

## BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)**

**TITLE: FAMILY HUBS AND START FOR LIFE DELIVERY MODEL**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>29 November 2023</b>
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio</b>	<b>Children's Services</b>
<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Public or Private</b>	<b>Public</b>

### **Purpose of report**

To inform Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation in relation to the proposed Family Hubs and Start for Life delivery model.

To seek Cabinet's approval to implement a new service delivery model based on community-based delivery and six designated Family Hub sites, replacing the existing Family Centre delivery model. This will fulfil statutory requirements and support the delivery of the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme in line with Department for Education (DFE) guidance.

### **Council Plan priority**

The proposed delivery model for the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme will positively impact on the Council Plan priorities of:

Healthy Barnsley, Growing Barnsley, Learning Barnsley, Enabling Barnsley

### **Recommendations**

**That Cabinet: -**

- 1. Approves the implementation of a new service delivery model, based on community-based delivery and six designated Family Hub sites replacing the existing Family Centre delivery model which will fulfil statutory requirements and support the delivery of the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme delivery in line with Department for Education (DFE) guidance.**
- 2. Approves the de-designation of the remaining family centres as children's centres and the ceasing of operation of the ten family centre sites cited in this report.**

**3. Endorses an exploration into the feasibility of a town centre site for delivery.**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Family Hubs are a place-based way of joining up locally the planning and delivery of family services. They bring services together to improve access, improve the connections between families, professionals, services, and providers, and put relationships at the heart of family support. Family Hubs offer support to families with children of all ages, from 0-19 years or up to 25 years for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), with a great Start for Life offer at their core.
- 1.2 Barnsley Council is benefitting from £3.4million funding, between November 2022 and March 2025, to transform our local delivery of services to align with the Family Hubs framework and meet all minimum and a number of go further programme requirements. The programme's objective is to join up and enhance services delivered through transformed Family Hub services in local authority areas, ensuring all parents and carers can access the support they need when they need it.
- 1.3 Through the programme, parents and carers should feel supported and empowered in caring for and nurturing their babies, children and young people, ensuring they receive the best start in life. This in turn will improve health and education outcomes and enable them to thrive in later life.
- 1.4 To access the programme funding Local Authorities must take action to ensure that they meet the minimum and a number of go further requirements which are set out in a comprehensive programme guide.

The funding provided is broken down into six key strands:

- Transformation
- Parenting Support
- Home Learning Environment and Early Language Skills
- Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationships
- Infant Feeding
- Publishing the Start for Life Offer and Parent Carer Panels

- 1.5 In summary, the Programme will:

- provide support to parents and carers so they are able to nurture their babies and children, improving health and education outcomes for all.
- contribute to a reduction in inequalities in health and education outcomes for babies, children and families across England by ensuring that support provided is communicated to all parents and carers, including those who are hardest to reach and/or most in need of it.
- build the evidence base for what works when it comes to improving health and education outcomes for babies, children and families in different

delivery contexts.

## **2. Proposal**

### **2.1 Public Consultation**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 a 6-week public consultation was launched in relation to the Council's proposed model for the delivery of Family Hub Services (Please see Appendix 1). The proposal outlined the delivery model for accessible Family Hub and Start for Life services in line with the Department for Education Programme Guidance and Family Hub framework. The public consultation closed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2023. The consultation was carried out in line with the statutory requirements outlined in the The Childcare Act (2006) Section 5D Children's Centres.

2.2 The survey was available for completion online and paper copies were made available at local Family Centres, I Know I Can Youth (IKIC) Centres and Libraries. Family Centre staff attended a wide range of local community events to promote the consultation and support people to share their views and the consultation was widely promoted across council social media accounts. An All-Member Briefing was held to raise awareness of elected members of the consultation and to support engagement of families and wider stakeholders.

2.3 A series of face-to-face drop-in sessions were held in Family Centres and online to enable questions to be answered and to support completion of the survey. Additionally, a series of briefings were held for elected members and Area Council officers. Partner agencies were provided with information about the consultation and supported with the promotion of the consultation across their networks.

2.4 The consultation survey asked a total of 15 questions relating to the proposals as well as a number of questions to gather the sample demographics. A total of 494 survey responses were received.

### **2.5 Outcome of the Consultation**

The detailed consultation findings can be found in Appendix 2. The appendix includes the demographics of respondents and detailed responses to the survey questions.

2.6 Respondents were asked how much they agreed or disagreed with the proposal to designate one Family Hub in each Area Council. 47.8% of the respondents agreed with the proposal, 40.2% disagreed and 12.1% neither agreed nor disagreed.

2.7 There were two areas of Barnsley where respondents mostly disagreed with the proposal to designate one Family Hub in each Area Council and this was in the South and Dearne. The main reason stated by those disagreeing with the proposal was the proposed location of the designated Family Hub in these areas.

- 2.8 The consultation outlined that Family Hub services will be delivered from a number of sites such as libraries, settings, schools or other community buildings. Respondents were asked where they currently access services and these included GP practices, Hospital and Family Centres. Respondents indicated they would feel comfortable accessing services in the future through Family Hubs/Centres.
- 2.9 Respondents were asked how much they agreed or strongly agreed with a number of statements relating to what was most important to them:

<b>% Agreed or Strongly Agreed</b>	<b>Statement</b>
90.2	Delivering services for children and families close to my home is essential to me
65.4	I would find it more convenient if services were all in one place
64.5	I would be happy to access services somewhere other than Family Hubs
51.3	I am aware of the range of services that are delivered by voluntary and community organisations in my local area
35.7	I am aware of the opportunities available to volunteer my time to support the delivery of services in my local area
34.9	I currently access services/support (such as parent/toddler group or an informal network of friends) which are delivered by a local voluntary or community group

- 2.10 Respondents were asked what services they thought need to be provided in their local area for children and families. *“Mental health and emotional wellbeing support for children”* had the highest response (92%) closely followed by *“Family support and advice”* (90.5%). In addition, families rated highly activities for children aged 0-10 years old, early learning and mental health and emotional support for adults.
- 2.11 The survey asked which from a number of services were important to provide locally at other sites in the community, in addition to the designated Family Hub. The most popular services with respondents were stay and play sessions (64%), early learning (61%), family support and advice (61%), access to mental health and emotional wellbeing for children (56.7%) and parenting courses (50%).
- 2.12 Consultation Response
- The detailed consultation findings provide the Council and its partners with information from families and stakeholders that will inform the delivery of services as part of the Family Hub and Start for Life programme.
- 2.13 Across the borough, the majority of respondents were supportive of the

proposals. The findings demonstrate that respondents in the South and Dearne Area Councils are concerned about the proposed location of the designated Family Hub and it is critical that the commitment in the proposal to ensure that services are accessible across local communities is implemented in full.

- 2.14 The proposed model has been developed to ensure Family Hub services will be widely available in local areas and delivered from a range of venues as well as designated Family Hub buildings. The programme requires that Family Hubs and Start for Life services are delivered face to face in a Family Hub, face to face in the community in other sites and virtually. The proposed model is not just about buildings, but how we make sure we have accessible Family Hub services across a community, placing a greater emphasis on outreach activity in a way which make sense to families. The proposed model will enable staff to deliver in this flexible way and be less tied to building management.
- 2.15 It is positive that a significant number of respondents in the consultation survey agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal. Whilst a number stated that they disagreed or strongly disagreed, analysis of the reasons given suggest that the main drivers to this are challenges that could be overcome through the mechanisms by which the model is delivered.
- 2.16 A significant proportion of these respondents were concerned in relation to the perceived closure of Dearne Family Centre. This site would not close under the new model, it would not be a designated site but would still be utilised for early years education provision and for the delivery of Family Hub services.
- 2.17 Concerns were raised in the consultation in relation to the Jump Family Centre and implications on the access to Family Hub services for residents within this area. Whilst the proposed model would not see a designated Family Hub operating from the current Family Centre at Jump, it is proposed that services will still be delivered within the Jump community, working in partnership with existing delivery spaces such as the local primary school and the local working men's club for example.
- 2.18 Whilst there is an emphasis on Family Hub and Start for Life services being delivered within designated Family Hubs buildings there is equal emphasis on these services also being delivered within the community within other outreach and community spaces such as libraries, youth centres, schools, early years setting, health settings, community centres and faith buildings. Additionally, a key element of the programme is ensuring adequate provision and access to services virtually.
- 2.19 Transport was raised as a potential barrier by a number of respondents and the impact of the cost of living to support transport costs to access designated Family Hubs buildings. As outlined above the delivery model is not solely reliant on services being delivered directly within Family Hub sites and therefore it is planned that families will be able to access support and services within their local communities.
- 2.20 The consultation survey did highlight that a number of respondents felt they

would benefit from Family Hubs and Start for Life services being delivered within Barnsley Town Centre. Cabinet is asked to note that the option to establish facilities within the town centre and for this to be explored with Barnsley Council's Assets Service. With increased footfall in the town centre as part of the town centre regeneration programme and good transport links into Barnsley Bus station, it is felt that this could have a positive impact on Barnsley families. The Early Start and Families Service already successfully utilise existing resources such as the Library and Market Kitchen to deliver some Family Hubs and Start for Life services such as parent education programmes and the Rose Vouchers for Fruit and Vegetable scheme.

2.21 It is important that there is an effective communications plan which articulates the enhanced offer in the delivery of Family Hubs and Start for Life services so that families are aware of what and where they can access support at the earliest opportunity. Through its close alignment to the Supporting Families programme this approach will facilitate the delivery of an effective early help system and also support us in bringing further investment into the Council as a direct result of achieving the Supporting Families programme payment by results targets.

#### 2.22 Family Hub Services and Designation

The proposed model supports our aspiration for every child to have the best start in life. We want to make sure that all communities and partners work together to make Barnsley the best place that it can be for children growing up by delivering strong early help support for children, young people and their families. Making sure that people get:

- the right help
- at the right time
- in the right place

2.23 Barnsley Council currently operates a Family Centre hub and spoke model with 5 main Family Centre sites, 5 linked Family Centre sites and 8 outreach and community venues. Of these sites, a total of 10 sites are registered as Children's Centres in the operation of the council's statutory duty set out in *The Childcare Act (2006) Section 5A* in relation to arrangements for provision of children's centres which states that:

'(1) Arrangements made by an English local authority under section 3(2) must, so far as is reasonably practicable, include arrangements for sufficient provision of children's centres to meet local need.'

2.24 To help us achieve our vision, it is proposed that the Council implements a new Family Hubs and Start for Life delivery model building upon and evolving from the current Family Centre model. The new model will develop five of our existing Family Centres and a community building into six designated Family Hubs, offering support for families with children aged from 0 up to 19 years old (up to 25 for young people with special education needs and disabilities – SEND).

2.25 It is proposed that there will be one designated Family Hub in each Area Council locality:

<b>Area Council</b>	<b>Proposed Designated Family Hub Location</b>
Dearne	Thurnscoe Family Centre Station Road Thurnscoe Barnsley S63 0JR
Central	Kendray and Worsbrough Family Centre Overdale Avenue Worsbrough Barnsley S70 4BD
North	Athersley Family Centre Lindhurst Road Athersley North Barnsley S71 3NB
North East	Grimethorpe Family Centre Milefield Primary School Grimethorpe Barnsley S72 7BH
South	Wombwell Family Centre/IKIC Centre Barnsley Road Wombwell Barnsley S73 8HT
Penistone	Penistone Library High Street Penistone Barnsley S36 6BR Potential Temporary Location at Penistone IKIC Centre)

2.26 In addition to the proposed designated Family Hub sites, two further Family Centre sites will remain operational to support and enable the delivery of the onsite early years education provision and will remain available to utilise to deliver Family Hubs and Start for Life service activity. These are:

Dearne Family Centre, Billingley View, Bolton on Dearne, S63 8ES
Darfield Family Centre, School Street, Darfield, S73 9EU

2.27 The Family Hub service will work in partnership with a number of services and voluntary sector organisations to provide access to a wide range of activities and support for children, young people and their families as part of the Family Hub umbrella of support. Support will be delivered physically in the Hub building and across the Hub area using other community buildings such as libraries, youth centres, community buildings, local businesses, GP surgeries, early years settings and schools. The support services available to families experiencing need in the following areas in line with the Family Hub service expectations:

- Parenting support including parent education
- Infant feeding
- Home Learning environment and early language skills
- Perinatal mental health
- Publishing the local start for Life offer
- Establishing parent carer panels
- Activities for children 0-5
- Birth registration
- Debt and welfare advice support
- Domestic abuse support
- Early childhood education and care and financial support
- Health visiting
- Housing
- Intensive targeted family support services, including those funded by the supporting families programme
- Local authority 0-19 Public Health services
- Mental health services
- Midwifery/maternity
- Nutrition/weight management
- Oral health improvement
- Reducing parental conflict
- SEND support and services
- Stop smoking support
- Substance misuse support
- Support for separating and separated parents
- Youth justice services
- Youth service – universal and targeted

2.28 The key principles of access, relationships and connection are at the heart of Family Hub services. This means that services will be responsive to the needs of the whole family as they arise, using resources flexibly and creatively to meet those needs. This will make it easier for parents and carers with children of different ages to access the support, information and advice they need.

2.29 Staff across a range of different services will work closely together to deliver support for families, co-locating within the designated Family Hubs to enable the effective co-ordination and delivery of services.

The proposed model of delivery will be flexible to meet the needs of families utilising the Family Hubs sites and other community assets to deliver services from, meaning that staff can prepare and respond to needs and deliver frontline

services with less emphasis on operating/managing buildings.

2.30 The designated Family Hub sites have been determined based on:

- suitability, size and readiness to deliver Family Hub services.
- location in relation to levels of deprivation and disadvantaged communities
- rural isolation

2.31 All Barnsley families will be able to access services through the Family Hub model wherever they live. The proposed model will provide more services and support for families across Barnsley. Families will be able to access support face-to-face in a Family Hub, face-to-face in the community and online.

2.32 The proposed model will help us to better provide support for families from conception throughout the early, primary and secondary years, and into early adulthood. We want to make sure every family knows what and where their local Family Hub is, and know that, if they walk through the front door and access any of our Family Hub services, they will be welcomed by staff who are able to support their needs, and who can connect them with services that will be able to help.

2.33 Family Hub services will make sure the support we give is joined up, and that children and families are better able to access the right help, at the right time. The location of some of the services currently delivered at Family Centre sites will not change, but for some services, they may be held in different locations across the Family Hub area. We will make sure that families who may be affected by these changes are supported through the transition and continue to be supported to access the services they need.

2.34 The Family Hubs and Start for Life funding will be used to develop our existing early help provision delivered through a strong Family Hub and Start for Life offer. The success of the programme is fundamental to sustainable and effective Children's Services and SEND system.

2.35 Governance

The Family Hubs and Start for Life programme is overseen by Barnsley's Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group and the respective subgroups Starting Well and Growing Well. With their strategic oversight, accountability and commitment we aim to implement the proposed model of delivery with all six designated sites being operational by March 2024. We aim to develop the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme offer to ensure it meets the Family Hubs framework and programme guide minimum and meet further expectations in line with our delivery plan by March 2025.

2.36 Further work will be undertaken through our Community Early Help Delivery Groups and Parent Carer Panels who report into our Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group. This work will have a specific focus on developing the proposed model of delivery at local community level, working collaboratively across partners to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place in relation to proposed community delivery locations in each of the six local Area Councils informed by the consultation findings.

### **3 IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### 3.1 Financial and Risk

3.2 The total allocation of £3.429m Family Hubs and Start for Life programme revenue and capital funding to deliver Start for Life and Family services over 3 financial years is detailed in the table below:

	Revenue	Capital	Total
Year 1 - 22/23	792,130	40,487	832,617
Year 2 - 23/24	1,353,488	59,752	1,413,240
Year 3 - 24/25	1,125,476	57,524	1,183,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,271,094</b>	<b>157,763</b>	<b>3,428,857</b>

3.3 The funding must be spent in line with the six key strands as agreed in the submitted delivery model and across the above three financial years. The following outlines the key spending plan for 2023/24:

- Family Hubs Programme £343,700
- Perinatal Mental Health and Parent-infant Relationships £429,700
- Parenting Support £214,700
- Infant Feeding Support £207,400
- Home Learning Environment Services £107,600
- Publishing 'Start for Life' offers and Parent Carer Panels £50,400
- Family Hubs Capital £59,752

3.4 Any unspent grant allocation at each year end could potentially be clawed back and must have approval by the DfE to be carried forward to the next financial year. In 2022/23 DfE approved a carry forward balance of £653,594 revenue and £40,487 capital into 2023/24, with agreement the revenue funding would be fully utilised by October 2023 (subsequently been revised to 31 March 2024). It is important that carry forward spend does not impact on the year 2 allocation spend.

3.5 The capital funding provided within the DfE grant will be used to support with modifications to existing buildings to improve Family Hubs accessibility for children, young people and families and enable the co-location of services.

3.6 Whilst the purpose of implementing the proposed new model has not been to achieve financial savings it is envisaged that there is potential to save on maintenance and operating costs associated with operating the current number of Family Centre sites. Any operating cost savings as a result of the rationalisation of the current sites would be reflected in the asset management / property budgets. This is supportive of the council's asset review strategy and medium-term financial strategy.

### 3.7 Risk / Mitigations

- Failure to implement a model of delivery that is supportive of the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme of delivery and which meets all minimum requirements and go furthers set out in the agreed submitted delivery plan and in line with the DfE grant conditions; could result in

withdrawal and potential claw back of funding. This is being mitigated by a detailed delivery plan with regular monitoring and oversight to ensure corrective action is taken. The commitment from the Children and Young People's Trust partners ensure priority is given to ensuring effective multi-agency delivery in the proposed model.

- A potential risk is that there continues to be delays in spending the allocation in each financial year, resulting in claw back by DfE and a reduction in the overall funding allocation. This is mitigated by regular monitoring meetings with the DfE to set out plans and corrective action. This maintains confidence in Barnsley to delivery the requirements of the programme supported by the arrangements described above.
- There is some potential for reputational risk as implementing this model could be perceived as cutting services. This will be mitigated with a strong communications plan which articulates the enhanced offer in the delivery of Family Hubs and start for life services that would be available to all families with the implementation of the new delivery model.

### **3.8 Legal**

3.9 There are no unanticipated legal implications for the Council emerging through the recommended option in this report. The public consultation is in line with statutory duties and requirements.

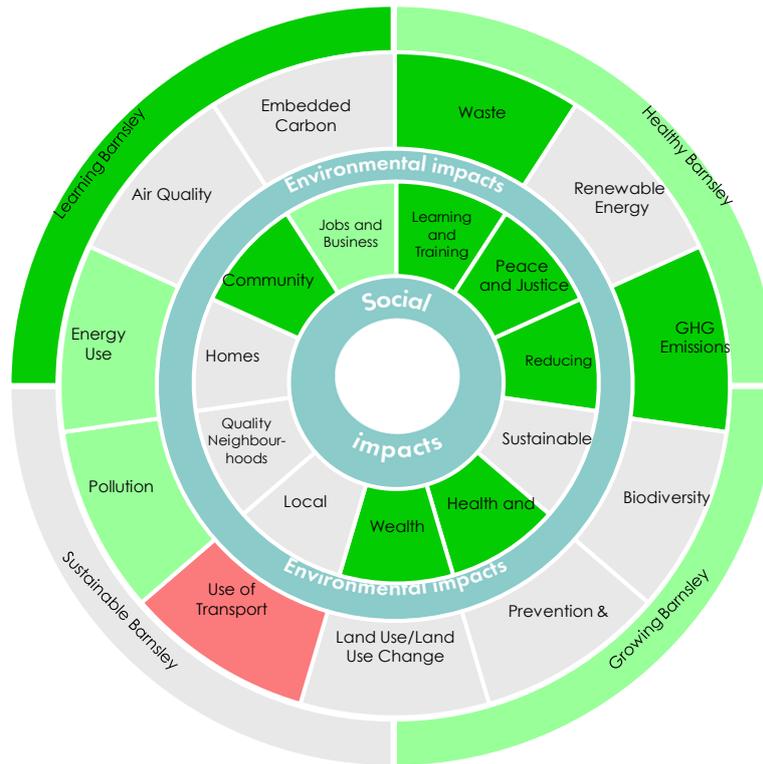
### **3.10 Equality**

3.11 A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed (Please see Appendix 4).

3.12 The equality impact assessment identifies that a number of people with protected characteristics will be impacted by the implementation of the proposed delivery model. Assessment of this impact demonstrates that this is likely to be positive. The model will see an enhanced offer of universal and targeted early help support available to all children, young people and families including a focus on supporting engagement of those with protected characteristics. This model will support children, young people and families to access the right support in the right place, at the right time.

### **3.13 Sustainability**

3.14 A decision-making wheel has been completed and is enclosed as part of a consideration of any wider implications potentially emerging through the proposal in this report (Please see Appendix 3)



### 3.15 Employee

3.16 Employee implications in relation to the recommended delivery model are minimal with a number of positive impacts. The model takes into consideration the existing Early Start and Families service structure with no job reductions proposed as part of the implementation. Some staff may be redeployed to work from alternative sites as part of the reconfiguration of designated Family Hub buildings.

3.17 There have been a number of new job roles created within this area as a direct result of the Family Hubs and Start for Life service developments which has provided a number of positive progression opportunities for employees. The Family Hubs and Start for Life programme includes an extensive programme of workforce development which provides a number of opportunities for employees to develop their skills and knowledge and gain new experience.

### 3.18 Communications

3.19 We recognise that a key element in relation to the success of the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme is an effective communications strategy. Working closely with the Council's corporate communications department is important to ensure that this is appropriately considered and planned in relation to the expectations of the programme and the priorities of the Council.

3.20 Due to the significance and breadth of this programme of work a full time Communications and Marketing Officer position has been created within the

communications team structure to provide capacity to support the design and implementation of a cohesive communications plan.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 On the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 a 6-week public consultation was launched in relation to the Council's proposed model to deliver Family Hub and Start for Life services (Please see Appendix 2 and section 2 of this report).

#### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 Continue to operate the existing Family Centre model.

This current model limits the Council and its partners' ability to deliver the full objectives and requirements of the Family Hub and Start for Life programme. The current model is heavily focused on services being delivered in Family Centre buildings, and due to the number of sites operated, this requires a significant number of employees to work on site as 'management cover' to ensure they can operate. It therefore prevents staff and services from being as accessible as needed in the community. For example, on site management cover requirements in relation to the linked sites can mean that up to five full time equivalent case holding targeted early help support practitioners can be required to undertake management cover at these sites all day, five days a week. This means that they are unable to undertake home visits which directly impacts on the support available to families on their caseload. Due to the imbalance of the number of sites across each Area Council, and the current staffing structure there is a negative impact on the equality of the offer across the borough as whole with some sites being able to deliver more services and activity sessions due to having less of a requirement of staff having to manage buildings. This means that the level and access to services across communities can differ depending on where a person lives.

- 5.2 Due to the increased number of services required to be delivered in line with the Family Hub and Start for Life programme requirements, including extended operating times at evenings and weekends it is felt that this would place significant pressure on the service to maintain delivery within the existing staffing structure and would adversely impact the delivery of all of the programme outcomes.
- 5.3 The size of some of the existing Family Centre sites would present challenges in terms of accommodating all of the programme requirements of a designated site, for example there would not be enough space to enable the co-location of practitioners from a variety of services as well as delivering the range of services required.
- 5.4 This model is deemed the least viable option as it places a greater emphasis on staff being present in buildings and prevents them from reaching out into the community and providing outreach services. This would impact the ability to engage those families who are harder and currently never reached or most in need. Additionally, with this option the council continues to incur the costs associated with operating and maintaining a total of 18 Family Hub buildings

(5 main, 5 linked and 8 outreach sites).

## **6. Reason for Recommendation**

- 6.1 In giving detailed consideration to the responses emerging through the local consultation and taking into account the Governments' requirements in relation to the programme, the recommendation for Cabinet is to approve the proposed new model consisting of 6 designated Family Hubs sites, one in each Area Council locality in addition to community-based delivery. This would include designating the six Family Hub sites as 'children's centres' in order to meet the statutory duty to ensure sufficient Children's Centres. As a result, they will be regulated and inspected by Ofsted under the current inspection framework for Children's Centres. This should provide communities with the assurance regarding range, reach and quality of delivery.
- 6.2 The proposed model would deliver a number of benefits to Barnsley residents including the opportunity to further strengthen the focus on the needs of children, young people and families at the earliest opportunity and on those most in need of support through early intervention, increasing resilience and reducing the need for statutory social care involvement.
- 6.3 The model will enable an enhanced programme of support meaning that families have more access to information and support services and they can access services in ways that make most sense to them for example via community venues as well as designated Family Hubs sites. The proposed model will also enable us to test out innovative ways of working and link in more effectively with other local strategies such as the health on the high street approach.
- 6.4 In the longer term, through providing greater access to universal and early intervention services across a wide range of family help areas, it is envisaged that this would contribute to reducing demand for more targeted and specialist services therefore reducing the time that vulnerable families who need support, have to wait for a service. The preferred model will build on the existing strengths of the local early help system and move away from reliance on particular static sites with fixed assets.
- 6.5 The proposal is to move to a more flexible and responsive approach that brings services to those that need them i.e. outreach in the community and in the home. The needs of families are not static and often fluctuate over time. It is therefore essential that the model taken forward is able to respond to these needs in a new way, so that families are not expected to travel across the borough to access services. In line with the above point, this preferred model will enable flexible and time limited outreach services on a small, more local scale, when intelligence suggests this is required in particular areas, for example, work on antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse incidents.
- 6.6 Additionally, the proposed model will support local communities so that they can develop universal provision in particular areas by providing advice and guidance on the effective delivery of services to children, young people and families and by working with them to identify potential sites that could be used

for service delivery which makes sense to them. Ultimately it is envisaged that this preferred option will deliver better impact for families through the delivery of an enhanced Family Hubs and Start for Life services offer.

- 6.7 An additional benefit of the proposed model is that with less designated sites in operation there is potential for some financial savings due to a potential decrease in operational and maintenance costs. This would be supportive of the council's medium term financial strategy.
- 6.8 The proposed model does not make any proposals to reduce services or staffing, rather it enables the delivery of a stronger more enhanced offer, it demonstrates the council's commitment to protecting and investing in children and family support services.

## 7. GLOSSARY

- 7.1 Not applicable

## 8. LIST OF APPENDICES

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Family Hubs Consultation

Appendix 2 – Consultation Findings

Appendix 3 – Sustainability Decision Wheel

Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Assessment

## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk) so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

## 10. REPORT SIGN OFF

<b>Financial consultation &amp; sign off</b>	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date. <i>Joshua Amahwe (23/10/2023)</i>
<b>Legal consultation &amp; sign off.</b>	Legal Services officer consulted and date. <i>M P Farrell (Marianne Farrell, Team Leader, Legal Services)</i>

**Report Author: Laura Hammerton**

**Post: Early Start and Families Strategy and Service Manager**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023**