

**Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee**  
Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 6 November 2024

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

**Corporate Priorities:**  
Delivering better services;  
Caring for the vulnerable

**Family Hubs and 0-3 Years Offer**  
(Appendices 'A' to 'E' refers)

Contact for further information:

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**Brief Summary**

This report provides an overview on the role and contribution of Family Hubs delivery and its impact on children 0-3 years old. This includes a review of how Family Hub services have developed to address needs for this age group and the early impact of this work on improving their outcomes.

**Recommendation**

The Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

- (i) Note and comment on the details contained in the report,
- (ii) Consider ways in which scrutiny can support this work going forward and identify any potential recommendations.

**Detail**

This report presents the context and outlines the current position in Lancashire around the 'Family Hubs', focussing on the services and support being provided for children under 3yrs old. This report shares details of the current offer through Family Hubs delivered by the County Council, and also key partners with delivery co-located in the Family Hubs, which delivers on the Council's corporate priority of Caring for the Vulnerable and contributes to our shared 'Best Start in Life' Strategy.

**1. Family Hubs Framework in Lancashire**

Family Hubs are designed to provide a universal 'one stop shop' offering support and advice on a range of needs and circumstances, and services 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 aim to improve:

- **Access:** Ensuring that virtual and outreach offers are simple and understandable for families, children, and young people at local level.
- **Connections:** Joining up professionals, services and all providers through co-location, info sharing, shared outcomes and performance monitoring and governance.
- **Relationships:** Building on family strengths, improving relationships between services and families to address underlying issues. Supporting families and young people to feel invested in their local services.

Family Hubs encourage and target engagement towards those who are more vulnerable including those with protected characteristics and respond particularly to the needs of families who are disadvantaged or suffer inequality.

Family Hubs are in development all around the country currently, with some local authorities having benefited from specific government grant funding for their development. Lancashire's application for such funding was unfortunately not successful, however, as outlined in 'The County Council's Revenue and Capital Financial Position 2021/22 Outturn', which was agreed at a meeting of the Cabinet of LCC on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022, transfers of underspend from Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFW) to reserves, of £1.437m were agreed, to cover future costs of the Growing Up Well Digital Project and delivery of the family hub model. This enabled an initial 'Family Hubs Project' to facilitate the movement towards a 'Family Hubs way of working in Lancashire', and since April 2024, we have moved to a 'business as usual' phase, with 29 Family Hubs now operational and with CFW, continuing to work with partners, at place, through Family Hubs Networks which have been established in all twelve district areas. **Appendix 'A'** shows the location of the Family Hubs and their geographical distribution.

## 2. Family Hub Networks

Through our links with the national programme (headed up by the Anna Freud foundation), and the regional Family Hubs network, it appears that there are very few 'new' Family Hubs being built from scratch. The most common direction of travel has been the repositioning of existing family-based provision to meet the national Family Hubs specification, and in some cases a refurbishment of premises to better enable 'fitness for purpose'.

### The components of our Family Hub networks

#### FAMILY HUBS

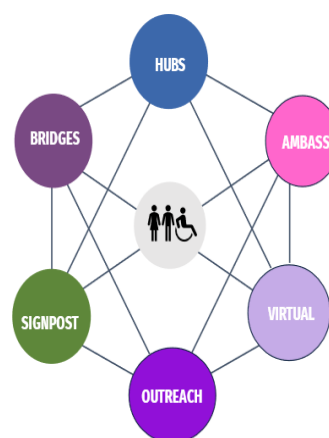
Single access points hosting a wide variety of integrated/ multi-agency family support services including those identified in the national specification for Family Hubs (Annex E/F)

#### FAMILY HUB BRIDGES

Venues providing safe spaces and services in support of families in a wide variety of settings incl. schools, community venues and leisure centres. Providing practical support, brief interventions, using early help assessments and plans to identify and respond to needs.

#### FAMILY HUBS SIGNPOSTS

Places, people and services acting as an information network for families, young people and children - warmly directing them to where they can receive wider support or more specialist services within the network.



#### FAMILY HUBS AMBASSADORS

Key Individuals advocating and promoting access to early help for families, telling the story on a day-to-day basis

#### VIRTUAL + DIGITAL

Service delivery using multimedia and digital tools. Widening access.

#### OUTREACH

Children and Families practitioners in health, education and community safety



In Lancashire, we have adopted an approach which is a 'Family Hubs way of working together' which focusses less on individual buildings, and more on a 'network of service delivery for families'. This capitalises on the strengths of our partnership approach to early help and support and highlights the contribution that a myriad of different services plays locally in meeting the needs of children and families. We have a good number and a strong foundation of effective services in Lancashire already intervening early, and each district has its own unique landscape of services responding to the different circumstances of need and diversity of our communities across the County. The operating principle of developing the 'Family Hubs way of working' has been to better 'network', and make more visible, the services that there are in our communities that work with families.

To facilitate the multi-agency partnership working, necessary to develop and embed a family hubs way of working, 'Local Early Help Partnership (Family Hubs) Networks' have been established in each district area. The 'Networks', incorporate all key local providers of early help and support for children and families, and have mapped and scoped the provision they currently and collectively make, for family support in their local areas, identifying how and where this adds value to local service delivery arrangements as hubs, bridges, and signposts for families. This work demonstrated where a high level of compliance was already in place with the national specification for Family Hubs (referred to as Annex F), and those areas where further development was needed. Annex F is attached at **Appendix 'E'**.

The local networks have been effective in bringing together this local web of support for families and reducing the gaps between services. Consequently, the whole picture of available support is more directly visible to families, and we have been able to ensure that, for their best impact, services are strengths based, child centred and focus on building trusted relationships with children and families. Some work in West Lancashire demonstrates a good example of the positive impact of this way of working together. Working closely with headteachers from the school cluster in the Northern Parishes who had identified a need for accessible services and support for families in that area. We connected with local education partnership officer, West Lancashire Borough Council, HCRG Health Visitors and School Nurses, Hesketh Bank Community Centre, The HUB @ Banks, West Lancs Crisis Centre and LCC Community Projects Officer to jointly consider options. Local Community Centres are now joining the Early Help local partnership network, and with support, are looking for funding so they can offer their facilities as 'Family Bridges/Signposts to other services as a base for delivery. Services are looking to establish connections in the area through these buildings. Even in a relatively short timescale, we are seeing new opportunities coming together. We worked with the HUB @ Banks and West Lancs Crisis Centres to deliver Holiday Activities and Food sessions over the school holidays to help start to build connections between family's, local community centres and services and had a really good response from the families who attended.

### **3. Family Hubs Operating Model – Integrated co-location of service delivery**

The essential difference between a 'Family Hub' and other family centres and services within a local network is the extent to which the hub is delivering an enhanced programme of multi-agency, co-located service delivery for children, young people and families which aligns with the national specification outlined in the 'Family Hubs and Start for Life programme guide' (Annex F).



The fact that each local network has a broad range of family support available through its network operating as Family Bridges and Signposts ensures accessibility in wider local neighbourhoods and an appropriate geographical spread of access to services across the districts. Bridges and Signpost may not however, host a wider range of more specialist services, or have extensive co-location of service delivery from other relevant partner agencies.

It was acknowledged early on, by local early help networks, that it was unlikely that agencies would have the capacity to achieve the levels of co-located service delivery outlined in Annex F, in more than one/two/or three sites within a district area, depending on the size/ geography /population of the district. They also identified that existing LCC family centres/ neighbourhood centres, already delivered a high proportion of Annex F services, and some of the buildings have the flexibility to respond to the service developments needed to fulfil the specification.

From this work, a shortlist for the Family Hub locations were identified, principally from some of the existing LCC Neighbourhood Centres, where early help for families was being delivered, and these have been re-purposed as Family Hubs. These include former Surestart Children Centres, Youth Centres, Neighbourhood and Community Centres etc. At these sites, we have incorporated new 'Family Hubs' branding to improve recognition and access.

The operation of the Family Hubs is underpinned by staff teams in Children and Family Wellbeing Service, based on a district level 'neighbourhood team', who deliver provision at all centres, in the local area. These comprise neighbourhood group workers, delivery centre support workers, family support workers and family time workers with the relevant management oversight. Each Family Hub, then has a different range of partners operating from the hub, depending on the nature of partnership working available in the local area. **Appendix 'B'** outlines the agency involvement with Family Hubs in each district area.

Every hub has a baseline of co-located delivery in place from the six core partner services outlined in the national specification – Early Help/ Safeguarding, Midwifery, Health Visiting, Infant Feeding support services, Mental Health, SEND Support. Many of the Family Hubs now have significant numbers of different agencies operating some level of service provision from the centres. Below is an example of the Family Hubs in Burnley, demonstrating the kind of range and diversity of provision available from the Hubs and the extent of multi-agency co-located/ delivery across the service specification.

#### **4. The Family Hubs Offer for children 0-3 years.**

Family Hubs are intended as places where all families can receive support and are not delineated specifically by the age ranges of children. They provide support for any child, young person or parent/carer of children aged 0 to 19, or 25 with special educational needs or a disability and also for expectant parents. However it is noted that there is strong evidence that the 1,001 days from conception to the age of two set the foundations for children's cognitive, emotional, and physical development, and in line with this, the '*Best Start for Life: A Vision for the 1,001 Critical Days*' sets out six areas for improving support for families during these 1,001 critical days from



conception to the age of two to ensure every baby in England is given the best start in life, regardless of background. One of these is Family Hubs – described as



Multi Agency Partnership activity making it easier for families to know where to go to get help. Professionals working together as a team to provide holistic support and information at the right time.

**Infant Feeding Information shared with the Registrars** team to be displayed in the centre for families accessing to register new baby. Potential to share information about wider services available for new families.

**NEST** -victim support re: exploitation -sharing of information and services across all school settings

**Church & Mosque** - mapping exercise of 34 churches and 14 mosques to understand support available from these settings and link them to the wider network of support via the partnership.

**Gather Together** event planned

**Mental Health in Schools Team** delivering sessions alongside the HAF programme for siblings of SEN children during the summer.

**CFW Community Senior Workers** linked to both Primary Care Networks in Burnley exploring referral pathways and a multi-agency response - weekly.

**Virtual case consultations 5 x weekly** facilitated by CSFSWs taking place with schools which has been extended in this current term to include wider early help partners.

**Supervised toothbrushing** campaign focusing on the Top 4 districts in the county with the highest prevalence of tooth decay. Pendle, Burnley, Hyndburn and Preston. Targeting support to early years settings

**Child and Youth Justice Service** are a key partner on the Family Hubs Network working alongside FIS teams and also links with Community Team around recent permanent exclusion work taking place.

**CFW Targeted Youth Support team in Burnley** are linked with M.A.T.A.C and CAP Youth Panel to explore the areas of need and focus detached provision.

**Respiratory & Housing** working group

**Childhood nutrition, obesity and malnutrition** working group

**Linked to the BIV** to explore the support available for children at risk of becoming permanently excluded from school.

**Neighbourhood Policing Team** are active partners on the network and have established a weekly drop-in

**Lancashire Fire & Rescue** - network partners trained to be able to access fire safety checks easily for families.

**Family Learning Consultation** conducted during the summer holidays to understand the types of family learning opportunities that people would be interested to attend provided by **Lancashire Adult Learning**.

**Monthly liaison meetings** established with **CSC** teams in Burnley to build relationships, understand demand on services and share information about support available across all early help partners.

## Multi Agency Partnership Direct Delivery to Children/Young People/Families

**Home Start East Lancs** - co-facilitation of Busy Bees SEN early years group

**Community Advocacy** - drop in session

**Parent & Toddler sessions in community** linking with local community groups funded by Burnley Council via the Household Support Fund

**Citizens Advice Bureau @ Down Town** weekly drop-in

**Pennine Community Credit Union**

**Christians Against Poverty** - Money Coaching workshops

**SafeNet Refuge** outreach sessions

**Wish Centre CARA Project** - weekly session for men to explore strategies for behaviour change.

**Specialist Inclusion Teacher Team** - Deaf babies and toddler session weekly

**Health Visitor** - Weekly baby clinic

**Maternity Tobacco Dependency Service**

**Smoke Free Lancashire** delivering two drop-in clinics every week

**LSCFT Key Working Service** - 6 weekly drop-in service

**New Era Partnership** - community services

**Spring North** - focus on education on autism and strategies to support parents.

**Relate Cross Pennine** - counselling to individuals, couples, or families.

**Snowdrop Doula**

**East Lancashire Learning Information Exchange - E.L.L.I.E**

**New Neighbours Together** welcome and support for asylum seekers and refugees

**Calico Drop-in** housing support

**HAPI drop-in** weekly for young people at risk of becoming homeless

**Lancashire Women, Birchall Trust and NHS**

**Talking Therapies** counselling services

**ELHT midwifery clinics**

**National Childbirth Trust.** infant feeding support group

**BFC in the Community** joint positive activity group with CFW TYS - Common Ground.

**Birth registrations**

## Early Help Direct Delivery (CFW) to Children/Young People/Families

**Inside Out** - emotional health and wellbeing group

**Moove and Groove** - physical activity

**Colourful Footsteps** - SEND childrens group

**Parents to Be** group

**Baby and You** group

**Infant Massage** courses

**Mini Moove and Groove** - baby agility

**Development Matters** - childrens group

**Transitions Group** - school related transition

**Chat, Play and Read** - speech and language group

**Freedom Flowers** - domestic abuse support for children

**Movin on Up** - transition to high school

**Fearless Programme** - teenage emotinal health and wellbeing

**Youth4 Health** - healthy lifestyle choices for teenagers

**Safe Spaces** - Friday night provision for teenagers

**LGBTQIA+** groups

**Uniqorns** Teen Groups for SEND

**Escape the Trap** - teenage course regarding staying safe from exploitation

**Impact ASB** - for teenagers

**Youth Council**

**Triple P** - parenting course

**Riding the Rapids** parenting support

**Solihull Approach** course for parents

**Freedom** - domestic abuse support programme

**Stepping Stones** - parenting for children with SEND

**Positive Relationships/ Stronger Families** - reducing parental conflict

**Dads and childrens** Saturday group

**Horizons** - employment support

**Down Town Strong Together** weekly drop-in with Domestic Abuse Practitioner

**Recovery & Empowerment and Freedom** programmes for Domestic Abuse

**Bump Birth and Beyond Ante Natal Programme**

**Lactation Clinic**

**P.A.S.T.A.** sessions - healthy eating and cooking

**Holiday Activities and Food Programme**




'a welcoming hub for families, providing a range of support and services in one place'. Around £300 million nationally has been invested to improve support for families through the Family Hubs (£130m) and Start for Life programmes (£170m). As indicated in Section 1 above, Lancashire is not one of the 75 local authority areas that has specifically benefited from this government investment in Family hubs and/or Start for Life services.

The tailored range of multi-agency co-located services now offered by Family Hubs in Lancashire does include a range of early help support for families with young children 0- to 3-year-old, alongside community-based midwifery, health visiting, infant feeding advice, parenting classes and perinatal mental health support.

LCC Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFW) deliver programmes of group-based support and drop-in services, based on a curriculum framework, designed to meet needs right across the age spectrum of children and their parents as follows.

|   |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ante Natal</li> <li>• Post Natal</li> <li>• Child Development</li> <li>• School Readiness</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emotional Health and Wellbeing</li> <li>• Physical Health</li> <li>• SEND</li> <li>• Transitions</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation</li> <li>• Empowerment</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Relationships</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parenting</li> <li>• Domestic Abuse</li> <li>• Relationships</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to learning</li> <li>• Preparation for employment</li> <li>• Volunteering</li> <li>• Financial stability</li> </ul> |
| <p>Early Childhood Services -0-4yrs</p>                     | <p>The Developing Child -5-11yrs</p>                               | <p>Targeted Youth Support 12-19+</p>                                  | <p>Parents/Carers</p>        | <p>Employability</p>    |

We deliver a range of groups across all the family hubs, each of which responds to the different age groups within our curriculum, using evidence-based programmes to meet needs and developmental issues. This enables a baseline of access for children, young people, and families across all the different areas of Lancashire. The offer within the early childhood services curriculum theme forms our core offer to children 0-3yrs.

|   |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents to Be</li> <li>• Bump, Birth and Beyond</li> <li>• Baby and You</li> <li>• Infant Massage</li> <li>• Mini Moove and Groove</li> <li>• Development Matters</li> <li>• Transitions</li> <li>• Easy Access (Speech and Language)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inside Out</li> <li>• Moove and Groove</li> <li>• Colourful Footsteps</li> <li>• Chat, Play and Read</li> <li>• Freedom Flowers</li> <li>• Movin on Up</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fearless Programme</li> <li>• Youth4 Health</li> <li>• Safe Spaces</li> <li>• LGBTQIA+ groups</li> <li>• Teen Groups for SEND</li> <li>• Escape the Trap</li> <li>• Impact ASB</li> <li>• Youth Councils</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triple P - parenting course</li> <li>• Riding the Rapids</li> <li>• Solihull Approach</li> <li>• Freedom</li> <li>• Stepping Stones</li> <li>• Positive Relationships/ Stronger Families</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CVs &amp; preparation for interviews</li> <li>• Debt Advice</li> <li>• Welfare Benefits support</li> <li>• Supporting Families Employment Advisers</li> <li>• Lancashire Volunteer partnership</li> <li>• Adult Education courses</li> </ul> |
| <p>Early Childhood Services -0-4yrs</p>    | <p>The Developing Child -5-11yrs</p>    | <p>Targeted Youth Support 12-19+</p>   | <p>Parents/Carers</p>   | <p>Employability</p>   |

Each group is designed to meet particular purposes and what parents/children can expect to gain from their participation is outlined in CFW curriculum prospectus attached at **Appendix 'C'**.

A couple of examples of this for groups relating to 0-3 yr olds are outlined below.



## Infant Massage – 6 weeks to crawling.

The sessions will:

- Strengthen the attachment and bonding process.
- Build your confidence in handling your baby.
- Supporting your baby's development in helping their physical needs if there are any tummy troubles, problems with bowel movement or trapped wind.
- Provide opportunities to meet other parent/ carers, develop networks and peer support.
- Provide information about baby's brain development, digestion etc.
- Help to cope with babies crying.

## Development Matters – Birth to starting school

The sessions will:

- Provide high quality, well planned, stimulating, and challenging activities across all ages from 0-5yrs based on child-initiated play both indoors and outdoors (where possible). This is guided by the Early Years Foundation Stage Development Matters.
- Information about how to nurture your child's growing brain that supports their learning and development.
- Opportunities for physical play in a safe environment
- Support for you to learn to play and enjoy some time together. A chance to get involved in your child's learning and development by actively observing and interacting with them whilst they play and as they reach important milestones.
- A safe and secure environment for your child to develop their confidence, communication, social and emotional skills and make friends.
- Ideas, activities, and opportunities to continue, develop and expand play at home.
- Support for your child's creativity and imagination and learning through roleplay.
- Support for you and your child if they have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)
- Support with your parenting if you need it.
- Information relevant to you as a family with young children including employment, training, childcare, health and wellbeing, healthy lifestyles, healthy relationships, early education, and childcare.
- The chance to meet with other families and make new relationships.
- Opportunities to participate and share your thoughts including your cultural and community values.

Further to the baseline of group based programmes, a number of aligned services are also delivered in Hubs, which are principally focussed on meeting the needs of parents and babies/ toddlers, including.

- Midwife clinics
- Health Visitor clinics, drop in and listening visits.
- Lactation clinics and Infant feeding advice/ drop in support
- Baby weigh drop in.
- Perinatal mental health groups
- Vaccination and Immunisation services
- Healthy start – access to Vitamin D supplements.
- Stay and Play activities using developmental learning resources such as 'Tiny Happy People'.

An example of the use of stay and play to develop social links between parents and children and to model learning and developmental play for children, is a group delivered through outreach in Hyndburn, into one of the local residential homes for older people. A partnership has been created to use the community room in the home for a weekly stay and play session to which local families with young children are invited to participate, as well as residents of the home. This creates a unique intergenerational opportunity for older residents, many of whom regularly receive no visitors, to have fun and stimulation by 'playing' alongside the children, and for the children to benefit from their experiences. The group read stories, sing songs and play games which assist both age groups with their mental agility and communication skills.





## 5. Pathways to Early Help for families with children with additional needs

Family Hubs can play a crucial role in supporting families with children aged 0-3 yrs. with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Early identification and intervention are key to ensuring that children with SEND receive the support they need to thrive. Family Hubs can act positively to ensure that families with one or more children with SEND have equitable access to services, easy connections to local information and the support they need, and relationships with those with whom they work.

Family Hubs are designed to be a 'go to' place and many families call in for advice, information, and guidance where they can be signposted to professionals who can support further. Where it would be helpful, a trusted person to work with the whole family to.

- Co-produce an early help assessment and plan which considers the whole family's circumstances and identifies the child's broad needs, along with those of any siblings.  
They do this by gathering the narrative of the parents, the voice of the child, and enable the siblings to share their accounts of life so far.
- Speak with and liaise with the children's key workers.
- Liaise with social care services to check if the child may be entitled to respite/a short break (if the child meets the Equality Act 2010 definition of having a disability).
- Consider thresholds to request a 'child in need' assessment if the difficulties the family is experiencing persist.

With the family ideally only needing to tell their story once, working in a 'team around the family' approach, Family Hubs are able to share the key issues that are presenting for the family and, together with the family, consider the impact and what support may work best for them.

Family Hubs can support families to identify any early signs if there has not been a diagnosis and then support families to access the correct pathways. They are inclusive within any groups and activities they provide, to enable SEND children to attend universal sessions wherever appropriate, in addition to any targeted groups or specialised services. In addition, Family Hubs are used by a range of other professionals and organisations to meet with SEND families both individually and in groups.

During the period April 2024 –June 2024, Family Hubs worked with 833 children whom we could identify have special educational needs and disabilities.

## 6. The Impact of the Family Hubs for children 0-3 years.

To measure the successes of Family Hubs, a 'performance dashboard' has been established which looks at impact in terms of 'Reach', 'Participation', Feedback/Satisfaction and Quality. A countywide and district versions of this are published quarterly and are widely shared with partners. **Appendix 'D'** demonstrates the countywide dashboard for the period April-June 2024. The dashboard reports on a range of performance measures and provided below is an analysis of countywide



results in relation to selected aspects of these. This compares impact for 0-3yrs with the total numbers/percentages of children/families engaged through the Hubs.

| <b>Period 7mths – December 2023 to June 2024</b>    | <b>Total Children</b> | <b>0-3 years only</b> |     |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| <b>Attendances at the range of groups available</b> | 108,050               | 28,875                | 27% |
| <b>Children provided with Intensive Support</b>     | 5742                  | 1015                  | 18% |

| <b>Ethnic Group classification</b>                      |       |       |  |
|---|-------|-------|--|
| • White   | 73.8% | 76.2% |  |
| • Asian, Asian British, Asian Welsh                     | 6.6%  | 7.8%  |  |
| • Mixed/ Multiple ethnic groups                         | 3.7%  | 4.3%  |  |
| • Another ethnic group                                  | 0.6%  | 0.6%  |  |
| • Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean, African | 0.6%  | 1.1%  |  |
| • Not known   | 15.3% | 10.8% |  |

NB: The above is largely in line with the average census-based profiles for Lancashire, which are White British at 88.9%, Asian/Asian British 8.1%, Mixed/multiple ethnic groups 1.6%, Black/African/Caribbean/Black British 0.6%, Other ethnic group 0.7%

|   |        |      |  |
|---|--------|------|--|
| <b>Total number of service users accessing Hubs</b>   | 21,040 |      |  |
| Number of service users accessing Hubs who are within the 20% most deprived of the population | 7796   | 1899 |  |
| Percentage of those worked with who are within 20% most deprived of the population            | 37%    | 34%  |  |

|   |      |     |     |
|---|------|-----|-----|
| <b>Number of early help assessments completed</b> | 3637 | 698 | 19% |
|---|------|-----|-----|

| <b>Most prevalent identified and assessed needs within early help assessments</b> |      |     |  |
|---|------|-----|--|
| • CYP Emotional health and wellbeing  | 2395 | 350 |  |
| • Parent/carer emotional health and wellbeing                                     | 1975 | 455 |  |
| • Issues associated with parenting  | 1750 | 344 |  |
| • Managing behaviour skills   | 1622 | 277 |  |
| • Relationship breakdown with the family  | 1364 | 234 |  |
| • Emotional harm/neglect/abuse  | 1147 | 245 |  |
| • CYP school attendance under 90%   | 1113 | -   |  |
| • Lack of employment within the family  | 1094 | 292 |  |
| • Domestic abuse/violence   | 1086 | 305 |  |
| • Improving Personal Safety   | 1058 | -   |  |
| • Financial concerns for the family   |      | 243 |  |
| • Parental conflict   |      | 227 |  |

| <b>Outcomes at the end of a period of early help support</b>       |       |       |  |
|--|-------|-------|--|
| • Needs met as identified in the family's early help plan          | 79.2% | 75.1% |  |
| • Engagement ceased by family before early help could be concluded | 5.9%  | 4.8%  |  |
| • Risks escalated - step up to social care                         | 9.4%  | 12.9% |  |
| • Other – e.g., Child deceased, moved out of area                  | 5.4%  | 7.2%  |  |

|   |     |     |  |
|---|-----|-----|--|
| <b>Percentage of children being re-referred for early help within 12 months of receiving early help previously.</b> | 17% | 17% |  |
|---|-----|-----|--|



Outcomes for children are captured at the end of a period of early help support through the Family Hubs. For the period in question above, in 75% of cases for children worked with, aged 0-3years, we could verify that the needs identified for the child and family in the early help assessment were met. 17% of cases referred were re-referrals from within the previous 12 months, which demonstrates the extent to which a period of early help support is sustaining a family's resilience and enabling them to maintain the good outcomes and changes they have achieved for their child. We anticipate this to continue to improve with further wrap-around support from Family Hubs as time moves forwards.

## **7. Improving public health outcomes for children 0-3years by working together with Family Hubs**

Setting the foundations for health and wellbeing during pregnancy and in the early years is crucial to ensure every child in Lancashire is given the best start in life possible. This has been recognised as a key priority area by the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Children and Young People and Families Partnership Board and managed by the Lancashire Best Start in life Strategic Board. Though the direct attribution of impact through Family Hubs specifically, is harder to directly assure, it is expected that the work of the Family Hubs will impact positively on cross cutting themes from our children and young people's partnership shared outcomes framework.

Overall, comparing local indicators with England averages, the health and wellbeing of children in Lancashire remains worse than England average. Although the trend is not yet statistically significant, the actual data compared to previous years is showing signs of improvement in some of the outcome areas, although there are local variations. Delivering on the 1001 critical days vision and actions as part of the Best Start in life priority areas relies on strong integrated early help pathways including the Family Hubs model and aligning with maternity, early years, and health visiting. This is part of the infant Mortality action Plan for Lancashire. Infant mortality rate for the latest period (2020-22) for Lancashire is 3.9 per 1,000 children (140 deaths under 1 year age). This is similar to England (3.9) and less than North West region (4.4).

Lancashire County Council priority for best start in life has redefined services by integrating health visiting, early years, maternity, and family hubs within a unified framework led by the Best Start in Life (BSiL) Board. This strategic shift, aimed at improving school readiness, and reducing inequalities, leverages collaborative governance and insights to enhance service delivery.

A Strategic Operational Subgroup chaired by our Head of Early Help focusses on priority areas identified by the BSiL Board. This includes various thematic areas and enablers such as data and intelligence, parenting, workforce, speech, and language, 1001 critical days vision with a unifying purpose and aim to improve school readiness.

The national Start for Life team (Department of Health and Social Care) contacted the local authorities that did not receive funding from the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme last year and as a result, a survey on Start for Life was completed and submitted as a single local authority response highlighting areas of good practice as well as some gaps.



A site visit was attended by Minister Andrea Leadsom and the national Start for Life Team earlier this year in January 2024 and Lancashire were commended for the work it was doing locally with children, young people, and families. This included its approach to reducing waiting times for Speech and language through a balanced system approach by supporting children and families in Hyndburn. Recognition of the local approach has been shared nationally and highlighted within the Local Government Association (LGA) as an example of good practice.

- **Speech and Language Therapy**

One of the key priority areas identified as part of the Best Start in Life priorities and the Public Health strategy was to improve school readiness. This means a focus on tackling the waiting lists for speech and language therapy and interventions.

Highlighting innovative solutions to speech and language therapy (SaLT) access and a comprehensive approach to parenting support is highlighted in this report and also published in a national case study showcasing Lancashire's commitment to a holistic, equitable start for every child as can be seen in link: [Lancashire's holistic approach to school readiness | Local Government Association](#)

- LCC invested in a new approach/model, the Balanced System, which enables early identification of children and early intervention from Early Years colleagues, Children and Family Wellbeing Service, Health Visiting, to help children and families access appropriate early help and support services.
- The county council piloted a targeted initiative in Hyndburn initially. It leveraged its existing multi-agency partnerships to facilitate close collaboration between NHS LSCFT Speech and Language Therapists, public health officials, Health Visiting Practitioners and the Children and Family Wellbeing service.
- Hyndburn partnership agreed the development and design of a multi-agency speech and language walk in clinic to support development of preschool age children by ensuring children in need of speech and language therapy received timely interventions.
- The number of children waiting for specialist speech and language therapy and interventions in Hyndburn exceeded 100 children with a waiting list of more than 40 weeks. A multi-agency walk-in scheme was implemented in Hyndburn from December 2022 on a weekly basis.
- Moving away from the traditional model of assessment to an instant, easy access partnership approach, by May 2023 all 100 children had been seen and had support in place; the backlog was cleared, and eligible children/families can now just walk in.
- The collaborative efforts of all partners led to an exceptionally positive outcome for the Hyndburn Speech and Language Therapy pilot where the structured partnership in place had not only reduced the waiting list but eradicated this in a few short months and remains. This helped reduce the initial backlog of over 100 children awaiting interventions down to zero.
- This kind of integrated approach to partnership working and collaboration is the trailblazer for the development and implementation of the Family Hubs model of



working.

- The pilot's success has led to it being extended to other areas within the county. This integrated way of working has been rolled out Rossendale and Preston, with an overall ambition to roll out to all 12 Lancashire districts.

- **Public Health Commissioning**

Lancashire County Council continues to commission public health mandated and statutory services which will enhance the support available to babies, children, and families across Lancashire as well as work in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure the needs of children, young people and families are considered in both policy and practice.

Excellent relationships and partnership working has been established with Family Hubs and children's services across Lancashire which supports the delivery of our commissioned services. Those which focus specifically for children aged 0-3 from a public health perspective include:

- **Universal Health Visiting Services.**

This includes the commissioning of public health visiting services which provide the five universal mandated health visits. These health checks and development reviews are offered face to face to every mother and baby as follows.

- Antenatal visit.
- New Birth visit.
- 6-8 weeks visit.
- 12 months review.
- 2 ½ years assessment.

The service also provides targeted support for vulnerable babies, children and families who require additional support including pathways into early help and specialist support. The service also signposts to other specialist services as well as identifying needs early.

- **Feeding and Breastfeeding**

Lancashire has achieved key milestones as identified within the report presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board. This includes achieving the Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) Gold Award accreditation again this year. Public health has recommissioned the Feeding and Peer Breastfeeding support service across Lancashire. This provides support within Family Hubs and peer support on hospital ward settings for new mothers.

- **Healthy start vitamins**

These are commissioned and provided free to mothers and babies across Lancashire by health visitors and family Hubs.



- **Oral Health**

The percentage of 5 years old with experience of visually obvious dental in the latest period (2021/22) in Lancashire is 27.4%. This remains higher than England (23.7%) with higher rates in Pendle 41.9%, Hyndburn 35.4%, Preston 32.6%, and Burnley 29.3%. Similar to England in Lancaster 26.8%, Wyre 23.0%, South Ribble 22.8%, W Lancs 22.8%, Ribble Valley 22.1%, Rossendale 21.0%, Chorley 20.9%, Fylde 19.2%. Commissioning of a Supervised toothbrushing scheme is delivered to Early Years and Reception children in targeted areas, with a comprehensive training programme for the Children's workforce.

All Health Visitors distributing free Toothbrushes and toothpaste to all babies at 6-8 week visit and 9–12-month visit (if necessary). Lancashire's #LetsGetBrushing campaign launched October 2023 in targeted districts with areas of highest tooth decay in children: Burnley, Pendle, Preston, and Hyndburn. Planning for phase 2 of the campaign remains on-going. Epidemiology survey in schools remains on-going.

## **8. Improving access to early years education.**

Accessing a child's early years funded entitlements helps to ensure children get the best start in life and are school ready. In addition to supporting children's outcomes the early years entitlements provide financial support to help families remain in work or take up employment.

A summary of the entitlements is provided below.

- **2-year-old children:**

From the term after a child's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday low-income families who meet the eligibility criteria and children from vulnerable groups (e.g. social care, SEND) are entitled to 15 hours per week of funded childcare (up to 570 hours per year). This is known as the 2-year-old disadvantaged offer. The take up of 2-year-old disadvantaged places is a key priority within the Best Start in Life and Education strategies and considerable progress has been made to ensure families are accessing these entitlements. Take up of 2-year-old places at the end of the spring term 2024 was 88.6% compared to 70.2% in Spring 2021. Whilst we have seen considerable progress in the take up of 2-year-old places across Lancashire, take up in some districts/wards remains lower than expected and targeted interventions continue to help ensure families access the places.

- **3 & 4-year-old children:**

From the term after a child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday all 3- & 4-years old children, regardless of family circumstances, are entitled to 15 hours per week of funded childcare (up to 570 hours per year). This is known as the 3- & 4-year-old universal offer. Take up of 3- & 4-year-old places at the end of the spring term 2024 was 100% compared to 96.6 % in Spring 2021



- **Working Families Entitlements:**

Since 2017 eligible working families of 3- & 4-year-old children have been able to access an additional 15 hours per week of funded childcare (i.e. 30 hours per week, up to 1140 hours per year). This is known as the 3- & 4-year-old extended working families' entitlements.

In April 2024, the working families' entitlements were expanded to enable eligible working families of 2-year-old children to access 15 hours per week of funded childcare (up to 570 hours per year). From September 2024 this now includes eligible working families with children aged 9 months and over.

From September 2025 the entitlements will be increase to 30 hours funded childcare per week for working families of children aged 9 months and over, and they will be able to access these hours right up until the child starts school, providing the family remain eligible.

To date a total of 15,576 Lancashire families have been issued with the new expanded working families eligibility codes. The table below breaks this down by term and age group.

| Age Range    | Summer              | Autumn              | Total to Date       |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|              | No. of Codes Issued | No. of Codes Issued | No. of Codes Issued |
| Under 1's    |                     | 1202                | 1202                |
| 1 Year Olds  |                     | 5651                | 5651                |
| 2 Year Olds  | 6187                | 2536                | 8723                |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>6187</b>         | <b>9389</b>         | <b>15576</b>        |

In summer term 2024 term, 5635 2-year-old working families accessed the new expanded entitlements at a Lancashire childcare setting. Of these, 5265 live in Lancashire, which therefore equates to 85% take up based on the 2-year-old working families codes in summer 2024.

It should be noted that actual take up will be higher than this as some Lancashire families will be accessing provision in other local authority areas. Figures for the number of working families with children aged 9 months to 2 years who are accessing the expanded entitlements are not yet available.

## Appendices

Appendices 'A' – 'E' is attached to this report. For clarification they are summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

| Appendix     | Title  |
|--------------|--|
| Appendix 'A' | Lancashire Family Hubs locations                               |
| Appendix 'B' | Agency involvement in local family hubs networks in Lancashire |
| Appendix 'C' | Children and Family Wellbeing Service Curriculum – Group       |



|              |   |
|--------------|---|
|              | Prospectus  |
| Appendix 'D' | Family Hubs Performance Dashboard – Q1 24-25                        |
| Appendix 'E' | 'Family Hubs and Start for Life programme guide' known as 'Annex F' |

## Consultations

N/A

## Implications:

This report has no significant risk implications.

## Legal

This report has no significant legal implications.

## Financial

This report has no significant financial implications.

## Risk management.

This report has no significant risk implications.

## Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

| Paper  | Date       | Contact/Tel  |
|--|------------|--|
| The Best Start for Life – A vision for the first 1001 critical days. | March 2021 | <a href="#">The best start for life a vision for the 1 001 critical days.pdf</a><br>( <a href="http://publishing.service.gov.uk">publishing.service.gov.uk</a> ) |

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

