

Title of Report: Early Help Strategy 2023-26 – progress against the key priorities, including Family Hubs implementation update.

Purpose of report

- 1 To provide an update on:
 - Progress meeting the priorities of the Gateshead Early Help Strategy 2023-26
 - Implementation of the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme

Background

- 2 The Gateshead Early Help Strategy 2023-26 was approved by Cabinet in April 2023.

Proposal and/or Issues for consideration

- 3 Progress against the Key Actions (Pages 22-24) underpinning our strategic priorities are set out below:
- 4 Section Theme – Making it easier to get the right help, where and when families need it

Implement a network of Family Hubs and integrate these into locality-based systems of support

- 5 Former Children’s Centre sites at Deckham, Birtley, Felling, Blaydon, Chowdene and Teams have operated under Family Hub branding from July 2023 – Chopwell will follow in August 2023. Further sites at Wrekenton and Leam Lane will also host a Family Hub offer. Recruitment of 5.0 FTE frontline Hub staff and a 1.0 FTE Parent/Carer Panel Co-ordinator role has been completed.
- 6 Pre-funding agreements have been reached with VCFS providers St Chad’s Community Project, Edbert’s House, Gateshead Young Women’s Outreach Project, Labriut and Teams Life Centre to provide a community outreach offer to supplement the core Family Hub network. Funding documents will be signed in August 2023.
- 7 Progress against the milestones of the Gateshead Delivery Plan is regularly reviewed with DfE officers.

- 8 Family Hubs were officially launched on 2 August 2023 and a comprehensive all-age offer is being delivered across the Family Hub network.

Broaden and improve the range of virtual information and support available to families, including a clear Start for Life offer for families with young children.

- 9 A comprehensive online Start for Life offer was launched on 31 March 2023 and is aligned to a rebranded (Sure Start) Facebook platform.

Map and develop a range of prevention services for young people at risk of entering the youth justice system.

- 10 Turnaround model continues to be delivered with performance reports shared with the Youth Justice Board.
- 11 UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation for youth work services is now open for Gateshead VCFS providers.
- 12 Initial mapping work of support available to adolescents has started.

Improve access to early help services in education settings.

- 13 Team Around the School (TAS) model has continued up to July 2023 and is now subject to a review where the benefits of using a locality-based MDT process is being considered.

Develop and embed a clear Reducing Parental Conflict offer for parents and co-parents.

- 14 Healthy Relationships Pathway launched in March 2023, including more evidence-based RPC interventions.
- 15 This follows facilitator training in March 2023 to introduce new programmes from the Fatherhood Institute to complement the existing offer.
- 16 The (DWP) Local Grant has also funded an extension of the (One Plus One) digital RPC e-learning licences up to March 2025.

Develop and embed an improved offer of support for family relationships.

- 17 Healthy Relationships Pathway introduced – see above.
- 18 Standard Teen Triple P programme introduced in May 2023.
- 19 Facilitator training booked for Incredible Years Babies (September 2023) and Triple P Baby (April 2024).
- 20 Family Networks Pilot confirmed in July 2023.

Section Theme – Key Enablers

Review the early help assessment process with key stakeholders and align with other local assessments.

- 21 New Early Help Assessment (EHA) has been introduced for Early Help Service use from April 2023 – partnership version to follow in August 2023.
- 22 Workforce Development colleagues are helping to develop an updated training package for use of the EHA among external partners.

Develop data maturity across the early help system to further enhance analysis of performance.

- 23 Business case approved for extra data (MIRO) capacity for work on the Supporting Families Programme agenda.
- 24 Format and focus of Early Help Performance Clinics is to change – new Clinics will use exception reports based on an updated data dashboard.

Improve the strategic oversight of, and accountability within, the early help system.

- 25 Draft Terms of Reference have been shared by the DCS for consultation among stakeholders, including the Family Hubs and Start for Life Steering Group.
- 26 The first meeting of the Gateshead Early Help System and Prevention Board will take place in September 2023.

Communications Implications

- External communication (media) in regard to the launch of Family Hubs has taken place in April and August 2023;
- Updates have been shared about the Early Help Strategy and Family Hubs with a wide range of forums, including CMT and CYP Portfolio;
- Early Help Strategy approved by Cabinet in April 2023.

Recommendations

- 27 OSC Families are recommended to:
 - (a) Note contents of this report for information only.

Contact: Gavin Bradshaw **Ext:** 3543