

## Family Hubs Temperature Check

### Assessing a local authority area's progress in delivering a Family Hubs approach

Are you planning Family Hubs? Are you grappling with design, implementation or development challenges? Wherever you are on your Family Hubs journey, we would love to help. Our Family Hubs Temperature Check gives you quick, insightful and actionable support, to enable you to achieve your goals in a timely and cost-effective way.

Through reviewing and discussing current service provision and development plans, we can assess a LA's progress in delivering a Family Hub network, recommend how to build on current strengths and address areas for development to meet local needs.

This support can be tailored to meet each local authority context, including allocation of DfE funding (or not) and stage of implementation.

#### **Process**

After initial briefing through online meeting(s), LA provides FHN with recent, existing documentation (not requiring additional work by LA/organisation). This may include population data, outcomes data, reports, strategies, and consultations to give insight into current service and development planning.

This is followed by a one-day visit. Structured discussions with your team and relevant partners will enable FHN to identify the current position and readiness for further development. The areas of focus may be:

**Funding:** understand current funding and budgets; provide overview of potential funding strategies to increase service effectiveness and improve impact on outcomes

**Service delivery:** developing the full service offer, including in-person and digitally, to meet population needs and requirements of 0-19 (-25 with SEND) framework (including Start for Life); promoting offer to families and demonstrating delivery

**Partnerships:** identifying and collaborating with key partners; considering roles, services, benefits, opportunities and challenges, sharing data, building relationships and integrated working to increase capacity and achieve shared goals

**Building assets:** reviewing existing and potential usage of local authority and delivery partners' venues within local Family Hub network design; considering accessibility and engagement re target communities; determining purpose as hubs or connected delivery sites

**Staffing:** proposed structures, adapted and new roles; training and professional development

**Governance:** establishing governance structures including partnership board – purpose, members and process

**Data collection and measuring impact:** using management information systems to gather data re outputs, footfall, feedback and measuring impact on family outcomes (short and medium term), using performance frameworks and data booklets

Discussion culminates in identification of strengths, required improvements, potential risks and opportunities. FHN presents a summary report with recommended next steps towards creating a local Family Hub network.

### Timeline

- Commissioning and confirmation of schedule
- Week 1: Preparation – FHN receive and read relevant documents; prepare visit agenda
- Week 2: One-day visit
- Week 3: Summary report with recommendations, presented to LA/organisation (online)

### Costs

Our fees range from £4,000 - £5,000, which includes eight days of consultancy delivered by two FHN consultants, and provides:

- Preparation: briefing; reading briefing documents; preparation for one-day visit including agenda and attendees
- One-day visit with local authority team and relevant partners
- Presentation of summary report

Expenses are charged additionally (standard train fares, mileage @45p per mile, mid-range hotel).

### Family Hubs Network team

**Catherine Barker - Head of Development:** Catherine works extensively with local authorities as they explore Family Hubs policy, design their own systems, and implement and evaluate their work. Through leading the growing network of over 2000 people, Catherine draws on expertise, insights and connections from across the country to help LA/organisations to create systems and services best suited for their communities.

**Denise Beevers – Family Hubs Network Associate:** Family Hub innovator and champion, Denise has been instrumental to the development of Family Hubs in Doncaster and the impressive outcomes achieved. As a FHN consultant, Denise draws on extensive understanding and experience of working with families effectively, creating integrated systems of working across sectors and delivering a more efficient and relationally attuned service, where families are comfortable to engage with support to improve their children's life chances.

**Dr Samantha Callan – Co-founder and Director:** Samantha co-founded the Family Hubs Network in 2019, after first recommending the model in 2007, as part of a major policy review she chaired about how local and national government can help prevent family breakdown and strengthen families more generally. This, and other reviews she led, involved extensive national and international study visits. She has worked as a consultant with multi-national and other firms to increase their effectiveness in cultural change processes (the subject of her PhD).

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the Family Hubs Temperature Check with you. Please contact Catherine Barker: [Catherine@FamilyHubsNetwork.com](mailto:Catherine@FamilyHubsNetwork.com), 020 7920 6192.

*'FHN's Temperature Check has been so useful to us. It's been a great opportunity to stop and reflect on Luton's strong foundations, our progress to date and shape our approach going forward. Drawing on FHN's extensive knowledge of what works and lessons learned in other LAs has enabled us to make sure we use our energy and resources effectively to bring about the system and culture change which we know will benefit Luton families.'*

Michelle Bailey, Public Health Principal, Luton Council