



Family Hub Team

## Hello

Since officially launching **Family Hubs** in Leicestershire in mid-June, we wanted to touch base with you to share our updates. Having received notification of the funding towards the end of 2022, to our partners conference and opening our first 6 Family Hubs, we have been caught up in a whirlwind of activity!

The creation of Family Hubs in Leicestershire provides us with an amazing opportunity to come together as a partnership to review, re-focus and re-align the way we are delivering support to children, young people, and families in the county. Leicestershire has a strong track record of partnership delivery, but it seems timely that in this 'post Covid' phase we pause to reconsider together how we are creating and sharing our vision for the delivery of integrated services for families who need help.

From our engagement work across the partnership, we know that we are all finding challenges in networking in a world of hybrid working, in a context of high demand and often reduced resources. We also know that there are challenges for the workforce to understand the entirety of the offer for families across the county, and this can hinder supporting families to make informed choices about the services they use. Linked to this, there are challenges for all of us in keeping up to date with new initiatives and programmes, whether local or national.

### **But the concept of Hubs make sense.**

Where Hubs are buildings in local communities it makes sense that they are places where families can go for information, advice, and support. It makes sense that when families contact support agencies, that those agencies understand the range of support and information that is available for that family and can signpost or refer or enable families to find what they need.



We are particularly pleased to be working with our colleagues in library services to help extend the reach of the Family Hubs concept. Leicestershire Libraries have always been buildings that welcome children and families and so are a natural partner in this programme. This partnership is enabling us to create Family Hub areas in libraries with resources for families to borrow, and use of public access computers to support with the digital poverty agenda.

To supplement our buildings-based programme we are in the early stages of building a Family Hubs website for Leicestershire. As well as providing information about services, referral routes, etc. we will develop this site as a resource bank, providing both resources to support those families who are able to self-help, as well as providing tools for practitioners from any organisation to use in their work with families and to understand what else is on offer.

We welcome all partners to get involved in with Family Hubs, whether this is at a local level or through some of our thematic working groups. Currently we have a focus on developing the website and developing a Maternity and Early Years Strategy and Plan for Leicestershire. We are also launching a number of local Family Hub network events from September (details on pg 5). If you would like to get involved with Family Hubs or have ideas and suggestions for our network events that you would like to discuss further, please **get in touch** if you wish with us

## A SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH

In mid-June, we held our first partnership conference at Kegworth, which attracted over 50 organisations from across our county. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet up in person, listen to inspirational speakers, and have the chance to share our thinking, network and focus on shared priorities. We received great feedback from those who attended and are already planning our 2024 Partner Conference. In the interim, we are hosting a **Partner Briefing at 12pm, 27th September 2023**. If you'd like more information, please drop us an [email](#).



100%

Attendees stated the organisation of the event was very good and excellent.



96%

Attendees thought the event was very good and excellent.



93%

Attendees would highly recommend colleagues to attend the next event.

## WHAT OUR PARTNERS SHARED ABOUT OUR CONFERENCE



"Time to hear about some fabulous developments and how we can work together and make change"

"Feeling excited about a shared visions for a multi-agency community approach for family hubs and impacts on families."

"Very interesting workshops and good opportunities to influence the work moving forward. incredibly grateful to be part of this powerful day."

"A deeper understanding of RPC more generally – particularly the work ongoing in Leicestershire."

## THE FIRST SIX HUBS ARE OPEN

It's exciting to see our progress so far with the **successful opening of 6 Family Hubs**. The launches attracted local Councillors, LCC staff and local families, young people and partner organisations. Our media coverage has been fantastic, and we are determined to keep providing the best support possible to our communities while building relationships with partners to ensure our Hubs succeed.

Our next step is to establish and launch our Family Hubs in selected children's centres and libraries across the county. We have around 20 currently planned to open between September 2023 to March 2024, ensuring everyone has access to the help they need. This is just the beginning, and we hope to open more soon.

**Listen to our latest interview** from the BBC at our Market Harborough launch, which starts at 3:38:51.



## HOW WE'VE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER

Following the success of our partner conference, we've been working hard to improve the services we offer and make sure that families and young people across the county have access to the support they need.

From working with internal teams and extending our partnership working to increased community outreach, we're continuing to improve our service delivery and grow our Family Hubs offering. We're not stopping there, linking, and working together with you – our partners – is key to the success of providing our communities with the support they need.

We've been working hard to build our partnerships with:

- LCC Healthy Tots Oral Health Team
- LCC Communication and Language Team
- LCC Local Offer (SEND)
- LCC Culture and Heritage Team
- LCC Supporting Families Employment and Financial Exclusion Advisor (part of DWP)
- **Children & Families Partnership Priority One Best Start in Life:** expanding the membership and developing a Maternity and Early Years Strategy
- **Reducing Parental Conflict Core Development Group** – a subgroup of the Early Help Partnership
- Working more closely with key colleagues across the **voluntary sector**
- We've linked with a couple of Local children's charities (Menphys and HCYC) and are currently discussing partnership opportunities. **Menphys** support children and young people with disabilities, and **HCYC** supports vulnerable and isolated children and young people across the Harborough District by providing play and youth work activity sessions, clubs, and projects.
- **NHS Children's Vaccine Programme** – A Children's Nurse is engaging with parents to discuss the benefits of their children receiving vaccines and to assess if there are any barriers to accessing vaccines so they can better understand why numbers have dropped.



- **Centre for Fun and Families** - We're working in the Loughborough area to promote Maternity Equity. We want to share the importance of booking early to see a midwife, attending scans and infant feeding. We are also recruiting volunteers to act as Maternity Champions to go out in the community to support Maternity Equity.

Family Hubs is about working in partnership to link up services and provide better support for our communities, if you'd like to get involved with Family Hubs or have any ideas about how we can work together, please [email us](#).

## RELATIONSHIPS MATTER IN LEICESTERSHIRE – OUR COMMITMENT

Here in Leicestershire, we believe that strong, thriving communities are built by people who have strong, thriving relationships with their partners, children, colleagues, neighbours, and friends. We are stronger together.

1. We will continue to work in partnership, alongside children, young people and families to promote the importance of good quality relationships.
2. We will support all organisations who work with children and families to access good quality training and information. This will include information and training on trauma informed practice. We will provide people who work with families with the skills and resources to start conversation about relationship quality with the families they work with.
3. We will develop and share information and resources for families to self-help, alongside clear information about where further help can be found.
4. We will develop information and guidance so that families and people who work with families, know where they can get further help if it is needed.



Jane Moore, Director of Children and Family Services LCC, Cllr Craig Smith, Sharon Cooke, Assistant Director Targeted Early Help and Children's Social Care LCC, Cllr Deborah Taylor

## FAMILY HUB NETWORK EVENT

In September we will be re-establishing the SEND 0-5 Breakfast Network. This is for colleagues from Healthy Together, Early Learning, Childcare, and Inclusion Service, LPT Speech and Language Service and Children and Family Wellbeing Service to come together and find out more about pathways and services for this age group. This first network event will be in Coalville and then we plan to move around the county.