

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

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To: Scrutiny Committee – 20 April 2023

Subject: Response to Call-In Request: Decision Number 23/00015 - Family Hub transformation

Classification: Unrestricted

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report contains a response to the call-in to Scrutiny.

1. Background

- 1.1 In October 2022 key decision 22/00094 was made to support the framework of the Family Hub model and explore how this could work for Kent.
- 1.2 This key decision agreed to accept the financial envelope and commence work to develop a Family Hub framework model for Kent. This decision was then considered further by CYPE Cabinet Committee and endorsed following Scrutiny Committee discussion on 7 December 2022.
- 1.3 By signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), (attached at Appendix 5a), KCC formally recognised the working relationship with the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) who have set out clear expectations and milestones which included the need to develop a Delivery Plan and undertake commitments to deliver the minimum expectations in the programme guide, in order to receive Family Hub Funding.
- 1.4 Working in partnership with Public Health, Health Visitors, Midwifery Services and KCC children's services KCC produced an iterative first draft Delivery Plan which was submitted to the DfE on the 30 December 2022.
- 1.5 During January 2023, at the request of the DfE, the initial draft delivery plan underwent multiple revisions as it represents a managerial tool for engagement and planning with the DfE on potential Family Hub

development. A further version was finally agreed in principle by the DfE in February 2023.

- 1.6 The key elements of the Delivery Plan are summarised in Appendix 3. As previously stated, the underlying Plan is a working document and will be subject to future iterative changes which will be shared with the DfE as the Family Hubs programme evolves over the next 2 years as part of requirements to retain access to the Family Hub Transformation funding.
- 1.7 A further key decision 23/00015 has been sought to confirm the funding arrangements progressed under Decision 22/00094 and to approve relevant activity required to progress the transformation programme through additional co-design and some public facing engagement or pilot activity. Members have previously received details of the allocation criteria but for ease of reference these are included at Appendix 1 with the subsequent report at Appendix 2.

2. Family Hub model

- 2.1 The Council is still exploring how Kent can implement the national Family Hubs programme, by transforming non-statutory universal children's services and improving integration with universal health services such as midwifery and health visiting so that together they target the areas of greatest need as well as improve access to services through community outreach and an enhanced digital offer in line with Government guidance set out by the DfE.
- 2.2 Family Hubs aim to incorporate universal and targeted services under one umbrella, to deliver more joined up provision and establish a more integrated workforce and network of providers working with children 0-19 years and 0-25 for children with special educational needs and or disabilities. (SEND).

3. DfE timescales.

- 3.1 The timescales set by the DfE for formulation and development of an initial delivery plan were very short meaning that the Council had to work at pace with multiple stakeholders over a short period of time.
- 3.2 KCC open access services have a long history of accessing the user voice to inform decision making, reaching out into communities to hear the voice of parents and utilising this feedback to achieve best practice outcomes. Services are formed around the principles and national and local evidence base of 'what works.' To further improve that interface the DfE require services to be co-designed with service users. Family Hubs will build on our existing and partner interfaces with parents and carers including the introduction of a more integrated approach to parent and carer panels through the 'best start for life' programme.

- 3.3 Following agreement of the Delivery Plan by the DfE in February, in March 23 the DfE formally confirmed the exact allocation for Kent for 2022-23 and issued Grant Determination letters.
- 3.4 The DfE has set further short deadlines which are linked to the successful receipt of future funding. To date these have been met and include the publication of a Start for Life Offer and implementation of a Parent Carer Panel by April 23. There is also an aspiration set by the DfE for Transformation Authorities to commence some Family Hub services in the 2023/24 financial year. As set out in Decisions 22/00094 and 23/00015, implementation of the full Family Hub model across Kent remains subject to future decisions and relevant due process, Member consideration and consultation activity.

4. Financial breakdown 22/23

- 4.1 Exact funding allocated to Kent for financial year 22-23 was finalised in March 23, following agreement on the Delivery Plan by the DfE.
- 4.2 It has now been possible to further break down the allocation of this revenue, capital and trailblazer expenditure, following end of year draw down on accounts and budgets.
- 4.3 This is a more detailed and up to date spend profile, which takes into account further revisions to the delivery plan and costings made with the DfE in the week commencing 3 April 2023.
- 4.4 Table 1 below shows a breakdown of the planned expenditure against year 1 of the Family Hubs Grant. Full detail of spend and roll over request against all budget lines in the programme can be found in the DfE Rollover template for Family Hubs which is included at Appendix 4 to this report.
- 4.5 Actual expenditure for the year was £791,122 with the balance of unspent grant to be requested as roll forward.

Expenditure Strand	Planned Expenditure	Spend up to 31st March '23	Balance to Roll into 23-24
	£	£	£
Family Hubs Transformation Funding - PROGRAMME	549,920	342,913	207,007
Family Hubs Transformation Funding - CAPITAL	138,200	120,145	18,055
Parenting Support	486,140	20,319	465,821
Parent-Infant Relationships and Perinatal Mental Health	701,693	110,338	591,355
Early Language and Home Learning Environment	329,268	73,860	255,408
Infant Feeding	313,500	15,000	298,500
Parent and Carer Panels	19,914	17,127	2,787
Publishing the Start for Life Offer	27,900	0	27,900

Trailblazer	183,000	91,420	91,580
TOTAL	2,749,535	791,122	1,958,413

4.6 Table 2 provides a breakdown of capital expenditure by individual project for year 1.

Breakdown of Capital Expenditure:	Planned Expenditure	Spend up to 31st March '23	Balance to Roll into 23-24
	£	£	£
Murston Children's Centre - Fit Out Works	138,200	120,145	18,055

4.7 Table 3 shows a detailed breakdown of the Trailblazer funding by individual project. Expenditure of £91,420 against the £183,000 has been achieved by the end of 2022-23 with the remainder £91,580 to be spent in the first quarter of 2023-24.

Breakdown of Trailblazer:	Planned Expenditure	Spend up to 31st March '23	Balance to Roll into 23-24
	£	£	£
Parenting Support - Triple P Licences	36,500	0	36,500
Parent-Infant Relationships and Perinatal Mental Health Support - To produce bite sized films to raise awareness of low to mod PMH for parents and parents to be, non-health professionals and health professionals	25,000	2,720	22,280
Parent-Infant Relationships and Perinatal Mental Health Support - To procure an organisation to support the recruitment and delivery of training a Peer network with lived experience(Parents First)	16,500	0	16,500
Parent-Infant Relationships and Perinatal Mental Health Support - To procure a tool [accredited by the iHV] which presents mums/dads partners with information on postnatal depression- including potential triggers, measures to improve your wellbeing, how it can affect you.	55,000	44,800	10,200
Infant Feeding Support - To develop responsive feeding animations depicting size of babies stomach for the workforce	35,000	35,000	0
Infant Feeding Support - Promote the newly developed breastfeeding friendly venue toolkit accessible on www.wearebesideyou.co.uk especially in the 20% most deprived districts through the Invicta chamber	3,000	0	3,000

of commerce network. [1200 members].			
Infant Feeding Support - Promotion for businesses and incorporate into KCHFT current order	3,000	0	3,000
Infant Feeding Support - To collaborate and support the process for UNICEF BFI re sustainable accreditation 8-9/2/2023 with KCHFT and KCC	9,000	8,900	100
TOTAL	183,000	91,420	91,580

5. Financial roll over 23/24

- 5.1 Due to delayed confirmation timescales from the DfE, adherence to procurement rules and financial year end, it has not been possible to spend the full allocation of the initial funding for the 22/23 financial year and the Trailblazer area award.
- 5.2 The Council has therefore asked the DfE for permission to roll over this funding into financial year 23/24 so that the full funding can be utilised to support Kent families. This has been submitted for consideration by the DfE and we are awaiting confirmation. Such financial negotiations and arrangements regarding the funding for the programme fit within the delegations and authority granted under Decision 22/00094.

6. Reason for Call in and Response

Reason: Clarity of aims and desired outcomes

- i. Clarity and detail on allocated funding and expenditure to date and projected spend and activity going forward*

Further requests:

- ii. Clarification of status of and presentation of Delivery Plans*
- iii. Clarity on how and why this decision is not material to Kent Communities Programme and potential children centres closures*
- iv. Clarify why the Kent Communities Family Hubs EQIA was provided*
- v. Clarity on which parts of co-design arrangements are being progressed via this decision.*

7. Cabinet Member Response:

i. Clarity and detail on allocated funding and expenditure to date and projected spend going forward

Further detail around expenditure to date, against individual workstreams has been included in the main body and section 4, of this report, following the end of the financial year.

The amount and purpose of requested rollover of unspent monies has also been included as Appendix 4 of this document.

The Decision confirmed the continuation and extension of co-design activity and the need to progress with activity required under arrangements with the DfE as part of the Family Hub Transformation Programme. This activity includes roll out of the Parent / Forums, the initial design of Family Hubs and exploration of pilot programmes. Therefore this decision does not seek to approve full implementation of Family Hubs. It builds on the arrangements put in place by Decision 22/00094 in October 2022 and provides an interim update for Members and interested parties as to the progression of the programme, confirms and updates the relevant governance arrangements supporting the important work being undertaken by KCC Staff as they work with partners and stakeholders to design and develop the best possible model of Family Hubs for Kent.

It is important to emphasise that Decision 23/00015 does not determine the Family Hub model, the locations of Family Hubs across Kent or the final scope for which services may feature within an operational Family Hub. The decisions relating to implementation of Family Hub model appropriate to Kent, will be taken following due process as per normal Executive decision-making arrangements.

Following Scrutiny Committee review via the call-in process, further information may be provided alongside the original decision documentation to reflect the above and clarify the approved activity for progression under Decision 23/00015.

ii. Clarity on how and why this decision is not material to Kent Communities Programme and potential children centres closures

This decision is not material to the Kent Communities programme and potential Open Access building closures and changes.

Neither this decision nor the Delivery Plan and associated discussions with the DfE confirms Family Hub locations. Members will be sighted on the Kent Communities Programme consultation which is currently reviewing the feedback from the consultation in order to reach a decision about the community estate in due course. Family Hubs are a part of that process, as set out in the consultation document for Kent Communities and because the KCC estate picture post Kent Communities decision will be relevant to

Family Hub location planning, but the proposed closures or changes to Children's Centres are not the subject of Decision 23/00015.

This decision will inform how the allocated ring fenced monies can be spent to develop services that may be carried out either virtually, in person or through outreach, to help transform the wider parenting approach to delivering the minimum expectations in the programme guide, in order to receive ongoing Family Hub Funding. The programme has been consistent in its messaging that more work will need to be undertaken to progress the development of more formal proposals around service delivery in collaboration with stakeholder and parents and carers.

The aspiration, subject to consultation and due process, is for Kent to aim to have 52 family hub localities across the county post transformation. Should this number be realised KCC will continue to have a greater number of Family Hubs than any other funded area in the Country. As stated earlier, detailed arrangements for the siting of Family Hubs and the confirmation of which services or types of services will be accessible there remain subject to ongoing work and future key decisions.

iii. Clarify why the Family Hubs EqIA was provided

The EqIA supplied with the report provides additional detail on Equality Analysis across locations that *may* become future Family Hub sites, however it is recognised that in the future Family Hub services will be more than just physical localities.

This EqIA was provided as is the most recent equalities assessment that has taken place and is relevant as it will be used to inform Family Hub services and future co-design.

As the location of Family Hub sites cannot be confirmed until a Key Decision is made following the outcome of the Kent Communities consultation, a further EqIA is not possible at this stage as the detail of Family Hubs delivery has not yet been established.

The purpose of Decision 23/00015 is to enable further transformation development and scoping, short of any implementation of a full Family Hub model in Kent, therefore the equality impact or service user impact generally is minimal. However, as set out above, the Kent Communities Family Hub EqIA section was provided for context and evidence of ongoing consideration around potential impact later in the programme.

Further detailed service specific EqIAs will be required and undertaken once a key decision has been made following the outcome of the Kent Communities programme, as part of the next stage in the Family Hub programme governance pathway where a full EqIA will be provided for the model that will be developed for decision.

An EqIA which relates specifically to this decision is attached at Appendix 6

- vi. *Clarity on which parts of co-design arrangements are being progressed via this decision.*

Kent County Council, and its partners, is at the beginning of its journey of developing Family Hub services for Kent in collaboration with Kent families and key stakeholders.

The DfE had stipulated that Parent Carer Panels must be established by April 2023. These are progressing and to achieve this, we continue to engage with existing and established Parent and Carer stakeholder groups and formally commenced the recruitment of a dedicated co-design panel which will continue to evolve and be called upon to inform and shape workstreams as the Family Hub model develops and this activity does not form part of this decision.

8. Background Documents included as appendices to this report and as links below

- Appendix 1 - [Record of Decision Family Hub 23-00015](#)
- Appendix 2- [Family hub Decision Report - 23-00015](#)
- Appendix 3a - Family Hub Programme overview
- Appendix 3b – Programme Outcomes
- Appendix 4 - LA delivery activity 2022-23 DfE Rollover template for Family Hubs (Kent) – submitted April 23 (Not yet agreed by DfE)
- Appendix 5a - FH DfE Memorandum Of Understanding
- Appendix 5b – FH – funding roll over information
- Appendix 6 – EqIA (Updated)

9. Contact Details

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