



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Children's & Education (DCS)
DATE:	Thursday, 13 October 2022

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Children, Young People and Education
WARD/S AFFECTED:	(All Wards);
KEY DECISION:	Y

SUBJECT: EB: The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme 2022-2025

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from the Executive Board to the proposed Family Hub developments and agree the distribution of the family hub allocated grant.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- a. Note that Blackburn with Darwen will receive grant funding of between **£2.96m and £3.05m** over three financial years of 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 to develop family hubs;
- b. Agree to the principle of the development of Family Hubs within Blackburn with Darwen in line with the submission to the Government and the conditions of the grant funding;
- c. Agree to allocate up to £500,000 of the Family Hub Grant over the 3 year period to 2024/25 to recruit a Change Management Transformation Team to support the development of Family Hubs;
- d. That subject to confirmation of the funding available, a further report be submitted to the Executive seeking approval to how the balance of grant funding will be used to deliver the Family Hub model.

3. BACKGROUND

In the 2021 Autumn Budget, the Government announced a three-year Family Hubs and Start for Life programme to deliver a step-change in outcomes for babies, children, young people, parents and carers.

The programme's core objective is to improve family service delivery, including Start for Life services, in areas with the highest levels of deprivation and disproportionately poor health and educational outcomes.

In addition the government wants to build the evidence base around the programme's implementation and impact in different contexts.

Based on these policy objectives Blackburn with Darwen has been selected in rank order using Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) – Average Rank, subject to the additional condition that a minimum of 25% of local authorities from each rural-urban classification are pre-selected.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The Family Hubs programme's objective is to join up and enhance services delivered through transformed family hubs in local authority areas, ensuring all parents and carers can access the support they need at the time that they need it. Through the programme, parents and carers should 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.

To achieve this, funding will be provided to move to a family hub model, improve the universal Start for Life offer and transform family support particularly in local authority areas with high levels of deprivation and disproportionately poor health and educational outcomes, supporting the government's levelling up ambitions.

In summary, the programme will:

- Provide support to parents and carers so they are able to nurture their babies and children, improving health and education outcomes for all
- Support the reduction in inequalities in health and education outcomes for babies, children and families across England by ensuring that support provided is communicated to all parents and carers, including those who are hardest to reach and/or most need support
- Build the evidence base for what works when it comes to improving health and education outcomes for babies, children and families in different delivery contexts.

We will achieve this by investing the grant in:

Transforming the way services are designed and delivered

- We will use transformation funding to pay for the change process, supporting BwD to move to a family hub model. We will transition four children centres to become the family hubs within their local community by June 2023.
- As BwD has eight children's centres the four not identified as hubs will continue to provide any services currently offered with partnership working maintained and further encouraged. Although we are at pre-consultation stage, we do not anticipate any negative impact on the four centres not identified as family hubs and will continue to work with partners to ensure continuity of provision.
- We will see an increase in the number and range of services delivered through the family hub network, including co-location of services and professionals, where possible.
- Improving how our local services share information and work together to provide holistic support for families (to address the fragmented services families currently experience)

Universal Start for Life and family services

- Enhance and expand services which seek to identify and address needs at an early stage before more specialist support is required
- Ensuring that the Blackburn with Darwen Start for Life offer is clear, accessible and seamless, and voices of parents and carers are sought (through the development of local parent/carers panels) to influence the continuous improvement of the offer

Tailored support for vulnerable communities

- Ensuring additional targeted interventions which support vulnerable and under-served populations are included as part of the offer and delivered through the family hub model for example Blackburn with Darwen rural communities.

Workforce capacity and capability

- Create capacity through new workforce models that incorporate skill mix.
- Facilitating and enhancing the join-up of the multi-professional workforce to provide continuity of care to all families.
- Improving multi-agency training, addressing existing skill gaps, and ensuring empathy is at the heart of our practice.
- Increase the number of professionals and practitioners working in a whole-family, relational way that builds on families' existing strengths

Understanding what works and sharing best practice

- Robustly evaluating against a set of measurable quantitative and qualitative objectives in a variety of contexts
- Work with other local authorities to establishing communities of practice across the country to share best practice

Consultation with families, including young people and parents and carers to co design and improve services will be central to Blackburn with Darwen's approach to the development of the family hubs.

In the development of the Family hub model, we will ensure that equality impact assessments are part of all changes

The family hub model includes community ownership and co-production with families, children and young people. This programme provides the funding and we will establish Parent and Carer Panels focused on the period from conception to age two, which will play a key role in designing and continuously improving family services, through regular feedback from families from different communities and with different needs.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications at this time, however this will be considered at all stages of the development of the Family Hub model.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

We expect our total indicative allocation for the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme to be between **£2.96m and £3.05m** over three financial years of 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25. **Of this funding, 95% is for revenue expenditure and 5% is for capital expenditure.**

The Family Hubs Transformation Funding allocation of £500,000 will enable the recruitment of a change transformation management team to support the development of family hubs. The team may include

- Change and transformation manager
- Workforce development manager
- IT programme manager
- Data analyst
- Business admin support

This team will focus on the transition of four children centres to Family hubs and this will include digital transformation to improve data sharing between partners. The four hubs will be aligned with our neighbourhood model of working and will link with our Primary Care networks. Our integrated offer would provide Health, Care and Education services across the full 0- 19 age groups (25 with SEND) and become a 'front door' for families in their neighbourhoods.

Subject to confirmation of the Council's actual grant funding, a further report will be submitted to the Executive Board seeking approval to the allocation of the balance of funding in line with the Programme Strands referred to above.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council will need to comply fully with the grant conditions, otherwise there is the risk of clawback. Should the delivery and implementation of the Programme require external goods and services, the procurement must be in accordance with the Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There will be call on existing staff resource which will be absorbed through the Family hub Transformation grant allocation of £500,000

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 x Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA link here*)

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

None arising from the contents of this report but we will be co-producing our offer with parents, carers, professionals, partners and young people as part of the transformation work.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Maria Nugent1
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DATE:	12/09/2022
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	
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