

# BRIEFING

<b>TO:</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board
<b>DATE:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Susan Claydon
<b>TITLE:</b>	Rotherham Family Hubs & Start for Life Programme

## Background

<b>1.1</b>	<p>The Family Hubs &amp; Start for Life grant was made available to Rotherham from the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) as one of 75 Local Authorities that was pre-selected to submit sign up proposals and documentation in order to be awarded the grant. Rotherham was pre-selected using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) Average Rank.</p> <p>The grant provides an opportunity for additional investment, circa £3.4m over 3 years to RMBC. The funding is predominantly for 'transformation,' (with 5% ring fenced for capital adjustments &amp; upgrades to existing buildings).</p> <p>The Family Hubs &amp; Start for life Programme is a system wide model of providing high quality, joined up, whole family support services, that will improve access and connections between families, professionals, services, and providers, and to put relationships at the heart of family support.</p> <p>A key objective is to improve access to 'whole family' service delivery, with emphasis on Start for Life services in areas with the highest levels of deprivation. The vision is to build the national evidence base and to assess impact across a range of contexts.</p> <p>In October 2022 the Family Hub Sign-Up documentation was submitted by Rotherham, outlining Rotherham's approach and commitment to deliver the programme. Sign-up to the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme was agreed on the understanding that Family Hubs in Rotherham will be developed where possible using existing premises, already occupied by services. Co-delivery, co-location and a digital offer are central to the programme to enable highly transformative ways of working and the funding will be used to drive this transformation, rather than securing additional front-line capacity that is unsustainable long term.</p> <p>An initial headline draft delivery template was requested for submission on 30<sup>th</sup> December '22 (to release the first payment) and Cabinet approved the model and gave permission to spend the grant in February 23.</p>
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## Background Papers

Family Hubs & Start for Life Programme Guide August 22

[Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme Guide \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Family Hubs & Start for Life Model Framework August 22

[Annex E - Family Hub Model Framework \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Family Hubs & Start for Life Service Expectations

[Family Hub Service Expectations \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

## Key Issues

2.1	<p><b>Governance: (See Appendix 1)</b></p> <p>The national programme sets out the requirement for functional, multi-agency governance arrangements via a multi-agency board, and regular reports to scrutiny aligned with the national Supporting Families Programme.</p> <p>In Rotherham the well-established, multi-agency Early Help Steering Group (EHSG) is proposed as the vehicle for delivery of the Family Hubs Programme. This group oversees the development and scrutiny of the shared responsibility for the early help offer in Rotherham.</p> <p>The Early Help Steering Group reports to the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership Executive Board (RSCP)</p> <p>The Best Start and Beyond Strategy and the Supporting Families elements of the Family Hubs programme are aligned to the Early Help Strategy and delivery plan to ensure a system wide approach to delivery and reporting.</p> <p>The programme to date has been co-led with Children's Services and Public Health alongside multi-agency partners. This has been important to ensure alignment of the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme with the Integrated Care System, through the Health Inequalities Prevention Enabler Group and regular updates will be submitted to the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board.</p>
2.2	<p><b>Partnership Approach</b></p> <p>Partners who attended workshops in 2022 confirmed their strong commitment to develop a Family Hubs approach in Rotherham, and proposed the model of three main delivery points, located in the north, south and central areas of the Borough, with a range of Satellite Hubs that will be connected digitally as the digital aspect is developed. This will be delivered utilising existing sites and locations already occupied by Services across Rotherham.</p>
2.3	<p><b>System coordination and commissioning</b></p> <p>Planned activity includes establishing a time limited transformational team to provide the capacity to drive innovative approaches, improve coordination and planning, to support joint working arrangements, a comprehensive assessment of need, digital development, programme delivery and management/ implementation of the grant. This is an expectation and funded element of the national programme and resource will come from existing staff as well as new recruitment which will be strictly time limited. To enable capacity, this has commenced and is utilising Council and Public Health officers to develop the programme, however some appointments are required and business cases have been submitted to relevant DLT's to progress this at pace.</p>
2.4	<p><b>Expanding the competency of the workforce</b></p> <p>This is important to ensure a sustainable approach by improving wider workforce skills, planning, delivery and outcomes for children and families. This will support better joint working arrangements and enhanced provision for children. The Purchase of training in a range of evidence-based approaches across the partnership has been secured 22/23 and includes the following: <b>(See Appendix 2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PEEP (Peers Early Education Programme) Home Learning Programme.</li> <li>• Attachment &amp; Bonding Programme</li> </ul>

- Solution Focused Brief Intervention Therapy
- Perinatal Mental Health Programme
- Preparation for Parenthood Programme
- Solihull Approach

2.5

### Deliverables/ Expectations

The family hub model framework includes criteria for two stages of transformation to be achieved across the life of the three-year programme 22/25. There are two stages as the government acknowledge that each LA has a different starting point across different elements of the programme. See Background papers – *Programme Guide and Service Expectations*.

**Level 1:** is described as the ‘Basic model’ where a local authority partnership is at the early stages of development and outlines minimum expectations to be reached by the end of the three years funding window.

**Level 2:** is described by Government as a ‘developed model’, where a more mature family hub model, with ‘go further’ expectations for Local Authorities to work towards to by the end of the programme and beyond.

With the Programme there is an expectation of establishing a Parent/ Carer Panel to put the needs of local babies and families at the centre of service design and delivery. This will enable a better understanding of how to help families feel more confident in accessing services and to place the family voice central to continuous improvement of the service offer.

Key funded strands are listed below:

- Family hubs transformation
- Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships
- Parenting support
- Infant feeding support
- Home learning environment services
- Publishing start for life offers and establishing parent carer panels

It is these areas that the programme seeks to ensure that Local Authorities meet the minimum requirements as set out in the Service Expectation Guide and aim to develop ‘go further’ progress in all areas by the end of the programme in March 2025.

The performance monitoring framework from the national programme was received in February 2023 and the respective Task & Finish groups are now working at pace on delivery plans for each strand of the programme to ensure effective performance.

2.6

### Finance

The government funding outline has highlighted lower and upper range indicative funding allocations in financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25:

2022/23	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	Total	Total
Total	Lower Range	Upper Range	Lower Range	Upper Range	Lower Range	Upper Range
£856,000	£1,391,000	£1,463,000	£1,164,000	£1,220,000	£3,411,000	£3,540,000

2.7	<p><b>Progress to date</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established strong commitment to develop Family hubs and transformation with key partners</li> <li>Model Coproduced and agreed (<b>Appendix 3</b>)</li> <li>Task &amp; Finish Groups across key funded strands held regularly with agreed chairs</li> <li>Operational Group established and held regularly</li> <li>Agreed transformational capacity to support changed delivery and new approaches</li> <li>Key Transformation Team established</li> <li>Needs analysis carried out</li> <li>Headline delivery plan coproduced, submitted, and agreed by national team (iterative process)</li> <li>Wholesale evidence-based training programmes secured</li> <li>Digital evidence-based offer for families in development</li> </ul>
<b>Key Actions and Relevant Timelines</b>	
3.1	The expectation to meet minimum and go further expectations as outlined in the Service Expectation Guide should be fulfilled by the end of the three-year programme. The Early Help Steering Group has carried out a self-assessment exercise with partners and is in a strong position to meet the minimum requirements.
3.2	An initial needs analysis has been carried out and this is informing Task and Finish Groups to develop and drive funded strand delivery plans to be implemented over the next twelve months and beyond.
3.3	Complete Family Hubs Practitioner Induction April 23
3.4	Publish Rotherham's Start for Life Offer by April 23
3.5	Launch phase 1 of the digital offer and self-serve Evidence Based programmes by April 23
3.6	Launch phase 2 of the digital offer September 23
<b>Implications for Health Inequalities</b>	
4.1	The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme is intended to add value and to existing provision for children, young people, and families across the Borough. The programme has clear objectives related to improving integrated approaches between the public, voluntary, community and faith sectors to make accessing services easier and support a proactive, preventative system-wide approach. This includes enabling collaborative pathways that span adults and children from across a range of services and organisations.
4.2	<p>A needs analysis has been undertaken as part of preparatory work for progressing Family Hubs, and this highlighted health inequalities and high impact strands across maternity, the early years and early help in Rotherham. Key headlines from this analysis include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>42.5% of women accessing early maternity care in 2018/19 in Rotherham</li> <li>2.9% of term babies at low-birth weight</li> <li>Infant mortality rate of 4.2 per 1,000 (2018-20)</li> <li>An estimated 717 adults with alcohol dependence living with children in Rotherham</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A statistically worse smoking status at time of delivery and a high rate of smoking in early pregnancy at 27.9%</li> <li>• Income deprivation affecting children: 32% of Rotherham's neighbourhoods (54 LSOAs) rank among the 20% most deprived in England. The Marmot Review 2010 suggested that childhood poverty leads to premature mortality and poor health outcomes in adult life</li> </ul> <p><b>4.3</b> The funded strands of the programme will prioritise improvement in outcomes against identified Rotherham disparities and to improve access to services, uptake of service provision, and reduce escalation of conditions across the whole of Rotherham such as improving perinatal mental health, increasing breastfeeding rates, enhanced home learning environment and increase parenting support.</p> <p><b>4.4</b> Representatives on the Parent Carer Panel will be engaged from the diverse communities within Rotherham and represent families from a range of socio-economic backgrounds. The Family Hub Parent Carer Panel will be a catalyst for change and seek to utilise language support for those families that are currently underserved/represented. The model adopts principles for true co-production of services, meaning that access to the offer can be provided in the most family-friendly and effective ways.</p>
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	That Health & Wellbeing Board note the progress made to date and advise on frequency of future update reports.