



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
4 JUNE 2024

FAMILY HUBS IN LEICESTERSHIRE: ONE YEAR ON

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the delivery of Family Hubs in Leicestershire.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. Family Hubs are a Department for Education (DfE) initiative with cross-departmental sign up. The aim of Family Hubs is to improve access for all families to integrated information, advice and support in their local communities, whether through on-line or in person provision.
3. On 11 February 2022, the Cabinet approved the proposal to start work on implementing a Family Hubs model across the Children and Family Wellbeing Service.
4. On 6 June 2023, the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report which provided an update on the implementation of Family Hubs in Leicestershire. At this meeting, the Committee requested an update on progress to be provided after one year.

Background

5. In November 2021, a funding bid was submitted to DfE for transformation grant funding to support the development of Family Hubs in Leicestershire. Due to delays within DfE, notification of the successful bid was only made in September 2022, and public announcement of the funding in March 2023. Leicestershire was one of 12 councils that successfully applied, and the amount received was just under £1 million.
6. The funding was part of the Government's £300 million investment pot which supported the wider initiative to roll out Family Hubs across 75 other local authorities throughout the country. These authorities have received funding on the basis of their ranking in the indices of deprivation. The funding covers provision of services as well as infrastructure development.

Family Hubs in Leicestershire

7. Leicestershire Family Hubs provide 'one-stop shops', for parents, carers, and families across Leicestershire to help access support and advice when needed. The Hubs are a mixture of physical and virtual spaces where all communities can easily access a range of guidance and help to give children the best start in life This includes everything from midwifery to mental health support, health visits to infant feeding, development for young children to set the foundations for lifelong learning and prepare them for school at age five.
8. A network of Family Hubs has been created across Leicestershire. The appendix sets out an update on progress to date.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

9. None

Equalities Implications

10. The Family Hubs programme is designed to improve access for all families to good quality information, advice, and where needed, support. The programme of work involved considerable consultation and engagement with families including targeted work with those communities who may often experience additional barriers to accessing services. The model of Family Hubs incorporates different approaches to delivering services so that families have more choice about how, where, and when they access or receive information, support and guidance.
11. There are no equalities implications Arising from this report.

Human Rights Implications

12. There are no human rights implications Arising from this report.

Appendix

13. Family Hubs in Leicestershire: One Year On

Background Papers

14. 6 June 2023 report to Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s176594/Leicestershire%20Family%20Hubs%20-%20CF%20OSC%20060623.pdf>

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