

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – 24 FEBRUARY 2022**FAMILY HUBS MODEL IMPLEMENTATION AND BID****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES****Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of the County Council's intention to develop a Family Hubs Model of service delivery in Leicestershire and the recent submission of a bid submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) for funding to develop the model.
2. A Family Hubs Model is a system-wide approach of providing high-quality, whole-family, joined up support service which delivers support from pregnancy, through the child's early years and into early adulthood.
3. In order to meet with DfE deadline, the Chief Executive (using his delegated powers) took urgent action to approve the bid on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board, a requirement of its submission.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that;
 - a) The County Council's intention to develop a Family Hubs Model of Service Delivery in Leicestershire, be supported;
 - b) The urgent action taken by the Chief Executive to submit the County Council's Family Hubs Model bid to the Department for Education on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board, be noted.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. In October 2021 the Government Spending Review announced the creation of an £82 million fund for the development of Family Hubs in England (the Family Hubs Transformation Fund). Authorities which adopt the Family Hubs model will be able to apply for support from this Fund.
6. The proposal contributes to the following elements of Leicestershire County Council's draft Strategic Plan 2022-2026:
 - a. Improving Opportunities:
 - i. Every child gets the best start in life
 - ii. Every child has access to good quality education
 - iii. Families are self-sufficient and enabled to be resilient
 - iv. Everyone is able to aim high and reach their full potential.
 - b. Keeping People Safe and Well:
 - i. People are safe in their daily lives

- ii. People at the most risk are protected from harm.
 - c. Great communities
 - i. People participate in service design and delivery.
7. The Children and Family Services Departmental Plan 2020-23 sets out four clear ambitions all of which would be supported through the Family Hubs Model:
- Help every child get the best start in life.
 - Help children and their families build strength, resilience, confidence and capacity.
 - Help children in Leicestershire to live in safe, stable environments and have secure attachments.
 - Help every child to have access to good quality education to ensure they meet their maximum potential.
8. The Family Hubs Model also supports the Government policy paper “The best start for life: a vision for the 1001 critical days” which outlines six areas for action to improve the health outcomes of babies in England.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

9. On the 11 February 2022 the Cabinet approved the principle of a Family Hubs Model of service delivery for services provided by the Children and Family Wellbeing Service and noted that a feasibility study, which would include engagement with families and other stakeholders, would be undertaken in order to inform the new model.
10. The feasibility study will include a period of engagement with partners, parents and carers, which will commence at the end of February and is expected to be concluded by end of April 2022, at which point work will begin to move services to the Family Hubs Model. It is anticipated that the model will be fully operational by March 2024.
11. The bid submitted to the DfE totalled £969, 886 from the initial tranche of transformation funding for Family Hubs. If this bid is successful, the funding would provide project support to implement new ways of working and the transition to the new model. The DfE is due to report on the outcome of applications by end of January 2022 however at the time of writing the outcome was unknown. If the bid is not successful, the implementation will proceed using existing County Council resources.

Background

12. A Family Hubs model is a system-wide model of providing high-quality, whole-family, joined up family support services. Family Hubs deliver support services from pregnancy, through the child’s early years and later childhood, and into early adulthood until they reach the age of 19 (or up to 25 for young

people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)). The concept of Family Hubs is not new but in the last 12 months has been increasingly prominent in Government thinking and policy.

13. The Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families (a national children's mental health organisation) was appointed by the DfE to undertake the lead on developing The National Centre for Family Hubs, a learning network that will champion the Hubs and disseminate best practice to Family Hubs providers across England. A model framework has been developed by the DfE with input from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Health and Social Care. The Framework focuses on three key areas for delivery:
 - a. Improving access to services – agencies working together to develop clear pathways of support. This will include buildings-based services, outreach, on-line and virtual delivery, web-based information and resources.
 - b. Developing connections between agencies, communities, voluntary sector etc to work in partnership with families.
 - c. Supporting relationships within families and communities, building resilience, and reducing unresolved conflict in families.

14. The Family Hubs framework is in-line with the agreed Early Help Partnership plan (Priority 3 of the Children and Families Partnership Plan.) The Early Help Partnership has stated a commitment to developing enhanced data sharing to support identification of vulnerability and application of resources as well as a commitment to working with communities to deliver joined up services in a way that makes sense to families. The Partnership has stated a commitment to ensuring parent carer and child voice is central to planned developments.

15. The proposal is to adopt the Family Hubs Model framework as the guiding strategy for the delivery of early help services in Leicestershire, joining up with other County Council teams and departments such as Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care, Libraries. This proposal would make best use of LCC estate to help promote an equality of access to services for families.

DfE bid

16. The Bid was submitted on 17 December 2021 to the initial tranche of Transformation Funding for Family Hubs – if successful the funding will be used to project manage the implementation as well as supporting costs to deliver the following:
 - a. A Family Hubs communication strategy which will help explain the concept, how it will support families, and how it is accessed.
 - b. A Family Hubs logo or brand.
 - c. A website for Family Hubs.
 - d. Data sharing arrangements.
 - e. An evaluation of the approach.

17. Bids are assessed against a number of qualifying criteria one of which is approval and support of The Health and Wellbeing Board. In order to meet with DfE deadline, the Chief Executive (using his delegated powers) took urgent action to approve the bid on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Background Papers

Family Hubs Transformation fund:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-hubs-transformation-fund>

Report to the Cabinet – 11 February 2022 – Development of a Family Hubs Model in Leicestershire.

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=6773&Ver=4>

Circulation under the Local issues Alert Procedure

18. None

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Equality and Human Rights Implications

19. An equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment will be completed as part of the Feasibility Study. It is anticipated that Family Hubs Model will enhance access to services as the breadth of delivery models will cater to a wider range of needs.

Partnership Working and Associated Issues

20. The Family Hubs Model will require wide partnership support. The co-ordination and development of this will be lead through the Early Help Partnership Board and the Children and Families partnership Board.