

## Sunderland City Council Service Plans – West Area Priorities, for information purposes only.

**ADULT SERVICES: Strategic Commissioning Team and Strategic Safeguarding Team**

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Waverley Terrace	In partnership, with Strategic Housing redevelopment of Supported Living Accommodation for adults with social care, support and accommodation needs	12/22	11/23	1 tenant has moved into the new property with the staff team and the 2 <sup>nd</sup> tenant will move in following transitional work.

**CITY DEVELOPMENT: Economic Regeneration (City Development)**

North East Community Forest 2023/24 planting	Tree and hedgerow planting at a series of individual sites as part of Low Carbon Framework. Options for sites in each area to be assessed and then discussed with Neighbourhood & Community Boards	9/23	3/24	Individual planting schemes developed in further detail, with some requiring further consultation before the overall programme is finalised. Seven sites currently have in-principle funding approval: Holmeside Phase 2 (East); Hetton Primary School (Coalfield); Rickleton Primary School (Washington); Roker Park (North), Silksworth Ski Slope and Pit Wheel (West); Doxford Park (East); Ryhope Junior School (East). An additional 3-4 sites are also being considered and are currently at the feasibility stage
Low Carbon Framework and Action Plan	Range of city-wide low carbon programmes and projects across the seven strategic priority areas to			Additional green-infrastructure projects (over and above NE Community Forest activity) include 'Tiny Forests' schemes to be planted at Sandhill View

	include implementation within individual Area Committee areas			<p>Academy (West) and Hudson Road Primary (East) subject to feasibility and final approvals; Link Together Heritage Lottery bid for £915,000 has been submitted – if successful it will support greenspace uplift to 13 sites across the Coalfield.</p> <p>Sunderland City Council is working in partnership with energy suppliers Utilita and E.On on the current phase of Energy Company Obligation (ECO4), which requires energy suppliers to implement energy efficiency improvements in residents' homes. The scheme is aimed at lower income and/or vulnerable households and less energy efficient properties with the aims of tackling fuel poverty, reducing carbon emissions from the domestic sector and improving thermal comfort. The ECO4 scheme was launched in October and is available to residents in all areas of Sunderland (city-wide). Utilita will include a particular focus on engaging with residents in Southwick (North) and E.On with residents in Hendon (East) during Nov/Dec to raise awareness of the scheme and its benefits to residents. Eco-4 will run to 2026 across the</p>
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**City Development: Regulatory Services**

<b>Project/Programme</b>	<b>Project Detail</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by</b>	<b>Area Committee quarterly update</b>
<p>Enforcement Project (currently AC funded)</p>	<p>1 x Enforcement officer                  2 x Neighbourhood Wardens                  Enforcement signage                  7 x Streetwatch cameras                  Proactive approach to tackle environmental issues and increase function of prevention and enforcement across all 6 wards.</p> <p>Motor Cycle Task and finish meetings</p>	<p>09/21</p>	<p>09/23</p>	<p>AC update submitted December 2023 via agreed reporting.</p> <p>Project extended for another 2 years for Environmental Officer and funding also secured for a West area funded ASB Officer for 2 years ASB officer interviews being held week commencing 26/2/24</p> <p>February 24 Update – MD taskforce went live Dec 23. snapshot of results so far:</p> <p>Patrols:53                  Leaflet drops:2                  Multi-agency meetings:2                  Nights of action:3                  Drone deployment:1                  Social media posts:2                  Call backs:14                  School visits:1                  Home Visit:4                  CPW:4                  Vehicle Seizures:8                  Arrests/summons:1</p>

## CORPORATE SERVICES: Smart City Team

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Digital Inclusion	Delivery of a range of DI initiatives subject to interest/approval	4/23	4/26	Significant work ongoing, a newsletter is available and can be circulated if of interest and further information can be found in the City Resources section of our website: <a href="http://www.sunderlandoursmartcity.com">www.sunderlandoursmartcity.com</a> In addition, Digital Dashboards have been produced for every ward detailing the existing digital provision, challenges, and potential opportunities for consideration.
Smart Cities	Opportunities for a range of digital and data solutions e.g. interactive play, smart bins etc	4/23	tbc	Significant work ongoing, further information can be found across our website and in the Innovation Challenges section: <a href="http://www.sunderlandoursmartcity.com">www.sunderlandoursmartcity.com</a>

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: Bereavement Services

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Cemetery Improvements	Prioritisation of improvement measures within area cemeteries according to an assessment of risk, need and local demand	June 22	Ongoing	As part of the ongoing cemetery improvement works led by the Cemetery Improvement Boards, work is advancing on the enforcement of cemetery regulations relating to unauthorised items and enclosures on lawn section graves. Signage has been erected in

			<p>relevant cemetery sections providing advanced notice of the removal of unauthorised items, and work to remove relevant items will begin as soon as ground conditions allow.</p> <p>As consultation with Board Members continues on all actions, the CIB continue to receive updates on any developments in this respect.</p> <p>As part of the memorial safety programme in all cemeteries, safety audits have now been conducted and initial findings from our consultants have been received. Further review is required and agreement on the work required work schedule, costs and processes. Further updates will follow.</p> <p>Cemetery Improvement Board (CIB) meetings continue on a bi-monthly basis. As regulatory enforcement becomes part of business as usual, and the memorial safety testing programme is underway, cemetery specific action plans will deliver on improvement works specific to each cemetery dependant on local requirements and need.</p> <p>In addition to the regulatory enforcement and MST programme, the board have also reviewed options to improve cemetery maintenance and increased signage relating to issues around the control of dogs in cemeteries.</p>
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				Memorial product development and management of historic memorial sponsorship terms now also receives focus by the CIB Members, with many new processes agreed and implemented following discussion and agreement within the group.
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### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: Local Services

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Glyphosate Trial	A trial project to help us understand the impact of alternative weed control options in different environments, with a view to the potential elimination of the use of herbicides in weed killing.	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	September 2023	<p>The 2023 trial which commenced on the 1st of April which is due to conclude on the 30th of September 2023 is enabling Local Services to ensure we capture a full weed season. The process is allowing us to monitor the impact of using alternative methods to Glyphosate, understand how effective other weed control methods can be, the impact these treatments have on the effectiveness of maintenance, resource, costs, equipment/training requirements, environmental and visual impact, and importantly the views of our residents.</p> <p>To date detailed records on all aspects of the trail are being gathered and analysed. Aspects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application process</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Impact</li> <li>• Cost</li> <li>• Effectiveness</li> <li>• Resident Feedback</li> </ul> <p>We are continuing to engage with residents, our wider council colleagues, key city stakeholders and neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>We are also engaging with several other Authorities and organisations such as Cardiff Council, South Lanarkshire Council, Brighton Council the Amenity Forum and APSE.</p> <p>A final report will be produced and published following the conclusion of the trial.</p> <p>The further targeted trials which started in April have continued into November 2023. The detailed trial will provide clear evidence to review, enabling consideration of the available options, cost and resource implications for each method tested.</p> <p>The results of the trial will inform the appropriate next steps.</p> <p>The trial has now concluded, findings are currently being compiled into a detailed report. A market feasibility study via procurement is also now underway to establish costs and availability of alternative weed control equipment</p>
Tree Surveying	A citywide tree inspection and mapping project.	May 2023	2027	Tree inspections and mapping commenced in May 2023. Starting in the East area to date we

				<p>have surveyed and digitally mapped over 5000 trees. The survey will move into the West area over the coming weeks. The survey will enable SCC to fully understand our tree stock, which will in turn increase our ability to manage the risk more effectively. The survey will also facilitate a much more proactive approach to tree planting and replacement, establish how much carbon as a city our trees can sequester, it will also inform us of the overall impact of Ash Dieback disease. The data base as it grows will provide a deeper case by case record of each tree and its inspection record which will improve member and customer journeys as the information held will provide more detailed information when responding to customer requests and complaints. As of 9<sup>th</sup> of November 9,353 trees have been surveyed.</p> <p>East and West area street trees are now complete, with the current focus being on the Green Flag parks situated within these areas. As of the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 12,757 trees have been surveyed.</p> <p>Following completion of the East and West areas, Mowbray, Barnes and Roker Green Flag parks have now been surveyed. The inspection programme is now focussing on the North Area.</p>
Plantation Programme	Plantation Maintenance scheme	March 2023	April 2023	Sunderland City Council are responsible for the management of approximately 185 hectares of plantation across the city. Over several years plantation management has been limited meaning they have become dense and



			<p>unmaintained leading to the overall health and diversity of the plantation being negatively affected. The location of many of the city's plantations mean they grow relatively close to property boundaries and in some cases encroach gardens and fence lines. As a result, the Council receive high volumes of requests and complaints related to plantations. The Council are aware that in order to manage the potential adverse impact upon the health and lifespan of the plantations that a programme of works is required in some locations.</p> <p>The locations in which work is planned have been prioritised by considering condition, the risk posed whilst taking into account member and resident feedback.</p> <p>The work will comprise of thinning operations, which refers to the practice of selectively removing some trees from a woodland or plantation to promote the growth and health of the remaining trees.</p> <p>The plantation programme is progressing well with over 50,000 sqm of woodland maintained.</p> <p>Resident feedback has been very positive and of the initial 37 priority sites 19 are now complete.</p>
E Technology Trials	Trialling alternative Electric equipment to replace petrol fuelled kit to reduce carbon emissions.	May 2023	<p>We continue to trial alternative kit not only to reduce carbon emissions but to reduce the hand arm vibration some kit exposes our workforce to. To date we have tested Electric hedge trimmers, chainsaws, strimmers and grass cutters. We are hoping in the coming weeks to explore hybrid</p>

				<p>chipper technology. We are also working with our fleet team to future proof our kit replacement programme factoring in the feedback we capture as part trials and are confident that over a period of time to further reduce our reliance upon petrol tools and equipment. Trials are continuing with appropriate tools being considered as part of our fleet replacement capital programme.</p> <p>Following E Tech trials, various kit has been introduced into our operational teams. The kit not only reduces the hand arm vibration levels our operatives are exposed to, it also supports the Council's low carbon agenda.</p> <p>The kit includes, E Blowers, E Gum removal packs, E Chainsaws, E Hedge Trimmers and a Hybrid Chipper.</p> <p>We are continuing to explore other E solutions and are currently trialing a E Mechanical Sweeper</p>
Bin Replacement	Barnes Park replacement bins.	April 2023	March 2024	<p>Presently awaiting quote to be returned from contractor.</p> <p>New bins have now been delivered to storage area. Contractor will soon begin installation.</p>

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: Winter Maintenance

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Winter Smart Solutions	Trials of several infrared road surface sensors across the highway network.	Continue through the winter of 2023/2024	Testing, development, and evaluation of technology and installation options remains ongoing through the winter of 2023/2024	Following the recent trial of 10 smart sensors at a variety of key locations across the city, the detailed findings of the trial have enabled the Environmental Services Winter Maintenance Team, to further improve the planning for the essential replacement of the city's Vaisala weather station network and ensure that the positioning of the new equipment is optimised in response to the current and future development of new key routes and any road network changes across the city. With the new installations of modern Vaisala equipment occurring from May 2024, the road users of Sunderland can be assured the city will have some of the most advanced weather monitoring and forecasting equipment available, provided and supported by one of the market leaders in the industry
Winter Service Review	Comprehensive review of the Winter Maintenance Service	Spring 2024	Autumn 2024	Following on from the review undertaken 2023, the 2024 review will commence following the completion of this year's winter maintenance period. The review takes in all aspects of the Winter Service. A key focus of the review is the priority network coverage. The review process is be based upon the requirement to deliver an efficient resilient service for the residents of Sunderland and the commuting public, whilst

				also meeting any legal requirements, adhering to best practice and meeting deliverable expectations with a finite resource. Where there are legislative changes, the policy will be reviewed immediately, and further approval sought from the Council. All recommendations produced by The Department for Transport and the UK Road Liaison Group along with identifiable best practice are considered during the annual review.
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### HEALTH HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES: Area Arrangements

<b>Project/Programme</b>	<b>Project Detail</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by</b>	<b>Area Committee quarterly update</b>
Developing the community support offer, working closely with the voluntary sector to enable maximise positive outcomes from Social Prescribing	Supporting VCS to develop their capacity to deliver commissioned services within communities	April 2023	March 2025	UKSPF funds secured to support VCS in Sunderland to deliver 12 months of community support across the city. VCS providers will support the establishment of the Links for Life social prescribing programme in Sunderland, signing a delivery charter, ensuring a digital platform is developed and delivery is evaluated to inform future community support service delivery
VCS Alliance – growing capacity of voluntary and community sector	Continue to work in partnership with the voluntary sector Alliance to maximise resources into the sector via external funding and grow social value resources	April 2023	March 2025	The Council continue to support the VS Alliance in Sunderland, who are now an independent Charity as a member of their strategy board, alongside other VCS partners, Gentoo and the ICB

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Delivery of Financial Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan	Supporting residents within areas to improve their resilience	April 2023	March 2025	<p>Continue to use household data and intelligence to identify issues and inform Support offer available within communities, working closely with partners including the voluntary sector. The UKSPF community support offer is supporting residents to become financially resilient and forms a core part of the wider Links for Life service offer.</p> <p>The delivery of Financial Wellbeing support activities across services is making good progress. In the past 12 months 153 of 182 actions in the delivery plan have been completed or mainstreamed as core service activities.</p> <p>The community engagement officer continues to collect Lived Experience insights from residents – these insights contribute to evaluation of various programmes as well as informing service delivery. A system for recording the qualitative data is in development, to make the data easier to access for services and partner organisations.</p> <p>The project team moved in February 24 to become aligned with the Financial Resilience Team (Strategic Advice Services) which is expected to enhance the work of both programmes</p>

### HEALTH HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES: Housing Development

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
<i>Housing Delivery and Investment Plan 2020-26 – approved to deliver 574 new Council owned homes for letting, broken down into three workstreams: Empty Homes - 210 Bungalows - 193 Supported - 171</i>	<i>Empty Homes - 42 Bungalows - 38 Supported – 40</i>	<i>February 2020</i>	<i>March 2026</i>	<i>Empty Homes - 14 Bungalows - 0 Supported – 4</i>

### HEALTH HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES: Welfare Reform Service and Business Development

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Foodbank Support	Council currently supporting range of foodbanks / food aid organisations in all area of the city – majority in East / West via fresh food and FareShare – will be refining offer / support during the year			Service continues to collate and analyse monthly foodbank usage and will be providing up to date area-based breakdowns for the support provided by Sunderland Foodbank Distribution Centres and 5 Independent foodbanks . These are the organisations that

				<p>have provided figures to the council since at least the start of the pandemic .</p> <p>Separately the service is collating information from other foodbanks , and food aid providers to better understand gaps in provision and potential issues within communities including wider food insecurity. This links to range of actions in the Good Food Charter Action Plan</p> <p>Information continues to be made available for residents to access via website and also voluntary sector and partners such as housing, health, etc</p>
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#### HEALTH HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES: Active Sunderland

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Parks Tennis Court Programme	Refurbish Tennis Courts in Barnes Park	5/23	7/23	Complete and operational
Parks Tennis Court Programme	Develop Tennis activation programme	6/23	10/23	Complete - taking place
Regular Physical Activity Opportunities	Consultation and development of Bid for Playzone in West - location tbc	7/23	10/23	Engagement session in member diary 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept Additional Detail supplied to ward members 3/11/23 Next stage progressing with community organisation and community engagement
Weight Management Service	Establish 1 delivery site for the targeted offer	5/23	6/24	Complete and operational - taking place at Paillon Action Group

## HEALTH HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES: Public Health and Integrated Commissioning – Living Well

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update	
Development of Social prescribing physical hubs	To deliver a Social Prescribing 'hub' to allow for localised presence of the offer	4/23	3/25	Progressing model development	
				<b>Area</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
				City Wide	Northern Engagement into Recovery from Addictions Foundation (NERAF)
				City Wide	International Community Organisation of Sunderland (ICOS)
				City Wide	Friends of Drop in (FODI)
				City Wide	Veterans In Crisis
				City Wide	Grace House
				City Wide	Active Families @ Broadway Youth & Community Centre
				City Wide	Sunderland and County Durham Royal Society for the Blind



				<table border="1"> <tr> <td>City Wide</td> <td>Sunderland and County Durham Royal Society for the Blind</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>Community Opportunities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>Pennywell Neighbourhood Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>Pallion Action Group</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>Youth Almighty Project</td> </tr> </table>	City Wide	Sunderland and County Durham Royal Society for the Blind	West	Community Opportunities	West	Pennywell Neighbourhood Centre	West	Pallion Action Group	West	Youth Almighty Project
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West	Youth Almighty Project													
Stop Smoking Clinics	To deliver stop smoking clinics in the wards with the highest smoking rates.	4/23	12/23	<p>SSSS are actively investigating clinic/drop in sites within the high prevalence wards. The following clinics are either established, planned to start or in discussion:</p> <p>Pallion: Lambton Street Youth Centre (established)</p> <p>Sandhill: Grindon Primary Care Centre (established)</p> <p>St Anne's: Grindon Primary Care Centre (established)</p>										



**Area Committee Update: LINKS FOR LIFE SUNDERLAND**

Links for Life is Sunderland's approach to social prescribing; working with our partners to help people live the best life they can by linking them to community level services and support to make a lasting difference to their health and wellbeing.

Partners recognise that without growth of the service offer in the community we will not reduce health inequalities. Effort has gone into building support for voluntary and community groups who are delivering vital services within our communities.

## **WHAT IS SOCIAL PRESCRIBING?**

Factors such as stress, unemployment, debt and loneliness can affect our health.<sup>1</sup> Also, one in five GP appointments are about issues wider than health, especially for people living in areas of high deprivation.<sup>2</sup>

Social Prescribing is about connecting people with activities and services that improve their physical and mental health, and wellbeing. It supports people to identify and discuss their own support needs, giving them time to focus on 'what matters to them' and taking a holistic approach to their health and wellbeing.

Supporting residents to improve their health and wellbeing through self-help and connections to community-based support services, often provided by our VCS services, is vital to support our residents with the range of social issues which drive up health inequalities in our city. Key benefits can include improved social connections, improvement in the management of health and health status, improvement in mental health and wellbeing and life enrichment.<sup>3</sup>

## **LINKS FOR LIFE SUNDERLAND**

To build on all the positive work that already happens in Sunderland, partners are working on developing a model, called Links for Life Sunderland, which will be launched in **April 2024**.

***Links for Life Sunderland will bring together people within communities, supporting everyone to have healthy, happy lives, with no one left behind.***

A video has been produced all about Links for Life Sunderland – see here [Links for Life Sunderland - https://youtu.be/h8EizBukS40](https://youtu.be/h8EizBukS40)

**What are the aims:**

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<sup>1</sup> [Social determinants of health \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int)

<sup>2</sup> NHS England » Social prescribing as a way of tackling health inequalities in all health settings

<sup>3</sup> Bild, E and Pachana, N,A, Social prescribing: A narrative review on how community engagement can improve wellbeing in later life, Oct 2022.

- Residents and partners will be able to easily find information, including community-based services, to make better informed choices to help their health and wellbeing.
- People will recognise Links for Life Sunderland and will associate it with quality, accessibility and connectiveness.
- Residents will be able to get support through more community-based partners, including VCS, through improved promotion, collaboration and demonstration of their impact.
- Links for Life Sunderland will be developed on evidence-based practice and evaluation.
- Investment will be targeted and driven by local data, intelligence and knowledge from the system.

**What are we doing:**

- Creating the Links for Life Sunderland brand, informed by the views of residents and making sure it is recognised and visible across the city.
- Developing a 'digital community support platform', to make sure people can find the information and help they need.
- Mapping our community buildings and services to understand and help address gaps, making sure we focus our efforts on people and places that can't access services.
- Supporting the voluntary sector to grow the Links for Life offer within community settings. Including the provision of Community grant schemes to support voluntary sector organisations in developing Links for Life delivery centres within communities and ensure the difference their work makes to the lives of residents, is recognised and supported by all partners.
- Creating a charter that makes sure we have shared behaviours and values and everyone receives a good quality service that meets expectations
- Working alongside the community wealth building strategy / social value initiatives in the city to financially support our voluntary sector as well as support much needed improvements within our community facilities.

**Service Plans – Area Priorities**

**HEALTH HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES: Public Health – Starting Well and Health Protection**

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
<p>Healthy Settings (Schools) Sandhill View Academy , Farringdon Community Academy</p>	<p><i>School and key partners working together on identified priorities of mental health and RSHE</i></p>	<p>4/23</p>	<p>3/24</p>	<p>Sandhill View has a holistic approach to well-being, with a key emphasis on Relationships, Sex, and Health Education (RSHE) as well as Mental Health.</p> <p>Active participation in the Health Related Behaviour Survey 2023 involved Y8 and Y10 pupils. The outcomes have been disseminated to relevant staff to comprehend and prioritise the findings.</p> <p>The school has a significant focus on addressing teenage pregnancy, promoting awareness of healthy relationships and consent. They have established connections with the Integrated Sexual Health Outreach Service, young person's contraception nurse, and school nurses to reduce teenage pregnancy. Additionally, the school is actively working to enhance student access to the condom distribution service (C-Card scheme) and various forms of contraception. Notably, the school has already attained the RSHE Bronze Charter Mark.</p> <p>Efforts extend to the well-being of both staff and students, with a robust mental health</p>

				<p>support system in place. Ongoing staff training, specifically the halfway completion of the Integrated Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (ICAMHS) training, shows the commitment to mental health support. Farringdon started healthy settings in 2022 and identified they are focusing on RSHE and Mental Health as key themes in their action plan.</p> <p>They have established links with key services to move the action plan forward.</p> <p>Aiming to achieve RSHE Bronze charter mark.</p> <p>Unfortunately, Farringdon did not take part in the Health Related Behaviour Survey 2023.</p>
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### Service Plans – Area Priorities

#### TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN: Early Help Systems and Family Hubs

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Family Hub	The Family Hubs and Start for Life programme helps meet commitments in The best start for life: a vision for the 1,001 critical days, published as government policy in March 2021. This programme is jointly led by the Department for Education (DfE) and	2022	2025	<p>Early Help Strategy 2024/28 – Final draft is under consultation. To be launched by Easter 2024.</p> <p>My Best Life website was launched in December 2023. The site's main features include advertising and booking of Family Hub events and a library of resources that is</p>

	<p>Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).</p> <p>The aim of Family Hubs is to join up and enhance services, ensuring all parents and carers can access the support they need when they need it. To bring services together and make them more accessible, improve the connections between families, professionals, services, and providers, and put relationships at the heart of family support.</p> <p>Following a competitive bidding process, 14 trailblazers were selected and awarded additional funding to go further and faster in delivering some or all of the Start for Life services funded by the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme – peri-natal mental health and parent-infant relationships, infant feeding, and parenting support. Sunderland were one of the 14 local authority areas who were awarded trailblazer status.</p> <p><a href="https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/article/27857/Start-for-Life">https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/article/27857/Start-for-Life</a></p> <p>Sunderland will have 5 Family Hubs across the city offering services from conception up until the age of 18 or</p>			<p>maintained by the Family Hubs. The main benefit from this is families being able to access immediate support and book sessions online.</p> <p>Family Hubs have recruited two peer support workers to work alongside and support fathers.</p> <p>There are now 20 Parent Carer Panel members with a panel attached to each of the Family Hubs.</p>
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	<p>25 for young people with special educational needs. The face-to-face offer Sunderland Family Hubs offer is mirrored as a virtual offer to our children, young people and families, with access to activities, services and resources on a new digital platform called My Best Life. MBL will also provide families with information around childcare, SEND local offer, support for older children and young people in addition to interactive resources that families can access at home.</p> <p>Our Family hubs sits in line with the national vision of building an Early Help System offering support to children and families across universal services, community support and targeted services which will all be available in our family hubs.</p> <p>Early Help targeted family support teams are co-located within the family hubs. These teams provide targeted support to families with children aged 0 to 19. The Early Help workers complete a robust assessment and plan, provide interventions and work alongside our partners to address the needs of</p>			
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	children young people and their families.  <a href="#"><u>HAF continues to be available across all localities of the city now over all school holidays.</u></a>			
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