

People Scrutiny Commission

28 November 2022



Report of: Kirsten Carr

Title: Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme

Ward: All

Officer Presenting Report: Report for noting only

Contact: Kirsten.carr@bristol.gov.uk

Recommendations:

That the Commission note the report.

The significant issues in the report are:

Summary of the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme. Overview of the programme's ambition and an update in relation to Bristol's current position in the process.



1. Summary

The [Family hubs and start for life programme: local authority guide](#) is jointly overseen by the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Education. Bristol is one of 75 local authority areas that are eligible to receive a share of the £301.75 million Family Hubs and Start for Life programme funding package for the period 2022–2025. In addition, a DWP grant of £97k over two years will support our [family hub delivery of effective relationship support](#) to reduce parental conflict in the home.

Once all local authority areas delivering the programme have been confirmed by DfE and Department for Health and Social Care, the exact allocation for each Local Authority area will be confirmed. Bristol is expecting to receive total programme funding within the range of £4.6m (lower bracket) to £4.8m (upper bracket) over the period 2022/23 to 2024/25.

Bristol has submitted its application for the funding and is expecting to receive confirmation of acceptance into the programme before the end of November. Once confirmed, Bristol will be notified of the exact grant allocation and Cabinet will be informed.

The first phase of funding (2022-23) focuses on transformation, to support the process of moving to a family hub model, both in terms of physical spaces as well as workforce and partnership development. 2023-25's funding includes continued funding for transformation plus additional strands to deliver the following programmes through an evidence-based, integrated, whole family approach:

- Parenting support (0-2 year olds)
- Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationship support
- Early language and home literacy environment
- Infant feeding support

A multi-agency steering group has been formed which brings together relevant partners. A number of multi-agency locality focus groups have already been held as part of this early stage of development. Once the funding is secured arrangements will be developed further to support co-design with stakeholders, including the establishment of a Parent and Carer Panel, which will focus on putting the needs of local families at the centre of service design and delivery.

2. Context

The programme's objective is to join up and enhance services delivered through transformed family hubs, ensuring all parents and carers can access the support they need at the time that they need it. Through the programme, parents and carers will feel supported and empowered in caring for and nurturing their babies and children, ensuring they receive the best start in life. This in turn will improve health and education outcomes for babies and children and support them to thrive in later life.

Bristol City Council will have accountability for the programme, including reporting back to central government. Governance arrangements have been developed so that the Family Hub and Early Help Steering Group steer and oversee the development of the programme and will be accountable to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Board. Reports on developments to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Integrated Care Board and Children and Young People's Board will be given as required.

Family Hubs are a place-based way of joining up locally in the planning and delivery of family services. They will bring services together to improve access and improve the connections between families, professionals, services, and providers. Family hubs offer a front door to universal and early help for families from conception to 19 or up to 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), with a Start for Life offer at their core.

The Start for Life offer and funded strands linked to the Family Hubs programme are focused on the early years. Our commitment in developing Family Hubs in Bristol is to develop an offer that meets the needs of children and young people and their families across the 0-19 (up to 25) age range, recognising that a creative approach and collaborative work with families, children and young people is needed to make sure the offer is meaningful and connects with the wider development of youth provision.

The Family Hub Model is based on multi-agency partnership working and involves a broad range of stakeholders. The model includes physical hubs, networks and a digital offer. This programme is primarily about how we deliver services differently, implementing new ways of working, developing the skills of the workforce, enhancing integrated, multi-agency and co-located arrangements and better use of buildings rather than the creation of new services. The programme is therefore sustainable.

It is anticipated that through a stronger more accessible universal and early help community-based offer there will be long term positive outcomes for families and reduced need for higher tier services across the sector.

3. Policy

This programme is well aligned to priorities within the Corporate Strategy, for example:

CYP1: Child Friendly City

- A city where every child belongs and every child gets the best start in life, whatever circumstances they were born in to.
- Children and young people are supported by the city, their community, and the council to have the best possible start in life

CYP2: Supported to Thrive

- Children, young people, parents, and carers have access to and benefit from lifelong services – such as Family Hubs, parenting and community learning courses and Youth Zones – that support them to thrive.

4. Consultation

Not applicable

5. Public Sector Equality Duties

A copy of the programme's EQiA was included in the Cabinet report on the 6th September 2022 ([Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 06/09/2022 16:00 \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#) page 49

Financial / Legal implications

None for noting at Scrutiny. Approval to accept and spend the DfE/HSC grant was passed by Cabinet on the 6th September 2022.

Appendices:

Links below to relevant supporting documents

[Why Family Hubs? - National Centre for Family Hubs](#)

[The best start for life a vision for the 1 001 critical days.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Background Papers:

None