



Family Hubs: Celebrating Progress Forging the Future

A conference to equip local authorities and their partners to keep on transforming support for families so babies, children aged 0-19 (25 if SEND) and their parents/carers thrive

Friday 29 November 2024

Hosted by Family Hubs Network

Sponsored by our partners **Barnardo's**, **Spurgeons** and **HCRG Care Group**



Welcome Note from Dr Samantha Callan OBE, Co-founder and Director of Family Hubs Network



The Family Hubs Network is delighted to welcome you to this conference with our longstanding partners in the Family Hubs movement: Spurgeons, Barnardo's and HCRG Care Group.

It is five years since the Government committed to champion Family Hubs. They have funded over half of local authorities to transform their family support offer and deliver Start for Life services. Funding was continued for another year in the recent Budget so it's a good time to reflect on and celebrate progress made by Family Hubs as well as look to the future.

It is unclear what medium-term funding will be available but there is much ambition to widen and deepen their reach, by spreading Family Hubs across the rest of England and the United Kingdom. This will require drawing in other departments of local and national government and patient engagement with devolved administrations.

We will also air ongoing debates such as whether Family Hubs should be early years or 0-19/25 focused; how much local variability and how much central government specification is required so the model is not so prescriptive that it does not meet local need; and how Family Hubs might be funded in the future.

We have championed Family Hubs for over 15 years out of the conviction that they are indispensable to the social infrastructure of this country. The last few decades of family fragility and breakdown have shown how necessary they are to human and social flourishing but, to reiterate, their sustainability is key to the whole agenda.

We are delighted you have made time to come to this conference to help us work through these vital issues affecting the children, families and communities of the present and the future.

Conference schedule

Welcome and all Plenary Sessions will take place in the Main Hall

08:45-09:20 Registration, refreshments & exhibitor viewing in Main Hall & Café Area

09:20-09:55 Welcome & Introductions **Catherine Barker**, Spurgeons (Event Chair)
Lord Farmer, Co-founder of Family Hubs Network
Ian Soars, Spurgeons
Richard Comerford, HCRG Care Group
Emma Bowman, Barnardo's
Janet Daby MP, Minister for Children & Families
Marc Rooney, Department for Education
Sarah Harriss, Department of Health & Social Care

**09:55-10:20 PLENARY SESSION 1:
WHERE DO FAMILY HUBS FIT INTO NATIONAL & LOCAL FAMILY SUPPORT?**

Why Family Hubs? Dr Samantha Callan OBE, Co-founder & Director of Family Hubs Network

Family Hubs and Reform of Children's Social Care: Josh MacAlister OBE MP, author of 2022 Independent Review of Children's Social Care

Building the Network of Family Support: Zoe Oddy, Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Services

10:25-11:15 MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS - please see screen for room allocations

Building a Family Hubs Network

How to create and sustain the culture and connections to build effective local Family Hub networks.

Contributors: Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service, HCRG Care Group, Dudley & Wakefield Councils

Engaging Dads and Ethnic Minority Communities

How to ensure Family Hubs draw in people from all communities and spread a father-inclusive culture throughout the network.

Contributors: Camden and Lewisham Councils and the Centre for Social Justice

Partnerships with Faith-based Organisations

How faith-based organisations can help increase reach and capacity, and provide ongoing and sustainable networks of support for families.

Contributors: Gather Movement, Good Faith Partnership, New Wine and Spurgeons

Excellence in SEND Provision: How Family Hubs can offer gamechanging support for parents whose children have special educational needs and disabilities.

Contributors: Plymouth Council and the Council for Disabled Children (National Children's Bureau)

Partnerships with Health - social prescribing & tackling health inequalities: How Family Hubs join up and integrate healthcare and health-related family support and comply with statutory guidance from the Health and Care Act 2022.

Contributors: Luton Borough Council, HCRG Care Group, South Tees Hospital NHS Trust and the National Academy for Social Prescribing

Developing Family Hubs Without Central Government Funding: Local authorities share their experiences to date, reflecting on the opportunities, challenges and lessons learned.

Contributors: Wiltshire, Nottinghamshire and Hillingdon Councils

Family Hubs Outcomes Frameworks

Many are calling for a common outcomes framework to measure the impact of Family Hubs: how might this be achieved and what can be learned from those already taking an outcomes-focused approach?

Contributors: Department for Education, HCRG Care Group, Elaine Fulton Consulting and Camden Council

Different Roles for Digital in Family Hubs

How Family Hubs can tap into the full digital potential - everything from Artificial Intelligence to apps for parents, enabling better data sharing and ease of access.

Contributors: Halton and Walsall Councils, Department for Education and Sheffield University

11:15-11:45 Networking tea & coffee break and exhibitor viewing in Main Hall & Café area

11:45-12:10 PLENARY SESSION 2: EVALUATION & EVIDENCE

Gathering Evidence for Family Hubs' Effectiveness: Monica Hingorani, National Centre for Family Hubs

A Shared Focus on Outcomes: Elaine Fulton, Elaine Fulton Consulting

12:10-12:40 PLENARY SESSION 3: LOCAL VARIABILITY IN 0-19 SERVICES

Family Hubs in Urban and Rural Settings: Judith Sellers, HCRG Care Group

Learning from Derby's 'Best in the UK' Family Hub Network: Alix Manning-Jones & Fiona Colton, Derby City Council

Family Hubs: An Interim Review by the Centre for Social Justice: Cristina Odone, Centre for Social Justice

12:40-13:30 Networking lunch and exhibitor viewing in Main Hall & Café area

13:30-14:20 PLENARY SESSION 4: FORGING THE FUTURE FOR FAMILY HUBS

Support for Relationships in Family Hubs: Helen Adam, Family Solutions Group & Claire Field, Parenting Apart Programme

Support for Families Affected by Prison: Tim Lloyd, HMPPS & Vicky Baird, Spurgeons - Prison Family Services

Youth, Schools, Mental Health & Young Futures Hubs: Tracey Tucker, Barnardo's & Anne-Marie Spencer, Wakefield Council

Future Funding of Family Hubs: Sarah Cattan, Nesta

14:25-15:15 AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS - same as morning - please see above

15:15-15:45 Networking tea & coffee break and exhibitor viewing in Main Hall & Café area

15:45-16:35 PLENARY SESSION 5: PANEL WITH Q&A AND COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES

Dr Samantha Callan OBE, Family Hubs Network (Chair); **Ian Soars**, Spurgeons; **Richard Comerford**, HCRG Care Group; **Emma Bowman**, Barnardo's; **Ed Davies**, Centre for Social Justice

16:35-16:40 SUM-UP & CLOSING REMARKS: Catherine Barker, Spurgeons (Event Chair)

Event Sponsors & Exhibitors

Barnardo's

Our mission is changing childhoods & changing lives by helping children & families to be safer, happier, healthier, and more hopeful for over 150 years – and we'll be here for as long as we're needed. We support around 350,000 CYP, parents, and carers every year, including through our family centres, which focus on prevention and early intervention – bringing together a wide range of services to help families give their children the best possible life chances.

Contact: BDUNationalTeam@barnardos.org.uk / www.barnardos.org.uk

HCRG Care Group

HCRG Care Group are the UK's largest community services specialists. Our 0-19 model revolves around partnerships, with organisations such as Family Hubs, working together so families can access integrated early help. **Contact:** www.hrcgcaregroup.com

Spurgeons

Spurgeons is a national children's charity delivers Family Hubs commissioned by local authorities and in partnership with voluntary sector organisations.

Contact: cbarker@spurgeons.org / www.spurgeons.org

Other Event Exhibitors

Action for Children

Action for Children is committed to supporting families to make sure CYP get the best start in life across the UK. This includes running 68 children's centres and family hubs, 61 family support services, 36 support services for young people, including youth justice, employment & support, and online digital support service, such as Parent Talk. We take an innovative approach, work collaboratively with communities, driven by family's needs. **Contact:** www.actionforchildren.org.uk / www.parents.actionforchildren.org.uk

Amity

Empowering practitioners to strengthen family relationships one conversation at a time. At Amity, we are dedicated to workforce development, providing much-loved training, resources, and digital learning packages that strengthen family relationships and increase practitioner confidence. Trusted by over 60 local authorities, we empower practitioners to approach every conversation with confidence and impact. Our workbooks, tools and resources are easy to use and family-friendly.

Contact: emilynicksionwilliams@outlook.com / www.weareamity.co.uk

Beebot AI

Beebot AI, trusted by councils across the UK, offer a market-leading AI and automation solution for Family Hubs that consolidates national and local resources, services, and systems into one accessible digital front door. Designed to empower families and professionals, it enables 24/7 self-service support while delivering efficiency and cost savings.

Contact: info@beebotai.com / www.beebotai.com

BookTrust

BookTrust is the UK's largest children's reading charity- our mission is to get children from low-income and vulnerable family backgrounds reading regularly and by choice and over the past two years, we have collaborated with councils to pursue a range of different pathways for integrating its shared reading support across 124 Family Hubs in England. **Contact:** lisa.eldret@booktrust.org.uk / www.booktrust.org.uk

Boromi

Boromi are building a national, evidence-based Network of Play®. Through working in partnership with Family Hubs to establish community-based Play Libraries we are nurturing and advocating for early language and development through building more opportunities for hands-on, language rich and shared family play into the spaces and places families already are every day. **Contact:** hello@boromi.co.uk / www.boromi.co.uk

Care for the Family

CFF is a charity that exists to strengthen family life across the UK. We produce resources and offer course facilitator training to support couples, parenting and those who are bereaved or caring for them. A number of Family Hubs across the UK use our resources and courses, especially in the area of parenting support.

Contact: adrian.youings@cff.org.uk / www.cff.org.uk

Centre for Emotional Health

A national charity (formerly Family Links) that provides training & resources, all based on *The Nurturing Programme*, for practitioners who support families, many of which work in LA services including Family Hubs. Our approach is relational & empowering, aligns strongly with the Family Hubs aims of "relationships at the heart of family support", and develops the understanding, skills and ability to support good emotional health. **Contact:** alison@emotionalhealth.org.uk / www.centreforemoionalhealth.org.uk

EasyPeasy

EasyPeasy's evidence-based, integrated digital solution supports local authorities in all regions of the country in the design and delivery of enhanced and scalable early years Family Hub programmes. **Contact:** jen@easypeasyapp.com / www.easypeasyapp.com/for-local-authorities

Growing Hope

Growing Hope are a Christian charity aiming to give hope for children through provision of free therapy clinics, grow hope for families who may have experienced isolation and rejection, and share the hope we have in Jesus. **Contact:** www.growinghope.org.uk / [@growinghopeuk](https://www.facebook.com/growinghopeuk) / www.facebook.com/growinghopeuk

Hands On Babies

A leading UK provider of Baby Massage & Baby Yoga Instructor Training, now offers The Pregnancy Bonding Programme—a new evidence based programme which empowers Family Hubs staff to deliver a practical bonding and attachment support framework from Conception to Age 2.

Contact: cathcole@handsonbabies.co.uk / www.pregnancybonding.co.uk

Healthy Parent Carers

Healthy Parent Carers is a health and wellbeing programme specifically for parent carers of children with SEND that can be run by Family Hubs, Parent Carer Forums & other charities. **Contact:** **Fleur Boyle** - healthyparentcarers@exeter.ac.uk / www.healthyparentcarers.org

KCA Training - Five to Thrive

Five to Thrive is a model which describes what happens inside us when we connect with other people to support them when they are overwhelmed - when we notice what works we do more of it and do it better, whether we are a practitioner or a parent. **Contact:** contact@kcatraining / www.kcatraining

Kids Matter

Our vision is to see every child in need raised in a strong family, giving them the best chance to flourish from their early years. With over 4 million children living in poverty the need for support has escalated dramatically. We run community-based parenting programmes in local communities and prisons, to equip parents/carers with the competence, confidence, and community they need to help their children thrive. **Contact:** partnerships@kidsmatter.org.uk / www.kidsmatter.org.uk

Kooth Digital Health

The UK's largest digital mental health service, providing anonymous, personalised care with no waiting lists, thresholds, or referral requirements. Our Kooth and Qwell services embeds within Family Hubs to jointly support the mental health of children, young people, parents and carers with one comprehensive and universal offer.

Contact: commercial@kooth.com / www.koothplc.com

Lo&Behold Creative

The creative team behind the Derby City Family Hubs Breastfeeding film campaign: let's chat film for your Family hub!

Contact: joel@lo-and-behold.co.uk / www.lo-and-behold.co.uk

OurFamilyWizard

A leading co-parenting App in the UK, specifically designed to facilitate effective communication, coordination, and organisation between separated or divorced parents, offering features that promote accountability and transparency, and is widely recognised and accepted by courts across the country as a valuable tool for managing co-parenting relationships. **Contact:** afarran@ourfamilywizard.co.uk / www.ourfamilywizard.co.uk

Outcomes Stars (Triangle Consulting)

For Family Hubs families & practitioners, Outcomes Stars support the people who make change happen with a practical approach that guides the way. With evidence-based versions for children, young people and parents including My Star, My Mind Star, Family Star Plus and more.

Contact: info@triangleconsulting.co.uk / www.outcomesstar.org.uk

Parenting Apart Programme

The Parenting Apart Programme aims to work with Family Hubs to provide support for parents, focusing on reducing conflict and strengthening family relationships.

Contact: enquiries@parentingapartprogramme.co.uk / www.parentingapartprogramme.co.uk

Sentinel Partners

A socially driven, award-winning data management & AI company. We enable our public sector clients to take control of their data, protect it, share it and apply it for better outcomes. We provide the perfect Data Integration technology for collaborative case management across any possible Family Hub Partnership scenarios, which also gives automated performance reporting and statutory returns. **Contact:** graham.mccusker@sentinelpartners.co.uk / sentinelpartners.co.uk

Shared Parenting Scotland

Shared Parenting Scotland provides New Ways For Families® training and coaching across the UK to help separated parents communicate better and reduce the negative impact of conflict on their children. **Contact:** im@sharedparenting.scot / www.sharedparenting.scot