



Family Hub Bulletin – Issue 2: June 2023

Welcome to the Family Hub Bulletin – Issue 2: June 2023

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Update



Since January and with the co-production work on our Family Hub Theory of Change (attached) we have been busy on a number of workstreams. Thank you to the following agencies that worked with Ecorys (the national evaluation team) on the development of our Theory of Change: Merton Connected, Public Health, Central London Community Health (CLCH) and the LBM Youth and Children's Centre Services. We would also like to thank everyone for their partnership collaboration and work on the initial preparatory work with the Family Hub branding, which greatly influenced the final decisions and look and feel of our fabulous new brand. Following on from this work we have been able to identify some initial service gaps and opportunities which we will be reviewing over the coming months. We were really pleased to hear the enthusiasm and excitement for the opportunities that a Family Hub approach could provide.

We are delighted to announce Phase One of the Implementation – introducing the location of our agreed Family Hub Sites, launching our Family Hub brand and sharing the next steps for Family Hubs in Merton. This event will be taking place on 2 August 2023 across both Family Hub Site 1; Church Road Children's Centre and Phipps Bridge Youth Centre, and Family Hub site 2; Acacia Children's Centre and Adventure Playground. As this date coincides with National Play Day, there will also be many fun activities taking place for local families to attend, and a few stall holders will be present who will be discussing their services on the day to raise awareness of local services on offer to residents.

Extension of the Family Hubs Transformation Fund

DfE have now confirmed the extension to the Family Hubs Transformation Fund (TF1). We, along with other TF1 Local authorities, had raised risks and challenges we faced as a result of the compressed timeline for delivery, and DfE has been eager to ensure that we are able to maximise the potential of our plans and to realise sustainable change over the long-term.

We are pleased to confirm that TF1 will now run until the end of the summer term 2024. This means that we have slightly longer time to deliver our Family Hub programme enhancing communications, connections and collaborations on Family Hubs with our partners and residents.

Start for Life



The Best start -1001 critical days review sets out a vision to transform how we support families to ensure babies get the best possible start in life, detailing 6 action areas:

- seamless support for families
- a welcoming hub for families
- the information families need when they need it
- an empowered Start for Life workforce
- continually improving the Start for Life offer
- leadership for change

The report recommends that every local area develop and make clearly accessible a coherent and joined up Start for Life offer that sets out the support that families may need.

The initial phase of implementation will be focusing on the 0–2-year-olds and their families at the Family Hub. This is called the Start for Life Programme and we are expected to design, develop and publish Merton's Start for Life offer by 31 October 2023. Our new Strategic Lead for the Programme is Dr Sanjana Jio, who will help us publish Merton's offer for Early years and Families, is now in post. An enormous welcome to her in her new role.

Merton's Start for Life offer should include:

- Health visiting
- Midwifery
- Infant feeding and specialist breastfeeding support
- Safeguarding
- Mental health support
- SEND support

Start for Life Partnership

The Start for Life Partnership meets each month to enable collective responsibility for the design, development, delivery, promotion and effectiveness of Merton's Start for Life Offer in line with the following guidance:

- Publishing your Start for Life offer - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Family Hubs and Start for Life programme: local authority guide

We are currently also developing and launching our Family Hub Community Engagement Strategy, and Start for Life Parent/Carer Panel to strengthen and co-design delivery across our Family Hub and Start for Life model in response to local need

If you work with families and babies aged 0-2 and/or would like to be a part of the Start for Life Partnership, within the Family Hub programme, please email familyhubs@merton.gov.uk

Service Mapping – Contribute to Merton's Family Hub Development

We are required to have a comprehensive overview of all activity in the Family Hub service areas (by all statutory and partner organisations). In doing so we will be able to provide clear and accessible information for families, define pathways between services and use information to inform future service delivery plans.

Please complete the online survey and share details of your service: Contribute to Merton's Family Hub Development

Family Hub Participation and Engagement



Hi everyone, my name is Beatrice, and I am the new Family Hub Participation and Engagement Manager. I am very excited to be involved in the setting up of Family Hubs in Merton and look forward to engaging with you over the coming months.

It is particularly important to me that we involve the voices of as many partners, families, parents and carers, as well as children and young people, as possible, including those from underrepresented communities, to help in the co-design, development and delivery of the Family Hubs in Merton.

My first project within this role will be setting up a Parent/Carer Panel as part of the Start for Life Programme. The Start for Life Programme sets out the vision of providing families with the

integrated support they need to care for their children from conception, throughout the early years, and into the start of adulthood. This is to enable parents to establish a firm foundation for their children, from which to meet their full potential in life.

Setting up the Parent/Carer Panel will involve identifying and mapping existing platforms and parent/carers forums, and in doing so ensuring that we are hearing the voices of as many parents

and carers as possible, whilst particularly ensuring that we are reaching parents and carers from underrepresented and underserved communities.

If you are aware of networks, forums or groups, both informal or formal involved with parents and carers of babies and children from 0 to 2 years old, I would love to hear from you. Similarly, if you are an organisation who would like to be part of the Family Hub design, development and feedback, please do contact me on familyhubs@merton.gov.uk

Keeping in touch



These email bulletins will be sent out every month to keep you up to date with Family Hub developments

If you would like to contact us with any queries, comments or suggestion please contact familyhubs@merton.gov.uk

