

Health and Wellbeing Board

20 September 2022

Development of Family Hubs and Start for Life programme in Walsall

For decision

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide members of the Health and Wellbeing Board with an overview of the Family Hub and Start for Life programme and what it will mean for Walsall.
- 1.2 Secure support from the HWBB in the delivery of the programme aligned to delivery of Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy and its priorities.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the HWBB supports the delivery of the Family Hub and Start for Life programme in Walsall.
- 2.2 That the HWBB requests to receive periodic assurances on delivery of this programme as part of the reporting on progress on the Local health and Wellbeing Strategic priorities.

3. Report detail

- 3.1 On the 1st April the Department for education and the Department for Health and Social Care announced that Walsall was going to be one of 75 LA's eligible to be part of the next wave of Family Hub programmes.
- 3.2 This is a timely opportunity as the programme focus on getting the support right for the 1001 days aligns with the priority areas identified by Walsall Children and young People Strategic Alliance as well as contribute to Walsall Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (22-25).
- 3.3 The Family hub programme focusses on 6 specific areas of action (as outline in the Best start in Life vision that was published in 2021) and requires all participation LA's to commit to implementing these:

1. **Seamless support for families:** a coherent joined-up Start for Life offer available to all families. The universal Start for Life offer should include the essential support that any new family might need: midwifery, health visiting, mental health support, infant-feeding advice and specialist breastfeeding support, safeguarding and services relating to SEND.

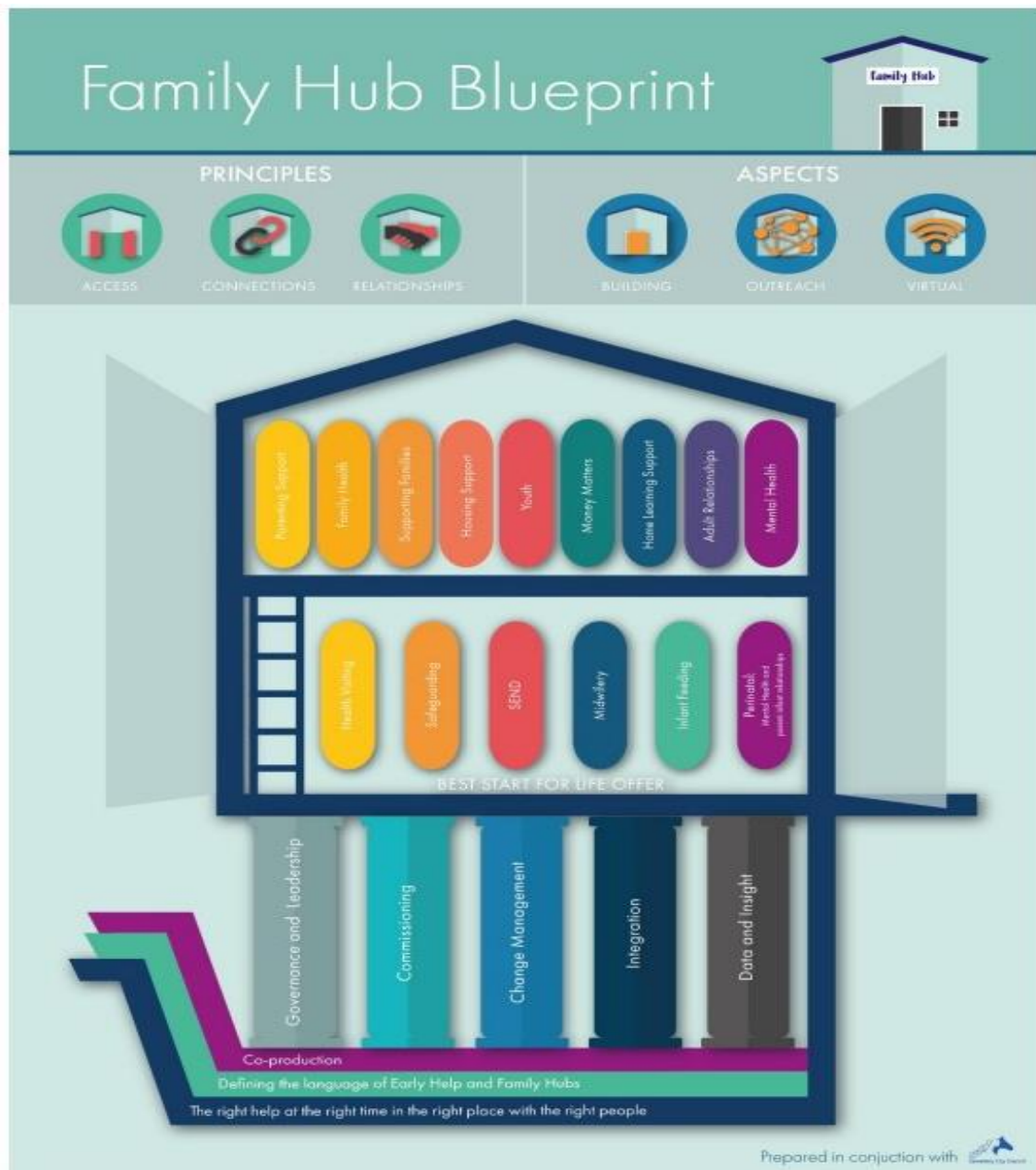
2. **A welcoming hub for families:** family hubs as a place for families to access Start for Life services. Services available physically, virtually and via outreach.
3. **The information families need when they need it:** designing digital, virtual and telephone offers around the needs of the family, including a digital child health record
4. **An empowered Start for Life workforce:** developing a modern, skilled workforce to meet the changing needs of families.
5. **Continually improving the Start for Life offer:** improving data, evaluation, outcomes and proportionate inspection.
6. **Leadership for change:** ensuring local and national accountability and building the economic case.

- 3.4 The Department for Education and Department for Health and Social Care published the detail guidance and funding allocation for each Local Authority on the 8th August.

Family Hub Blue print

- 3.5 The Associate of Directors of Children's Services commissioned the development of a Blueprint for action based on learning from the 14 Local Authorities across West Midlands. The Blueprint is intended to support the strategic and operational design and development of the Family Hub offer across the West Midlands Local Authorities with a focus on bringing "expertise through experience".

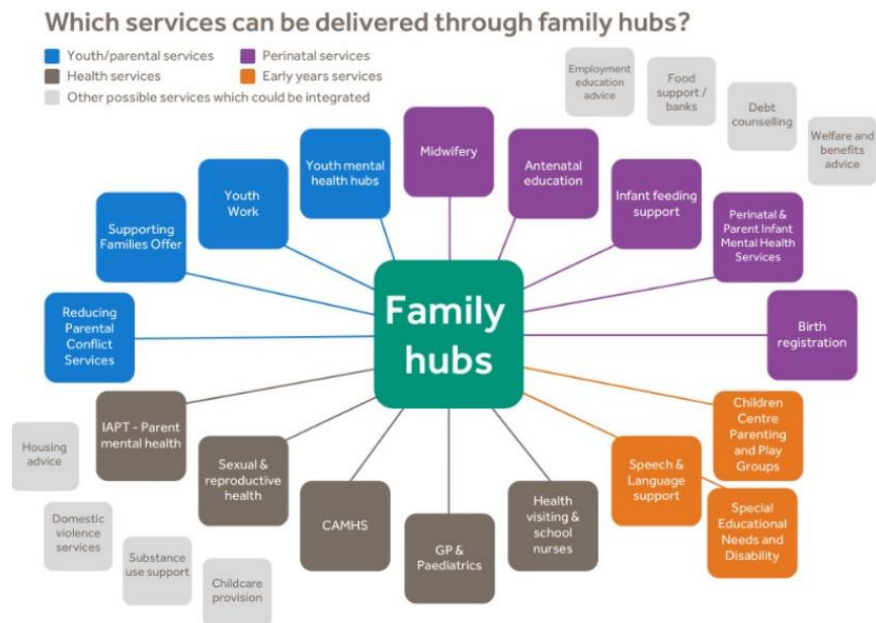
It aims to guide the thinking and actions of all those on their endeavours to create, convert or expand their current offer to children, young people, and their families.



- 3.6 There are 5 core activities/services which need to be developed as part of the programme – with each element will have a minimum offer which need to be delivered by all LA's and a more ambitious (optional) 'go further' offer.



- 3.7 The method of delivery of the family hub will be expected to be a combination of :
- Building
 - Outreach
 - Virtual
- 3.8 Although the Focus of Family Hubs is on delivering effective information and services to children aged 0-5, there is an expectation to expand these services to ensure the programme has a whole family approach and supports children 0-19 to grow up safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well. Therefore the below services are expected to form part of the Family Hub delivery:



Delivery of Family Hubs and Start for Life programme in Walsall

3.9 As part of our Walsall Right 4 Children (WR4C) transformation programmes we have already created four locality Hub and Spoke' model (appendix 1), seeking opportunities to co-locate teams, connecting practitioners (including Social Workers, Family Support workers, Health Visitors, School Nurses, police officers, Domestic Abuse Support, Mental Health support and substance misuse support), with each other, with community resources and the families they work with to enable us to provide easier access to integrated services giving the right help and the right time.

The family Hubs will enable us to further strengthen our integrated locality model focussed on giving all children in Walsall a best start in life.

3.10 A needs analysis has been completed by Walsall Insight group commissioned by the Children and Young People Alliance on the 1001 days (appendix 2) and will give us a good baseline for the work that needs to be done as part of Family Hubs

In addition information gathered as part of Walsall 2040 with parents and carers of children aged 0-19 will provide us valuable information to help shape the Family hub programme in Walsall.

3.11 Children's Services has been taking a lead on the development of the programme and have secured good engagement from key stakeholders. A number

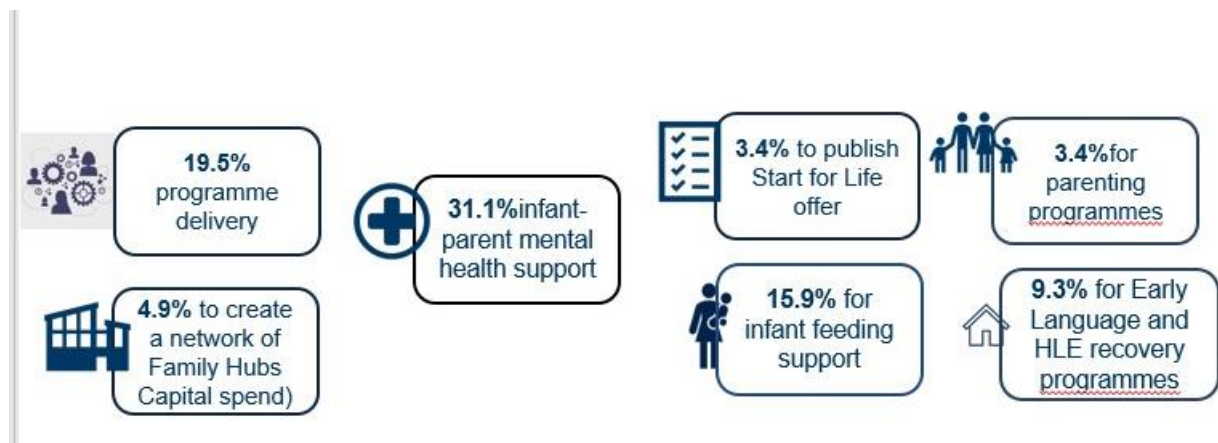
of briefings were held and a stakeholder implementation workshop took place on the 9th September 2022.

3.12 Stakeholders to date include Public Health, Walsall Together, Community mental health, 0-19 Healthy Child programme (health visiting and school health), paediatric Service, LA Early Years team, Resilient Communities, Walsall Health Care Trust, Housing, Black Country Mental Health; Police and ICS

3.13 By the end of October we will be publishing our initial Family Hub delivery plan and will be recruiting a designated transformation team (bringing together skill and expertise from across the partnership) to support the effective development and implementation of this ambitious programme in Walsall.

4. Implications for Joint Working arrangements:

4.1 Government confirmed a funding package for Walsall between £3.774M and £3.937M over the next three financial years (till 24/25) to deliver the programme. The guidance sets out clearly the expected allocation of funding per programme strands:



- 4.2 The programme and the funding sits alongside funding to further embed the Reducing Parental Conflict programme (£120K over the next 3 years for Walsall) and the uplift to the Supporting Families programme (1.45M for 22/23 for Walsall) and HAF (£1.8M over next 3 years).
- 4.3 The Local Authority will be the key accountable body for the grant but there is a clear expectation the programme will be developed and delivered in collaboration with partners with Health, Voluntary Sector and Education system.

5. Health and Wellbeing Priorities:

- 5.1 The Family Hub and best start in Life will be delivering on all priorities as set out by Walsall Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 22-25:
- **Children and young people:** Ensuring all children have the best possible start in life and support them in growing up safe from harm, happy and learning well is at the heart of the programmes vision
 - **Mental health and wellbeing:** supporting both the parents and children health and wellbeing is a core delivery expectation of the programme.
 - **Digital:** the development of a digital inclusive offer will be key part of the programme to ensure that the information and services are easy to access by all.
- 5.4 Safeguarding: The Family Hubs approach will ensure that professionals work together, through co-location, data-sharing and a common approach to their work. Families will only have to tell their story once, the service is more efficient, with safeguarding at its core, and families get more effective support.

Background papers

Appendix 1 - Locality Hub and Spoke' model



Walsall Locality Hub
and Spoke briefing.doc

Appendix 2 – 1001days needs assessment



CYP Alliance - First
1001 Days - Final Dra

Best Start for Life: vision for the 1,001 Critical Days -
[The best start for life a vision for the 1 001 critical days.pdf](#)
([publishing.service.gov.uk](#))

Family Hub Local Authority Guide -
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-hubs-and-start-for-life-programme-local-authority-guide>

Family Hub Blueprint for Action



West Mids Family
Hub Blueprint for Acti

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