

# Report of the Strategic Director Children's Services to the meeting of Area Committee to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022

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## Subject:

Prevention and Early Help Services within the South locality

## Summary statement:

This report provides an overview of the progress made within the South locality of Prevention and Early Help Services.

## EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

Equality Assessments – There are no Equality or Diversity issues to consider

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Marium Haque  
Strategic Director

## Portfolio:

Children's Services

Report Contact: Laura Davison  
Phone: (01274) 434940  
E-mail: [laura.davison@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:laura.davison@bradford.gov.uk)

## Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Our children and young people are the future of Bradford. We want them to grow up in a Family Friendly City where every child, young person and family is safe and well. We want them to realise their full potential, have high aspirations for themselves and their neighbourhoods and to become adults who help to drive the prosperity of our District.
- 1.2 Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to make arrangements to promote cooperation between the authority, each of the authority's relevant partners and such other persons or bodies working with children in the local authority's area as the authority considers appropriate.
- 1.3 Our vision isn't something that any one organisation or group of people can make happen on their own. 'Working together to safeguard children' guidance re-emphasises the crucial role of effective **Early Help**. It focuses on the collective responsibility of all agencies, including adult services, to identify, assess and provide effective targeted early help services.
- 1.4 This report focuses on the Prevention and Early Help services in the South of the District – its progress, actions and challenges.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Early Help is the term used to describe arrangements and services that respond to the needs of children, young people and their families as soon as problems start to emerge at any point in their lives, or when there is a strong likelihood that problems will emerge in the future. It will include:
  - A relationship with a trusted Lead Practitioner who can engage with the child / young person and their Parents and Family (mother and father figures and extended family), and coordinate the support needed from other agencies.
  - A multi-disciplinary approach that brings a range of professional skills and expertise to bear through a 'Team Around the Child, Young Person / Family'
  - Practice that empowers families and helps them to develop the capacity to resolve their own problems.
  - A Whole Family approach that addresses a child / young person's and a family's needs in a wider context, thinking about family history and sources of support.
  - Simple, streamlined enquiry and assessment process and response.
  - That all professionals working with children, young people and families understand the Continuum of Need.
  - That all children and young people are listened to and heard.
  - A plan that is clearly focused strongly on improving children's lives and is

reviewed demonstrating impact until the additional support is no longer required

- 2.2 Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years. Early help can also prevent further problems arising; for example, if it is provided as part of a support plan where a child has returned home to their family from care, or in families where there are emerging parental mental health issues or drug and alcohol misuse.
- 2.3 The Prevention and Early Help service, in its current structure, went live from January 2020. The structure includes a Head of Service, 1 Service Manager, 4 Locality Hub Managers, 12 Early Help Coordinators and 4 Access and take up workers.
- 2.4 There are Four Locality Family Hubs which serve families and communities across Bradford district
- 2.5 Family Hubs are developing an integrated local offer to families within each locality. Professionals from a number of statutory, voluntary and community based organisations collaborate to ensure that there is a joined up and locally responsive offer to support all families, children and young people in their locality.
- 2.6 Bradford South Family Hub, Reevy Hill was reopened in March 2022 following Covid 19 restrictions. At the moment this is the main hub for Bradford South. However, work is ongoing at TFD which will become an additional main hub site where joined up services, delivery and support will be offered.
- 2.7 Currently Midwifery, Health visitors, School Nursing, Breastfeed Together, Carers Resource and Early Years Alliance are currently running sessions for children and families at Reevy Hill, Holmewood and Woodside sites.
- 2.8 The proven methodology from the pilot stage consists of introductions and explanation about roles of EHC's and LP, introducing toolkits for single agency issues for families, these were hugely successful during lockdown when schools had limited access. Progressing to introducing the handbook and encouraging agencies to become LP's with support, leading to assessments, plans and reviews for families in need of a more co-ordinated approach.
- 2.9 There are 40 school settings in Bradford South which is made up of 4 Secondary Schools 33 Primary Schools and 2 through schools (Bradford Academy and Appleton Academy) and 1 special school (Oastlers). Over the last 2 years the Early Help Co-ordinators (EHC's) have successfully supported almost all of these settings to pick up the LP role. Only 1 school has opted out of the Early Help Offer and Lead Practitioner role.
- 2.10 The proven methodology was then rolled out to Early Years Settings from October 2021 and all Early Years settings were allocated an EHC and all settings had received an initial visit and the offer of training by January 2022.

2.11 From September 2021 three Early Help Training Modules were developed to support LP's. The training consists of one online module and two live trainer modules; 1. Early Help Assessment and 2. TAF Reviews. 39 LP's from schools, 14 early years' and 16 health visitors have accessed these modules in Bradford South. The plan is to offer this training to all settings who carry out the LP role.

2.12 Additional support for LP's includes Family Aide workers whom were commissioned as part of a package of support. 2 x 30hours posts were created for each hub and have been doing short term pieces of practical support for families within the home. This service has been popular with families and LP's and feedback has been extremely positive

"Mum said she has seen positive changes within everyone's attitudes at home. Her husband is a lot calmer than usual, both parents feel like they can respond to Child's outbursts in a more supportive way now, rather than becoming overwhelmed and frustrated."

2.13 Fortnightly Family Hub Panel meetings bring a wide range of agencies together to consider the needs of families with additional needs. Locality based network meetings are coordinated by the Early Help Co-ordinators to support practice development and learning for all professionals working with children and families in the locality. The introduction of panels for 'stuck cases' for all lead practitioner cases has been running since January 2021 lead by EHC and Hub managers, and supports LP's cases progress through assessments, plans and reviews. Bradford South's Panel has supported 55 cases.

2.14 The EHC's are now piloting a new methodology which is looking at an outreach approach to identifying families. In families we have identified 3 key strands. Health, Education & Employment and Community. The EHC's have produced a 6-month plan (see Appendix 1) to build links, offer training and education around the LP role and Early Help assessment process and also go directly to families with additional needs to put together initial plans. This new methodology is beginning to show positive results and partnerships.

*One high school has told us that they have avoided making seven referrals to CSC front door, through using the toolkit. "I referred 2 parents for drug support, organised food bank vouchers and gave out the benefits contact number, all quicker than it would take me to complete one MARF".*

2.15 The Early Help Module is supporting registering assessments and plans and a pathway has been developed on the module to incorporate new cases coming into the Front door. These cases can be monitored and managed through this system by the EHC's to ensure that assessments are of a good quality and families are receiving timely support.

2.17 From May 2022 the Terrific Two's project was launched across the district and we employed 2 x part time terrific two's workers for the Bradford South hub. Their role is to increase the access to Early Education across the district.

The workers have been carrying out home visits to raise awareness to families who are entitled to the two-year funding and have been developing community links and

education partners on the criteria. This has been very positive with data showing that nearly all wards have increased take up of 2 years accessing early education:

	Summer 2021	Summer 2022
Great Horton:	57%	57%
Queensbury:	65%	76%
Royds:	57%	73%
Tong:	66%	68%
Wibsey:	68%	76%
Wyke:	72%	77%

Moving forward we will be focusing on Great Horton and Tong wards as they have shown the lowest levels of improvement and contain some of our most deprived areas in Bradford South

- 2.18 Challenges in Bradford South are that footfall in buildings remains low. We are addressing this through our outreach work, increasing social media presence and identifying what services local families and communities need and could access from our hub buildings.
- 2.19 Moving forward the Family Hub would like to continue to build links with community partners to offer a broader offer working in partnership with existing services
- 2.20 There are plans to renovate the garden space at Reevy Hill to produce a welcome space for families in the local community and a sensory garden for all children but also catering to children with SEND. The local community and local ward councillors will be invited to share ideas around what the garden will look like.

### 3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

#### Impact

- 3.1 We know we are making a difference through the case studies we are gathering. (Appendix 2) These demonstrate the impact on professionals as they begin to understand the concept of the lead practitioner role. They also clearly show a positive impact for Children/ Young People and Families.  
  
*Parents commented that they were happy for the plan to close and they knew they could go back to school if they felt they needed any more help. Mum was glad that she had approached school as it had given her the chance to offload her problems and they had been sorted.*
- 3.2 We know we are making an impact as a total of 448 assessments supporting families were carried out across Tier 2 and Tier 3 services (see Appendix 3)
- 3.3 We know that we are increasing the knowledge and reach of LP's as there has been an increase in LP's accessing training and the number of LP's across Bradford South.

3.4 We know that our new methodology is working because we have supported families from 5 community settings using the EHAT and identifying local LP's since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. This has resulted in 11 families receiving support.

3.5 We know that we are making an impact as 2-year uptake has increased in 5 of the 6 wards in Bradford South

#### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

None known

#### **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

None Known

#### **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

➤ None

#### **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

##### **7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

➤ None Known

##### **7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

➤ None known

##### **7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

➤ None known

##### **7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

➤ None

##### **7.5 TRADE UNION**

➤ None

##### **7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

➤ None

##### **7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)**

➤ We will be contributing to the children and family aspects of local area plans

## **7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

None

## **7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

None

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

➤ None

## **9. OPTIONS**

➤ None this report is for information only

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

➤ Members to note the report and provide comments as necessary

## **11. APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1 – EHC 6 Month Plan
- Appendix 2 – Case Study
- Appendix 3 – Breakdown of LP Assessments (last 12 months)

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

➤ Early Help Strategy 2020-2022