

EXECUTIVE 15th September 2022

Report Title	Family Hubs Model Programme
Report Author	AnnMarie Dodds, Executive Director of Children's Services
Lead Member	Cllr Scott Edwards - Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To ensure that the Executive are appraised on successful confirmed funding allocations, spending criteria, milestones and expectations set for the Family Hubs and Start for Life transformation grant.
- 1.2. To seek agreement for the recommendation to delegate authority to the Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills in consultation with the Executive Director of Children's Service to distribute and administer the grant over the next three years (2022-2025) in accordance with the grant criteria.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 In June 2022 the Executive resolved:

- a) Council adopts a Family Hubs model for North Northamptonshire
 - b) Notes that the Family Hubs model will be based upon local need and be developed in co-production with children, parents, carers, and the wider community partnership.
 - c) Delegate authority to the Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills in consultation with the Executive Director of Children's Services to establish a Partnership Board to oversee the development of the Family Hubs Model.
- 2.2 Following the decision (detailed above) to develop a Family Hubs Model approach, the Council successfully applied to the DfE for a three-year Family Hubs Transformation Grant. The grant was confirmed in writing on 10th August 2022.
- 2.3 Delegated authority is requested for the distribution of the full grant amount, to the Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills in consultation with the Executive Director of Children's Service, over a three- year period. Over the three financial years of 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, the Council allocation will range between £3.93m and £4.11m (exact amount yet to be confirmed).

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Executive:
- a) Note the funding allocation under the Family Hubs and Start for Life grant which will be between £3.93m and £4.11m over the three-year period.
 - b) Delegate authority to the Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills, in consultation with the Executive Director of Children's Service, to distribute the full grant amount over the next three years.
 - c) Receive an annual report detailing distribution of the grant and progress on the delivery of the programme.
 - d) Note that needs analysis work will continue to be undertaken and delegates authority to the Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills, in consultation with the Executive Director of Children's Services the authority to determine the allocation of the prototype locality in accordance with the required timescale.
- 3.2 Reasons for Recommendation: This is being recommended due to the time sensitive nature of the grant deliverables and spend requirements within the criteria of the grant allocation. This means that the Council must make arrangements to spend £996k before the end of the financial year, this money must be spent in accordance with the grant headings shown in the table under para 7.1.

- 3.3 To ensure member oversight, it is recommended that an annual review process is put into place with the Executive to provide assurances of the programmes deliverables and spend against the grant allocation. This will further support the implementation of the programme at the pace required.
- 3.4 Alternative Options Considered: That delegated authority is not granted in relation to grant allocation. This is not recommended as it will add delay in developing the programme at the pace required and the Council would lose the opportunity to enhance and co-ordinate services for families. Furthermore, the Council would lose the opportunity to spend the allocated funds within the short timescales which will impact on driving the required activity and reduce investment into the local area. Any unspent grant for the 2022/2023 allocation will have to be returned.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 This report follows the initial Family Hubs paper that was considered by the Executive in June 2022. This report now seeks authority to deliver the agreed model through the utilisation of grant monies.
- 4.2 It was announced in April that the Council has been chosen as one of the 75 Local Authorities who will receive a three-year transformational grant to develop the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme. On 10th August 2022, the Council received further clarity and confirmation in writing which included the grant allocation. Details of the grant allocation are shared as part of this report (at para 7.1).
- 4.3 Further to the agreement to deliver the Family Hubs programme, clear governance and task and finish groups have been mobilised across the early intervention and prevention system to develop the offer and identify strategic priorities across the partnership.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The 4 localities that an integrated hub, spoke and virtual offer to children, young people 0-19 (25) and their families will be developed in are;
- Wellingborough
 - Corby
 - East Northamptonshire
 - Kettering
- 5.2 The aim is to launch a Family Hub prototype in one locality, to provide a test and learn opportunity which the Council will monitor and evaluate closely to support the wider roll out of the programme. The locality will be selected based on the need analysis that is being undertaken, and, if approved, the decision will be delegated to the Executive Member for Children, Families, Education

and Skills, in consultation with the Executive Director of Children's Services. Due to the delivery time scales set out as part of the grant, this is time sensitive.

- 5.3 As part of the development of the Family Hub approach and proposals across the Council, an initial Equality Impact Assessment for the first locality will need to be completed alongside consultation with children, parents, carers, and partners.
- 5.4 From work being undertaken to review arrangements for children centres, early childhood services provision and early help services and activities, it is clear that there is the need for a joint approach to commissioning in the future to ensure that an efficient, fair and equitable offer is provided.
- 5.5 To consider cross-council and cross-organisational priorities to drive the best outcomes for children and their families, and any sensitivities linked to this. Community hubs, public health priorities and the Levelling Up agenda are all areas that have been identified.
- 5.6 There is a requirement, as part of the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme, to ensure that an up-to-date needs analysis is in place and decision making is based on local need.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 The sign-up window for the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme is now open, and the Council will now commit to the programme. This will enable the Council to receive 50% of the transformation grant immediately (£498k) and begin to implement the elements of the programme required within the criteria.
- 6.2 Officers will bring feedback and updates on the national programme as it impacts on North Northamptonshire to the Executive Advisory Panel Education, Employment and Skills on a bi-monthly basis. Updates will also be brought to the Executive as required.
- 6.3 Officers will continue to develop the plans for the prototype hub and spoke model within an identified locality as part of the test and learn approach.
- 6.4 The Council has further expressed an interest to become a Trail Blazer Local Authority. A proposal to become a Trail Blazer had to be submitted by 31st August 2022 (this has now been completed). If successful, this will bring additional funding into the programme and will mean the Council will be a Regional Lead Authority working closely with central government teams to deliver and evaluate Start for Life programmes.
- 6.5 As per the Family Hubs programme requirements, officers will develop and submit the full three-year delivery plan by 31st December 2022.
- 6.6 The Council will publish details of the Start for Life offer by 31st March 2023, as required within the criteria of the programme and grant conditions.

- 6.7 Mobilisation of the Family Hubs Partnership Panel by 31st March 2023, as required within the criteria of the programme and grant conditions.
- 6.8 Begin delivery of the Family Hubs programme, as required within the criteria of the programme and grant conditions.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

7.1.1 The Council's total indicative allocation for the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme is between £3.93m and £4.11m over the three financial years of 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.

7.1.2 To support in planning delivery, the table below shows how the funding allocated to the local authority is divided across the programme's strands. The expectations in the programme guide have been developed with this funding breakdown in mind.

Distribution of funding allocation across the programmes strand

2022/2023	2023/2024		2024/2025		Total	
Total	Lower Range	Upper Range	Lower Range	Upper Range	Lower Range	Upper Range
£996,000	£1,602,000	£1,703,000	£1,333,000	£1,412,000	£3,932,000	£4,111,000
Lower Range Strand	%	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	Total allocation for 3 year programme	
Family hubs programme spend	20.00%	£199,200.00	£320,400.00	£266,600.00	£786,400.00	
Family hubs capital spend	5.00%	£49,800.00	£80,100.00	£66,650.00	£196,600.00	
Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships	30.60%	£304,776.00	£490,212.00	£407,898.00	£1,203,192.00	
Parenting support	15.90%	£158,364.00	£254,718.00	£211,947.00	£625,188.00	
Infant feeding support	15.60%	£155,376.00	£249,912.00	£207,948.00	£613,392.00	
Home learning environment services	9.60%	£95,616.00	£153,792.00	£127,968.00	£377,472.00	
Publishing 'Start for Life' offers and Parent and Carer Panels	3.30%	£32,868.00	£52,866.00	£43,989.00	£129,756.00	
Total Lower Range Strand	100.00%	£996,000.00	£1,602,000.00	£1,333,000.00	£3,932,000.00	
Upper Range Strand	%	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	Total allocation for 3 year programme	
Family hubs programme spend	20.00%	£199,200.00	£340,600.00	£282,400.00	£822,200.00	
Family hubs capital spend	5.00%	£49,800.00	£85,150.00	£70,600.00	£205,550.00	
Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships	30.60%	£304,776.00	£521,118.00	£432,072.00	£1,257,966.00	
Parenting support	15.90%	£158,364.00	£270,777.00	£224,508.00	£653,649.00	
Infant feeding support	15.60%	£155,376.00	£265,668.00	£220,272.00	£641,316.00	
Home learning environment services	9.60%	£95,616.00	£163,488.00	£135,552.00	£394,656.00	
Publishing 'Start for Life' offers and Parent and Carer Panels	3.30%	£32,868.00	£56,199.00	£46,596.00	£135,663.00	
Total Upper Range Strand	100.00%	£996,000.00	£1,703,000.00	£1,412,000.00	£4,111,000.00	

7.1.3 After successfully completing the sign-up process, the Council will be sent a memorandum of understanding to sign, formalising agreement to the programme's expectations. 50% of the funding allocation for the 2022-23 financial year will be released. To release the remaining 50% of the funding

allocation for 2022-23, we will need to produce and submit a delivery plan by December 2022 that outlines how the Council's total funding allocation will be used to achieve the programme's objectives. Any 2022-23 funding allocation not spent by 31st March 2023 will be lost.

- 7.1.4 The evaluation of the programme will establish whether this approach has longer term beneficial impact on children and families, and in turn reduces demands on social care, health and related services. This will benefit the public sector in reducing the cost pressures on high cost 'late' intervention.

7.2 Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1 The multi-agency informal steering group has now been reformed as a reference group which specifically focuses on driving the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme across North Northamptonshire. The governance for the Family Hubs programme will be through the Council as the risks and liabilities lie here. Reporting will be through established officer channels, the Executive Advisory Panel and Executive.

- 7.2.2 It was agreed by the Executive in June 2022 that the development of the Family Hubs Model be overseen by a board established by the Lead Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills in consultation with the Executive Director of Children's Services. This was to facilitate the rapid development and delivery of the agreed approach, but also now supports timely delivery of the funded programme which has strict time constraints.

- 7.2.3 As referenced in the previous report, under s5D Childcare Act 2006 any significant change made in services through a children's centre or anything which results in a children's centre ceasing to be a children's centre must be subject to such consultation as the local authority consider appropriate. Under 5A of that Act the Local Authority also needs to ensure that it has undertaken a sufficiency assessment to ensure that arrangements for provision of children's centres are sufficient to meet local need.

- 7.2.4 Given the transformation of children's centres aligned to the Family Hubs programme being led by central government, it is possible that the existing legislation will be amended to facilitate this transformation, although until such legislation is passed the provisions of the Childcare Act remain applicable. This legislation has not been changed, although it has been advised by the DfE that this is an area that is currently under review as they acknowledge the impact this could have on further developing the 0-19 (25) Family Hub offer.

- 7.2.5 As part of the development of the locality Family Hub prototype, legal advice will be sought regarding the specific impact on those services and offers within the agreed locality, and formal consultation with children, young people and their families will take place, as will a wider consultation with partners and effected services.

7.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

7.3.1 Within the NCC corporate plan and the vision, values and key commitments there are a number of priorities that align with the development of the Family Hub model, these include:

- Active, fulfilled lives
- Better, Brighter Futures
- Connected Communities
- Modern Public Services

7.3.2 Other plans and strategies include:

- Community Hubs development
- “Well” Northants
- Early Years Review
- Integrated Care Systems
- SEND Improvement plan
- Children and Young Peoples Plan
- Early Help Strategy
- Early Childhood Services Strategy

7.4 Risks

7.4.1 The timescale in which we are expected to mobilise against the transformation grant criteria means that the key areas of work and decision making will need to move at pace.

7.4.2 The requirement to spend the first years grant allocation by 31st March 2023 is a risk as it requires capacity to make timely, but informed, decisions.

7.5 Consultation

7.5.1 There will be a clear consultation, communication and engagement plan developed as part of the options that are put together. This will be closely developed with colleagues in legal services and the Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills.

7.6 Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1 Bi- monthly updates on the development and delivery of the programme will be provided.

7.7 Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1 Not considered at this stage

7.8 Equality Implications

- 7.8.1 NNC are committed to embedding Social Value (SV) and will contain a requirement to demonstrate social value including development training and work opportunities and providing a holistic offer of support for parents / carers to be closer to the job market etc. Officers will also work to ensure the workforce is representative of the communities it serves.
- 7.8.2 An updated EQIA will be completed during the development of options and proposals.

7.9 Climate and Environment Impact

- 7.9.1 The Council, having declared a climate change emergency in June 2021, is committed to reducing its climate impact both within its own Council buildings and in working with businesses and the wider community to achieve net zero energy emissions.
- 7.9.2 The importance of both place-based services and people being able to access universal services through outreach as well as a strong virtual offer of support will be important considerations as the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme is developed. This will help to reduce the carbon footprint. The Hubs with associated spoke sites will also provide places for professionals to deliver locally based services for children, young people and their families from and thereby reducing travel across the Borough. The virtual offer will be developed to support those that find services hard to access.

7.10 Community Impact

- 7.10.1 This will become clearer as initial work progresses and be addressed through options and proposals approach. The Family Hubs programme is a positive approach to developing community-based partnerships and services that are accessible, either virtually or physically, by all. The approach will also include outreach which will provide access to pathways and support for families that find services hard to access.
- 7.10.2 Developing a virtual offer and a single front door with clear pathways of support will improve accessibility for children, young people and their families, with an aim of breaking down barriers to engagement. This approach will aim to reduce inequalities and wider determinants that impact local children, young people and their families.
- 7.10.3 Through the integration and co-location of services through a Hub and Spoke model, children, young people and their families should feel that they can access the right help at the right time and will provide wider support for the whole family. The integration of early childhood services will support babies, our youngest children, and their families across NNC.

7.11 Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1 No Impact

8 Background Papers

8.1 Executive paper June 2022