

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 14 December 2021

TITLE	Family Hub Transformation Fund Bid		
Ward(s)	All Wards		
Author: Harry Angus	Job title: Programme Manager		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Asher Craig Deputy Mayor – Children’s Services, Education and Equalities	Executive Director lead: Hugh Evans – Executive Director, People		
Proposal origin: Other			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member			
Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Department for Education has announced a £10m ‘Family Hub Transformation Fund’ and will be awarding up to £1m to at least 12 Local Authorities. Local Authorities are expected to bid for between £650k - £1m to be spent between April 2022 and April 2024. A maximum of £137k can be spent on capital expenditure. This is a time-distinct project to establish Family Hubs, with no ongoing costs anticipated. 2. The money is not for direct service provision, more to enable the transition from the current model into a ‘Family Hub’ model of working, with a commitment to opening ‘Family Hubs’ by April 2024. Bristol has been working with partners in this space for the last 12 months to prepare for this transition 3. Family Hubs are a non-stigmatising entry point into a wide range of integrated services, where families with children from conception to nineteen (twenty-five with SEND) can access the services they need. There is a focus on early intervention from a young age to prevent the escalation of issues. 4. The bid is currently being written, however, the funding will broadly be split between the following: staffing to support the project, development of a web/virtual offer, branding, development of a workforce training and development package, a consultation exercise with families and the development of a Family Hubs outcomes/governance framework aligned to the Belonging Strategy. 			
Evidence Base:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The service landscape for families can be confusing, with a range of disparate services working with families but often being unaware what other work is taking place. This results in families having to repeat their story and getting frustrated with the system, leading to disengagement. 2. Family Hubs are already firmly on the local agenda, being written into the new corporate strategy and the belonging strategy. This is very much the direction of travel for children and family early intervention services and we are well positioned to take advantage of the funding being made available by DfE. 3. Family Hubs will help Bristol to achieve its objectives as set out in the Belonging Strategy and equip it to better deliver its ‘Start for Life’ offer. Family hubs are a key part of the Best Start for Life vision. The Best Start for Life: A Vision for the 1,001 Critical Days, chaired by Andrea Leadsom, was published by the Department for Health and Social Care in March 2021. Family Hubs are at the heart of this vision for baby-centred services, designed to give every baby the best start for life. Although family hubs are designed to support families from conception all the way up to young people of 19 (or older if they have special educational needs or are disabled), the Best Start for Life Review described a Vision for the 1,001 critical days, and a Start for Life offer, to be a core part of the family hub network 			

4. Family Hubs are distinct from Children’s Centres, in that Children’s Centres are focussed around the prebirth-5 offer where Family Hubs deliver services from prebirth-18 (25 with SEND). Some LA’s are taking the approach that their Children’s Centres are rebranding as Family Hubs. We are proposing in the bid that Bristol takes a ‘kitemark’ approach, so that any building/service can operate as a family hub
5. Evidence shows that disadvantaged and vulnerable children are more likely to suffer from poor outcomes compared to their peers across the four key domains of development (physical, intellectual, social and emotional, and behavioural) from conception to 19. Children in school who are either a Child in Need, have a Special Education Need or Disability, or receive Free School Meals are likely to do much worse than their peers. These domains are key drivers of later life chances, including long-term employment and health. It is believe that Family Hubs will help to improve outcomes for young people facing adversity and help the LA to deliver on its commitments to tackling ACE’s in the city.
6. We already 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.
7. 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 have to 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.
8. 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.
9. A single gateway for family support services, such as 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.
10. A transition to Family Hubs will support the delivery of the vision set out in the Belonging Strategy.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve submission of a bid of up to £1m from the Family Hub Transformation Fund to allow for a transition into a Family Hub model.
2. Authorise, if the bid is successful, the Executive Director, People in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Equalities to take all steps necessary spend the funding up to the budget envelope which may be above the key decision threshold (including procuring and awarding contracts) to implement the work as outlined in this report Including any decisions above the key decision threshold.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. Corporate strategy directly references Family Hubs: Through the development of Family Hubs, we will ensure that services are joined up, easily accessible and make sense for families, with universal services providing a straightforward and non-stigmatising ‘gateway’ into targeted support for those who need it. Embedding trauma-informed approaches across council services and partner services will provide an emphasis on the relationships and connections children have with their families, teachers, professionals, community and city. Children and families will benefit from inclusive and cohesive support networks that develop around them. We are also committed to developing a Youth Zone in the south of the city which will offer world class, everyday provision to support young people through an expansive offer of leisure and support. Our vision for this is that it will be fully inclusive and will work alongside the web of local support that already exists across our communities

2. Helping families isn't just about the children's services that the council delivers, but also how we design our neighbourhoods and build communities to be safe for children, have access to play and green spaces, or areas for young people to enjoy safely.
3. Allow for us to embed Trauma Informed approaches across the system - We are embedding trauma-informed approaches to help recognise children that may be at greater risk of violence and harm and understand adverse childhood experiences (ACES) that have potential to negatively affect their health and life outcomes. These approaches will build on strengths to help repair and restore relationships for children and families that have experienced trauma
4. We believe that children, young people, parents and carers should all have access to and benefit from investment in lifelong services to support them in this. Children should have their needs recognised at the earliest point in a system that collaborates to help them thrive.

City Benefits:

1. Lead to better connected services, better quality of services for Families and efficiency savings for staff so they can focus on helping the families they serve
2. Create amazing, non-stigmatising spaces in the community so Bristolians can access the services they need, no matter where they live or where they come from
3. Facilitate better connectivity with partners in the VCS sector and health settings, supporting the work of the Integrated Care System/Partnership
4. Foundation to provide better outcomes for Children and Families
5. Clearer service landscape
6. At the forefront of national development of Family Hubs
7. Better equipped services to address issues involving teams coming around families

Consultation Details:

1. If the bid is successful external consultation exercises will be launched with families to help shape the emerging model

Background Documents:

[Family hubs transformation fund - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Revenue Cost	£0	Source of Revenue Funding	N/A
Capital Cost	£0	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: At this stage that new operation (running as Families Hubs) will not require additional budget. The project is advised to review its resources requirements once the service is operationalised under new model to ensure its long term financial viability.

Finance Business Partner Angel Lai – Finance Manager 29th November 2021

2. Legal Advice: The submission of a bid for grant funding raises no particular legal issues. If successful, the procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Leader/Solicitor 11th November 2021

3. Implications on IT: Network and IT infrastructure at each of the Hubs will need scoping and installing, it is

important IT are involved as early as possible		
IT Team Leader: Iain Godding, Head of Enterprise Architecture 29 th November 2021		
HR Advice: The report is seeking approval to bid for funding from the Family Hub Transformation Fund to allow for a transition into a Family Hub model. There are no significant HR implications for Bristol City Council employees arising from this report.		
HR Partner: Lorna Laing, HR Strategic People Partner 11 th November 2021		
EDM Sign-off	People EDM	17 th November 2021
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Asher Craig	22 nd November 2021
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	15 th November 2021

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	NO
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO