

Early Childhood Review Update

Update to EAP November 2022



North
Northamptonshire
Council

Early Years Review

The Early years review has been initiated to examine the existing offer of all services for families with children under 5 and to understand what services are provided and by whom. The desired outcomes of the review are to:

- 1) Identify gaps in provision
- 2) Identify areas for improvement
- 3) Identify opportunities to centralise activity in North Northants to achieve efficiencies and secure consistency of delivery, operations and quality assurance
- 4) Identify opportunities to achieve efficiencies and a more collaborative approach



Alignment of services

The review will aim to identify ways to align all current commissioned services for under 5's and their families including those commissioned by Public Health

A more collaborative approach to delivering the universal and targeted children's centre offer in North Northamptonshire

Work with Health Visitors and Midwifery services to support families at the very earliest opportunities by providing more choice and access to both universal and targeted groups and the publishing of a start for life offer by March 2023 as part of the development of Family Hubs

Develop locality networks across the Early Years Sector including schools to support sharing of good practice, opportunities for peer support and to ease transitions from early years to school for children and their parents/carers



Some of the progress to date

- Numerous meetings with partners across the sector including, health, education, JCP, midwifery service, commissioned providers and some voluntary sector partners in order to understand the current offer for families with children 0-5 and identify any gaps in provision
- Analysis of all commissioned services for under 5's and their families
- Beginning to pull together a comprehensive data set to understand the need across the LA which will be further developed to support future delivery of services and monitoring of outcomes and impact
- Alignment of all work with the development of Family Hubs in North Northamptonshire
- September 2022 - Development and implementation of SENIF funding to support children in settings with low and emerging needs
- Undertaking a CSA to understand sufficiency and pressures across the childcare sector to be published annually in Spring 2023



Early Years Provision in North Northants

- There are sufficient places across North Northants to enable children to take up their free entitlements should they wish to do so
- 97% of all settings in North Northants are judged good or outstanding - the number of settings judged as outstanding is 2% higher than national average
- Take up of disadvantaged 2 year old places is currently at 52% but we are working to increase that in the first instance in line with national average of 62% - the sector are only just starting to recover following the pandemic
- Take up of universal 3 & 4 year old places is at 88% which is 4% lower than national average numbers are starting to increase following the pandemic



Development of an Early Childhood Board

- The Early Childhood Board will be launched in December and will consist of a variety of partners and stakeholders across the sector and will feed into the Start for Life and Family Hubs Programme Board
- This Board will co-develop a start for life offer to be published in March 2023
- This board will oversee the development of a North Northants Early Childhood Strategy and delivery plan with an supporting outcome framework
- This group will drive the operational development of services to support children and families in North Northants and act as a critical friend to support and challenge



Next Steps

- Finalise review with recommendations
- Develop one North Northamptonshire Early Years Team
- Work to support the delivery of Family Hubs through the Early Childhood Board
- Align all commissioned services for under 5's and their families to achieve better outcomes for children and families whilst ensuring best value
- Develop a more systematic approach to support take up of disadvantaged 2 year old places whilst supporting parents into the workplace
- Co-develop a shared North Northants Early Childhood Strategy

