likely to experience a high-quality HLE, a factor exacerbated during the pandemic. The following developments build on the current support provided through HDFT Health Visiting service including an additional Speech Language and Communication (SLC) screening contact at 14-18 months, the roll out of the Early Language and Identification Measure (ELIM) an assessment tool used at the 2.5-year review and roll out of ELIM interventions.

- 39 The Family Hub and SfL programme intends to increase the capacity and capability of Family Hub workforce to promote effective HLE support through:
- (a) recruitment of 2 (1 WTE) Specialist Advisory Leads from with Education Psychology Service and 1 WTE HLE Support Officer post;
  - (b) development of a comprehensive HLE strategy for County Durham;
  - (c) enhancing the capability of a wide range of Family Hub practitioners and Educational Settings staff to identify and promote HLE through:
    - (i) development and implementation of a mandatory e-learning module 'Introduction to Speech and Language in the Early Years';
    - (ii) roll out of training in the use of the Wellcomm screening tool with 3-year-olds;
    - (iii) develop and deliver communication champions accredited training so that parent workshops specific to speech and language can be delivered in the Family Hubs;
    - (iv) development of information and resources for parent/carers in collaboration with key partners including Durham libraries.

### **Children with SEND and their families.**

- 40 Family Hubs have also developed a range of accessible support for families with a child with SEN/D including:
- (a) Special Educational Needs and Disability and Information Advice and Support Services (SENDIASS) drop-ins;
  - (b) Access to Sensory Rooms and Sensory Tents;
  - (c) Triple P Stepping Stones parenting programme aimed specifically at parenting needs of children with SEND;
  - (d) Portage group (Bishop Auckland, Peterlee and Stanley Hub.) Play based group for children with complex developmental needs up to 3 years old. Parents attend with their children;
  - (e) Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities (EPEC) Being a Parent Autism -Parent Group leaders deliver the group-based programme to other parents;
  - (f) DurhamLearn run a series of Autism Awareness workshops for parents/carers;

- (g) SEN/D Health Visitor Team Offer- 2-6 years: Sessions comprising structured advice and guidance around:
- (i) Toilet training your child with SEN;
  - (ii) Fussy eater– predominantly aimed at sensory eating issues;
  - (iii) Sleep support – based on Sleep Scotland - Initially Horden, Bishop Auckland, Stanley Family Hub.
- (h) Plans are also underway to work with Autism Central a charity based within the Daisy Chain organisation who are now funded to work in Durham and provide a range of support from 1:1 advice and support, group-based support and parent training offers. This will complement our current offer across County Durham.

### **Financial Support for Families**

- 41 Family Hubs will also provide access to a range of financial help and support to families impacted by poverty and the cost-of-living crisis and includes promoting access to:
- (a) Healthy Start Scheme and Free School Meals;
  - (b) Start for Life Fund (provided through the Household Support Fund 2023/24) Professionals can apply for funding for safe sleeping equipment including cots, mattresses and bedding and also home safety equipment such as fire guards and safety gates, ensuring that our most vulnerable families (with children 0-5 years) who are facing financial difficulties have access to safe sleeping and home safety equipment to keep children warm, safe and secure;
  - (c) Feeding Families Food Parcels and Hygiene Packs- In partnership with the Northeast charity Feeding Families, food parcels are delivered to a number of our Family Hubs, fortnightly, for access to a wide range of partners such as Social Workers, Health Visitors and Early Help Workers to distribute to families most in need;
  - (d) Family hubs also offer pre-loved clothes including baby clothes and equipment, winter coats and shoes, school uniforms, access to a community pantry with non-perishable foods and personal hygiene packs;
  - (e) Access to workshops such as Cooking on a Budget, Managing Money etc.

- (f) Access to financial help and debt management support via Advice in County Durham.

## **Digital Support**

- 42 In line with government expectations, we continue to promote a range of digital support offers including:
  - (a) a range of online Solihull parenting programme courses including preparing for parenthood, understanding preterm baby, understanding your teenager's brain, understanding your feeling aimed at teenagers and many more;
  - (b) Relationship Matters programmes relating to parental conflict, parenting when separated, supporting transition to parenthood;
  - (c) courses to keep family healthy (HENRY programme) including Healthy families right from the start, addressing healthy family routines and healthy eating, Fussy eating course, eating well for less and healthy teeth course;
  - (d) promotion of the 0-25 Family Health Service 'Growing Healthy' App which provides a range of advice and guidance on a range of health and wellbeing issues for families, this also includes a Health Chat function providing the opportunity to message a Health Visitor, School Nurse or Duty Practitioner during office hours with any questions, and a response is provided within 24 hours.

## **Other developments**

- 43 All offers of support are now collated into termly timetables for each individual Family Hub. These are co-produced with a range of key stakeholders such as health, council and VCS providers.
- 44 We aim to pilot offering parents birth registration from the Bishop Auckland Family Hub from November 2023. This will provide parents the opportunity to register the birth of their baby from within the Family Hub and provide an opportunity to access other offers of support.
- 45 National DfE management information expectations, requires Durham to submit quarterly information on families take up of offers of support across all delivery expectations. In order to help collate and further evaluate the impact of the Family Hub and SfL offer across the partnership an additional module has been purchased within DCC LiquidLogic case management system. This will enable the partnership to capture our collective group-based activities delivered in and through Family Hubs.
- 46 In August, Durham took part in an Ofsted and Care Quality Commission Thematic Review of the SfL offer, in which very positive feedback was

provided. This review aims to help the DfE and the national programme leads to consider the key requirements of any future inspection framework.

- 47 Durham is also taking part in the SfL Year 1 national evaluation, led by Ecorys and Oxford University. This is due to take place in November and will consist of in-depth interviews with leaders, managers, front line staff and families.
- 48 Further work is underway to ensure all offers of support are 'Father/Male Carer Inclusive' recognising the specific needs of dads and male carers which will be progressed in coproduction with Durham dads.
- 49 A comprehensive communication and marketing plan is in place to ensure we continually promote all offers of support. This includes social media presence, website information and the development of short video productions of local parents and children accessing support offers in order to encourage take up by other parents and carers.

## **Current Challenges**

- 50 The main challenge currently impacting on the ability to develop and implement Durham's Family Hub and SfL programme at pace is the continued impact of shortage in Midwifery and Health Visiting teams. This is not unique to Durham and is reflective of the national picture of a shortage of trained health professionals. Mitigations include increasing the skill mix of teams and improved collaboration and integrated support offers under the 'Family Hub' umbrella.

## **Conclusion**

- 51 The DHSE and DfE Family Hub and Start for Life programme has provided an opportunity and impetus for greater collaboration and integrated offers of support 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). The programme provides a 'one stop shop' to a warm and welcoming Family Hub which will offer support to ALL parents at the earliest opportunity, with a specific focus of identifying and targeting children and families deemed as disadvantaged or with specific additional needs.
- 52 The programme is also supporting the development of the workforce to meet the programme requirements supported by authentic coproduction undertaken by Parent and Carer Panel, helping to ensure the support on offer is accessible and acceptable to families in the county.

## **Background papers:**

- (a) Programme guidance documents Family hubs and start for life programme: local authority guide - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

## **Other useful documents and links**

- (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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Author(s)**

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **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**

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

### **Consultation**

The Family Hub and Start for Life programme will be co-produced with key stakeholders, parents, carers, children and young people. Parent and Carer Panel in place

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

None.

### **Climate Change**

None.

### **Human Rights**

Equal opportunities: 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.

### **Staffing**

Additional staffing have been recruited in key priority areas of the programme expectations and funded through Family Hub and Start for Life funding allocation

### **Accommodation**

Minor improvements within current Family Hub 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.

## **Procurement**

A range of evidence-based programmes have been procured in line with DCC procedures.

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## **Appendix 2: Family Hub and Start for Life Literature for Families**

– Under separate cover

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2a – Family Hub Start for Life Booklet

2b – Family Hub Activity and Programme Guide

2c – Family Hub Locations Flyer

2d – Family Hub Perinatal Leaflet

2e i            Family Hub What's on – Bishop Auckland

2e ii           Family Hub What's on – Chester le Street

2e iii          Family Hub What's on – Ferryhill

2e iv          Family Hub What's on Newton Aycliffe

2e v           Family Hub What's on Tudhoe

2e vi          Family Hub What's on Brandon

2e vii         Family Hub What's on Consett

2e viii        Family Hub What's on Durham

2e ix          Family Hub What's on Easington

2e x           Family Hub What's on Horden

2e xi          Family Hub What's on Peterlee

2e xii         Family Hub What's on Seaham

2e xiii        Family Hub What's on Stanley

2e xiv         Family Hub What's on Wheatley Hill

2e xv          Family Hub What's on Willington