

Family Hubs & Best Start for Life Programme

Neighbourhood Forums

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What are Family Hubs?

- 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, 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.
- Family Hubs can include both a physical (using existing 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 – 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.
- **Universal through to targeted services** – providing welcoming, non-stigmatised services for families.
- Family hubs are a key part of the Best Start for Life vision outlined in [The Best Start for Life: A Vision for the 1,001 Critical Days](#)
- ***Additional funding has been allocated to Tameside to further develop the Family Hub and Best Start for Life Offer (£302 million, across 75 LAs, over a 3 year period).***

Tameside's Family Hub Area Model



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Best Start For Life

The funding with the Family Hubs Programme also includes funding to expand our 0-2/0-5 services and provision, the funding is aimed at:

- **Infant Feeding** - The funding for infant feeding support should be used to promote breastfeeding and support parents to meet their infant feeding goals.
- **Parent Infant Mental Health** - The funding for parent–infant relationships and perinatal mental health support is for parents / carers with mild-moderate mental health needs or who would benefit from universal parent-infant support. Parents should be seamlessly connected to all services set out in the below expectations via their family hub.
- **Parenting** - The parenting support funding should be used for provision of an offer which will help make the transition to parenthood as smooth as possible and which stresses the importance of sensitive, responsive caregiving. This should include both universal provision and some more targeted programmes available for parents/carers with further needs.
- **Home Learning Environment** - The funding you will receive for the early language and the HLE service strand should be used to implement targeted, evidence-based interventions that train practitioners to support parents with the HLE. This will support educational recovery and the school readiness of children who were babies during the pandemic.

- **Publishing the Best Start for Life Offer**
- **Building a Parent and Carer Panel**



Tameside's Progress

- Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Steering Group established
- Project Team identified
- Official 'sign up' form approved by Executive Cabinet, and submitted to the Department of Education (end of October)
- Department of Education Advisor identified for Tameside
- Sharing and Learning Networks established within Greater Manchester, and the North West
- Detailed delivery plan in development with key including co-production and consultation (due for submission by the of December 2022)
- Strong alignment with the Programme Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-hubs-and-start-for-life-programme-local-authority-guide>
- **TIMESCALES:** Expectations of the Programme are to delivered over the period of 3 years funding stream, with the Family Hubs identified by March 2023, alongside the Publishing of the Best Start for Life Offer.

Thank You & Questions

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