

From: Dr Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health

To: Dan Watkins, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

Subject: **FAMILY HUBS -START FOR LIFE, PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH AND PARENT INFANT RELATIONSHIPS**

Decision Number: **23/00075**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: Health Reform and Public Health Cabinet Committee, 5 September 2023

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: All

Summary: Kent County Council has been successful in receiving Family Hub Transformation Authority status and has therefore received designated Family Hub Transformation Funding.

Following key decision 23/00015, which relates to the allocation of expenditure for financial year 2022-2023, a further key decision is now required to approve the service development presented and the proportional expenditure allocated for Perinatal mental health and parent infant relationships in 2023-24 and 2024-25 in order to: improve outcomes for families and access ongoing allocated funding from the Department for Education (DfE).

Utilisation of the grant provided by DfE will enable us to enhance our current infant feeding activity. Allocation of this expenditure will allow further work to be undertaken to develop more detailed and co-designed proposals.

A Start for Life Programme update was provided to Health Reform and Public Health Cabinet Committee on the 11 July 2023. This provided an opportunity for members to ask any questions, help shape the programme of work and explained the governance route for future decisions.

Recommendations: The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services, is asked to:

- a) **APPROVE** the development and improvement activity to deliver Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationship Interventions;
- b) **APPROVE** the required expenditure, via the Family Hub Grant Funding, to deliver this activity; and
- c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Public Health, to take necessary actions, including but not limited to allocating resources, expenditure, and entering into contracts and other legal agreements, as required to implement the decision.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Three key areas of grant funding to support transformation to Family Hubs relate to Start for Life and which are relevant to Public Health, these are
 - 1) infant feeding
 - 2) perinatal mental health
 - 3) parent infant relationships
- 1.2 Start for Life is a component of the Family Hubs model with a specific focus on the first 1001 days, between conception and the age of two, essential for the healthy development of babies. This focus for support was identified by the Dame Andrea Leadsom Review in 2020 and further articulated in March 2021 in publication of The Best Start for Life: A Vision for the 1,001 critical days. This was followed by the announcement of £300m government funding to support Family Hubs with a focus on parent carer panels, parenting programmes, parent infant relationships, perinatal mental health and infant feeding in April 2022. Kent was one of 75 local authorities provided with the opportunity to benefit from the £300m funding.
- 1.3 On 4 October 2022 the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services took an executive decision (Decision number 22/00094) to adopt the principle of Kent becoming a Family Hub Transformation Authority.
- 1.4 On 23 March 2023, a further executive decision was taken under decision number 23/00015 Family Hub Transformation Funding:
 - a) To commence development and co-design of the Family Hub model for Kent in line with Government Family Hub framework for delivery and associated plans.
 - b) To allocate and spend funding allocated via the Family Hub Transformation Authority for 2022/2023 financial year.

2. Family Hub Transformation Programme

- 2.1 To support the delivery of the Family Hub Transformation Programme, KCC will receive a one-off grant from the Department for Education (DfE) over the next three-years. The grant is to support system transformation through work-force development and supporting development of new services.
- 2.2 The DfE has set out their priorities for how the local authority should spend the grant in achieving the outcomes of the Family Hub and Start for Life Programmes with 4.5 million [40 %] allocated for parent infant relationships, perinatal mental health and infant feeding to deliver mandated and go further elements of work across a three-year programme to April 2025. We are currently in year 2.
- 2.3 The grant provides opportunity to build on our learning from our work on a Health in Europe programme to March 2023, which focused on low to moderate perinatal mental health, to develop the workforces understanding of parent infant relationships and commission parent infant relationship interventions.

2.4 An overview of the core and additional activities directed by the DfE listed below illustrate the breadth of the family hub transformation programme.

Table 1: Core and additional family hubs activity presented in the family hubs consultation documentation.

Core Activities (funded by DfE Family Hub grant)	Additional activities proposed (delivered through Service Transformation)
Develop Early Language skills through the Home Learning Environment	Expand and promote our offer for parents of adolescents
Preparation and support for pre-conception, pregnancy, and parenthood	Expand and promote support available for emotional wellbeing
Enhanced Infant feeding support	Improved access to information and support for children with SEND
Introduce a Family Hub Digital offer	Co-ordinate Family Hub networks
Implement a new range of outreach support	Development of Family Coaches and peer support groups
Improve and diversify our Information, advice, and support	Additional activities as identified through the consultation
Integrate our recording and reporting	Adoption of the Whole Family approach
Co-design and evaluation	
Workforce development	

3. Finance

- 3.1 In July 2023 Kent County Council (KCC) launched a public consultation www.kent.gov.uk/familyhubservices to gain a better understanding of how services can be best integrated to meet local needs, through a Kent Family Hub network, bringing services and partners together to provide a single point of access for family support services. This consultation finished on 13 September 2023. The outcome and information gathered from the public consultation and the learning from the two tester sites will be available in November 2023.
- 3.2 We are progressing with the core service requirements, such as the co-creation of a perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships strategy for Kent as outlined by the DfE whereas the discretionary service elements will not be progressed until completion of the family hub consultation process.
- 3.3 The additional funding provides opportunity to increase workforce capability and capacity to expand the reach of low to moderate perinatal mental health and parent infant relationship support; raise awareness of support available for those with low to moderate perinatal mental health; delivery of parent infant relationship interventions.
- 3.4 To support the delivery of the Family Hub Transformation Programme, KCC is receiving a grant of £3,051,809 from the Department for Education (DfE) to April 2025 which is to support system transformation through work-force development and supporting development of new services. This funding relates to the financial year 2023/2024, including rollover from year one and the allocation for financial year 2024/2025.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 The Council entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the DfE which creates obligations to meet specific deadlines and timescales set by the DfE or risk losing further funding or funding claw back.
- 4.2 Access to the associated funding, depending on the type and level of transformation activity progressed, is conditional on compliance with the terms of the MoU and demonstration of progress toward an effective Family Hub Model.
- 4.3 The Council has and will enter into a number of contractual agreements to support delivery in line with Spending the Council's Money and Public Contract Regulations 2015.

5. Equalities implications

- 5.1 Initial assessment and attached Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) (Appendix A) has identified that emotional and regulation needs may impact on access and communication; race and faith may impact on access to perinatal mental health support with proposed mitigations outlined. Funding for these workstreams will enable transformation activity to enhance, improve and add to existing provision.

6. Governance

- 6.1 The Cabinet Member decision provides the required authority to allocate and spend Family Hub Grant funding on specific workstreams within the mandated Family Hub plan set out by DfE. The decision builds upon the previous 'in principle agreement' to Family Hub development decision-making and allows for the implementation of service improvement in the relevant area.
- 6.2 Detailed service development and spend activity to progress the Peri-natal Mental Health work is delegated in accordance with the Executive Scheme of Delegation.
- 6.3 This service specific decision is without prejudice to the wider Family Hubs consultation on the discretionary aspects of the Family Hub programme, which will inform the overall model when the relevant decisions are taken. These future decisions on the model will influence how this specific service fits within the Family Hub system.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 This is a good opportunity to further develop and commence activities based on the funding provided for perinatal mental health and parent infant relationships through the family hub grant allocation, enhancing our support for families.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Recommendations: The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services, is asked to:

- a) **APPROVE** the development and improvement activity to deliver Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationship Interventions;
- b) **APPROVE** the required expenditure, via the Family Hub Grant Funding, to deliver this activity; and
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Public Health, to take necessary actions, including but not limited to allocating resources, expenditure, and entering into contracts and other legal agreements, as required to implement the decision.

9. Background Documents

[The Best Start for Life: Early Years Healthy Development Review Report](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/family-hubs-and-start-for-life-programme>

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