

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

START FOR LIFE FAMILY HUBS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the government's Start for Life Family Hubs programme framework, with a summary of how our local plans are progressing.
- 1.2 The report seeks continued support for the delivery of the programme in the context of transformation to an integrated neighbourhood model.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire has embarked upon a journey to further strengthen and integrate our local offer for families, aiming to enable children to thrive in their families, schools, and communities, building resilience and community connections.
- 2.2 Grant funding of £2.8 million over 3 years has been made available for North Lincolnshire as part of the Start for Life Family Hubs programme. The funding aims to support an improved offer for families who are expecting a baby or with young children as part of a transformation towards a more integrated multi-agency family hubs delivery model.

2.3 Delivery Expectations

Year One (2022/23) milestones

The sign-up conditions include some ambitious year one expectations, impacted by the late release of the first tranche of funding in January 2023.

By the end of March 2023, we must:

- Publish the Start for Life offer.
- Establish parent carer panels.
- Conduct a local population needs assessment.

Within the first half of 2023 (calendar year) we must:

- Open family hubs (we have specified two sites, Ashby and West Street Children's Centres)
- Publicise the visible change to local families.

2.4 Progress to Date

Activity / Area	Progress
Delivery Plan	<p>Delivery plan submitted to the DfE on 31 December.</p> <p>Notification has been received that the delivery plan met minimum standards and was accepted, with funding being released in January.</p>
Governance	<p>Multi-agency Family Hubs Steering Group established with representation from key partners, schools, VCS groups. Reports into ICT.</p> <p>Fortnightly Executive Group established to drive delivery.</p> <p>Governance arrangements set out in Children's Commissioning Strategy.</p>
Programme delivery team	<p>Senior officers across Children and Families, Public Health and Governance and Communities have been working together to oversee sign-up and initial project set up.</p> <p>Council project management is in place in relation to physical family hub development proposals.</p>
Parent carer panels	<p>Scunthorpe North parent carer panel established.</p> <p>Scunthorpe South and Winterton Parent carer panels in development.</p>
Publishing the offer	<p>Scoping work has been undertaken alongside the council comms team with a headline offer in development, aiming to be published on the council website.</p>
Opening family hub buildings	<p>Business case completed, with design brief in development for West Street and Ashby Children's Centres</p> <p>Temporary signage is being co-produced with parent carers.</p> <p>Detailed project plan is in development to progress the neighbourhood model.</p>
Needs assessment	<p>A Start for Life needs assessment has been undertaken.</p>

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Option 1 to continue supporting the delivery of the Start for Life Family Hubs programme.
- 3.2 Option 2 to cease support for the delivery of the programme.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 North Lincolnshire Council committed to the terms of the Start for Life programme during the sign-up process in August 2022. The fund represents a significant investment in the offer for families with very young children which aligns with the ICT Best Start shine a light area of focus aimed at improving outcomes and closing the gaps before children start attending school. The element of the funding available for transformation is timely given the place-based commitment to health and social care integration, with the family hubs agenda encouraging a welcome focus on 'getting it right' early via a strong and connected community offer.

4.2 Ceasing support of the programme will mean reduction in the integrated neighbourhood based offer to children and families in North Lincolnshire.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 Continuing with the programme ensures up to £2.8 million of grant funding over the 3-year life of the programme, with the potential for follow-up funding to help sustain progress.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 The ambitions and principles underpinning the Start for Life programme align closely with the One Family Approach and the Council Plan. The programme centres on enabling communities, building resilience, and fostering confidence in accessing community support, which together aim to form the bedrock of long term improved outcomes.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 Not undertaken or required at this point.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 No formal consultations are required.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Note the key points in the report and continue to support programme delivery.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report – Start for Life Family Hubs programme guidance and appendices.