

**Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board**  
Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 9 May 2023

**Corporate Priorities:**  
Delivering Better Services;  
Caring for the Vulnerable;

**Family Hubs Networks**  
(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:  
Dave Carr, Director of Policy, Commissioning and Children's Health, Lancashire County Council, Tel: (01772) 532066  
dave.carr@lancashire.gov.uk

**Brief Summary**

The development of the Family Hubs Networks continues to progress, with local project teams established in six districts across Lancashire. These teams have identified local assets which could form part of the network and have undertaken user research which is informing the development of networks. Alongside this, work is underway to capture and share information on services and to strengthen the communication of the service offer to parents, carers, young people and practitioners.

Many of the core services that are expected to be delivered through the Family Hubs Networks are in place across Lancashire, either fully or partially, but need to be better connected, so that more families, children and young people can get the right support at the right time.

The work to develop networks at that local level is underpinned with a digital programme which will help families to connect to services without having to retell their stories, and a digitally enabled community of practice to strengthen links between practitioners.

**Recommendation**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider and comment as appropriate on the progress report on the development of Family Hubs Networks in Lancashire.

**Detail**

Lancashire Family Hub Networks will:

- bring services together to improve access, improve the connections between families, professionals, services, and providers, and put relationships at the heart of family support



- offer support to families from conception to age 19 or up to age 25 for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), with the Best Start for Life offer at their core
- build on what is already being delivered providing an integrated, universal family support service where mothers, fathers, carers, children, young people and families can access the early help and support they need to build stronger and more resilient families.

Family Hubs Networks are more than just buildings. Clearly identified buildings can act as a focus for communities and provide single access points for services, but the networks being established are more far reaching, including outreach offers, safe spaces for families to receive brief interventions and help with signposting to services that can offer help and support.

Across Lancashire, Family Hubs Networks are being established on district council footprints, working with local teams called "crews", who are closest to their community and best placed to understand its features and local conditions. Using this local understanding to develop a shared vision means discussions at a local level are now more focussed on the specific needs and expected outcomes for local areas and have resulted stronger links to the Team Around the Schools and Settings Model.

A project team was established in autumn 2022 and has begun work on district footprints, prioritised on income deprivation affecting children and the numbers of children impacted. That meant that early work began in Burnley, Preston and Lancaster, and has now included Hyndburn, Pendle and West Lancashire. The project milestones at a district level span up to two years, starting with the establishment of local crews, identifying local assets which could form part of the network and undertaking user research, before moving on to capture and share information on the local network and strengthening the communication of the local service offer to parents, carers, young people and practitioners.

The minimum expectations of what should be delivered as part of the Family Hubs Network have been established, using national best practice. There are 23 elements including activities for children aged 0-5, health visiting, a midwifery and maternity offer, parenting support, substance misuse and support and services to children with special educational needs and disabilities. The minimum specification, known as *Annex F*, is being used to guide work at a local level, ensuring that the right partners are contributing to the development of Networks and to help identify gaps in services.

Many of the core services that are expected to be delivered are in place across Lancashire, either fully or partially. A key challenge is to ensure that services are better connected at a local level, so that families, children and young people can get the right support at the right time.

Work is progressing well to identify the county council buildings that we expect will be at the heart of local networks. Typically, these are our Neighbourhood Centres which already have a strong early help offer to parents, carers and young people. Alongside this, digital solutions are being developed which will help to improve information sharing across services, so that families do not have to keep retelling



their stories, relevant services are better placed to offer early help when needed and practitioners and families have a more complete picture of local services, and how to access them.

Digital tools are also being used to support the development of a community of practice, where practitioners can share their ideas and experiences, helping to inform the development of the Networks and to make connections. The community now has almost 500 participants and is beginning to be used not just as a tool to tell people about the work that is progressing, but as a way of connecting people who are then working together and enable them to ask for help in identifying services which could meet specific needs within their communities.

The Health and Wellbeing Board will receive a presentation (Appendix 'A'), delivered by Dave Carr, Director of Policy Commissioning and Children's Health, and Marc Hodges, Family Hubs Project Manager, giving an overview of progress and the opportunity for questions and discussion.

## Appendices

Appendix 'A' is attached to this report.

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 'A'	Family Hubs Presentation

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

