



Derby City Council

**CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE, SKILLS
SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD
16 OCTOBER 2023**

ITEM 06

Report sponsor: Suanne Lim, Director of Early Help & Children's Social Care
Report author: Fiona Colton, Head of Early Help

Targeted Early Help and Family Hubs

Purpose

- 1.1 This report pulls together an overview of performance of Targeted Early Help
- 1.2 To give an update of the Family Hub Initiative funded by the Department of Education and the Department for Health and Social Care

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To consider content of the report and make appropriate recommendations
- 2.2 To note the progress and performance of Targeted Early Help and the development of Family Hubs

Reason(s)

- 3.1 The Early Help Service delivers both statutory and non-statutory duties. This report demonstrates delivery and performance of the service and informs future developments illustrating its key role within early help and children's social care and the wider council.
- 3.2 The delivery of Family Hubs and the Start for Life Offer has brought funding into the Local Authority to enhance current children's centre services.

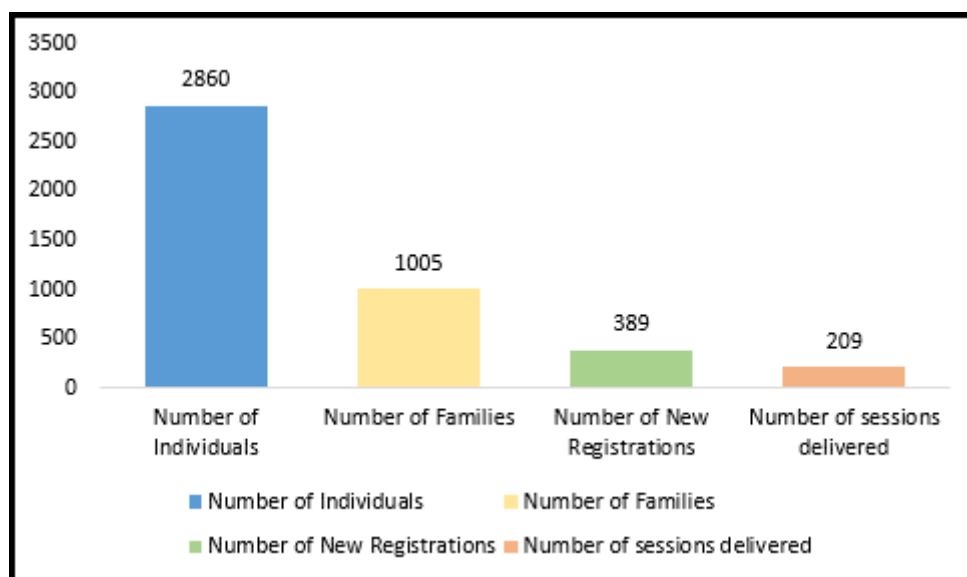
Supporting information

- 4.1 Delivery of the council's Early Help service has become a much more targeted service, however there are several points that a child or young person and families can gain access to this service. The service covers support for emerging needs through to targeted support to enable a family to stay together.

It is important to note that Family Hubs offer a universal service to all parents to be and new parents with children under 5 with an element of transformation that covers the whole age range 0-19 and 25 for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The service delivers a combination of statutory services such as Education Welfare where there are new statutory duties on attendance, delivery of the Missing Protocol, support for those not in education, training or employment (NEET) young carers and support for families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). In addition, casework and evidence-based programme delivery for families who require help and support.

- 4.2 The service works to develop case guidance and a clear performance framework which demonstrates how much? How well? And What is the impact?
- 4.3 Performance is consistently good with over 97% of family's children and young people having an improved direction of travel and satisfaction with the service.
- 4.4 Feedback from families and young people tells us that the service on offer is good and this informs future development.
- 4.5 The service is creative and flexible and over the past few years has reorganised the offer to meet the need of families in Derby. We have created a Staying Together Team to work with families where there is the risk family breakdown. The team offer a wraparound service working intensively with them to prevent them entering the care system. To date we have enabled 80 children to remain in the care of their families which is the best option for children and young people.
- 4.6 Recently we have consulted and reset our teams to offer a team to work specifically with young people at risk of exploitation and criminal exploitation (Child Related Exploitation) based on the same principles as Staying Together and it is anticipated that we can support the reduction of cases identified as at risk of CRE and reduce the high risks associated with child related exploitation within our local communities.
- 4.7 All teams within the Targeted Early Help service continue to offer evidence -based interventions. We work in a systemic strengths-based way to explore with families the strengths and challenges they are facing including recent cost of living challenges.
- 4.8 Family Hubs, whilst universal, are a key part of Targeted Early Help service. This new initiative is funded by Department for Education (DFE). Derby was one of 75 LAs to receive funding to deliver a new Start for Life offer to families across the city. £3.6 million funding until March 2025.

- 4.9 Six of the existing Children's centres have been designated as Family Hubs and offer the full start for life offer, the remaining 4 centres remain as children's centres and offer a good range of activities for families. These will be known as branches of Family Hubs. There is an established Family Hub Board and a DFE approved delivery plan which is monitored on a quarterly basis along with data returns submitted to the DFE. There are working sub-groups below the board which focuses on the delivery of each element. Family hubs launched in the city over the summer holidays with a full offer of activities offered.
- 4.10 The table below shows the engagement in services from families in the city. It is important to note that this is a universal offer to all families with no postcode restrictions so a family can attend activities right across the city.



Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Engagement with families in Early Help is via Progression of change, how was it for you? and voice of the child tools for direct work. Every case worked by early help will have all of these tools used, performance is transferred to DORIS
- 5.2 Throughout the development of Family hubs we have engaged families in small sub-groups, parent carer panel development, at each of the family hub launches and have completed an on-line survey

Other options

- 6.1 Family Hubs is a central government prescribed programme and therefore no other options could be considered.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 The Family Hub Initiative has brought £3.6 million pounds into the city. There are restrictions on how the money is spent and we have tried wherever possible to commission local providers to provide additional services that the local authority cannot but must provide.

Legal implications

- 8.1 There are statutory responsibilities that Early Help deliver noted in this report. In addition, grants provided via the family hubs have been delivered adhering to grant requirements supported by the legal department.

Climate implications

- 9.1 There is exploration of the use of solar panels on some of the hub and children's centre buildings.

Socio-Economic implications

- 10.1 The new start for life offer is a universal offer for all families in the city, allowing movement across the city. There are aspects of targeted work in addition which support those most vulnerable. There are elements of advice, DWP and access to food banks available.

Other significant implications

- 11.1 Several Equality Impact Assessments have been completed in Early Help at the time of reorganisation. Family Hub delivery has been co-produced with families to ensure the offer is the right offer in the right space at the right time.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Olu Idowu, Head of Legal and Insurance Services	29/09/23
Finance	Janice Hadfield, Janet Bowlzer, Group Accountant	28/09/23
	Suanne Lim, Director of Early Help & Children's Social Care	06/10/23
Service Director(s)		
Report sponsor		
Other(s)		

Background papers:

List of appendices: