

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	26 October 2022
Executive Member:	Councillor Bill Fairfoull - Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families)
Reporting Officer:	Paula Sumner – Assistant Director Early Help and Partnerships
Subject:	FAMILY HUBS AND BEST START FOR LIFE PROGRAMME
Report Summary:	<p>The report provides an update following the confirmation that Tameside qualify to apply for the Top Tier funding allocations for the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Fund and outline Tameside approach and intentions.</p> <p>The Department for Education have confirmed an allocation of £3,295,000 over 3 years:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022/23 - £799,000 • 2023/24 - £1,356,000 • 2024/25 - £1,140,000
Recommendations:	<p>That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Agree to the acceptance of the DfE Grant and associated Terms & Conditions of Grant that it is set out in section 2 (ii) Agree to the signing of the Sign Up Form on behalf of the Council set out in section 3 of the report. (iii) Support Tameside’s proposed approach to developing options and “governance” to Family Hubs and Best Start for Life delivery; and (iv) Agree to receive further reports setting out the proposals to spend the grant together with progress on deliverables.
Corporate Plan:	The schemes set out in this report supports the objectives of the Corporate Plan
Policy Implications:	The proposal aligns to the Councils key policies in supporting the most vulnerable families in our community
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer)	<p>The Family Hub and Start for Life programme covers a three financial year period (2022/23 – 2024/25). For 2022/23 the funding allocation is £799K. For 2023/24 and 2024/25 the DfE have provided a lower and upper range of indicative funding allocations. Funding for these financial years will be confirmed once the formal sign up process is complete.</p> <p>A further report is required to set out the plans to spend the grant including any possible exit costs. The request to use some of the grant funding to appoint a full-time interim Head of Service to oversee the delivery of the programme and a fixed term Project Support Officer, Grade G (0.5FTE) is affordable.</p> <p>As part of the grant conditions and to provide assurance that expenditure is in line with the grant determination letter, including agreed programme outcomes there is a requirement to complete two financial returns per year.</p>

Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

The family hubs have been identified as a valuable part of the Council's strategic aim to place services within the communities that aim to support to improve delivery and outcomes.

The funding from Family Hubs Local Transformation Fund should provide the council with a significant amount of investment to progress this project. Any further report must set out the plans to spend the funding in accordance with the terms of the funding agreement as set out in the financial implications to avoid any claw back provisions being triggered.

Therefore prudent financial and project management will be critical to the successful delivery of the hubs and the related outcome for residents.

Legal advice will be required for the terms of the grant and support from STaR will also be required in relation to the utilisation of the funding to ensure that it is used compliantly with the funding terms and delivers best value for the Council.

Risk Management:

The Family Hubs Steering Group will be established to identify, manage and mitigate risk.

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer, Lorraine Hopkins, Head of Service Early help, Early Years & Neighbourhoods



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2022, Tameside Council was one of seventy-five (75) Local Authorities identified to receive a share of the £301.75 million (a joint venture from the Department for Education (DfE) and Department of Health and Social Care) to implement the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme in the years 2022-25. The purpose of the report is to provide detail of the Programme as described in [national guidance](#) and to set out Tameside's plan to implement the Programme successfully.
- 1.2 The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme is a jointly overseen by the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) with funding allocated funding proposed for October 2022 to March 2025. There is an expectation that local authorities meet all the requirements of the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme by 31 March 2025.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Since 2017, the Early Help Offer in Tameside has grown significantly, with the development of an Early Help Access Point, better Early Help Assessments tools, building 'Team Around' Approaches, Early Help Panels with joint decision-making and shared workforce development, such as Signs of Safety. The development of the Family Hubs has been identified as a key programme to improve the Early Help offer for children and families in Tameside further. In November 2021, Local Authorities were invited to apply for up to £1 million transformation funding to implement Family Hubs. In March 2022 Tameside Council were informed that they were unsuccessful in this application, however, continued with the ambition to develop the family hub model locally, with endorsement from the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 2.2 The new investment from the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme will enable around half of upper-tier Local Authorities in England to transform their services into a family hub model. In a brief description, Family hubs are a way of joining up locally and bringing existing family help services together to improve access to services, connections between families, professionals, services, and providers, and putting relationships at the heart of family help. Family hubs bring together services for families with children of all ages (0-19) or up to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), with a great Start for Life offer at their core. They can include hub buildings and virtual offers. How services are delivered varies from place to place, but the following principles are key to the family hub model:
- **More accessible** – through clearly branded and communicated hub buildings, virtual offers and outreach.
 - **Better connected** – family hubs drive progress on joining up professionals, services and providers (state, private, voluntary) – through co-location, data sharing, shared outcomes and governance. Moving from services organised for under-fives, to families with children of all ages, reduces fragmentation (even though an emphasis on early years and the 'Start for Life' offer will remain).
 - **Relationship-centred** – practice in a family hub builds on family strengths and looks to improve family relationships to address underlying issues.
- 2.3 Building on previous work regarding the Family Hubs model, a scoping exercise has been undertaken in Tameside with partners to begin to explore the model and identify buildings across the four neighbourhoods. Communication and engagement events took place, between April and July 2022 within each of the four neighbourhoods to support local voice and coproduction. A proposed hub and spoke model has been presented to the Early Help Operational Board, neighbourhood meetings and Partnership Event for each of the four neighbourhoods. It is intended that under the implementation of the Programme a public consultation exercise will take place, later this year to inform and formalise proposals.

2.4 The new investment from the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme will also include funding for essential services in the crucial 'Start for Life' period from conception to age two, and services which support parents to care for and interact with their children. The Programme represents a significant step forward in delivering on the Government's commitments set out in 'The Best Start for Life: A Vision for the 1,001 Critical Days', and builds on delivery of the Healthy Child Programme and wider 0-19 public health services.

3. TAMESIDE INTENTIONS

3.1 Tameside Council and partners fully welcome the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme and funding allocation, as it aligns to corporate priorities, including (1), Very best start in life -where children are ready to learn and encouraged to thrive and develop and (2), Resilient families and supportive networks - to protect and grow our young people.

3.2 On release of the Programme Guidance the Council in August 2022 begun a mapping exercise, to outline provision aligned to minimum expectations of the Programme set out by the DfE and "go further"¹ options. The Council and partners acknowledge there is much good practice locally including a well-established Early Attachment Service, and Breastfeeding Peer Support Service, however, is ambitious to build on these further.

3.3 Key partners in delivery of the Programme include, but not exclusive too: Tameside Council, Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust, Tameside and Glossop Pennine Care, Action Together, Greater Manchester Police (GMP), and HomeStart.

3.4 It is intended that a Tameside Family Hubs Steering Group is established to provide action focused, system leadership on the implementation of Family Hubs and the strategic oversight of [Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme](#).

3.5 The Steering Group will have strategic oversight on the following areas of the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme, but not restricted to:

- Programme Management
- Finance Management/ Oversight of grant expenditure
- Governance
- Needs Assessment
- Data Sharing
- Workforce Development
- Estates
- Risk Management and Escalation
- Evaluation.

3.6 The Tameside Family Hubs Steering Group is committed to a number of principles, which form the foundation of the delivery plan. These include:

- Reducing inequalities;
- Committing to prevention;
- Working collaboratively with partners;
- Sharing knowledge and learning;
- Listening to voice of the parent and family through engagement and co-production;
- Being held account to that outlined in the delivery plan.

3.7 As outlined in the Programme Guidance the Council has to complete the Family Hubs and start for life programme sign up form ([Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme - Sign-](#)

¹ Go Further Options, as outlined by the DfE are where local areas may already be providing the minimum expectations, and therefore the 'Go Further Options' provides opportunity for local areas to enhance the offer further.

[Up_Form.docx \(live.com\)](#) to formally submit the Council's commitment to the Programme, and provide high-level detail regarding delivery plans. In addition, section 8 of the sign up form is to be completed, to request further support for Tameside from the Early Intervention Foundation to enhance the local needs assessment and use this alongside evidence and improvement processes to drive early intervention, system development, workforce planning and leadership development.

- 3.8 Tameside has started a journey to build on the neighbourhood model where four neighbourhood areas have now been defined with partners. This will provide a strong foundation to develop the Family Hubs approach, which is an integral part of the development of a Children and Young People's Plan and will enable the delivery of accessible, local and joined up services to children and their families within their neighbourhoods.

4. STAFFING REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE PROGRAMME

Governance

- 4.1 Following the release of the [Programme Guidance](#) in August 2022, a local Family Hubs Steering Group has been established, with an agreed Terms of Reference (**Appendix A**), to ensure the Programme is strategically lead, and successfully implemented. The Steering Group will also have a number of subgroups to support enabling factors. The Steering Group is chaired by the Assistant Executive Director for Early Help and Partnerships, and consists of key providers and stakeholders such as the Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust, and Third Sector representation. In addition to services that will support the development of the programme from within the Local Authority such as legal, finance, estates, and information management and technology.
- 4.2 To build capacity and to ensure we meet all the requirements and deadlines of the programme a Head of Service will be seconded into the programme to lead the delivery and have oversight of the programme. In addition recruitment of a 2 year fixed term, part time project officer at G grade to support the Head of Service with project coordination. The costs of these posts will be met by the programme funding.
- 4.3 The Steering Group will initially meet monthly, The Steering Group will initially report into the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) until such a time as the Early Help Strategic Partnership is fully established. Additional oversight will be provided by the Children's Services Improvement Board.

It is proposed that a further report is received by Executive Cabinet in April 2023, to consider the progress against the Programme.

Timescales

- 4.4 The Programme sign up form provided by the DfE is to be submitted to Government by the end of October 2022, with a delivery plan ready for December 2022. Both of these documents will be completed and agreed collaboratively through the Family Hubs Steering Group.
- 4.5 Within the first year of the Programme it is expected by the DfE that the delivery plan must set out:
- Clear milestones for the opening of Family Hubs in in the first half of 2023, and for the continuing transformation over the remainder of the programme;
 - How the Council will work with partners to deliver the service expectations, including the development grant for the funded services – including conducting a local needs assessment;
 - When the Council and its partners intend to publish its Start for Life Offer (by April 2023);
 - When the Council and its partners will establish a Parent Carer Panel (by April 2023).

Funding Allocations

4.6 Alongside the programme Guidance the Council has received information on the indicative funding allocation for each year of the programme.

4.7 It is expected that year one funding will be paid in two tranches to ensure timely delivery following programme sign up. Year one allocations will include funding for:

- family hubs transformation (programme costs and capital);
- publishing start for life offers and set-up of Parent and Carer Panels;
- the development grant for the funded services (parent–infant relationship and perinatal mental health, infant feeding, parenting, early language and the home learning environment).

4.10 Tameside’s indicative allocation aligned to each strand of the Programme is tabled as following:

Strand	%	2022-3	2023-24		2024-25	
		Total	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
		799,000	1,356,000	1,423,000	1,140,000	1,193,000
Family Hubs Programme Spend	19%	151,810	257,640	270,370	216,600	226,670
Family Hubs Capital Spend	5%	39,950	67,800	71,150	57,000	59,650
Parenting Support	15%	119,850	203,400	213,450	171,000	178,950
Home Learning Environment	9%	71,910	122,040	128,070	102,600	107,370
Parent-Infant Relationships and Perinatal Mental Health	31%	247,690	420,360	441,130	353,400	369,830
Infant Feeding Support	17%	135,830	230,520	241,910	193,800	202,810
Publishing Start for Life Offers and Parent Carer Panels	4%	31,960	54,240	56,920	45,600	47,720
	100%	799,000	1,356,000	1,423,000	1,140,000	1,193,000

4.11 The table above outlines a lower and upper range of indicative funding allocations in financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25. Once local authorities delivering the programme have been confirmed through the formal sign up process, the DfE will know each local authority's relative population size, and at this point, will confirm the indicative funding allocations for these years.

Procurement and Commissioning

4.12 Any procurement or commissioning that may be required to ensure delivery will take place Inline contract, financial procedures rules. There may also be a requirement to recruit fixed term staff to support the programme. A further report will set out plans to spend the grant. All procurement and commissioning activity will be advised on by STAR Procurement, with STAR Procurement being a key member of the Family Hubs Steering Group.

4.13 Any commissioning activity associated with the funding will be supported by STAR Procurement in relation to the utilisation of the funding to ensure that it is used compliantly

with the funding terms and delivers best value for the Council.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 In conclusion, Tameside Council are committed to deliver the expectations of the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme. Through the Family Hubs Steering Group, the key next steps include: formally submitted the sign up form, working closes with the allocated DfE adviser, resource the programme team effectively and developing the detailed action plan by December 2022.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 As set out at the front of the report.