

# Plenary Session 2

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EVALUATION & EVIDENCE

# Gathering Evidence for Family Hubs' Effectiveness

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MONICA HINGORANI

# “Magic is happening!”



Growing together

## Gathering evidence for family hubs effectiveness

Monica Hingorani  
Regional Implementation Advisor  
East Midlands and West Midlands

[National Centre for Family Hubs](#)



Anna Freud

# Overview

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- *'Magic is happening'* – evidence from leaders of Start for Life and family hubs transformation of improving outcomes
- Overview of family hubs national/local evaluations
- Learning from Anna Freud National Centre for Family Hubs (NCFH) and our partners on what supports transformation





SHARE + LEARN

Shaping the Future of Family Support

National Centre for Family Hubs



it takes time!



What's been the key achievement in transformation?

Reaching families early  
early help

BIRTH registrations in hubs

We're making long-term improvements

It's a trek

Safe-guarding

Vetting partners

It's tricky not knowing where we stand re: funding.

DBS numbers

What could be better?

shared language (especially locally)

Maintaining motivation

How we connect with faith communities

ILLUSTRATED \* LIVE

What is working well in community engagement in Family Hub development?

Train the trainer

Multi-agency working

Working with community hubs



Building connections

Midwifery

OUR OFFER  
We're in the booking doc!

EQUITY



National Centre For Family Hubs

An Anna Freud project

# Anna Freud

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*Our vision is a world where all children and young people are able to achieve their full potential*

# Our approach: the family hub principles



## Access

Clear, simple ways for families to access help and support

A hub building and partnership approach



## Connection

Universal 'front door', shared outcomes and effective governance.

Staff and volunteers work together through a common approach



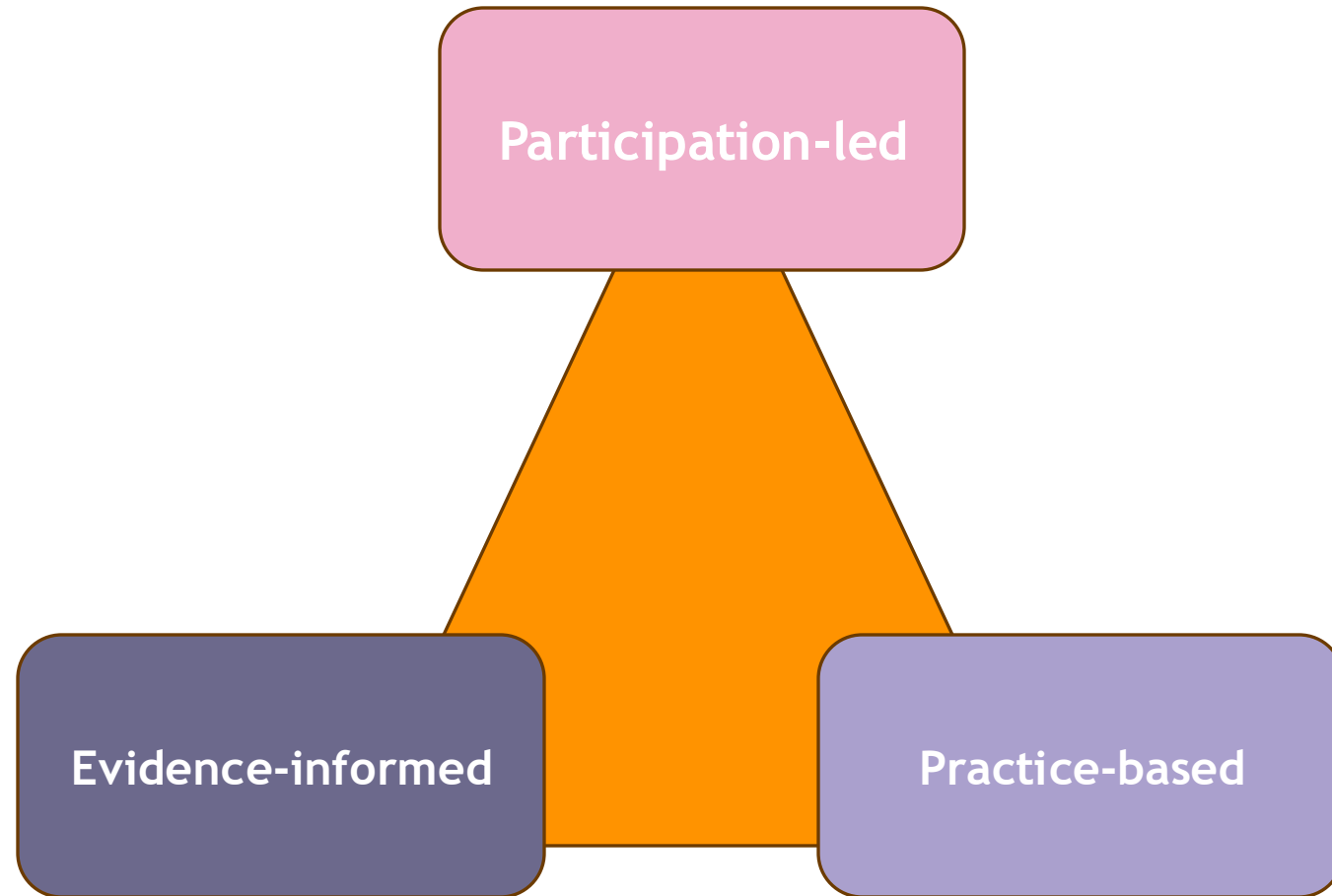
## Relationships

Builds on a family's and communities' strengths

Relationships are at the heart



# Family hubs implementation support is...



# Family Hubs National Evaluations

Evaluation Programme	Status	LAs involved	Publication Year
Behavioural Insights	Complete	Sheffield; Wakefield; Wolverhampton; Durham	<a href="#">2022</a>
Behavioural Insights (2)	In Progress	Redbridge*; Merton; Sheffield	2024
Evaluation Innovation Fund	Complete	Essex*; Leeds*; Bristol; Sefton*; Suffolk*; Doncaster	<a href="#">2023</a>
TF1 Evaluation	In Progress	10x TF1 LAs	2024
Start for Life evaluation	In Progress	7x TF2 LAs	2026
TF2 Evaluation	In Progress	All TF2 LAs (25x TF2 LAs in-depth evaluation)	2025

\*self-funded

- Accessible family hubs require clear, inclusive messaging that highlights **benefits** for families and **accessibility** of services
- Partnership working is underpinned by **robust governance and leadership arrangements**, a **clear vision** with **whole-system buy-in**
- Timeframes for transformation range from **3-5 years**
- Est. cost savings: **£37m-£68m** (taken from 5 LA models between 1-7yrs)

# Long-term system change

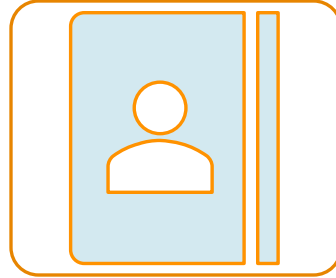


These results provide further evidence that intervening in early childhood to promote child development through holistic family support can yield important dividends when programmes are well designed and funded.



[Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2024](#)

# How the National Centre for Family Hubs helps



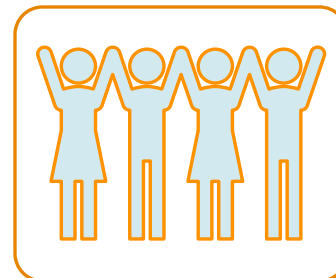
## OUTPUTS

- Thought leadership
- Advice and information



## OUTCOMES

- Regional support
- Funded and self-funded

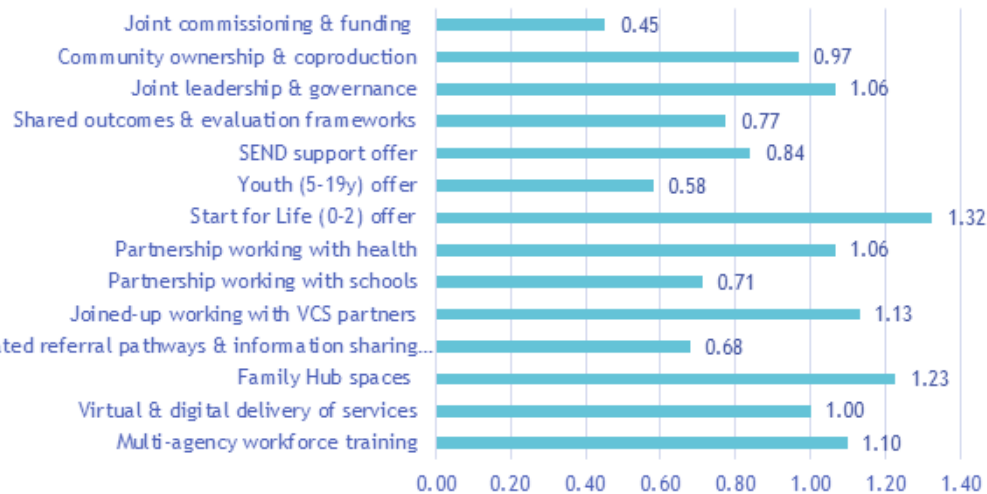


## VISION

- Family-centred support that is accessible, connected and relational

# LA self-assessment of progress

Mean progress across areas of Family Hubs



Survey: 31 respondents from 28 Local Authority areas across England completed the survey (at least one from each region)

Top areas for progress were:

- Start for Life offer (conception-2 years)
- family hubs spaces
- joined-up working with VCS
- multi-agency workforce training

Survey of LAs by NCFH, Aug-Oct 2024

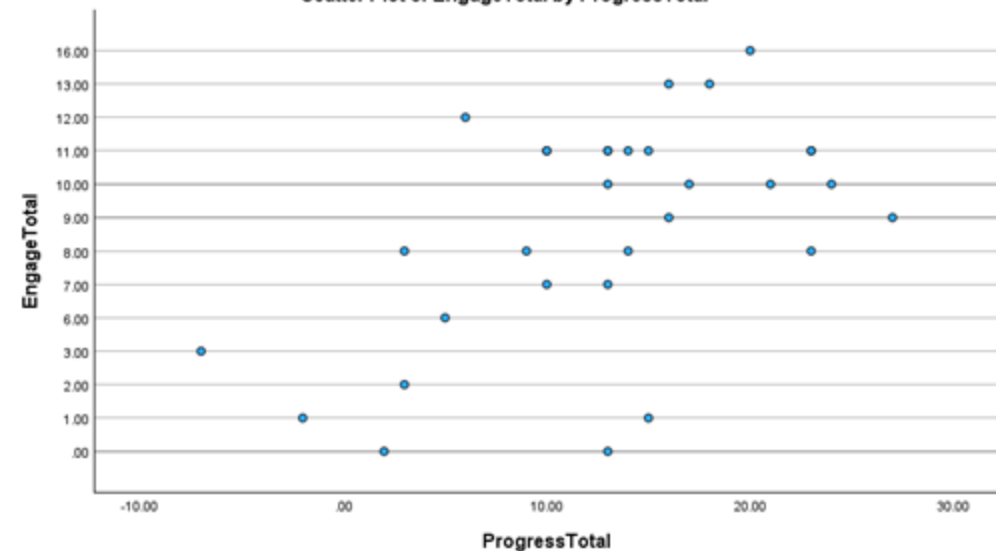


# LA/NCFH engagement and progress

We wanted to see whether engagement with NCFH was associated with family hub progress

We found a **significant positive relationship** ( $r=.55$ ,  $p<.001$ ,  $n=31$ ), indicating increased NCFH engagement associated with increased self-report progress of family hub development

Scatter Plot of EngageTotal by ProgressTotal



Survey of LAs by NCFH, Aug-Oct 2024

# Shaping the Future of Family Support

National Centre for Family Hubs

Share & Learn

Better outcomes for all children babies + young people



**CHALLENGES**

Every hub is different!

- ✓ Complexity
- ✓ Lack of data

We've reviewed existing outcomes & frameworks



strengths-based approach

**National Centre For Family Hubs**

An Anna Freud project

Pilot in London

Feb '25

Pool data sources

Learn, prioritise & develop!

March onwards

Babies, children + young people

Parents + Carers

Family Hubs performance

How do you know you're making a difference?

We're going to measure impact... Less referrals, hopefully!



A whole-family approach

Partnership working

What's working well? What would make that better?

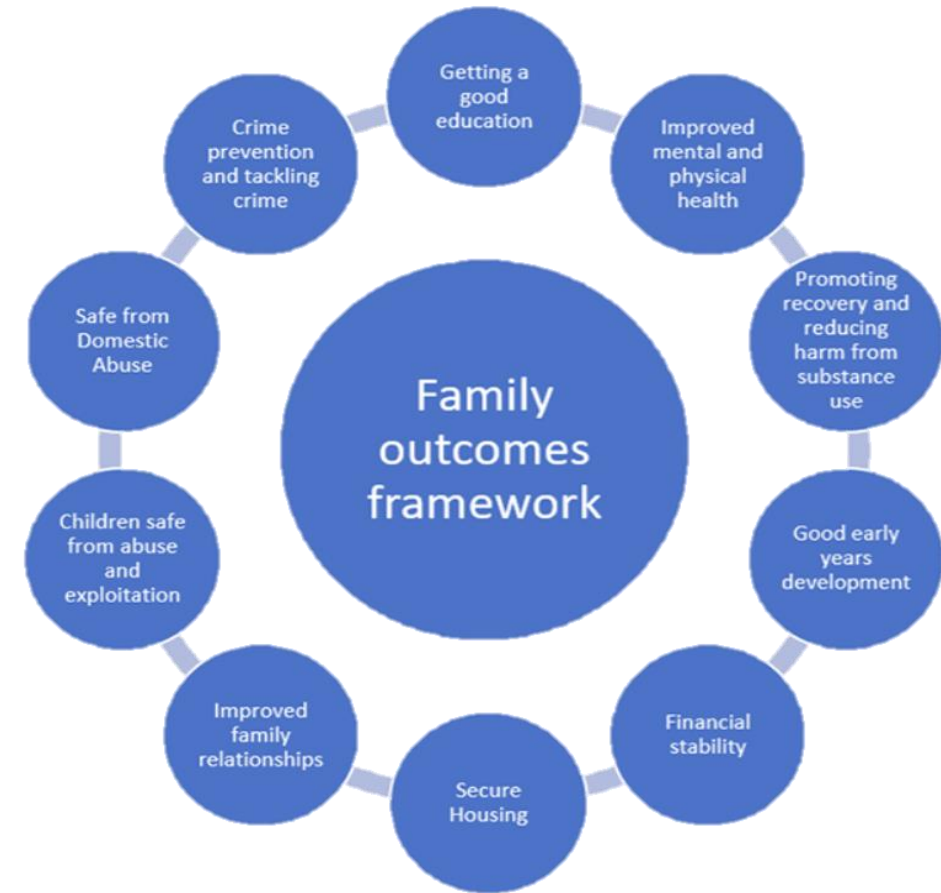
✓ Family Hub Navigators

Magic is happening!

ILLUSTRATED **LIVE**

# Local Evaluation of Family Hubs

"If we are to achieve our vision of Start for Life and family hubs, what difference would this make to babies, children, young people and their families? How would we know?"



<https://www.nationalcentreforfamilyhubs.org.uk/toolkits/theory-of-change/>

Please get in touch:

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[ncfhenquiries@annafreud.org](mailto:ncfhenquiries@annafreud.org)

<https://www.nationalcentreforfamilyhubs.org.uk/>

[annafreud.org](https://annafreud.org)



**Anna Freud**  
building the mental  
wellbeing of the  
next generation

# A Shared Focus on Outcomes

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ELAINE FULTON



# A shared focus on outcomes for all babies, children and young people

Family Hubs Network: celebrating progress and forging the future  
Elaine Fulton, 29 November 2024

# Common outcomes movement

- Diverse, growing coalition driving a collaborative movement towards a common approach
- Shared recognition of a systemic problem and potential to address it collectively
- Shared vision, mission, principles, language and long-term aspiration
- All babies, children and young people are safe, healthy, happy, learning and engaged
- Strengths-based focus on what matters most – maximising the impact of our collective resources

A shared focus on outcomes – Family Hubs Network: celebrating progress and forging the future – 29 November 2024

# Outcomes for all babies, children and young people



## Safe Personal security

### All babies, children and young people:

- Are and feel physically and emotionally safe at home, at school and in their communities
- Are protected from harm, threats and the impact of adversity
- Have a secure, stable, caring home environment



## Healthy Physical wellbeing

### All babies, children and young people:

- Are physically healthy and make positive health choices
- Are protected from preventable diseases



## Happy Social, emotional and personal wellbeing

### All babies, children and young people:

- Have their emotional, social and personal needs met
- Are supported in developing their emotional resilience
- Have opportunities to enjoy play, recreation, sport, arts, culture and nature



## Learning Cognitive & metacognitive development

### All babies, children and young people:

- Are learning and developing from birth in a supportive environment
- Are gaining the knowledge and skills they need for later childhood and adult life
- Are ready to learn and prepared for their future



## Engaged Feel engaged in a community

### All babies, children and young people:

- Are happy with family life, their friendships and connections
- Have a choice of things to do and places to go
- Feel valued and respected and that they belong to a community
- Have their voices heard and acted upon

CHARACTERISTICS: gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, SEND, EAL etc.

AGE

## INTERCONNECTED

### Example indicators:

- Emotional safety
- Accidental and non-accidental injury
- Abuse, maltreatment or neglect in the household
- Experience of domestic abuse
- Missing from school/home/care
- Risk/experience of crime/ antisocial behaviour/ exploitation/radicalisation

### Parent/family:

- Poverty/deprivation
- Homelessness, living in temporary accommodation, at risk of eviction
- Experience of crime/ imprisonment

### Example indicators:

- Healthy weight
- Immunisation
- Oral health
- Exposure to/use of alcohol, drugs, smoking
- Experience of preventable diseases
- Exposure to adverse environmental factors e.g. pollution levels

### Parent/family:

- Physical health and wellbeing (including maternal during pregnancy)
- Positive health and lifestyle choices (exercise, healthy weight, alcohol, substance misuse, smoking)

### Example indicators:

- Parent – infant/child attachment
- Mental and emotional health and wellbeing
- Emotional regulation
- Opportunities for play, creativity, sport and recreation
- Children's and young people's feelings about their safety, health, happiness, learning and engagement

### Parent/family:

- Parent – infant/child attachment and emotional connection
- Perinatal/parental mental health and emotional wellbeing

### Example indicators:

- Cognitive, personal, social and emotional development
- Development of numeracy, literacy and language skills
- Engaged in learning
- Opportunities for ongoing education and training
- Pathways to economic participation and independent living

### Parent/family:

- Home learning environment
- Education level
- Employment/earnings

### Example indicators:

- Positive relationships with family, peers and professionals, with conflict resolved constructively
- Supported to engage in appropriate and fun activities, including those with specific needs
- Engaged and involved in service design, review etc

### Parent/family:

- Parenting skills and support
- Parent-child, family and community relationships
- Quality time together and shared experiences
- Meaningful engagement in service

# Common outcomes movement

- Clear high-level outcomes:
  - Detail and complexity held beneath
  - Interconnected and interrelated – whole child, system-wide
- A ‘north star’ to guide us, not a rigid, top-down approach or prescriptive measurement framework
- Balancing consistency with flexibility – a new accountability model
- Framework within which we can locate our individual and collective efforts and where our contributions fit
- Space for exploration and collaboration
- Finding key gaps, enablers and opportunities to take action
- Driving change and transformation across the system

A shared focus on outcomes – Family Hubs Network: celebrating progress and forging the future – 29 November 2024

# London family hubs project

- Request from London Community of Practice
- Creating and modelling a shared approach to outcomes
- Representing the breadth and depth of family hubs' unique contribution within wider systems
- Testing phase from December 2024 – February 2025
- Capturing areas where consistency or local flexibility make most sense
- Surfacing gaps and opportunities for action
- Final version March 2025
- More information – at today's breakout session or get in touch



*‘Breadth, depth and interconnectedness  
are needed for a movement to change the  
world’*

Making Change Happen: What Works  
IPPR/Runnymede, 2021

shared focus on outcomes – Family Hubs Network: celebrating progress  
and forging the future – 29 November 2024

# Thank you!

## Contact:

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