

CABINET



Report subject	Family Hubs: Transformation Fund 1
Meeting date	11 January 2023
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for the Council to accept £883k in grant funding to transform its model of delivery for community family help after successfully submitting a bid to the Department for Education (DfE).
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) subscribes to the programme and receive the funding which the Council would administer on behalf of the Council and health partners;(b) delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Director of Public Health Dorset in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People to take all the steps necessary to spend the funding up to the budget envelope (including procuring and awarding contracts) to implement the work as outlined in the bid; and(c) notes that a subsequent report shall be brought to Cabinet in due course to provide more detail on the transformation project and provide an update on progress made against the bid.
Reason for recommendations	The transformation fund will improve services and outcomes for children, young people and families in BCP and allow the Council and partners to provide help and support earlier, likely reducing the demand on statutory services.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Mike White, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People Councillor Nicola Green, Portfolio Holder for Council Priorities & Delivery
Corporate Director	Cathi Hadley, Director of Children's Services
Report Author	Amanda Gridley, Service Manager Brianna Thomas, Transformation Consultant
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For decision

Background

1. In November 2021, the DfE announced a £10m 'Family Hubs Transformation Fund' where they planned award up to 10 local authorities up to £1m to be spent between April 2022 to March 2024. The funds are not intended to supplement direct service delivery, but rather to enable a transition from the current model of children's centres which provide provision for under 5s to a 0-19 (up to 25 for SEND) family hub model which promotes a system-wide, multi-agency model, providing high-quality, whole-family, joined up family support services and is centred around three principles.
 - a. **Access:** There is a clear, simple way for families to access help and support through digital and virtual offer, outreach activity and, in some specific locations, accessing a physical family hub building;
 - b. **Connectivity:** There are multi-agency services working together to provide a universal and targeted offer for families, 0-19 (up to 25 for SEND). There are professionals working together, through co-location, data sharing and a common approach (joint governance) to their work. The model is supported by the need for families to only have to tell their story once, with services being more efficient, and families receiving more effective support. This also involves statutory services, the community, charities, and faith sector partners working together to get families the help they need; and
 - c. **Relationships:** The Family Hub priorities strengthening relationships and builds on family strength. Relationships are at the heart of everything that is delivered in Family Hubs.
2. The bid was submitted in December 2021, and the announcement of successful bids was delayed until late October 2022 due to additional funding announcements in family hubs.

3. The transformation of Family Hubs will support the delivery of the Written Statement of Action that the local area was required to submit following an inspection in June 2021. Actions include: access to supportive courses for parents and carers, timely and responsive support for children's communication needs and to ensure that the graduated response is used effectively in order for children and young people to access appropriate support and resources.

Summary of legal implications

4. The decisions being made in this report fall within the general power of competence as set out in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 and they are within the boundaries and limits of the general power of competence set out in Section 2 and 4 of the Localism Act 2011.
5. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 confers power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of the functions of the Council. The services that would be provided under following sign up and acceptance of the funding identified in this report will facilitate and be conducive or incidental to the discharge of a wide range of the Council's statutory duties, including but not limited to; -
 - a. those relating to safeguarding, and specifically to the Council's general duty under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within its area who are in need and, so far as it is consistent with that duty, promote the upbringing of those children by their families, by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs.
 - b. the local authority's statutory responsibility for commissioning public health services for children and young people aged 0 to 19 years under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
 - c. the responsibility of local authorities and their partners to improve the wellbeing of young children in their area and reduce inequalities under the Childcare Act 2006. Section 4 of the Act places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements to work with each of the authority's relevant partners in the performance by the authority of their duties under the Childcare Act 2006, including when improving the well-being of young children and securing integrated early childhood services.
6. This decision includes the entering into a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the DfE which creates the obligation to progress with the transformation bid and deliver by March 2024.

Summary of financial implications

7. By accepting the funds, the Council would receive £886k ring fenced grant monies to transforming the current model to a Family Hub model which will need to be spent by March 2024.

8. There is positive evidence to support that the earlier a family receives support, more costly interventions at a later point are less likely to occur therefore reducing the need for statutory intervention.

Summary of environmental impact

9. During the transformation project, a review of all estates officers will be undertaken which will consider a variety of factors including the sustainability of each building.

Summary of equality implications

10. Assessment at a strategic level regarding the implementation of the Family Hub model does not have any negative implications. Once a plan has been formalised and agreed, more detailed equality impact assessment will be developed prior to any future decision making.

Summary of risk assessment

11. Considerable transformation is already underway throughout the Council and in Children's Services. A corporate and system response is required to ensure the family hub model is realised. Officers have met with corporate officers and partners to scope out how family hubs dovetail into existing transformation strategies and plans.
12. The funding opportunity is to transform the way current services are delivered and so the model must be sustainable as no further funding for Family Hubs has been announced. Considerable effort went into writing the bid to ensure funding is invested in implementing new ways of working which are sustainable and not on additional or new services.
13. There is the possibility that through the work of the hubs, unmet needs for families could be identified, this could be exacerbated within the wider cost of living context. Careful oversight by key partners will be required to understand and track any increased demand. Any increase in demand and the implications will be proportionality escalated.

Background papers

BCP Family Hubs Transformation Fund 1 Bid

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Family Hubs Network Limited – Written Evidence

Appendix 2 - Family Hubs Model Framework

Appendix 3 - Equality Impact Assessment – Family Hubs