

# **Report of the Strategic Director Children's Services to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

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## **Subject:**

**Update on Prevention and Early Help Services within the Bradford South area and update on local Family Start for Life delivery plan.**

## **Summary statement:**

**This report provides an overview of the progress made within the Bradford South area on Family Hub Prevention and Early Help Services and progress on our district-wide Family Hubs Start for Life delivery plan.**

## **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:**

We continue to monitor take up by key demographics and have consider outcomes in key areas at ward level when developing our Family Hubs Start for Life plan. We aim to reduce inequalities in key outcomes within the district and in line with national rates, for example breastfeeding and take up of childcare offer.

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Marium Haque  
Strategic Director

## **Portfolio:**

**Children's Services**

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## **Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

**Children's Services**

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Our children and young people are the future of Bradford district. We want them to grow up in a Child 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 Our shared prevention and early strategy support the **Council's vision to promote economic growth and jobs and protect the most vulnerable. Children and young people are at the heart of all we do.**
- 1.3 Our **Prevention and Early Help strategy** overseen by a **Prevention and Early Help Partnership Board** has Family Hubs Start for Life front and centre.
- 1.4 As a local area and Health and Care system, we are highly committed:
  - to **effective, evidence-based and co-produced Family Hubs which prioritise the first 1001 days**
  - to ensure Family Hub prevention and early help services are **provided at the earliest point possible and be closer and easier for families to access**
  - to **accelerate the development of our existing Family Hub, offer and also build on learning on wider local programmes such as Better Start Bradford, born in Bradford, Supporting Families and Reducing Parental Conflict**
  - to maximise opportunities to **refocus and re-align mainstream services and commissioning plans**
- 1.5 We recognise that **all families need support from time to time and local help co-ordinated through Family Hubs** will work seamlessly to ensure **all babies, children and families receive the information and support they need as easily and as early as possible.**
- 1.6 We will **work together to reduce inequalities and identify children, young people and families with additional needs** and ensure that **they are supported by skilled and confident workers (and peers or volunteers)** again at the **earliest point possible and as close to home as possible.**
- 1.7 Our Prevention and Early Help strategy reinforces that **Family Hubs should be seen as an umbrella term, not only physical buildings, to describe the collection of services working in a locality including more targeted services** deployed with other services to support children and families' needs.
- 1.8 Our **Prevention and Early Help strategy priorities** are:
  - **Relaunch our Family Hubs** arrangements and ensure they are **well known, welcoming and accessible.** Including **face to face, online, at wider local centres and home visiting/outreach.** Support must be **nearer, earlier and easier for families to access.**

- Launch and build **all age Area Leadership Teams and networks** involving family members and Third Sector and Education partners.
- **Expand and develop essential Start for Life (pre-birth to aged 2) services**, targeted effectively when needed to **reduce inequalities**.
- Ensuring wider networks and support beyond Start for Life, for example, **link to youth support, SEND, substance misuse, housing, debt and welfare advice and pathways into good work**.
- Move from co-location of key teams in Family **Hubs to integrated practices which support families earlier and more seamlessly** including new area based single point of access.
- Develop and implement **an integrated system Family Hubs workforce development plan** focusing on understanding **impact of adverse childhood experiences and promoting healthy relationships and resilience** from pre-conception and beyond.
- Implement **robust arrangements for co-production and expand working with peer supporters and volunteers** building on supporting the District to be a safe, green and active place to live, work and play.
- Apply **evidence-based practice** from local and national sources, and implement **robust arrangements for evaluation**, with a focus on reducing inequalities and improving child outcomes.
- Harness the opportunities from the **City of Culture to create an inclusive, creative environment for babies' children and young people** which celebrates the vibrant diversity of our district.

1.9 We will implement our **local Family Hubs Start for Life outcome framework** so we can track over time:

- Start for Life outcomes improve, and inequalities reduced
- Sustain and increase good take-up of Early Years free childcare
- Good school attendance and behavior and contribute to reduce educational inequalities
- Children safe from abuse/neglect and exploitation and criminality and safe from domestic abuse
- Healthy family relationships and reduced parental conflict
- Support addressing mental health and/or substance abuse
- Financial stability is promoted
- Secure housing
- Families diverted from crime
- Families with children with SEND needs identified and support early
- Children, young people and families are proactively involved in shaping and evaluating services
- Family Hubs (sites and activities across the network) are accessible, welcoming, well used and help build social connections

1.10 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.

1.11 This report provides an update on progress on our Family Hubs Start for Life delivery plan and focuses on key Prevention and Early Help services in the Bradford South area of the District.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Prevention and early help provides support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years. These services 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.

2.2 The Council's core Prevention and Early Help Family Hub service for children, young people and families, in its current structure, went live from January 2020. The structure includes a Head of Service, three Service Managers, four Locality Family Hub Managers, twelve Early Help Coordinators, four Access and take up workers, a Parenting Team and Family Support Teams in each Hub area. The Youth Justice Service, with its own Service Manager, is also integrated within this service. We have also commissioned four VCSE organisations and Supporting Families Police Officers to deliver aligned family support services to families.

### **2.3 Family Hubs Start for Life programme**

2.4 The Department for Education and the Department for Health and Social Care wrote to the Council's Chief Executive on the 8 August 2022 confirming national guidance and funding allocation for 2022-23 (£1.4M) and indicative allocations for 2023-25 (potentially up to £4,396,000). So total potential upper range of £5,807,000.

2.5 Funding is ring-fenced to specific areas across the three years focusing predominantly on the ages pre-birth to 2 also often called the First 1001 Days:

- Programme and transformation costs – 20%
- Capital – 5%
- Perinatal mental health parent-infant relationship – 31%
- Parenting support (for ages pre-birth to 2) – 17%
- Infant feeding support – 14%
- Home learning environment – 10%
- Publishing the offer and Parent Panels – 3%

2.6 The national guidance outlines evidence bases, national vision and principles and 'minimum' delivery and system expectations which all areas who sign up are expected to deliver and also 'go further' descriptors which local areas are also asked to develop local area plans around. Central government expects close alignment with local plans on Supporting Families (previously known locally as Families First). The letter went to 75 local areas and invited us to sign up to the programme.

2.7 In order to sign up and draw down funding, local areas submitted a Sign Up Form

with named key designated signatories. This was successfully completed and released 50% of first year funding. Government will release the second half of first year funding after submission of a more detailed local delivery plan which we submitted on 23 December 2022.

- 2.8 Our existing local 0-19 (up to 25 for some young people with needs arising from SEND) Family Hubs arrangements align well with the new national guidance and this programme provides a very exciting opportunity to accelerate developments and expand key provisions in the funded areas.
- 2.9 The guidance supports our own local aspiration for much stronger co-production and evaluation with parents, children and local communities particularly at the area levels. We also intend to build upon the co-location which already exists between core Council prevention and early help services, children health services, particularly health visitors and some wider community services.
- 2.10 A Joint Programme Team is in place including key senior, commissioning and operational manager's colleagues from Children's Services, Public Health, Hospitals Trusts, Better Births, District Care Trust and Better Start Bradford. A number of development sessions with key partners have been undertaken including a meeting with Area Co-ordinators and focused sessions on co-production and VCSE area-based wellbeing and community development networks.
- 2.11 The Prevention and Early Help Board for CYP has also convened four sub groups to support implementation:
- **Ages 0-8/Start for Life Sub Group**  
Chaired by Kerry Bennett (Integration and Transformation Manager, Better Start Bradford) and Dawn Lee (Children's Services Manager, District Care Trust). Implementation of Start for Life (pre-birth to aged 2) elements of the programme.
  - **Ages 8 Plus/Supporting Families Sub Group**  
Chaired by Mark Anslow and Cath Dew (both are CBMDC Service Managers who lead on Family Hubs Start for Life and Supporting Families). Implementation of the beyond Start for Life elements of the programme.
  - **Publishing the Offer/Information for Families Sub Group**  
Chair is Emma Richardson (Families & Youth Information Manager).
  - **Outcomes and Data Sub Group**  
Chaired by Josie Dickerson (Born in Bradford) and Laura Copley (CBMDC Policy & Performance Manager). Implementation of evidence-based practice, needs assessments, evaluation and data sharing.
- 2.12 Below are some examples of key elements (not exhaustive) which are in place or underway:
- Overview scoping, strengths, gaps and potential opportunities against the national guidance

- Perinatal Mental Health Working Group, Little Minds Matter and Ready to Relate services and pathway in place to expand upon
- Breastfeeding Working Group and strategy and core and VCSE support services in place to expand upon
- Emerging learning from Born in Bradford and Better Start Bradford key programmes and activities
- Outcome Framework for 0-5 in place and for ages 5 and beyond to be finalised. A profile of Start of Life outcomes by ward has been produced to inform planning around targeted activity
- A new Families and Youth Information website launched in October 2022
- Parenting, family support, Hub managers and Access and Take Up (childcare), children's health services and some midwifery services already co-located and/or delivered in main Hubs sites and some linked sites
- In each of our locality areas (South, East, West and Keighley/Shipley combined) we have main hub sites and linked delivery sites or integrated work bases

### 2.13 Priorities for expansion and development:

- Plans to better connect with Neighbourhood and Community Health partnerships building on the Keighley all ages pilot and secure all age Area Leadership Teams in all areas
- Early emerging plans for co-location of Parent and Carers Council's Engagement Workers (which are expanding)
- Public Health agreed to lead on updating the required Families' joint strategic needs assessment
- Ensuring ongoing links to Ofsted improvement plan and SEND action plan and on local joint initiatives to improve school attendance
- Recruitment underway to secure additional capacity to ensure:
  - co-production and increase peer support. A small group of VCSE organisations have been selected to support initial consultation with families up to end March 2023 aligned to areas
  - a dedicated Family Hubs system workforce development post to move us from colocation to integration and build a system wide Family Hub/Act as One identity
  - central transformation team capacity. A Service Manager is Programme Lead. A Family Hubs Practice Lead is in place and a Development Officer and a Analyst/Evaluator to be recruited
  - dedicated commissioning support in place to mobilise expanded services at a pace up to end March 2023

2.14 Once our submitted delivery plan is approved we will mobilise expanded services under each of the funded strands. **By 2025, and in line with minimum and go further descriptors, we will have:**

### 2.15 Parenting.

- Fully implemented a 'Transition to Parenthood' pathway
- Upscale of a universal Perinatal Project Administrator (PPA) role within Maternity units and a targeted offer of Maternity Circles and Baby Steps within the community.

- Increased self-referrals and referrals from universal services so significant increase in earlier support from pre-conception to aged two and beyond.
- Expand Baby Steps including securing an increase take up from seldom heard groups. Capacity build HENRY particularly outreach. Enhanced support for those who need additional support to start and complete courses.
- Published and promoted all courses across all agencies on our Families and Youth Information website and hub networks.
- Expand face-to-face facilitator and peer supported and self-paced online courses including potential parent/practitioner co-delivery.
- The district Play and Learn Contract will provide a Quality Toolkit which will provide a layered framework of continuous improvement across a range of partners and volunteers in a variety of settings.

#### 2.16 **Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationship support.**

- Further developed the perinatal and infant mental health pathway.
- Ensure take up and expanded reach through family hub staff trained, equipped and supported to both signpost families to services across the strands.
- Expand reach of the Little Minds Matter team to work across Bradford district (accept referrals outside of BSB and Reducing Inequalities areas for individual work and group work) and expand availability of training and consultation to professionals.
- Expand scope of Little Minds Matter service to working with babies on a child protection plan.
- Expand the Ready to Relate training so all practitioners working with families during pregnancy and the early years have increased knowledge of the importance of the parent-infant relationship and a tool to facilitate conversations with parents.
- The digital R2R offer will be accessible to all families, is translatable, and can be shared on devices in the FH if families don't have their own digital means.
- Increase engagement with secondary caregivers with a focus on fathers to ensure messages about parent-infant relationships and perinatal mental health are shared and opportunities to seek support are available.
- Families have access to peer support workers in the family hubs who are knowledgeable in perinatal and parent-infant relationship matters. Development of voluntary sector perinatal peer support offer building on Better Start Bradford learning.
- All family hubs have equipment that support virtual meeting facilities for peer groups.
- Signpost through the virtual offer for out of hours MH support and those in crisis.

#### 2.17 **Early language and home learning environment.**

- Improve the current % of children achieving at least the expected level of development in communication, language and literacy skills.
- Incredible Years Pre-School to be rolled out – targeted district-wide.

- Pathway will use the evidence from the Better Start Bradford “Talking Together” programme to reduce the % of children with a primary need in their EHCP or SEN support of Speech, language and communication needs.
- Universal identification of need, particularly for those aged 3 and 4 years drawing from the ASQ and ELIM at aged 2 supported by the 0-19 children’s health service as well as appropriate EYFS progress check for children attending Early Years provision.
- The new offer will include regular sessions in the hubs including a key contact able to give parents and carers of those with concerns as well as signpost to more targeted support.
- All Aboard (an evidence-based training programme) will be delivered to early education settings and play and learn staff with a focus on modelling and engaging parents in the HLE.
- We will link across the FYI website and the well-developed platform from the provider of speech and language therapy offering information on child development and support.
- The new model will offer a specific drop in offer for those identified with concerns of any pre-school age.
- Pathway development will identify the need for a qualified therapist and ensure the correct support is offered and SLT services are included.

#### 2.18 **Infant feeding support.**

- Expand Specialist Community role, UNICEF Baby Friendly lead and increase of Breastfeeding Peer Support service.
- Expand the existing the Breastfeeding Welcome Scheme in all main Hubs and linked sites and integrate Ready to Relate within infant feeding interactions to support the parent infant relationship.
- Expand the current peer support “Breastfeed Together” offer on maternity wards at both acute hospitals sharing the success of this approach currently at Airedale to Bradford.
- Expand our early post-natal support service. This will be additional to the existing ‘targeted’ breastfeeding support offered to 11 wards. This will be a collaborative service offer between statutory service and voluntary sector.
- Antenatal classes will be co-delivered by the Maternity Antenatal Education teams with support from the infant feeding team by the Breastfeed Together service.
- Ensure there is specialist support available in family hubs that is 1:1 in nature and considers accessibility to all communities.
- Develop and promote the current offer of antenatal education in the community focussing on specialist support for those from underserved groups using the learning from current model of Maternity Circles.
- Implement the model of early post-natal home visits, signposting to Breastfeed Together groups, and recruiting mothers who have breastfed to become Breastfeed Together volunteers representative of their local communities.
- Increase capacity in peer support already embedded in the district considering the use of paid peer support where required to offer out of hours’ support using innovative modes of communication requested by families.



- Facebook and Instagram page for Breastfeed Together already available – further development to take place.
- Unicef Baby Friendly Accreditation achieved at Stage 3 as a minimum standard with plans and support for progression to Gold Accreditation.
- UNICEF Baby Friendly level of Infant Feeding and Relationship Building training pathway for all agencies working with families with babies and pregnancy.
- An integrated multidisciplinary Infant Feeding and Relationship Building training pathway to be developed also reinforcing Ready to Relate to promote sensitive and responsive caregiving.
- Expand antenatal sessions in FHs supported by Breastfeed Together peer supporters; delivered in different venues and at different times to include those who do not attend at present. Develop virtual drop-ins.
- Breastfeed Together offers video drop-in groups. Virtual video support is available and will be developed.

### 2.19 **Parent & Carer Panels.**

- Highlight and draw on already existing co-production messages and activities.
- A range of co-production conversations and activities to shape detailed plans by end of year one linking with existing groups, Stay and Plays, wellbeing hubs and outreach, for example, Play Bus. Including linking with Youth Services for co-production with young people whilst prioritising ages 0-2 and primary school age children.
- Flexible but robust Panel arrangements which respond to needs as a large diverse district.
- A detailed co-production plan and expand local capacity with transformation funding which connects across existing local groups.
- Parent & Carer Council Engagement Officers co-located in main hubs so needs of parents of children with SEND are fully included.
- Draw on ongoing engagement and peer support activities across Act Early, Better Start Bradford, Born in Bradford and Better Births. Recruit to a dedicated Volunteer/Peer Support Co-ordinator to work across strands.
- Clear evidence of parental voice and influence at Boards, working groups, all ages area partnerships and evaluation.

### 2.20 **Publishing Start for Life Offer.**

- Families and Youth Information capabilities will grow alongside co-production.
- Delivered successful advertising/media campaign of our 2-Year-Old Offer. We will mirror this for our Start for Life launch and ongoing promotion of local offer.
- We will use our localities data to target families that need particular services and to increase awareness and take-up.
- We will build on our West Yorkshire networks to ensure families can access services.
- Recruited a dedicated Comms post which public facing focus.
- We will undertake an audit of our digital offer and implement an arising action plan to address gaps across all strands.

- 2.21 We intend to update Hub signage and branding and launch the expanded Family Hubs Start for Life offer during the Spring Bank Holiday week with a range of engaging and fun activities and promotion through face to face and online activities.
- 2.22 There are already four area-based Family Hubs which serve families and communities across Bradford district. These align with the constituency areas with Shipley and Keighley combined.
- 2.23 **Our existing Family Hubs already deliver 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.
- 2.24 Bradford South Family Hub, Reevy Hill was reopened in March 2022 following Covid 19 restrictions. In October 2022 TFD reopened following significant refurbishment allowing a second primary hub in the Bradford south area where joined up services, delivery and support will be offered.
- 2.25 Currently Midwifery, Health visitors, School Nursing, Breastfeed Together, Carers Resource, DWP work coaches and Early Help Police Officers are delivering sessions as well co-locating at Reevy Hill, TFD, Holme Wood and Woodside sites. Family time are also utilising space within the hubs to support children, young people and families. There is a significant youth service offer being delivered from TFD, the community library is due to open its doors in February. There have been monthly warm hub events for families at Reevy Hill and TFD which have been well attended. Early Years Alliance are running Stay and Play sessions for children and families at both Reevy Hill and Woodside which have been beneficial to parents and their preschool children and babies. See case study below

'I was first made aware of L (mum) and F (baby) in April 2022 by L's sister who attends our Woodside Children's Centre Direct Delivery regularly. Unfortunately, it is not convenient for L to attend that particular session, but her sister advised that she was concerned that baby was bringing up his milk. I advised that the GP would be the best person to contact but was told she had already contacted the Dr and didn't feel that her concerns had been taken seriously. I provided the telephone number for the Bradford Health Visiting team and suggested that L contact them directly. At a later session L's sister reported that F had now been diagnosed with a milk intolerance and a special infant formula had been prescribed. I met L and F in October when we moved our Thursday afternoon Direct Delivery to Reevy Hill in Buttershaw which was more convenient for the family. We had 2 mums in attendance with babies around 9 months old and the subject of weaning was raised. L explained that she was afraid to give F finger foods as she was nervous about choking. F is her second child, and she hadn't been nervous when her older daughter, however, she thought the discomfort and sickness he had experienced as a new-born baby had caused her anxiety. We spoke for some time as a group about the importance of introducing lumpy foods and finger foods. I directed her to the NHS and HENRY starting solids websites for advice and information and suggested joining the Starting solids online workshop. Together with the other mums, we discussed what types of finger foods are suitable and popular. We also discussed the possibility of taking a basic paediatric first aid course to provide confidence that she would know what to do in the event of a choking incident. 2

weeks later, L attended the Play and Learn. She proudly exclaimed that she gone home from the session and had decided to 'go for it' and had given F a little stick of watermelon. She has since tried cooked carrot, avocado, toast, broccoli and pear, and it had been a real success. F of course has his personal favourites, but he was willing to try everything, and L's anxiety is slowly easing. She was very grateful for our advice and this, along with the support of the mums with similar age children, had given her the confidence to go ahead and try the finger foods'.

- 2.26 Our Early Help Co-ordinators (EHCs) promote and support the role of Lead Professional (LP) across wider services. This includes toolkits for single agency issues for families and encouraging agencies to become LPs with support, leading to assessments, plans and reviews for families in need of a more co-ordinated approach.
- 2.27 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.
- 2.28 The LP toolkit, training and support has also been rolled out to Early Years Settings from October 2021 and all Early Years settings were allocated an Early Help Co-ordinator and all settings had received an initial visit and the offer of training by January 2022.
- 2.29 Latest data on registered Early Help assessments by agency as the LP is set out below:

	Source	2021		2022	
		Individuals (0-17)	Families	Individuals (0-17)	Families
Tier 3 - LA	<b>Total</b>	<b>1589</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>1517</b>	<b>620</b>
Tier 3 - Commissioned	<b>Total</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>418</b>
	Police (Supporting Families Commissioned)	113	47	230	94
	VCS	94	41	72	35
	VCS Supporting Families Commissioned	386	165	686	291
Tier 2	<b>Total</b>	<b>1038</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>1882</b>	<b>822</b>
	Education / Schools	771	334	1764	766
	Police (Supporting Families Commissioned)	28	12	0	0
	Health	115	52	118	56
	Other – including children's centres, independent agency providers or voluntary organisations	102	45	0	0

	Housing	2	1	0	0
	'Lead Practitioner Assessment'	21	10	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>3220</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>4387</b>	<b>1860</b>

2.30 We aim for a 20% year on year increase in families receiving an Early Help assessment and plan across tiers 2 against 2022 baseline of 822 families. Total EH assessments across tiers 2 and 3 in 2022 was 1860.

2.31 Additional support for LPs includes Family Aide workers who were commissioned as part of a package of support. 2 x 30 hours 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 LPs and feedback continues to be extremely positive.

2.32 Fortnightly Family Hub Panel meetings continue to 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 work' for all lead practitioner has been running since January 2021 lead by Early Help Co-ordinators and Hub managers, and supports LPs' cases progress through assessments, plans and reviews. Throughout 2022, Bradford South's Panel has supported 58 families.

2.33 The Early Help Co-ordinators have been piloting a methodology which is looking at an outreach approach to identifying families. We have identified three key strands. Health, Education & Employment and Community.

2.33.1 **Health:** The EHC's have built links with social prescribers in Bradford South whom have received training on the LP role and have now started to complete EHA with families they have submitted 2 assessments and support the Tea, Toast and Talk drop in at Reevy Hill. The next steps will be to build links with local GP surgeries and develop drop in sessions.

2.33.2 **Education and Employment:** The EHC's are working closely with the DWP work coach for Bradford South and are carrying out a lot of joint drop in session with him to ensure that the holistic support is being documented. They are also attending the DWP Complex needs hubs where to ensure that parents can access the correct support when return to work and training. In addition to this, coffee mornings have been offered to all schools and Early Years settings in Bradford South to support practitioners to do direct work with families and get the correct support identified at the earliest possible opportunity. A total of 12 coffee mornings have been held across Bradford South's School and Early years' settings since October 2022 with more planned over the next term. Some schools have requested regular drop in sessions for families.

2.33.3 **Community:** Each EHC has been allocated 2 wards in which to work on building up community links and develop drop sessions and training for volunteers who would be interested in taking on the LP role. This ensures that all there is a presence in all areas of Bradford South and reduces the barriers for parents and families to access support.

The Early Help Co-ordinators are working with the Attendance team to pilot a new

way of working with schools, targeting both primary and secondary schools with the highest levels of absence and persistent absence. The idea will be to look at the holistic needs of the families to provide Early Help support alongside attendance plans. With a one family, one plan approach it is hoped that families/ children and young people will get the right support at the right time, which will improve school attendance and outcomes for children and young people in education.

The schools that are currently targeted in South are: Bradford Forster Academy, Bradford Academy, Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College, Co-op Academy Grange, Carrwood Primary School and Knowleswood Primary.

If this joint approach is successful it is hoped that it will continue to be rolled out to all schools in Bradford South.

2.34 From May 2022 the Terrific Twos project was launched across the district and we employed 2 x part time Terrific Twos workers for the Bradford South hub. Their role is to increase the access to Early Education across the district.

2.35 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. Our Access and Take Up workers continue to develop strong links and make targeted contact with families to improve childcare take up. Below is data from 2020 to 2022:

Period	Age	National	District	East	South	West	Keighley	Shipley
Spring 20	2	69%	69%	63%	64%	70%	72%	75%
	3	91%	89%	83%	87%	89%	94%	95%
	4	95%	91%	90%	87%	91%	94%	97%
Spring 21	2	62%	59%	52%	63%	52%	58%	70%
	3	86%	84%	78%	81%	83%	90%	93%
	4	93%	90%	88%	89%	89%	94%	96%
Spring 22	2	72%	70%	66%	64%	70%	74%	79%
	3	90%	86%	82%	82%	87%	91%	93%
	4	94%	91%	87%	90%	90%	96%	96%
Summer 22	2	National Data only available for Spring Term	75%	75%	69%	76%	73%	81%
	3		87%	83%	78%	86%	99%	99%
	4		91%	90%	91%	94%	90%	93%

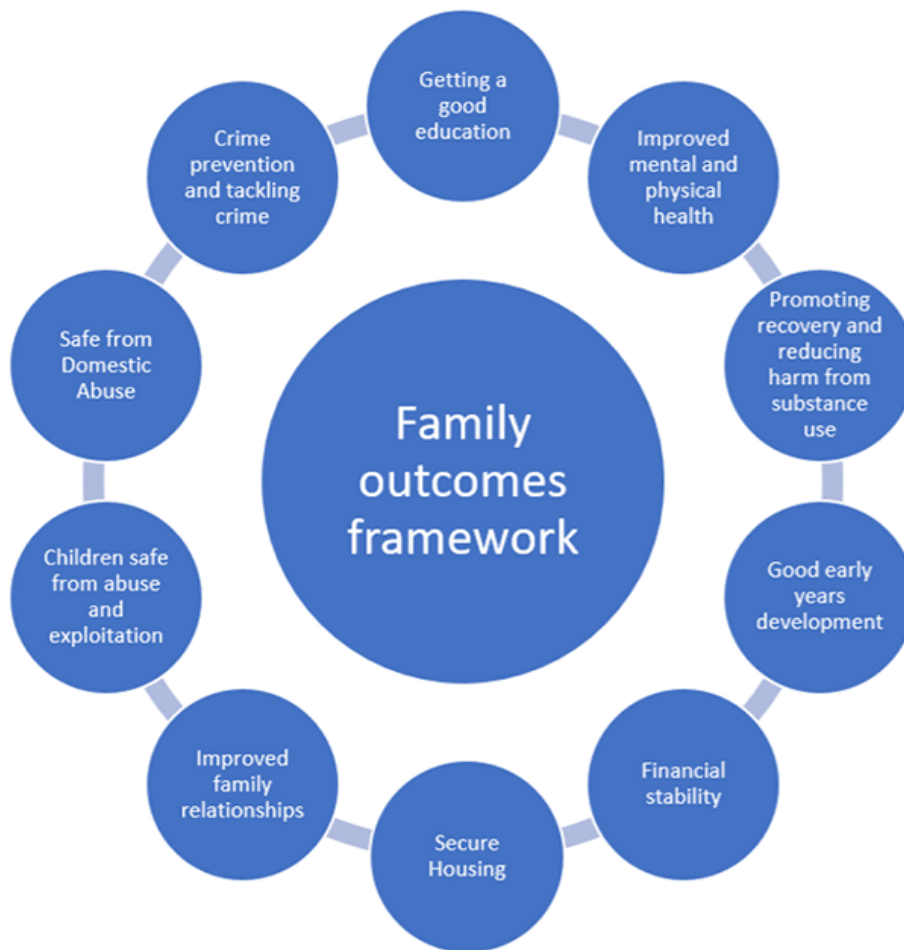
2.36 We are pleased to note that the 2 year update for Bradford South has shown a 5% increased from Spring 22 to Summer 22. This data was up from 63% in Spring 21 to 64% in Spring 22. There has been a significant increase in the number of home visits carried out due to the additional posts created. This allowed us to focus on our lowest uptake areas which were Royds, Great Horton and Tong. I am pleased to note that all 3 areas showed increased uptake during this time. Home visits were carried out in the priority wards first so a much higher number of support was offered. The team have also built links with local libraries, community centres and play groups to share information about the 2 year offer and support families with

barriers in identifying and accessing nursery place. From September 2022 we have been pleased to offer joint visits with local nursery settings and childminders and have found this approach has worked well. In addition, we have had support to carry out visits from our local neighbourhood teams and joint visits have been carried out with Neighbourhood wardens in Tong ward, which has worked well to break down barriers and build a trusting relationship within the community.

- 2.37 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. The EHC's and Terrific twos team have been holding regular drop in at community settings across all areas of Bradford South to ensure that support is available within each locality. These include: Queensbury Foodbank, Scholemore Beacon, Wyke Library, Delph Hill Community Centre, Wibsey Library, St Matthews the Cube, Tong Community Shop, Great Horton Library and the Sutton Centre
- 2.38 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. Whilst developing the offer of service delivery within the hub buildings.
- 2.39 Work on the garden space at Reevy Hill has begun and it is hoped that it will become an inclusive space with exploration play a seating and growing area will be enjoyed by all.
- 2.40 Our neighbourhood team consisting of Ward Officers and Neighbourhood wardens are currently located at Woodside Children Centre

## **2.40 Supporting Families outcomes**

- 2.41 *Supporting Families is the new name for the Government's 'Troubled Families programme'. In Bradford, this programme was originally named Families First –an overview of the progress made on Supporting Families Programme was completed for Overview and Scrutiny in November 2022.***
- 2.42 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the Department for Education (DfE) are working together to make sure support for families is earlier. Significant funding has been provided via these programmes for transformation through 2022- 2025 to provide better and more sustainable support to families to achieve successful outcomes.
- 2.43 Supporting Families' focus is on building the resilience of vulnerable families, and on driving system change so that every area has joined up, efficient local services which are able to identify families in need and provide the right support at the right time. Prevention and Early Help Services embrace the Supporting Families agenda bringing together timely support for families from a range of partners and services.
- 2.44 Supporting Families continues to provide targeted interventions for families with complex interconnected problems. The four key principles of Supporting Families remain ***early intervention, whole family working, multi-agency working and measuring outcomes and data to show progress.***
- 2.45 The **outcomes framework for Supporting Families** includes ten headline outcomes:



2.46 A dedicated Supporting Families Practice Lead and analysts work strategically with the National Team and operationally to ensure delivery of the Supporting Families programme. Over the past three years they have driven practice and ensured rigour in the auditing to make sure that claims attached meet the necessary outcomes.

2.47 Total number of claims for outcomes improved for families April 2022 to Jan 2023 is 842 which is 77.25% of this year's target and has brought in £673,600 in funding. Bradford district is on target to reach 100% of the claims target for the third successive year, with 248 outcomes left to demonstrate, which is an average of 68 claims per month.

Financial Year	Number of families who have achieved 'Significant & Sustained progress':	Number of families that have achieved the 'Continuous Employment' result:	Total PBR Claimed	Maximum PBR Available	Amount PBR Claimed	Comments
2020-21	1013	4	1017	1017	£813,600	
2021-22	1056	4	1060	1060	£848,000	

2022-23 – part year 6 months through	615	0	842	1090	£673,600	As at Jan 77.25% claimed
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## 2.48 Parenting support

**2.49** The Council's core parenting teams (one team per Hub area) continue to promote access to and deliver: *Welcome to the World: Family Links Ante-natal programme (very low take up so delivery under review), Family Links Nurturing Programme including Additional Needs, HENRY, Time Out for Dads, Talking Teens, Who's in Charge? (Parent/Adolescent conflict), DICE (prevent child exploitation), Cygnet, Freedom (from DA) Programme for Women and Book Start.* The table below shows the number of parents accessing parenting groups during 2022 by area compared to 2021:

	2021				2022			
	Number Completing	Number Partially Completing	Total Attendees	% Completion Rate	Number Completing	Number Partially Completing	Total Attendees	% Completion Rate
Cygnet	133	14	147	<b>90%</b>	155	29	184	<b>84%</b>
DICE	57	3	60	<b>95%</b>	58	5	63	<b>92%</b>
FLNP	214	73	287	<b>75%</b>	193	61	254	<b>76%</b>
FLNP Additional Needs	82	27	109	<b>75%</b>	95	49	144	<b>66%</b>
FLNP Condensed					2		2	<b>100%</b>
FREEDOM	172	57	229	<b>75%</b>	142	56	198	<b>72%</b>
HENRY	70	8	78	<b>90%</b>	42	17	59	<b>71%</b>
Talking Teens	157	29	186	<b>84%</b>	179	45	224	<b>80%</b>
Time Out for Dads	14	5	19	<b>74%</b>	11	3	14	<b>79%</b>
Welcome To The World	26	5	31	<b>84%</b>	9	1	10	<b>90%</b>
Welcome To The World Condensed					9	1	10	<b>90%</b>
Who's in Charge?					21	7	28	<b>75%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	925	221	1146	<b>81%</b>	916	274	1190	<b>77%</b>



2.50 We have continued to offer a wide range of evidence based parenting programs throughout 21/21 for a 0-19 service. Throughout 21 & part of 22 due to the covid -19 pandemic we could only provide virtual groups. Generally, this showed a higher rate of completion as parents did not need to leave their homes, or incur travelling costs and there was more flexibility around accessing a program. However offering just virtual groups brought other challenges for some parents lacking in IT skills or not having access to smart phones/tablets. It was difficult for parents & practitioners to build relationships, form trust & have interaction with other group members. From Sept 22 to present we have delivered a combination of face to face groups as well as virtual groups for all the parenting programs we offer. Sessions are arranged at different times during the day & in the evenings. For some parents where there are language barriers or certain health issues we have offered a 1-1 group. We have worked hard as a whole district wide service to reduce the waiting lists for particular groups by having a whole service approach so parents are not having to wait for long periods of time. We will continue to look at ways to reduce these waiting lists further in 22. We have planned to train more of our parenting staff in the groups that are well attended groups & where we have longer waiting lists. In 21 & 22 the most attended programs have been FLNP, Talking Teens & Freedom. Parents consistently rate their experiences as Outstanding or Good. Pre & post measures are used to measure impact which is showing improvements. The quality of all the groups is regularly audited by managers at different levels completing observations of the group whilst sessions are being delivered. All observations for our parenting groups in 22 have been graded outstanding or good. We are continuing to strengthen partnership with our local schools and where joint delivery of a program is feasible we co deliver with school staff. In 22 we co delivered two FLNPs with staff from Bracken Hill primary School. We continue to regularly advertise & promote the groups that are not well attended with our partners in health, school, housing and on various social media sites and at any event prevention & EH staff hold in local communities for parents, carers & professionals. Parents & other professionals have stated that our referral pathways for groups can be confusing and therefore seen as a barrier to access a program. In 23 we will be looking at making our pathways to parenting programs much simpler.

**2.51 Family support**

2.52 Each hub area has family support teams and a VCSE commissioned Key Work team and Supporting Families Police Officers.

2.53 The tables below show timeliness of family support assessments and reviews by area comparing 2021 with 2022 (timely assessments and review assure that clears and effective plans are put in place promptly:

**Early Help assessment timeliness – LA family support teams**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
East Family Hub	78.90%	76.90%
Keighley and Shipley Family Hub	73.40%	84.10%
South Family Hub	77.20%	80.50%

West Family Hub	72.20%	78.80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>75.70%</b>	<b>80%</b>

### **Early Help team around the family review timeliness – LA family support teams**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
East Family Hub	64.4%	91.6%
Keighley and Shipley Family Hub	44.1%	87.3%
South Family Hub	55.7%	90.9%
West Family Hub	47.9%	94.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>53.5%</b>	<b>91.0%</b>

2.54 In 22 the south family support team have shown improvements in timeliness for completing assessments from 21 showing that our performance in this area is improving. Where we have not completed assessments on time there are genuine explanations around families not being available for planned sessions or in cases where there are many multiple needs that need assessing and to ensure we have a good quality assessment staff have gone over timescales. When we have completed assessments in a timely manner the families have a clear support plan of intervention and are aware of what support is being offered to them by which professionals. We have also shown in South and across the whole district a great improvement in family review timeliness & are well over the targets set in this area. This has evidenced improvements made in plans being reviewed in a timely manner so families receive the right level of support at the right time, as well as any progress they have made has been tracked. It also allows us to understand the effectiveness and impacts made to the lives of children and families we are supporting. We plan to in 23/24 continue to up skill and offer regular training packages to all our family support workers & their managers to keep them up to date with research and increase their knowledge/skills in working with families & improving outcomes for children living in Bradford.

### **2.55 Quotes from families who have attended our parenting programs over 21/22.**

“I found it really good I felt really isolated before I started the group it was nice knowing I wasn’t on my own and sharing experience’s with other families.”

“The changes I have made is I find it easier dealing with difficult situations before I started the group I didn’t know what to do and didn’t feel confident as a parent but now I feel more confident as a parent and I am a lot calmer.”

“The course gave me a better understanding of how to deal with behaviour, and being able to do that in a group with people in similar situations has been useful. It helped me to realise I am not alone and the advice from other parents, what they are going through and what they have tried helped with that. The course is great and was delivered in a way that made me feel comfortable and not overwhelmed.”

“I have learnt to take time to calm myself before jumping in and shouting. By doing this I have found it helps keep the situation grounded with more talk and less arguments.”

“Things seem to be better at home now, my daughter is going to school and I am not having phone calls from school and she isn’t being excluded”.

### **Quotes from families who have received family support over 21/22**

“Because of you we are a happy family unit, well sometimes as you know it’s a mad house. I

can now support my children as I feel I understand myself better.”

“You definitely made an improvement in my life and Mum is sending her apologies for her outburst, you know she is not well. She was happy that you made appointment as she has been trying every day for one.”

“Just wanted to say what a difference it’s made you been involved with myself and Teddie, we were having such difficulties with both school and our housing situation. I also felt invisible but since you have been attending meetings I feel heard and that the school and other people listen.”

“I would like to thank you for all the support you have given me and my children, I don’t know what I would off done without you, you have made a massive difference in me and my Childrens lives”

“Without you my child would have not been seen by CAHMS and this has supported their mental health and they now have a one to one worker and things are much more positive.”

## **2.56 Relationships Matters/Reducing Parental Conflict.**

**2.57** This Department for Work and Pensions funded programme also continues until end of March 2025. A full-time Practice Lead and part-time Learning and Development Officer are in post.

**2.58** A programme of briefings has been delivered through 2022 to build awareness of the impact of ‘frequent, intense and poorly resolved’ conflict (but not domestic abuse or coercive control) on children and provide practice tools for direct work with families. We intend to relaunch the programme in April 2023 with an updated toolkit for practitioners and launch a new toolkit for couples to use themselves to health check their relationship and build their communication skills. This will be complemented by a local poster campaign and information on Families and Youth Information. Local plans have been updated following enquiry sessions held with parents and practitioners during 2022 and the launch and poster campaign is also drawing on enquiries with local parents.

## **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

3.1 None.

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

4.1 The majority of these services are funded through the core Council budgets supported by central funding streams such as Supporting Families. The section above summarises plans for the Family Hub Start for Life grant funding.

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

5.1 Officers continue to meet regularly with Finance and HR colleagues. The majority of the above directly employed services will move across to the new Children’s Service Trust from 1 April 2023 with the exception of Access and Take up Workers, Parenting workers that deliver Cygnet parenting programme and the Families and Young People information Service.

5.2 The Prevention and Early Help Board is the main partnership mechanism for overseeing local developments. Health & Care Partnership has agreed that there

should be all age Area Leadership Teams and service managers, Hub Managers and Area Co-ordinators are working together on the Area Leadership Teams and ensuring we work together under Area Action Plans and priorities.

5,3 There is a good working relationship within Bradford South now that the Area Localities team and the Family Hub are co-located at TFD and the neighbourhood teams are also based at Woodside there is a close working relationship. The EHC's have been working alongside the Local Ward Officer for Royds to run cost of living roadshows in partnership with the local community get the right support for vulnerable families in their own area. There are also regular ward meetings where the hub team is able to input into the locality plans and build links with local partners.

## **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**

Family Hubs and Supporting Families targets align well to community safety priorities and associated risk factors. We will continue to work together to align to and support Area Action plans and priorities.

### **7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

None.

### **7.5 TRADE UNION**

Statutory consultation is being undertaken in regard to any employees transferring across to the new Children's Service Trust.

### **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 & 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. To make recommendations which support implementation of local services and plans.

**11. APPENDICES**

None.

**12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Revised Early Help Strategy 2020-2025