

From: Sue Chandler, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services

Sarah Hammond, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Health Reform and Public Health Cabinet Committee – 23 November 2022

Subject: DECISIONS TAKEN OUTSIDE OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE MEETING CYCLE

Decision Number and Title – 22/00094 Family Hubs

Classification: Unrestricted

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Summary: The attached decision was taken between meetings as it could not reasonably be deferred to the next programme meeting of the Cabinet Committee for the reason set out below.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Committee is asked to NOTE that the following decision has been taken in accordance with the process as set out in Part 2 paragraph 12.35 of the Constitution:

22/00094 – Family Hub Model in Kent

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2651>

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Set in accordance with the Council's governance arrangements, all Significant or Key Decisions must be listed in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions and should be submitted to the relevant Cabinet Committee for endorsement or recommendation prior to the decision being taken by the Cabinet Member or Cabinet.
- 1.2 For the reason set out below it has not been possible for this decision to be discussed by the Cabinet Committee prior to being taken by the Cabinet Member or Cabinet. Therefore, in accordance with process as set out in Part 2 paragraph 12.35 of the Constitution, the following decision was taken and published to all Members of this Cabinet Committee and the Scrutiny Committee.

- 1.3 In addition, the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services sent an email directly to the Opposition Group Leaders and Chairman of Scrutiny Committee outlining why this key decision needed to be taken in accordance with the process as set out in Part 2 paragraph 12.35 of the Constitution.

2 Decision

- 2.1 Kent County Council (KCC) is committed to delivering high quality services for babies, children, young people and families ensuring an extensive range of partner and community services are accessible across the county. KCC has a strong working relationship with statutory partners including Health.
- 2.2 Kent has been successful in the application for Family Hubs Transformation Funding to support the exploration, development and the design of the Family Hubs Framework Model in Kent.
- 2.3 Following written confirmation from the DfE that KCC had been selected to become a Family Hub Authority, Ms S. Chandler, The Lead Member for Integrated Children's Services, took a key decision on 14 October 2022 to accept the financial envelope and commence work to develop a Family Hub framework model for Kent.
- 2.4 As KCC has been selected as a Family Hub Authority and signed a Memorandum of Understanding declaring our intent to participate, we are now eligible to receive a national grant of up to £10m over the next 3 years, dependent on the specific proposals developed, exploration how the Family Hub Framework Model could work in Kent. More detailed work is now required to progress the development of formal proposals with partners and stakeholders.
- 2.5 We will need to consider how and where services are delivered: through fixed settings, outreach, virtual and digital interfaces, and/or face-to-face, to support vulnerable families in their own communities across Kent.
- 2.6 The funding will be used to transform the existing Open Access offer (Children's Centres and Youth services) into a developed 0-19 years Family Hub model including the creation of a partnership Family Hub model providing children, young people and families improved access to a wide range of services.
- 2.7 The programme is led by the Department for Education (DfE) in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSc) to ensure there is policy integration at national level to develop an enhanced multiagency partnership.
- 2.8 The accountability and responsibility sit within the CYPE Directorate, however there are overlaps with the Public Health and Community Services.

3 Background to the decision

- 3.1 In September 2020, Andrea Leadsom MP began a review into improving health and development outcomes for babies in England.

- 3.2 The review focused on support to families in the first 1,001 days of a child's life, 'Start for life system'. Within this review the development of family hubs were created as welcoming places for families to access these 'Start for life' services.
- 3.3 In March 2021, The Best Start for Life: a vision for the 1,001 critical days was published by the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) following the Early Years Healthy Development Review, chaired by Andrea Leadsom MP.
- 3.4 Family Hubs are at the heart of this vision for baby-centred services, designed to give every baby the best start for life.
- 3.5 The review focused on the period between conception (-9 months) and the age of two (the first 1,001 critical days) considering evidence gathered from a wide range of sources including virtual visits to areas, meetings with parents/carers, academics, practitioners, civil society organisations, representative bodies and many others.
- 3.6 The paper identified examples of good practice and circumstances where change was needed to make a real difference to the lives of parents, carers and babies. The Family Hub model extends the transformation of services from conception until the age of 19 (or 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities).
- 3.7 In October 2021, then Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, announced £301.75 million for children and families including £82 million to set up Family Hubs in 75 upper-tier local authorities.
- 3.8 In April 2022, it was announced that Kent was amongst the 75 Local Authorities set to receive government funding for Family Hubs. The DfE developed the selection criteria which targeted areas with the highest deprivation levels as part of the levelling up agenda and included geographical representation from rural to urban areas.
- 3.9 In August 2022, the transformation funding application process opened. Kent applied for Family Hubs Transformation Funding to support the exploration, development and the design of the Family Hubs Model in Kent. Our success in the application phase means that this funding could be utilised to support project team resource costs, engagement and coproduction activity costs, partnerships and coproduction and building development/refurbishment costs.
- 3.10 As part of the application process, Kent also applied for Trailblazer status and is awaiting a response from DfE regarding the Trailblazer application. The Trailblazer programme is dedicated to ensuring that a small number of Local Authorities (c.5) will be able to achieve the minimum standards for best practice more quickly than other Local Authorities.

4. Recommendation(s):

4.1 The Cabinet Committee is asked to NOTE that the following decision has been taken in accordance with the process as set out in Part 2 paragraph 12.35 of the Constitution:

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5. Contact details

Report Author: Hema Birdi

Relevant Director: Stuart Collins

Job Title: Assistant Director,
Adolescents and Open Access (Eastern
Division)

Job title: Director Integrated Children
Services (Early Help Lead)

Telephone number: 03000 411407

Telephone number: 03000 410519

Email address: hema.birdi@kent.gov.uk

Email address:
stuart.collins@kent.gov.uk