

Family Hubs Funding Explained

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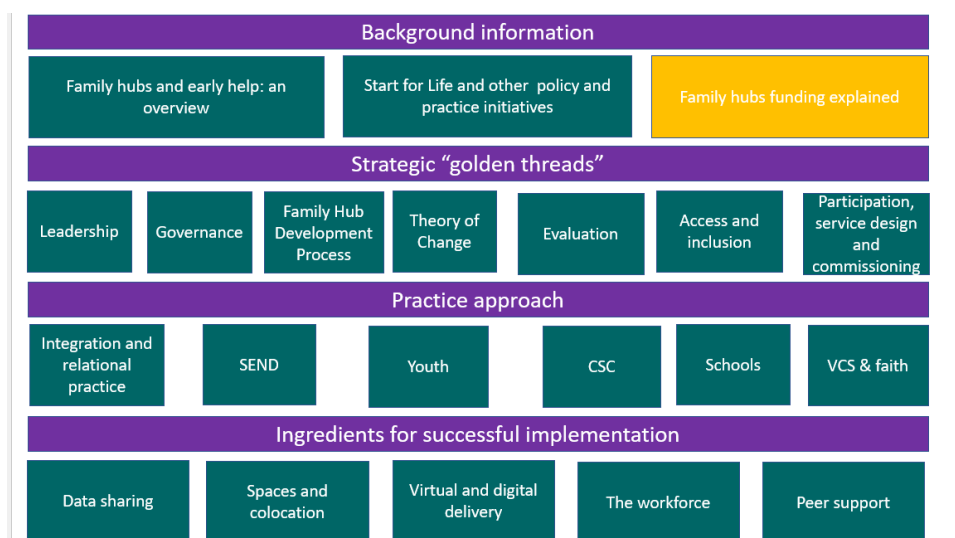
Executive Summary

This module outlines the different funding streams associated with Family Hubs. It describes the breakdown of funds that nearly half the Local Authorities in England will receive as part of the Family Hub and Start for Life programme transformation, as well as additional funding pots Local Authorities may access or benefit from in their development of Family Hubs.

This module is part of the **background information** section along with Family hubs and early help: an overview and the Start for Life Offer and other policy and practice initiatives. We recommend you also read those modules before moving on the **strategic “golden thread” section**.

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What are the different funding pots for Family Hubs?

Family hubs are a way of joining up locally to improve access to services and the connections between families, professionals, services, and providers. They put relationships at the heart of family help. The module 'Family Hubs and Early Help: an overview' provides more information about family hubs and how the three principles: Access; Connection and Relationships underpin the Family Hub model. The different funding pots allocated to support Family Hubs are outlined below:

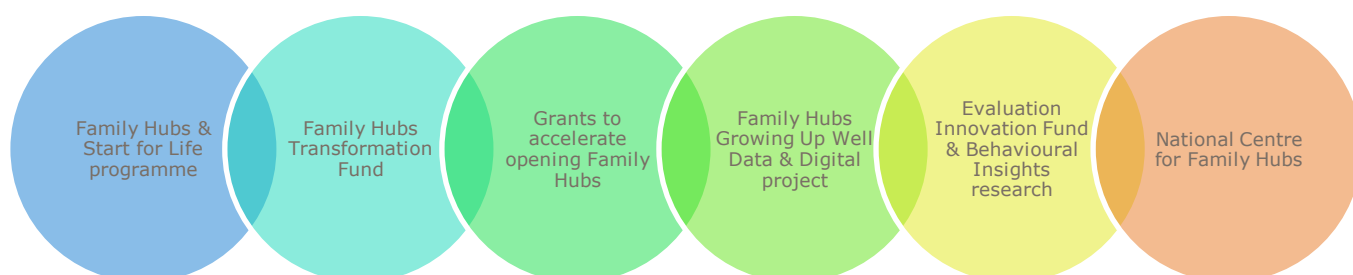


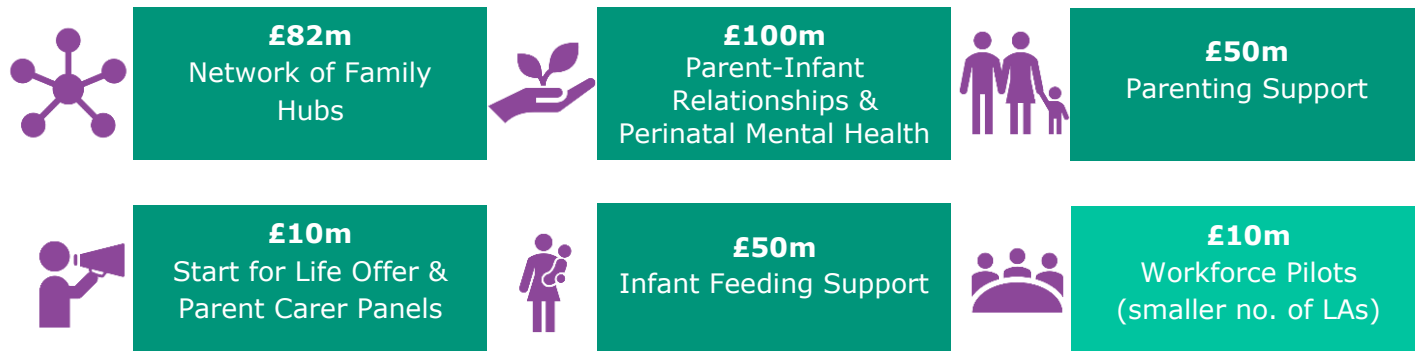
Figure 1. Summary of Family Hubs funding

1. Family Hubs and Start for Life programme

At the Autumn 2021 Budget, the government committed to invest **£301.75 million** into a Family Hub and Start for Life programme to transform services into a Family Hub model and achieve integration at a systems level, as well as improve the universal Start for Life offer in 75 Local Authorities across England.

This funding is committed over three financial years starting from 2022-23 and the most recent Spending Review confirmed the allocation of funding until March 2025. This funding is also called 'Transformation Fund Two' (TF2) and will be distributed across nearly half the Local Authorities in England. The majority of the funding allocation is to support development of Start for Life services.

The [Family Hubs and Start for Life programme](#) package contains funding for 75 upper-tier Local Authorities on the following components and you can read more in our Start for Life offer module:



1.1 £82m to create Family Hub networks serving children of all ages (75 LAs):

For LAs: This budget is to support transformation or development of a Family Hub model and seeks to increase the number of Family Hubs and widen the range of services delivered through the Family Hub. It will also be used to improve integration across services and promote relational practice across the Family Hub workforce.

For families: This budget will mean better access to services and a more joined-up experience when accessing support that requires navigating different services.

1.2. £100m for parent-infant relationships and perinatal mental health support (75 LAs):

For LAs: This budget is to enable Family Hub services to include support for mild perinatal mental health difficulties and support for parent-infant relationship difficulties for mums, dads and co-parents. The budget will also be used to provide perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationship training and supervision for Family Hub staff.

For families: This funding will lead to better access to perinatal mental health support and support for parent-infant relationship difficulties, which is inclusive of support for fathers and co-parents. This budget will also lead to more open and non-judgemental conversations with parents and carers early on about their mental health and their feelings towards their relationship with their baby, and a more seamless experience in accessing the right support at the right time.

1.3. £50m for parenting support (75 LAs):

For LAs: This funding will be used to support new and expectant parents making the transition to parenthood. This budget funds development of universal and targeted parenting support offered within a hub building, online and within peer-to-peer support networks. The money can also support integration between parenting support services with clear, joined-up referral pathways and fund training in reflective, relational practice for Family Hub staff.

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For families: This funding will ensure all parents can access parenting support early, during pregnancy and in the first years after having a baby, so that families can feel supported in their transition to parenthood.

1.4. £50m for infant feeding support services (75 LAs):

For LAs: This funding will be used to design and deliver a blended offer of advice and support for mums, dads and co-parents to support them in meeting their infant-feeding goals. The funding will support integration of services and development of clear referral pathways for specialist support if required. The money can also contribute to staff training to identify more complex infant feeding needs (e.g. tongue tie) and relational, reflective practice.

For families: This funding will ensure families receive timely, high-quality, one-to-one infant-feeding support as well as access to peer support networks in their local area and 24/7 access to a National Breastfeeding Helpline. All support received will be joined up and options for specialist support will be clear and accessible.

1.5. £10m to publish a clear Start for Life offer and establish Parent and Carer Panels (75 LAs):

For LAs: This funding will be used to reach the first milestones of the Family Hub and Start for Life programme which requires LAs to publish their Start for Life offer both online, physically and via outreach activities, and set-up or build-on existing Parent Carer Panels to enable coproduction of Family Hub services.

For families: This funding will improve awareness for families on what services are available to them in their local area and how to access them. The Parent Carer Panels will offer opportunities for families to feed into their local Family Hub and provide a platform for parents and carers to have their voices heard.

1.6. £10m to workforce pilots:

The funding for workforce pilots is an opportunity for approximately 5 LAs to develop, test and evaluate innovative Start for Life workforce models. Eligible LAs will be able to apply for this funding in April 2023 and successful LAs will begin implementation in Summer 2023. The programme funding is for two financial years (2023-24 & 2024-25).

1.7. £28.7m to support the Home Learning Environment (HLE)

There is also an additional **£28.7m** to support parents and carers of pre-school aged children with their Home Learning Environment (HLE) through Family Hubs. This focus is to support education recovery for young children who were babies at the height of the pandemic.

Trailblazers

Within the 75 Local Authorities who are eligible to receive Family Hubs and Start for Life funding (TF2 areas), there are a sub-group of 14 Local Authorities who have been selected as 'Trailblazers'. Each Trailblazer Local Authority will receive additional funding in their first financial year (2022-23) of around **£180k**, and this funding is expected to accelerate delivery of ambitious, innovative and tangible transformations for families in the first year of the programme. Trailblazers are also obligated to share their delivery experience and expertise with other Local Authorities to support wider Family Hub transformation across the country.

The [Trailblazer Guide](#) published by the DfE and the DHSC provides more information about Trailblazer vision and expectations.



2. Family Hubs Transformation Fund

In November 2021, the DfE launched a **£12 million** [Family Hubs Transformation Fund](#) to support 12 Local Authorities in England to transform their services into a Family Hub model and achieve integration at a systems level. This funding is also known as 'Transformation Funding 1' (TF1).

The Family Hubs Transformation Fund is separate to the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme, but the vision for the transformation of services into a Family Hub model is consistent across both programmes. However, the 12 Local Authorities who receive TF1 funding will not receive additional funding for the services outlined in the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme.

All 12 Local Authorities receiving Transformation Funding will take part in an evaluation that will be publicly accessible to enable learning about the process of local transformation and build an evidence-base to support other areas moving to a Family Hub model.



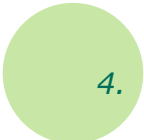
3. Grants to accelerate opening Family Hubs

In 2021, the DfE announced the [Children's Social Care Covid-19 Regional Recovery and Building Back Better Fund](#), worth up to **£24 million** and distributed across the nine regions in England aimed at levelling-up outcomes for vulnerable children and build a fairer and more resilient support system.

Through this fund, **£3.2m** was made available to accelerate the opening of Family Hubs across all regions of England. This included support for 25 Local Authorities to begin the transformation process or further develop their Family Hub model. In addition, one Local Authority from each region of England were selected to work regionally with DfE's policy team to share good practice and develop plans for a wider regional roll out of the Family Hubs model.

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4. *Family Hubs Growing Up Well Data & Digital project*

The [Family Hubs Growing Up Well](#) is a cross-governmental project funded by HM Treasury through the Shared Outcomes Fund. The project aims to develop digital and data solutions that solve practical problems local areas face in delivering accessible and integrated support through Family Hubs. The project focuses on improving how information is shared between professionals in a Family Hub network and improving how families access and navigate services. – Lancashire, Bristol, Suffolk

Six Local Authorities have been selected to work in partnership alongside this project to develop and test proposed information sharing solutions integrated into the Family Hub model. Each LA will initially receive up to **£10k** to fund staffing resource in the test-phase of the project, and each LA will also have access to capacity and transformation grant funding to support their work on the digital project.



5. *Evaluation Innovation Fund & Behavioural Insights Research*

5.1. [Evaluation Innovation Fund Research](#)

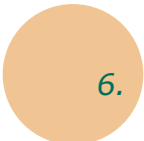
The Evaluation Innovation Fund forms part of the **£2.5 million** investment from DfE into research and development of best practice of integration of services into a Family Hub model. The Evaluation Innovation Fund is a mixed-methods evaluation carried out by Ecorys and Sheffield Hallam University to assess the implementation, impact and value for money of six existing Family Hub models in Bristol, Doncaster, Essex, Leeds, Sefton and Suffolk.

The interim findings of this project were published in December 2022 and the final report from the evaluation will be publicly accessible in Summer 2023.

5.2. [Behavioural Insights Research](#)

In September 2021, the DfE contracted Sheffield Hallam University to lead the Family Hubs [Behavioural Insights Research](#) Programme, which aims to build an evidence base on what works to increase the reach and take-up of Family Hub services by disadvantaged families. The project is working with four Local Authorities to assess need, effectiveness and acceptability of services in Durham, Sheffield, Wolverhampton and Wakefield.

The findings of this project were published in December 2022 and the National Centre for Family Hubs hosted a webinar to share the learning from this research project.



6. *National Centre for Family Hubs*

The National Centre for Family Hubs (NCFH) forms part of the **£2.5 million** investment from DfE into research and development of best practice of integration of services into a Family Hub model.

NCFH is hosted by the Early Years and Prevention Department in the Anna Freud Centre and we are a national learning platform which supports local areas in England to design and develop family hubs so that babies, children and their families can access the joined-up, whole family, and inclusive support they need to thrive. We are funded by the Department for Education and our evidence partners are the [What Works for Early Intervention and Children's Social Care](#).

Our work is informed by the following three areas of insight, which we triangulate so we can develop and disseminate helpful learning about family hub implementation and situate this learning in the wider socio-cultural context.

- **Evidence-informed:** we use a mixed-methods approach to evidence and policy synthesis and work closely with our evidence partners, the [WWEICSC](#) to generate and test new evidence and best practice.
- **Practice-based:** we work with local authorities, regional communities and other stakeholders to ensure our learning is informed by local practice and case study development. This complements our regional support work, which draws on the [application of mentalization](#) to practice.
- **Participation-led:** our work is underpinned by the [Lundy model](#) – a rights-based participation model. Our paid Participation Advisors are involved in national forums and work with local authorities to gather insights into on participation so we can share this learning with the family hubs community.

You can read more about the National Centre for Family Hubs in our '[About Us](#)' webpage.

Why are only some LAs receiving funding?

The 75 Local Authorities eligible to receive Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme funding were pre-selected by DfE based on Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) average rank, subject to the additional condition that a minimum of 25% of Local Authorities from each rural urban classification are pre-selected. See more information about the [selection methodology](#).

As well as the 75 Local Authorities eligible to receive TF2 funding, there are an additional 12 Local Authorities receiving Family Hub Transformation Funding (TF1). The remaining 65 Local Authorities are not eligible to receive specific Family Hub Transformation funding at this time. The outcomes from the additional government-funded research programmes and grants will be publicly accessible and are designed to benefit and support all 152 Local Authorities in developing an integrated service model.

Who is receiving Family Hubs funding?

Below we have outlined the Local Authority areas receiving Family Hub funding separated by region:

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East Midlands

Local Authority Area	Family Hubs Funding
Derby	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Derbyshire	
Leicester	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Leicestershire	Family Hubs Transformation Fund [TF1]
Lincolnshire	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
North Northamptonshire	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Nottingham	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Nottinghamshire	
Rutland	
West Northamptonshire	

East of England

Local Authority Area	Family Hubs Funding
Bedford	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Cambridgeshire	
Central Bedfordshire	
Essex	
Hertfordshire	
Luton	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Norfolk	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Peterborough	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Southend-on-Sea	
Suffolk	
Thurrock	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]

London

Local Authority Area	Family Hubs Funding
Barking & Dagenham	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Barnet	
Bexley	
Brent	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Bromley	
Camden	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
City of London	
Croydon	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Ealing	
Enfield	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Greenwich	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Hackney	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Hammersmith & Fulham	Family Hubs Transformation Fund [TF1]
Haringey	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]

Harrow	
Havering	
Hillingdon	
Hounslow	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Islington	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Kensington & Chelsea	
Kingston-upon-Thames	
Lambeth	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Lewisham	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Merton	Family Hubs Transformation Fund [TF1]
Newham	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Redbridge	
Richmond-upon-Thames	
Southwark	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Sutton	
Tower Hamlets	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Waltham Forest	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Wandsworth	
Westminster	

North East

Local Authority Area	Family Hubs Funding
Darlington	
Durham	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2] + Trailblazer
Gateshead	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Hartlepool	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Middlesbrough	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
North Tyneside	
Northumberland	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Redcar & Cleveland	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2] + Trailblazer
South Tyneside	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Stockton-on-Tees	
Sunderland	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2] + Trailblazer

North West

Local Authority Area	Family Hubs Funding
Blackburn with Darwen	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Blackpool	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2] + Trailblazer
Bolton	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Bury	
Cheshire East	Family Hubs Transformation Fund [TF1]
Cheshire West & Chester	
Cumbria	Family Hubs Transformation Fund [TF1]
Halton	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Knowsley	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]

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Lancashire	
Liverpool	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Manchester	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2] + Trailblazer
Oldham	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Rochdale	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Salford	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2] + Trailblazer
Sefton	
St Helens	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Stockport	Family Hubs Transformation Fund [TF1]
Tameside	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Trafford	
Warrington	
Wigan	
Wirral	Family Hubs Transformation Fund [TF1]

South East

Local Authority Area	Family Hubs Funding
Bracknell Forest	
Brighton & Hove	Family Hubs Transformation Fund [TF1]
Buckinghamshire	
East Sussex	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2] + Trailblazer
Hampshire	
Isle of Wight Council	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2] + Trailblazer
Kent	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2] + Trailblazer
Medway	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Milton Keynes	
Oxfordshire	
Portsmouth	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Reading	
Slough	
Southampton	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Surrey	
West Berkshire	
West Sussex	
Windsor & Maidenhead	
Wokingham	

South West

Local Authority Area	Family Hubs Funding
Bath & North East Somerset	
Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole	Family Hubs Transformation Fund [TF1]
Bristol	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Cornwall	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2] + Trailblazer
Devon	

Dorset	Family Hubs Transformation Fund [TF1]
Gloucestershire	
Isles of Scilly	
North Somerset	
Plymouth	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Somerset	
South Gloucestershire	
Swindon	
Torbay	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2] + Trailblazer
Wiltshire	

West Midlands

Local Authority Area	Family Hubs Funding
Birmingham	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Coventry	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2] + Trailblazer
Dudley	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Herefordshire	
Sandwell	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Shropshire	
Solihull	Family Hubs Transformation Fund [TF1]
Staffordshire	
Stoke-on-Trent	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Telford & Wrekin	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Walsall	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Warwickshire	
Wolverhampton	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Worcestershire	

Yorkshire and the Humber

Local Authority Area	Family Hubs Funding
Barnsley	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Bradford	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Calderdale	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Doncaster	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
East Riding of Yorkshire	
Kingston-upon-Hull	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2] + Trailblazer
Kirklees	
Leeds	
North East Lincolnshire	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
North Lincolnshire	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
North Yorkshire	
Rotherham	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]
Sheffield	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2] + Trailblazer
Wakefield	Family Hubs & Start for Life [TF2]

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How will Family Hubs funding help close the gap for families accessing support?

The ethos behind Family Hubs is preventative care and early help. The Family Hub model offers families and practitioners a more integrated support system which is easier to access and easier to navigate.

The funding for Family Hubs supports Local Authorities to form local partnerships between service providers and build connected pathways to enable integration at a systems level, which should close the gap for families navigating different support services.

The funding will also support Family Hub workforce development and promote relational practice, with the aim to improve consistency in families' experience of accessing and receiving support, which should lead to more acceptable and inclusive support services and increased uptake of support.

The funded research and evaluation projects provide a foundation for best practice of Family Hub transformation to support Local Authorities in their development and highlight challenges and pitfalls experienced by other areas with the hope to facilitate a smoother transformation journey for developing Family Hubs.

Reflective Questions

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Resources

1. [Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme Guide](#)
2. [Trailblazer Guide](#)
3. [Family Hubs Transformation Fund](#)
4. [Children's Social Care Covid-19 Regional Recovery and Building Back Better Fund](#)
5. [Family Hubs Growing Up Well](#)
6. [Evaluation Innovation Fund Research](#)
7. [Behavioural Insights Research](#)