



Family Hubs Progress

Scrutiny Committee

11 January 2024

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together for
children
SUNDERLAND

Sunderland
City Council

NHS

Key Activity- Family Hubs

- **Four out of five hubs operating:**
 - **Rainbow Family Hub, Washington**
 - **Bunny Hill Family Hub**
 - **Coalfield Family Hub, Hetton**
 - **Thorney Close Family Hub**
- **Thorney Close has not yet been launched officially, as there need to be some alternations to the access and Reception.**
- **The fifth Hub for the East of the City is located in Lombard Street, Hendon. Some delivery has started. We are consulting upon the name before putting up the branding and holding an official launch event.**
- **Health Rooms are now functional in Bunnyhill, Coalfield and Rainbow**
 - *Booking in appointments*
 - *Review and Development Clinic*
 - *Neo-Natal baby Group - Mini Miracles - in liaison with Niall Quinn Centre staff*
 - *Registrar at Rainbow Centre and Hetton*

Key Activity Family Hubs

- **Additional activity as started in the Hubs as follows:**
 - **Bread and Butter project from the Rainbow Family Hubs on a Thursday. This is now combined with the provision of a Warm Space**
 - **Social Prescribing Team will deliver on two days per week at Thorney Close**
 - **Northeast Autism Society Sessions**
 - **Delivery from community venues as ‘spokes’ to the Hubs:**
 - **the Bangladeshi Centre,**
 - **ELCAP,**
 - **Transformation North-East**
 - **The Top Club, Sulgrave**

Key Activity- Parent Carer Panels



- **Each Family Hub must be overseen by a Parent Carer Panel, made up of volunteers who use the Hubs. In the main, it is expected that these will be people who have children in the 0-2 age-range**
- **Currently we have two PCPs to cover the City**
 - **One for Washington and Coalfield (10 members)**
 - **One for Sunderland North and Sunderland South (nine members)**
- **As we grow, we will expand and create five PCPs, one per Hub**

Key Activity – Parenting

- **Our parents have long told us that the ‘off the shelf’ parenting programmes do not support them well enough. They do not recognise themselves in the materials. So, we have worked with Sunderland University to create our own, and have special permission from the DfE/DHSC to use this**
 - **The ‘ABC Course’ is now complete, and the core modules being delivered – this is a five-week course and there are currently four groups running**
 - **Bolt-on modules for SEND and violent or aggressive behaviours have been written**
 - **Our next modules will be ‘preparing to be a parent’ and ‘extra strategies’**
 - **We have also created three short parenting ‘seminars’ covering the basic content of the core modules – schools purchasing an Early Help Service Level Agreement can access these**
 - **Each Hub offers drop-in sessions to support and sign post parents**
 - **We have expanded our daycare offer at Thorney Close, provided through B2b**

Key Activity- Community Engagement Team

- **12 Family Champions trained**
- **Family Hub Grant funder – five organisations in Sunderland awarded a total of £20,225.00**
- **Training offer for volunteers - seven pathways (in house and external)**
- **TfC has led on the development of the North-East Parent Carer Panel information sharing network – TfC will host a networking event as part of national volunteer week**

Key Activity – Digital Offer

- **Start for Life offer published**
- **My Best Life – launched 30 November 2023**
- **Group Work – an extension of Liquidlogic to support partners**
- **Rebranded social media - Karol Marketing will be developing and posting social media activity, creating family hub videos, delivering staff social media training and supporting with a strategy for seldom heard groups**
- **Parenting Digital offer created – snapshots of seminars ready to be uploaded.**

Trailblazer Activity

- **Sunderland bid for, and was successful in acquiring, Trailblazer status.**
- **This brings additional funding to go ‘further and faster’ with the implementation of the Family Hubs programme and to support other Local authorities.**
- **We were successful in all three strands:**
 - **Parenting (see slide above)**
 - **Infant feeding**
 - **Infant/Parent relationships and peri-natal mental health**
- **There are a range of additional activities ongoing to support these strands**

Recruitment/Staffing



- **The Hubs are now fully staffed with Family Support and Health staff**
- **In addition to the core activity, we have:**
 - **Co-delivery from ante natal services**
 - **Family Peer Supporters (health)**
 - **CAMHS Worker**
 - **Speech and Language support for post-Covid catch-up**
 - **North East Dads and Lads are advertising two posts to work from the Hubs**

Governance and Assurance

- **The Family Hubs programme is overseen by the Early Help Systems Strategic Board which reports to the Starting Well Board, which in turn feeds up to the Health and Wellbeing Board.**
- **In addition, we are scrutinised as follows:**
 - **Ongoing meetings with the DfE**
 - **Formal reporting to DfE colleagues on programme delivery has taken place for Year 2 spend**
 - **DfE data return was submitted in October which looked at Q4 (22/23) and Q1(23/24)**
 - **DfE Feedback has been received from our Early Help Systems Guide submission**
 - **Finance panel in place for Family Hub expenditure**

Key Activity for the next quarter



Plans to be confirmed for Lombard Street and Thorney Close to be officially launched



Profiling of hub localities to be scoped and started – proposal to be written by Wendy Mitchell



My Best Life and Group work to be launched/ Digital offer expanded



Workforce skills audit to be undertaken



Developing Volunteer Pathways and identifying training streams.



More delivery from the hubs – expand spoke delivery sites.



Focus on delivery for older young people – additional workstream to be created and Consultation of YP

