

# Birmingham City Council

## Report to Cabinet

6<sup>th</sup> September 2022



**Subject:** FAMILY HUBS BEST START FOR LIFE – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

**Report of:** Sue Harrison  
Strategic Director Children & Families

**Relevant Cabinet Member:** Cllr Karen McCarthy - Children, Young People & Families

Cllr Mariam Khan - Health and Social Care

Cllr Yvonne Mosquito - Finance and Resources

**Relevant O &S Chair(s):** Cllr Kerry Jenkins - Children, Young People & Families

Cllr Mick Brown - Health & Social Care

Cllr Akhlaq Ahmed - Resources

**Report author:** Helen Price  
Director Strategy, Commissioning and Transformation  
Email: [helen.x.price@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:helen.x.price@birmingham.gov.uk)  
Mob: 07546 914679

Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference:		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## **1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for the Council to subscribe/ 'Sign up' to the requirements of the Family Hub Best Start for Life Programme (the 'Programme'), which will trigger the first of three years funding. Summary details of the 'requirements' are set out at paragraph 3.5 of the Background section of this report.
- 1.2 Birmingham City Council was notified in April 2022 that it would have the opportunity to receive additional funding to be part of a Family Hub/Best Start for Life programme as one of 75 local authorities. In August 2022, we were advised that the Council could receive a minimum sum of £9.215m over the three financial years 2022-23 to 2024-25.

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Cabinet agree to subscribe, 'sign up' to the programme and receive the funding, which the Council would administer, on behalf of the Council and NHS partners.
- 2.2 That Cabinet agree to delegate authority to the; -
  - 2.2.1 Strategic Director of Children and Families and the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children Young People & Families and Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, to receive subsequent funding in years 2 and 3 of the Programme.
  - 2.2.2 Strategic Director of Children and Families and the Director of Public Health to develop the programme for implementation in consultation with key delivery partners – Birmingham Children's Trust, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board and the Cabinet Members for Children Young People & Families and Health and Social Care.
  - 2.2.3 City Solicitor to execute any legal documents to give effect to the decisions being made by this report.

## **3 Background**

- 3.1 The Government vision for this programme is that all families will be able to access local support from a family hub network supporting children aged 0-19, or 0-25 with special educational needs. There are three principles that underpin the programme, improving access for parents to local support, building better connections between services to deliver a joined-up offer for parents, and to build trusting relationships with parents.
- 3.2 The accompanying guidance [Family hubs and start for life programme: local authority guide - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-hubs-and-start-for-life-programme-local-authority-guide) outlines the details of the programme, in particular that 75.2% of the budget is allocated to key areas of service development focusing on children aged 0-2, in particular funding for infant feeding, infant and

perinatal mental health, parenting support programmes, home learning environment and a universal Start for Life offer (booklet) for all parents.

- 3.3 Children's Services Officers from a range of services and agencies have reviewed the requirements of the programme, and the programme will both enhance the current work of Birmingham Forward Steps and the Early Help teams and be deliverable in the timescales.
- 3.4 As part of the requirements of the programme we will create Parent and Carer Panels in each part of the city with an overall city-wide panel.
- 3.5 To sign up to the programme Birmingham City Council and partners need to agree to work towards achieving the minimum expectations and some of the 'go-further' standards across the programme. The Family Hub Best Start for Life Steering Group has reviewed each of these standards and have expressed confidence that we are already achieving over half of the 'expectations' and will be able to deliver the requirements of the programme over the three-year funding period.
- 3.6 The Sign-Up form has been supported and endorsed by the Early Help Partnership Board, and the Local Maternity and Neonatal NHS Board, that is part of the Integrated Care Board NHS Birmingham. Also of note is that any actions and early priorities identified at this point are provisional and can be changed as a more detailed delivery plan is completed before the end of the calendar year.
- 3.7 The Family Hub Best Start for Life Steering Group for Birmingham includes officers from across the Birmingham Children's Partnership and will seek to align this programme with other important developments, notably.
  - Birmingham City Council Corporate Early Intervention and Prevention Programme
  - Birmingham 0-19 Healthy Child Programme (Children's Centres and Health Visiting Services)
  - Birmingham Early Help programme for school age children
  - Birmingham ICS/ICB place based work
  - Birmingham City Council Early Intervention and Prevention Programme
  - The Balanced Scorecard development for Speech Language and Communication Needs services
  - The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Improvement Board

#### **4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal**

- 4.1 Option 1. – To sign up to the programme and receive the funding over three years to augment current provision and reach more children and families with a joined up local offer close to where people live.
- 4.2 Option 2 – To not sign up to the programme.
- 4.3 Appraisal of the options: The Early Help Partnership Board and the Local Maternity and Neonatal Services Board have reviewed the requirements of the programme and have approved the sign up to the programme. The Family Hub Steering Group

that includes officers from Health, Education, Children's Trust, Community, Voluntary and faith sectors – have also approved the sign up to the programme. Not signing up to the programme will mean that significant resources for service improvement and development and reaching more families will be lost.

- 4.4 The recommendation is option 1, to sign up to the programme and receive £9.2M over three years

## **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 A wide range of stakeholders across partnership agencies and in every locality (constituency) has been engaged and briefed about the opportunity to join this programme, in particular:

- Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust Hospital,
- Birmingham Children's Trust,
- Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust,
- University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust,
- Birmingham Voluntary Sector Council
- Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board

- 5.2 A programme of engagement, consultation and co-production will be undertaken during the autumn of 2022 as the 3-year delivery plan is developed. This programme will include the development of Parent and Carer Panels in each locality of the city, and a citywide Parent and Carer Panel.

## **6 Risk Management**

- 6.1 As at present, there are no funding commitments for provision of services after the end of the programme in March 2025. Creating and developing new and improved services for families will mean that following the grant period parents will continue to need them. This risk will be mitigated by ensuring that –

- Partners will work together to manage parents' expectations.
- During the funding period key partners will work together to understand the effectiveness of the services delivered and will prioritise those that are effective and mandated within budget.

- 6.2 There is the possibility that through the work of the hubs, unmet needs for families could be identified, this could be exacerbated within the wider cost of living context. Careful oversight by key partners will be required to understand and track any increased demand. Any increased demand and the implications for future services will be proportionately escalated.

## **7 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?**

- 7.1 The Family Hub Best Start for Life Programme supports the [Birmingham City Council Plan 2018-2022](#):

- Birmingham is an entrepreneurial city to learn, work and invest in
- Birmingham is an aspirational city to grow up in

## **7.2 Legal Implications**

- 7.2.1 The decisions being made in this report fall within the general power of competence as set out in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 and they are within the boundaries and limits of the general power of competence set out in Section 2 and 4 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 7.2.2 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 confers power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of the functions of the Council. The services that would be provided under following sign up and acceptance of the funding identified in this report will facilitate and be conducive or incidental to the discharge of a wide range of the Council's statutory duties, including but not limited to; -
- 7.2.2.1. those relating to safeguarding, and specifically to the Council's general duty under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within its area who are in need and, so far as it is consistent with that duty, promote the upbringing of those children by their families, by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs.
- 7.2.2.2. The local authority's statutory responsibility for commissioning public health services for children and young people aged 0 to 19 years under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- 7.2.2.3. the responsibility of local authorities and their partners to improve the wellbeing of young children in their area and reduce inequalities under the Childcare Act 2006. Section 4 of the Act places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements to work with each of the authority's relevant partners in the performance by the authority of their duties under the Childcare Act 2006, including when improving the well-being of young children and securing integrated early childhood services.

## **7.3 Financial Implications**

- 7.3.1 This report seeks to accept grant funding for The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme, which is jointly overseen by the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Education. The total indicative allocation for the programme is between £9.215m and £9.898m over the three financial years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25

<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>		<b>2024-25</b>		<b>Total</b>	
Total	Lower Range	Upper Range	Lower Range	Upper Range	Lower Range	Upper Range
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
2.413	3.744	4.126	3.058	3.358	9.215	9.898

7.3.1 Assuming funding at the lower range, gives the following profile of funding over the life of the programme.

	<b>% total funding</b>	<b>2022-23 £m</b>	<b>2023-24 £m</b>	<b>2024-25 £m</b>	<b>total £m</b>
Family Hubs Programme Spend	19.8%	0.478	0.741	0.605	1.825
Family Hubs Capital Spend	5.0%	0.121	0.187	0.153	0.461
Service development					
Perinatal mental health ...	30.5%	0.736	1.142	0.933	2.811
Parenting support	18.6%	0.449	0.696	0.569	1.714
Infant feeding support	12.2%	0.294	0.457	0.373	1.124
Home learning ...	12.1%	0.292	0.453	0.370	1.115
Publishing 'Start for Life'	1.8%	0.043	0.067	0.055	0.166
	<b>75.2%</b>	<b>1.815</b>	<b>2.815</b>	<b>2.300</b>	<b>6.930</b>
	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2.413</b>	<b>3.744</b>	<b>3.058</b>	<b>9.215</b>

7.3.2 The local authority will be required to complete two returns per financial year:

- an interim statement of grant usage that will include detail on financial spend per funded service in the programme.
- an annual statement of grant usage at the end of the financial year that provides confirmation that expenditure was in line with the purposes specified in the grant determination letter.

7.3.3 The interim statement of grant usage for financial year one will be made in early January 2023, and the subsequent interim returns in years two and three midway between the end of each financial year. Funding in years two and three is subject to satisfactory periodic review of delivery performance.

7.3.4 As part of the delivery plan for the programme to be developed before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 a detailed exit strategy will be required to mitigate potential future costs beyond the grant funding period March 2025.

## **7.4 Procurement Implications (if required)**

7.4.1 Any procurement activity required for the implementation of the Delivery Plan will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Procurement and

Contract Governance Rules. We will work with the team to establish the resource implications and budget accordingly through the delivery plan.

## **7.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)**

- 7.5.1 The HR implications for the project are modest. It is anticipated that most of the roles required to support this work will be Fixed Term Contracts that will be established through key partners such as the NHS and BCT. Recruitment will be conducted according to the council's recruitment and retention policy. We will work with People Services to ensure that the right organisational structure and contract type is obtained as well as abide to all of the Council's policies i.e., recruitment and selection.
- 7.5.2 We will also endeavour to create and offer early career roles such as Apprenticeships, which will create employment, training, and development opportunities for young people.
- 7.5.3 We will ensure that all our recruitment and selection is carried out in line with the Equalities Strategy and provides equity for all candidates.

## **7.6 Property Services Implications**

- 7.6.1 Property Services Officers will be closely involved in the development of the delivery plan for the Family Hub Best Start for Life programme, to ensure that the best use of Council buildings is achieved, and professional advice obtained in the use of the capital funding allocation.

## **7.7 Public Sector Equality Duty**

- 7.7.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been completed, see **Appendix 1**.

## **7.8 Environment and Sustainability Assessment**

- 7.8.1 Not required

## **8 Appendices**

- 8.1 **Appendix 1** – Equality Assessment EIA972

## **9. Background Documents**

- 9.1 None