

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**FAMILY HUBS IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE – UPDATE JANUARY 2024**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides an update in relation to the development of Start for Life Family Hubs in North Lincolnshire, including progress against the key milestones of the DfE grant-funded programme, and key next steps.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 In line with government policy, North Lincolnshire continues with our journey to develop Family Hubs to further strengthen and integrate our local offer for families, aiming to enable children to thrive in their families, achieve in schools, and flourish in their communities, building resilience and community connections.
- 2.2 **Key Achievements**
- 2.3 **Launch of West Street Family Hub.** The transformation of the West Street Family Hub was completed in October 2023 following a programme of construction and renovation work co-designed with local parents, carers and children. The Hub has been transformed into a modern, more accessible, agile community venue with a distinct youth space, repurposed bookable rooms, a clinical room for health service delivery, and updated kitchen facilities.
- 2.4 160 local people attended the launch event where families took part in baby massage and baby yoga, toddler reading, virtual reality headset demonstrations, health and wellbeing sessions, advice about childcare, and perhaps most importantly, connecting with each other and their community.
- 2.5 The offer at West Street continues to develop and respond to changes in need and feedback, reflecting the broad range of agencies and voluntary community sector partners involved in supporting families.

- 2.6 Following the launch of West Street Family Hub, work has been underway on phase 2, developing Henderson Avenue Children's Centre and Ashby Children's Centre into family hubs. Each with its own unique community make-up and needs, the Hubs have continued to be open for families and will officially launch in coming weeks.
- 2.7 **Development of a new digital platform.** The Start for Life Family Hubs grant is being used to develop new ways to empower families to access information and self-help strategies, as well as to better connect with the community offer. The soon-to-launch NL Family app and website will provide a single access point for information aimed at parents and carers, and for those that need it, a more streamlined way to find out how to seek help for any aspect of family life, from support with breast feeding, to help seeking employment, to understanding and responding to teenagers.
- 2.8 **Establishing Parent-Carer Panels.** Meeting 6-weekly, the Scunthorpe North parent carer panel has worked together to co-produce the West Street Family Hub redesign, plan the launch, and shape the multi-agency and community offer that continues to develop. Reflecting the cultural and ethnic diversity of the area, the panel has helped to promote the Hub and the offer within local schools and faith groups as well as the wider community. Panels are being established in the South of Scunthorpe and in other community areas as we develop the Family Hubs model further.

### 3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 This report sets out the current position and key achievements in relation to the delivery of the Start for Life Family Hub programme. No specific options are being presented for consideration.

### 4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Not applicable.

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

- 5.1 The development of family hubs and the Start for Life offer is funded by the DfE grant until the end of March 2025. This includes provision for project support, administration, finance and marketing.

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

6.1 Meeting the aims of the Family Hubs in an integrated way and developing evidence-informed interventions for the most vulnerable, aligns with the One Family Approach and Council Plan priorities.

**7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment Stage 1 Initial Screening Template was completed in relation to this programme and did not identify any negative potential impacts.

**8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 Parents, carers, and children are regularly consulted in relation to the development of the family hubs programme through the specific panels and groups referenced in this report.

8.2 No conflicts of interests declared.

**9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That Cabinet welcomes the progress being made to deliver against the government's Start for Life Family Hubs programme, continuing to support this agenda as it drives transformation to a more integrated, locality-based model of help for whole-families.

**DIRECTOR: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

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