

Date:

Monday 6 October 2025 at 2.00 pm

Venue:

Council Chamber, Dunedin House, Columbia Drive; , Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 6BJ

Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair)

Cllr Paul Weston (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Hugo Stratton and Cllr Barry Woodhouse

Agenda

1. **Evacuation Procedure** (Pages 7 - 10)

2. **Apologies for Absence**

3. **Declarations of Interest**

4. **Minutes** (Pages 11 - 14)

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 8th September 2025

5. **Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help** (Pages 15 - 58)

To receive evidence from Catalyst and Council Officers as part of the Scrutiny Review of Partnership working in Early Help

6. **Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2025-2026**(Pages 59 - 60)

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please.

Contact: Scrutiny Officer Michelle Gunn on email michelle.gunn@stockton.gov.uk

Key – Declarable interests are :-

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance



Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2 – Other Registrable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

a) any unpaid directorships

b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority

c) any body

(i) exercising functions of a public nature

(ii) directed to charitable purposes or

(iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

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Council Chamber, Dunedin House Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping

Entry

Entry to the Council Chamber is via the Council Chamber entrance indicated on the map below.



In the event of an emergency alarm activation, everyone should immediately start to leave their workspace by the nearest available signed Exit route.

The emergency exits are located via the doors on either side of the raised seating area at the front of the Council Chamber.

Fires, explosions, and bomb threats are among the occurrences that may require the emergency evacuation of Dunedin House. Continuous sounding and flashing of the Fire Alarm is the signal to evacuate the building or upon instruction from a Fire Warden or a Manager.

The Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point is in the overflow car park located across the road from Dunedin House.

The allocated assembly point for the Council Chamber is: D2

Map of the Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point - the overflow car park:



All occupants must respond to the alarm signal by immediately initiating the evacuation procedure.

When the Alarm sounds:

1. **stop all activities immediately.** Even if you believe it is a false alarm or practice drill, you MUST follow procedures to evacuate the building fully.
2. **follow directional EXIT signs** to evacuate via the nearest safe exit in a calm and orderly manner.
 - do not stop to collect your belongings
 - close all doors as you leave
3. **steer clear of hazards.** If evacuation becomes difficult via a chosen route because of smoke, flames or a blockage, re-enter the Chamber (if safe to do so). Continue the evacuation via the nearest safe exit route.
4. **proceed to the Evacuation Assembly Point.** Move away from the building. Once you have exited the building, proceed to the main Evacuation Assembly Point immediately - located in the **East Overflow Car Park**.
 - do not assemble directly outside the building or on any main roadway, to ensure access for Emergency Services.

5. await further instructions.

- **do not re-enter the building under any circumstances without an “all clear”** which should only be given by the Incident Control Officer/Chief Fire Warden, Fire Warden or Manager.
- do not leave the area without permission.
- ensure all colleagues and visitors are accounted for. Notify a Fire Warden or Manager immediately if you have any concerns

Toilets

Toilets are located immediately outside the Council Chamber, accessed via the door at the back of the Chamber.

Water Cooler

A water cooler is available at the rear of the Council Chamber.

Microphones

During the meeting, members of the Committee, and officers in attendance, will have access to a microphone. Please use the microphones, when invited to speak by the Chair, to ensure you can be heard by the Committee and those in attendance at the meeting.

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People Select Committee

A meeting of People Select Committee was held on Monday 8th September 2025.

Present: Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair), Cllr Paul Weston (Vice-Chair), Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Hugo Stratton and Cllr Barry Woodhouse

Officers: Kellie Wigley (Children Services), Aishah Waite, Michelle Gunn (Corporate Services), Emma Crawford Moore (Family Action), Cheryl Hall (Cleveland Police), Sarah Massiter, Aimee Preston (Harrogate & District Foundation Trust)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Eileen Johnson

PEO/22/25 Evacuation Procedure

The Committee noted the evacuation and housekeeping procedure.

PEO/23/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

PEO/24/25 Minutes

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

PEO/25/25 Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help

The Committee received a presentation from Family Action and the key issues highlighted and discussed included:

- Family Action had a strategic partnership with the Council since 2023, after previously being part of a sub-contract arrangement with Harrogate & District Foundation Trust. It was a charity of over 150 years which had a mission to support people through change, challenge, or crisis and speak up for the importance of family in national and local policymaking.
- As a strategic partner, Family Action aimed to coordinate the offer of Early Help and make sure there wasn't duplication. Due to being a charity, they had access to funding that the Council could not always apply for. The partnership also allowed a flexibility in delivery offer to respond to needs and demands. The length of the partnership, a 5-year contract with a 5-year extension period, meant that they were able to deliver change.
- The information gathered on a family was kept with them when they moved from different services due to the partnership arrangement and they were able to "step" families up or down into social care. They received information regarding families they are working with from different services including schools and nurseries.

- The services provided by Family Action included family outreach such as empowering families by attending meetings with them and sitting with them while making telephone calls rather than doing this for them, funding isolated one-off events such as school trips through their Poverty Forum, delivering programmes in the family hubs, and carrying out budgeting events for Barclays. Targeted work was carried out in areas where there was higher demand.
- Family Actions Holidays Are Fun activities not only centred on the child but were also open for the family to attend and get involved. They also gave opportunities to children and young people to be part of community events such as the Community Carnival at Stockton International Riverside Festival and displays at Preston Park Museum and Grounds.
- Family Action supported the whole family and due to their connections with the Family Hubs and wider community, seek out other support opportunities for the families they work with.
- A case study was highlighted regarding a parent who received support after gaining full time custody of his child while homeless. The service had assisted in registering for housing, introduced him to the Family Hubs, helped him to learn about the day-to-day needs of looking after a child, referred him to the foodbank, and even helped him to get a fridge for his new home. The service even assisted when he was living out of the area for a short period.
- Members questioned how long Family Action would support a family and informed that it varied upon the family's needs but up to six months maximum. Most families were supported for a shorter period, but they would not withdraw services until the family felt comfortable.
- It was further questioned what the barriers were for the Council's partners in Early Help and informed that having shared systems since becoming a strategic partner had made a huge difference. Procedural changes would also pose issues, and there was a need to ensure that all services were around the table, and everyone was heard, when they were being made.
- Members also questioned if there was an age limit for the children in the families Family Action work with. It was confirmed that that while there wasn't an age limit, they did not get many referrals for older children. When they did Family Action work with the child direct, on a needs lead basis.

The Committee also receive a presentation from Cleveland Police regarding the PiTstop initiative. The key issues from the presentation were:

- PiTstop was an early intervention, chaired by the Police, designed to share information across multiple agencies to ensure that need, harm and possible risk were identified and support provided. It aimed to reduce the demand on the Children's Hub by diverting Police referrals that were screened and assessed by the Police as not meeting a Social Care threshold but there were still concerns to the PiTstop service. High risk cases and medium risk cases that met the Local Authority Social Care threshold continued to be sent to the Children's Hub.
- Partners included Adult Safeguarding Team, early Help, Health, education, Housing, Youth Justice, Change Grow Live, and Harbour.
- Cases considered for PiTstop included a child concern, a vulnerable adult, or domestic abuse when the threshold was not met. If the parties were active to Social Care the Police would share the information with them. All Domestic Abuse referrals to PiTstop had received a second risk assessment by the Police Safeguarding Officers. The Police's threshold following assessment was lower than the Local Authority threshold and therefore these cases would be referred to PiTstop.

- PiTstop had been operating in Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council area since March 2024. The data regarding Police referrals received by the Children's Hub showed that these had decreased by 25.90% between March-August 2023 and March-August 2024. Due to its success Middlesbrough were looking to replicate the service in their area,
- It was questioned whether there were any patterns of when referrals were received. It was noted that referrals decreased during school holidays, when they were more likely to receive calls regarding anti-social behaviour. They increased in September when children returned to school. Member questioned whether the Council needed to ensure all schools were engaged with PiTstop to ensure they were fully aware of the help available, and it was confirmed that this would be helpful.
- The early help support being carried out within schools was praised and it was felt that information sharing between the police and schools had improved since the initiative. Information on anti-social behaviour, neighbourhood disputes and other issues were now being shared with schools, therefore schools were able to monitor and support the families involved.
- Member questioned whether there were any areas where they were receiving lots of referrals and informed these were coming from across the Borough, and deprivation did was not a factor in the cases that they were working with.

The Committee received a third presentation from Harrogate and District Foundation Trust (HDFT) Growing Healthy 0-19 Service. The information and issues discussed included:

- HDFT provided support to children, young people and families, which included perinatal care and mental health care, parent support, safe sleep, child development, and healthy lifestyle promotion through Health Visitors, school nursing and public health initiatives such as EatWell. In addition, they provided specialist support and support with transitions to primary school, secondary school and adulthood.
- The service was referring 252 families of 0–5-year-olds to targeted single agency support and 278 families of 0–5-year-olds to multi-agency support. For families of 5–19-year-olds, they were referring 90 to targeted single agency support and 42 to multi-agency support.
- HDFT worked with parents through Health Visitors co-located within the Family Hub in Billingham, and it was believed this had worked extremely well therefore should replicated in other Hubs.
- The service provided several groups and programmes from the Hubs, and Health Visitors would signpost new and expectant parents to their local Hub. The Family Hubs were praised for the number of services that were available universally and HDFT felt staff had good working relationships with the Family Hubs. However, sometimes there was duplication between HDFT services and family hub offer and more joined up working would be beneficial.
- HDFT believed that Stockton-on-Tees was an inclusive area to work with, had positive working relations with Family Action and they felt included in Team Around the Family meetings when invited. However, there was scope to lead more on services and support. It was also noted that communication between the services could be improved as sometimes a family would be working with different services in silos. While systems between the Council and some services such as Family Action were shared, they were not shared with HDFT, and it would be useful. There were issues with confidentiality and levels of access to information, and the work taking place in preparation for the Family First Partnership reforms would be addressing this.

- Members questioned if there were any other ways to improve silo working and the midwifery pathway was given as an example, which ensured that meetings took place with health visitors to identify any issues and assist in Health Visitors planning. HDFT also noted that they refer to the speech and language service but did not receive information on the outcomes for the family. If they had this information, they may be able to help the family more.

AGREED that the information be noted.

PEO/26/25 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2025-2026

Members were reminded of the Children and Young People workshop taking place on 29 September where partners had been invited to co-produce the Early Help Strategy. The Chair would be attending to observe and feedback to the Committee,

It was noted that Stockton Parent Carer's Forum had been invited to the October meeting but were unable to attend. Members therefore requested written evidence to be submitted. A presentation on the Family First Partnership Reforms would be added to the agenda for the October meeting.

It was agreed that the Progress update for the Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living be moved to November meeting.

AGREED that the Work Programme be updated.

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PARTNERSHIP WORKING IN EARLY HELP

Summary

The fourth evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Partnership Working in Early Help will consider a range of information including the voluntary sector's views on the topic, the Family First Partnership Programme reforms, and learning from other Local Authorities.

Detail

1. As part of the scoping process for this review the Committee identified Catalyst as a key contributor to the review. Catalyst have therefore been invited to present an outline of the work their organisation does, their experience of partnership working in Early Help and how it works for the voluntary sector, as well as how they can be supported moving forward. The presentation is attached.
2. Learning from other Local Authorities on how they deliver Early Help with their partners was also identified in the scoping process. A report is attached outlining the findings from Lincolnshire, who took part in the Families First for Children (FFC) pathfinder programme to co-design local models to deliver children's social care, and Sunderland Local Authorities who are an outstanding authority. The Service Lead for Family Support will be in attendance to present the report.
3. At the September meeting, members requested an update on the Family First Partnership (FFP) Programme reforms. The Programme aims to provide earlier, joined-up, support to families by strengthening multi-agency working within children's social care. The Senior Project Manager for Early Intervention and Prevention will present the update, and a presentation is attached.
4. The Committee also identified Stockton Parent Carer Forum as key contributors to the review to gain their experience of accessing Early Help services and views on the partnerships. They are unable to attend however forwarded a written submission for members consideration, attached, which includes:
 - What they think of the early help offer across Stockton-on-Tees (and in particular in relation to SEND) and are there any gaps in the offer
 - How they think partnerships are working in Early Help
 - Whether they feel they are involved in the planning of Early Help and that the services are co-produced
5. A copy of the agreed scope and project plan for the review is attached for information.

Name of Contact Officer: Michelle Gunn

Post Title: Scrutiny Officer

Telephone No: 01642 524987

Email Address: michelle.gunn@stockton.gov.uk

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People Select Committee

Partnership Working in Early Help

Lucy Owens, CEO Catalyst

Marc Besford, Strategic Lead- YUSA



Catalyst- What we do

Our Role

Catalyst Stockton-on-Tees is the strategic infrastructure organisation for the borough of Stockton-on-Tees. Established in 2007, the organisation was conceived as a **partnership** project between the VCSE and local authority. The concept was to create an overarching body that could act in a number of ways to further the impact, reputation and opportunities of the VCSE in the Borough.

Vision

To be the best practice infrastructure organisation in a strong, healthy VCSE sector. We have a vision of a coherent and single sector, **working together in partnership** with public bodies and private businesses as well as VCSE organisations to deliver services to the communities in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees and the Tees Valley.

Catalyst- What we do

- Infrastructure support for VCSE- **SBC contract 4 years from Oct 2025**
 - Set up and development advice
 - Funding support
 - Training
- Funding disbursement
- Communications
 - E-bulletin
 - Social media
- Strategic Volunteering support
 - Stockton Volunteers Website
- Catalyst Conference

Catalyst- What we do

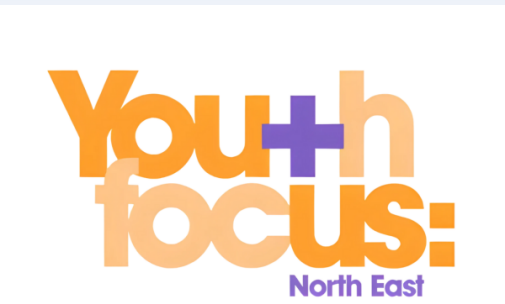
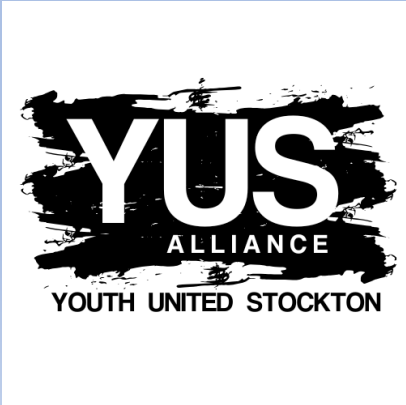
Communications

- VCSE Forums and networking events
- E-bulletin
- Social media
- Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB)
- One to one support
- Catalyst Conference

Catalyst's Partnership working in Stockton-on-Tees

- Both formal and informal- natural way of working
- Partnership Projects:
 - Youth United Stockton Alliance (YUSA)
 - Community Mental Health Transformation (Wellbeing Hub)
 - Stockton Food Power Network
- Representing the sector
 - Team Stockton
 - Family First Partnership Board
 - Child Poverty Network
 - HSSCP
 - HAF Steering Group
 - Lots more

YUSA- A case study



How SBC can support the voluntary sector moving forward...

Build on strengths and successes:

- Strong reputation for collaborating
- Commitment to VCSE (Move from funding to commissioning)
- Warm Welcome model
- HAF Project
- Sport England approach

How SBC can support the voluntary sector moving forward...

Listen and respond to feedback:

- Timely requests for information/ data
- Value as equal partners (this works both ways)
- Recognise professionalism of the sector
- Qualitative outcomes valued as much as quantitative
- Recognise full cost recovery
- Long term vs short intervention (both funding and collaborating)

Making this happen

What can we do?

- VCSE Charter (devised from Civil Society Covenant)
- Relaunch Senior Leaders Forum
- Public recognition/ comms campaign of successful partnerships
- Strengthen the link between VCSE and Stockton Information Directory

Any Questions?

Early Help Scrutiny Panel Report

Visits to Local Authorities: Learning from Practice

Introduction

As part of the scrutiny panel's work on Early Help, visits were undertaken to two local authorities including Lincolnshire and Sunderland (Together for Children), to examine their models of delivery. Both authorities have taken deliberate steps to broaden responsibility for Early Help beyond the local authority itself, embedding shared ownership across partners and universal services. The learning from these visits provides useful insight for Stockton-on-Tees as it continues to review and develop its own Early Help offer.

1. Lincolnshire

In Lincolnshire, Early Help is firmly rooted in collaboration and shared responsibility across the system. It is not viewed as a single service but as the responsibility of every professional working with children and families.

Early Help is defined as any action that supports children, young people, and families to achieve their potential by preventing difficulties from arising or preventing issues from escalating further.

Key features:

- Shared responsibility: Every professional, regardless of sector or role, is expected to support families and contribute to Early Help.
- Front-loaded support: External agencies are empowered to act as lead professionals for families, coordinating support where appropriate.
- Practical tools: The local authority provides assessments, "Team Around the Family" frameworks, and professional guidance to enable wider partners to deliver Early Help confidently.
- Capacity building: Significant investment has been made in training external professionals to reduce dependency on local authority services.

Impact:

Currently, 80% of Early Help delivery in Lincolnshire is provided by external partners, with only 20% led directly by the local authority. This represents a significant cultural and structural shift from their position 10 years ago, when most referrals were directed into the local authority. The move to an 80/20 model was achieved through sustained work with partners and consistent reinforcement that Early Help is everyone's responsibility.

2. Sunderland (Together for Children)

Sunderland's Early Help model also prioritises partnership and early identification. Like Lincolnshire, they emphasise the role of external professionals and universal services in supporting families at the earliest opportunity.

Key features:

- Partnership conversations: Professionals outside the local authority (e.g. schools, health visitors, voluntary sector) are supported to take an active role in delivering Early Help.
- Holistic approach: The service focuses on collaborative discussions about what families need and how those needs can be best met within the system.
- Promoting self-help: Online navigation tools and resources are provided to empower parents to identify and access support themselves. Parents are encouraged to first seek help from universal services such as schools and health visitors.
- Clear gateway: Families do not self-refer except in exceptional circumstances. Instead, a universal professional (e.g. school) coordinates support as lead practitioner, embedding responsibility across the system.

Pilot Programme:

Sunderland has recently piloted a duty system within its locality teams, with a dedicated team manager, assistant managers, and experienced workers operating with reduced caseloads. The model requires:

- Day 5 outcome: Assessment, direct work, home visit, and family network meeting completed.
- Day 10 decision: Determination of where the family is best supported (universal, targeted Early Help, or other provision).

Findings from the first quarter (100 children):

- 62% resulted in no further action, with most signposted to Level 2 universal support.
- 20% remained in Early Help services.
- Overall, two-thirds exited the Early Help system, reducing demand on the local authority and strengthening partnership ownership.

Analysis

The visits to Lincolnshire and Sunderland reveal several common themes:

- Early Help as a shared responsibility: Both authorities have shifted the burden away from the local authority alone, embedding expectations across partners.

- Investment in external capacity: Training, tools, and clear frameworks are essential to equip schools, health, and voluntary partners to hold cases confidently.
- Strong gateways and thresholds: Families are not automatically routed into local authority-led services; instead, universal and community-based support is maximised first.
- Cultural change over time: Lincolnshire emphasised that their current 80/20 model took a decade of sustained effort. Sunderland's pilot reflects the early stages of similar change, testing new models to rebalance responsibility.
- Impact on demand: Both authorities show that increasing external delivery reduces pressure on statutory and targeted services, allowing the local authority to focus on the most complex cases.

Suggestions for Exploration in Stockton-on-Tees

Based on the learning from these visits, Stockton-on-Tees may wish to consider:

1. Measuring partnership delivery – establishing robust data collection to track the proportion of Early Help delivered by external partners.
2. Defining shared responsibility – embedding the principle that Early Help is “everyone’s business” across schools, health, and the voluntary sector.
3. Capacity building for partners – developing a programme of training, tools, and professional guidance to support non-local authority practitioners in holding lead professional roles.
4. Piloting a duty system – testing a Sunderland-style model with dedicated staff to streamline referrals, create timely outcomes, and ensure families are quickly signposted to the right level of support.
5. Promoting family self-help – investing in resources such as online navigation tools to empower families to access early, universal support without needing formal referral.
6. Long-term system change – recognising that moving towards an 80/20 model (like Lincolnshire) requires cultural as well as structural change, and setting realistic timescales for transformation.

Kellie Wigley – Head of Service, Early Help, Youth Justice and Youth Support.

24/09/2025

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Families First Partnership Reforms

Scrutiny Update

FFP journey to date



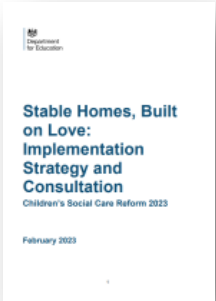
The **Independent Care Review** and **National Panel review** made a number of ambitious recommendations to transform support and protection in children's social care (CSC).



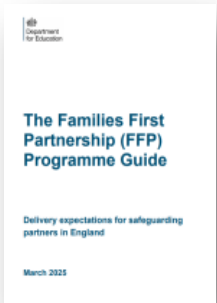
The DfE established the **Families First for Children Pathfinder (FFCP)** programme to facilitate reforms to family help, child protection and family network services in a phased way.



Funding distributed to Local Authorities and official kick off for the FFP programme.

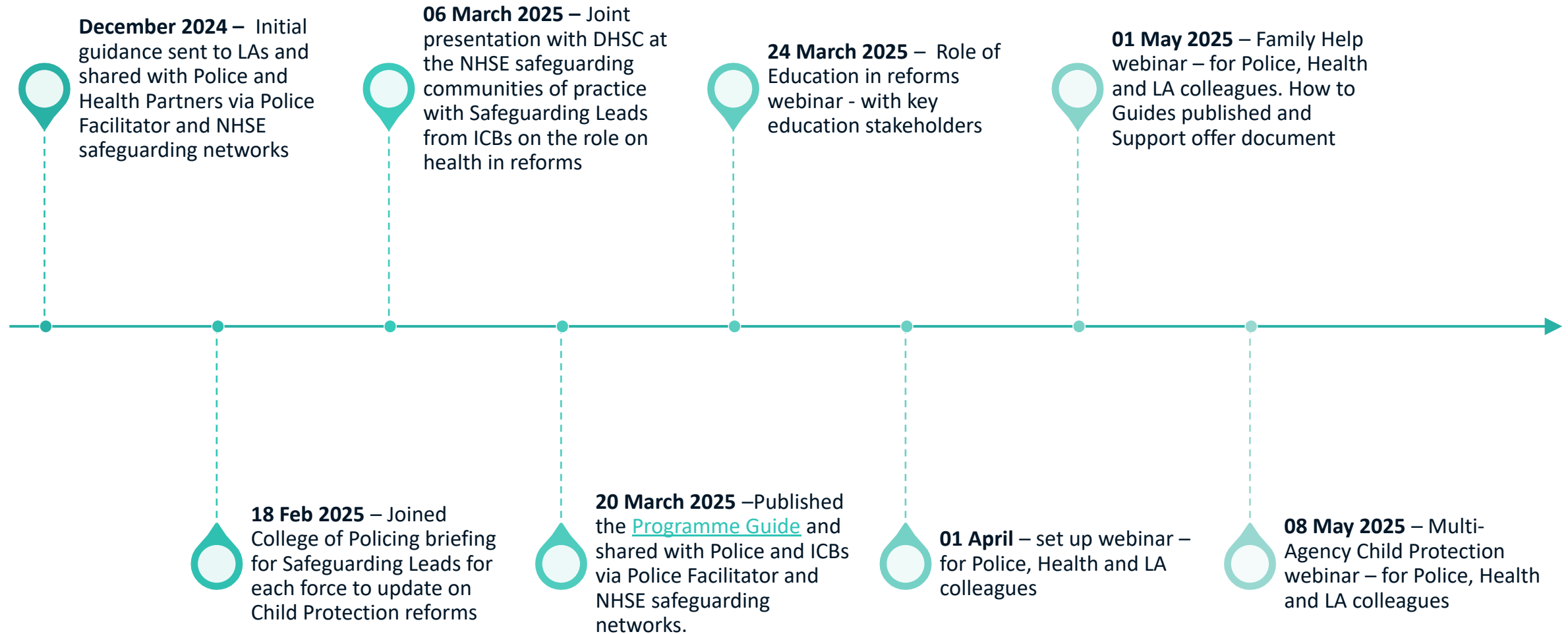


In response to these recommendations, the Department for Education (DfE) has published its implementation strategy, **'Stable Homes, Built on Love'**, which sets out a range of proposed reforms in CSC.






Published the **Programme Guide** and shared with Police and ICBs via Police Facilitator and NHSE safeguarding networks.

How partners have been engaged to date:



Guidance overview

The Families First Partnership (FFP) programme comprises of 3 key reform strands - implementing Family Help, Multi-agency Child Protection Teams and Family Group Decision Making.

FFP Reforms		
<div>Family Help</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Family Help will take place at the heart of communities, bringing together local services under a combined, multi-disciplinary practice.It will wrap support around the whole-family at the earliest opportunity – using the expertise of multi-disciplinary practitioners.Family Help will ensure consistency of relationships between children, families and their lead practitioner;One plan will be adopted for children and families, but adapt as needs change.</div>	<div>Multi Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPTs)</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Multi-agency child protection is a system where the right decisions are made at the right time for children, bringing experts together across agencies.MACPTs should seek to protect all children from actual or likely significant harm, inside and outside of the home, including online.MACP should also engage and empower parents, family networks and others in a transparent and compassionate way to care safely for their children, wherever this is possible.</div>	<div>Family Group Decision Making</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Family group decision-making (FGDM) is a voluntary process that enables a family network to come together and make a family-led plan.The plan will include offering practical support to parents and carers, whilst prioritising the safety and wellbeing of the child.FGDM helps to ensure a family network is engaged and empowered to participate in decision-making while a child and their family is receiving help, support or protection.</div>

Family Help Overview

Bringing together family support workers (or equivalent) and social workers into a **single service**. This covers a **broad continuum of need** – from targeted early help through to child protection - that responds more flexibly to a range of contexts, needs and harms. Safeguarding partnerships should work together to publish a **refreshed threshold document**, and update local protocols to enable this.

Multi-disciplinary Family Help Teams	Family Help Lead Practitioners (FHLP)	Family Help Assessment and Plans	Front Door Arrangements
<p>Local partnerships should set up, or build on existing multi-disciplinary teams, to include co-working between a wide range of practitioners.</p> <p>Local partnerships should refer to population needs assessments to determine the different agencies, services and practitioners involved.</p> <p>Safeguarding partners should consider how to effectively join up Family Help with existing SEND services.</p>	<p>Safeguarding partners should establish the FHLP role.</p> <p>A clear process should identify the most suitable lead practitioner in Family Help, with high quality supervision.</p> <p>There should be a shared practice framework across agencies.</p> <p>Publish local protocols for assessments and support, including clarifying who can act as an FHLP.</p> <p>This will include developing a multi-agency workforce development plan.</p>	<p>Develop family help assessments and plans in line with Working Together.</p> <p>Ensure practitioners consider the needs of the whole-family and that the child’s voice.</p> <p>Coordinate with other assessments that are ongoing and develop family help plans that provide clear, measurable outcomes for the child.</p> <p>Plans should specify the agencies and practitioners involved, with robust oversight arrangements.</p>	<p>Move towards an integrated front door, where contacts and referrals can be triaged to the right level of service. Local partnerships operating Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) should review/explore how their functions might align more strongly with other places where families might come into contact with services.</p> <p>Consider the range of practitioners and agencies that could be brought into the integrated front door.</p>

Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPTs)

Principles of MACPTs:

1

Effective multi-agency child protection is a system where the right decisions are made at the right time to keep children safe.

2

Establishing MACPTs will bring a clear focus where there are child protection concerns, bringing experts together to identify actual or likely significant harm.

3

Multi-agency child protection should also engage and empower parents, family networks and others in a transparent and compassionate way.

4

Social workers with child protection expertise are critical within Family Help for children.

Functions of a MACPT

- chairing strategy meetings and CP conferences;
- leading section 47 enquiries;
- leading or overseeing multi-agency and single investigations (as required);
- gathering information about whether a child is suffering significant harm, to support decision making;
- build in family group decision making and family network engagement into child protection processes;
- overseeing the development, review and closure of plans;
- input to onward planning for children and families (including continued support from Family Help or supporting reunification);
- initiating emergency action (Emergency Protection Orders, Police Protection Orders);
- deciding whether to move into pre-proceedings and the Public Law Outline (PLO) process;
- providing relevant evidence to subsequent court proceedings;
- providing advice and consultation for practitioners who need multi-agency child protection expertise;
- maintaining an understanding of local patterns of significant harm and agency responses;
- oversight of all children who are the subject of section 47 enquiries or on a child protection plan and a clear line of sight to and from the local safeguarding partnership

Family Group Decision Making

FGDM enables the family network to come together to establish a family led plan in response to a child's safety and wellbeing. FGDM should be offered at every decision point, from Family Help, into support, through multi-agency child protection, pre-proceedings and reunification. The FHLP and MACPT are vital in the process, using their expertise and knowledge of the child and the family to support FGDM. The FHLP will be crucial in identifying the family network and bringing them into the process

The Process

1. Appointing a dedicated FGDM facilitator

A designated Family Group Decision Making facilitator should be identified to coordinate and lead the FGDM process.

2. Preparation

An Initial meeting with professionals;
Pre-meetings with the parents and child;
Co-designing and setting up the meeting with partners;
a Facilitator's preparation meeting.

3. The FGDM meeting

A carefully facilitated meeting, giving the family the time and space to come up with their own plan to address concerns for the child.

4. Reviewing the plan

The facilitator should make arrangements for the family network to review their plan within a reasonable and agreed time frame.

Throughout the FGDM, the FHLP and MACPT will support and may in some cases determine that FGDM is not appropriate if it not in the child's best interest. FGDM should be offered for pre-proceeding (in the letter before proceedings) but only where appropriate in and the child's best interests.

Integrated Front Door

The Integrated Front Door is the main way for people to raise concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing. It's the first place to go if someone is worried about a child and needs help or advice. The team behind the IFD responds to any identified needs of the children and families, consider what's going on and makes sure the child and family get the right kind of support as quickly as possible. This could mean connecting them with social workers, health professionals, or other services that can help.

The Process

- Within one working day of a referral being made, a decision is required regarding next steps, which may include:
- The child requires immediate protection and urgent action is required.
- There is reasonable cause to suspect that the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and whether enquiries must be made, and the child assessed under section 47 of the Children Act 1989.
- The child is in need and should be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.
- Any immediate services are required urgently by the child and family and what type of services.
- Further specialist assessments are required to help the local authority to decide what further action to take.
- To see the child as soon as possible if the decision is taken that the referral requires further assessment.
- Early Help Support.
- No further action (Information, Advice & Guidance (IAG))

DFE Core Principles of an Integrated Front Door



1

Right help, right time, first time - not just a faster route but a better one



2

Shared responsibility, not-handoff –multiple agencies working together, not referring on



3

Opportunity for conversations, not just referrals – prioritising listening, not filtering



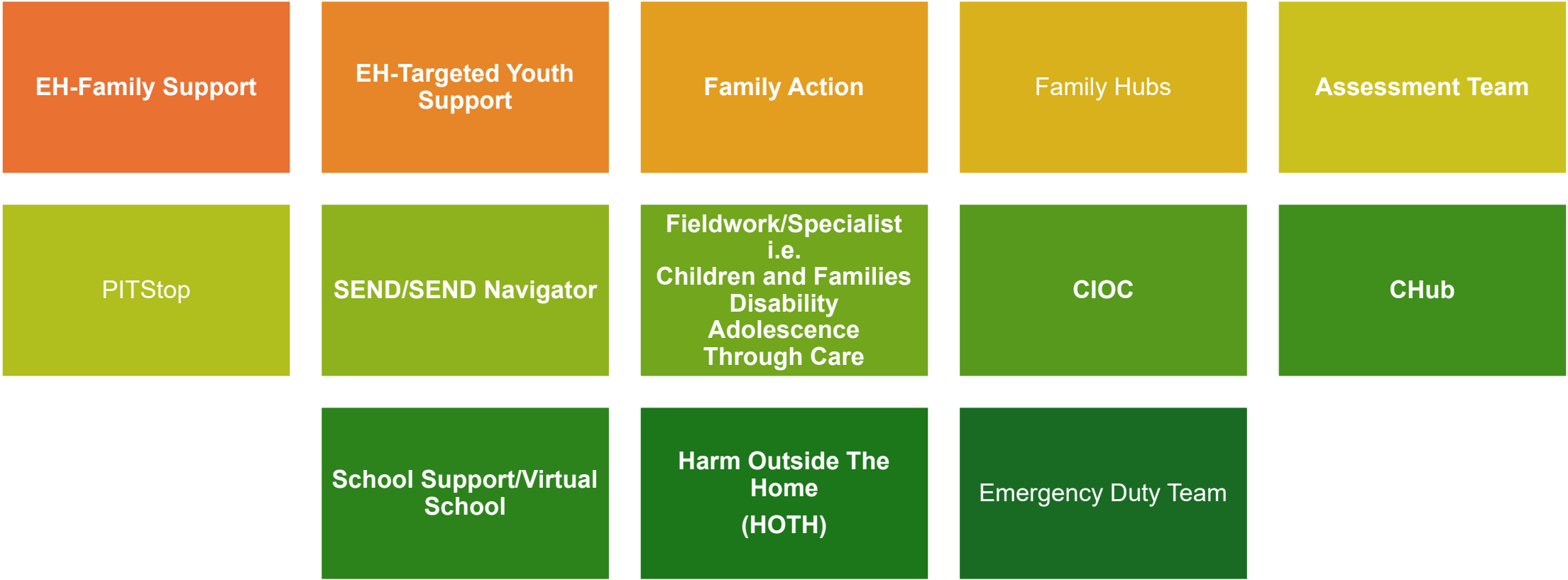
4

One system, one story – enabling continuity for families across services

Guiding Principles

- Local authority children's social care has the responsibility for clarifying the process for referrals in their area.
- Have a clear point of contact for professionals and families, if they wish to seek advice, support or make a referral.
- Co-produced 'Threshold Document'.
- Multi-agency collaboration and information sharing from Statutory Safeguarding Partners including, Local Authorities, Police and Integrated Health Board. Children's Act 2004 – Section 16E. Now Education!
- Timely Response.
- Child centered and family focused.
- Maintain clear records and data.
- Underpinned by Children's Act 1989, Children's Act 2004 and Working Together Guidance.

Routes of entry into Children’s Services



Learning

Challenges

- Significant demand coming into the CHub
- Significant amount of administration required in relation to quality of referrals, telephone queries and updates
- Challenges around gathering consent
- Challenges in relation to proportion of referrals that could be supported through Early Help
- Time required to administer strategy meetings

Opportunities

- Clearer processes and understanding of decision making
- Clearer navigation through a complicated system
- Partners would like better feedback/updates to understand if the referral was accepted or the outcome
- A single point of entry

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KSCCP

Information
Shared
With

TSAB

SBC PoF

SBC CMT

HWB
board

Decision
Groups

Place Leadership Board

Families First Partnership
Programme Board

Action Groups

Families First Partnership Delivery Team
(Comprised of FFP Pillar Leads, Health, Education and Police Leads, and Project Management staff)

**FFP Pillar: Family Help
Working
Group**

Lead Officer:
Kellie Wigley

Head of Service Early
Help, Youth Justice and
Youth Support

**FFP Pillar: Integrated
Front Door Working
Group**

Lead Officer:
Emma Champley

Assistant Director
Transformation

**FFP Pillar: Multi-Agency
Child Protection Teams
Working Group**

Lead Officer:
Jan Edwards

Head of Service Quality
and Improvement

**FFP Pillar: Family Group
Decision Making Working
Group**

Lead Officer:
Kellie Wigley

Head of Service Early Help,
Youth Justice and Youth
Support

Cross-Cutting Themes

Coproduction and Comms: led by Jane Smith, FFP Lead

Workforce including Recruitment, Retention and Practice Development : Led by Lynn Stoneley, Head of Service Practice Development and PSW

Systems, Data and Performance: Lead to be confirmed

Setting a Vision for Stockton-on-Tees FFP

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Child and family centred

- Relationship based
- Coproduced
- Child and Family voice

Prevention and Early Intervention

- Shift from crisis-led to proactive early support
- Builds on family strengths
- Uses data and community insight to target need

Supported Workforce

- Continuous learning and development
- Culture of high support, high challenge

Integrated Partnership Working

- Common practice model and approach
- Shared goals, data and accountability
- Professions are valued and respected equally

Reduced Demand

- Supporting families to stay safely together
- Long term reduction in statutory intervention
- Decreasing number of children coming into care

What will this look like?



For Children

- Children are safe at home and in their community
- Children have stable and supportive relationships
- Children's views shape the support they receive
- Fewer children need statutory intervention or come into care

For Families

- Families are supported to stay safely together
- Families receive help and support early
- Families feel listened to, respected and will lead their own plans
- Family and community strengths are valued and built upon

For Workforce

- Practitioners have time and space to build relationships with children and families
- Staff feel supported, trusted and valued
- Practice is supported by evidence, reflection and the lived experience of children and families

For System

- More children and families receive effective early help
- Resources are used more effectively across the system
- Data and insight are shared to improve decision and learning

Work to date



- 1

Financial allocation for LAs confirmed through grant funding streams.
Proportion of this is to fund transformation
- 2

Stockton-on-Tees selected by DfE to receive support to implement the reforms through their delivery partner, Mutual Ventures
- 3

Programme set up established and governance in place. Stage one delivery plan submitted to DfE
- 4

Needs assessment completed to understand current and future needs of children, young people and families to inform all aspects of service design and reshaping

Next Steps for completion by December 2025

Design of delivery model for Integrated Front Door, staffing model and partner agencies resource commitment confirmed

Design of delivery model for Multi Agency Child Protection team, staffing model and partner agencies resource commitment confirmed

Detailed stage two delivery plan to be submitted to DfE which outlines implementation of reforms and spend

Benchmarking data returns to be submitted to DfE from Q2 onwards to support the development of future statutory data returns

Linking the reforms to Early Help scrutiny

- Right support at the right time
- Shared responsibility and effective partnerships
- High-demand into the current CHub in the front door which potentially could be better supported with an Early Help focus
- Clarity for families and professionals about the support available in terms of Early Help
- Ensuring effectively and timely information sharing

Linking the reforms to Early Help Strategy Development

- Opportunities to improve family engagement, prioritising improving relationship between members and officers, improved communication systems and meaningful community voice
- Assessment tools which can be used by a range of services to improve the approach to 'one assessment' across the partnership
- Improved data sharing and plan sharing to support the idea of 'One team' around the family
- Improving data sharing from all parts of the partnership, to understand pressures, priorities and how to use and deploy resource effectively
- Leadership which promotes early help as a system and not a single service, understanding shared accountability and decision making
- Leadership which drives a shared culture, principles and practice and clarity on the impact of our collective action

STOCKTON PARENT CARER FORUM

SPCF have been asked to submit evidence regarding partnership working in Early Help for the People Select Committee. Unfortunately, on this occasion, we are unable to attend in person but wanted to share parent carer views, some context and our current position. In our absence we would be happy to be forwarded any questions with regards to this report and we will provide a response.

SPCF are a volunteer led service, we are parents and carers of children and young people with Special educational Needs and/or Disabilities aged 0-25 and the recognised voice for those parent carers in Stockton. We currently have a database of over 2000 and an extremely active social media platform.

The response to this Survey has been small but it is a reflection of opinion that we hear from parent carers and have heard over the last 4 years, and before. In our view it also cements the concerns for SEND families around Early help and their experiences over the years and the lack of trust in a system.

Parent carers have shared experiences and feedback about the system for a considerable number of years with nothing ever changing or being done. Parent carers are exhausted fighting a system that works against them and is not fit to meet their families need- often looking via a safeguarding lens rather than a specific SEND 'meeting need' lens. There isn't clear information about the offer, what to expect or how to navigate it. This would go a long way to support and help families.

Whilst looking at co production we need to firstly ascertain and agree coproduction based on its principles. This needs to be embedded. Before we get to co production we need to establish engagement and participation which is meaningful, and builds in feedback loops, rather than a done to approach based on meeting someone else's agenda and ticking a box. True coproduction is rare but we should not discount partnership working, consultation and working together- we just need to be clear that that is not coproduction. Purposeful communication, listening and hearing what people say underpins every aspect of what is needed alongside building relationships, accountability, trust and transparency. Following through with actions and positive impact on families is where the outcomes will be seen. These key fundamentals cannot be discounted when looking at an Early help offer. We don't currently have this in place.

Whilst the experience of early help for many parent carers hasn't been a positive one over the years, SPCF are now involved with the Families First Social care reforms and sit on the board too. Our current experience isn't reflective of the previous years with evident partnership working and a want to do better for families. It's also important to recognise that SEND is a smaller part of the social care system but an important part that needs its own understanding. Whilst still in its infancy, it is clear that families voice is integral to implementation of the reforms but there is considerable work and

commitment needed to allow for this to happen- we recognise that parent carers don't feel this on the ground as yet.

Parent carers were asked their views on specific questions detailed below- This is raw data and demonstrates the need for getting in early, much earlier intervention. For clarity of information to make informed choices to meet the families need and for them to be involved in decision making regarding things that will affect them, being seen through a SEND lens not a Safeguarding lens, if not appropriate Is really important to families too.

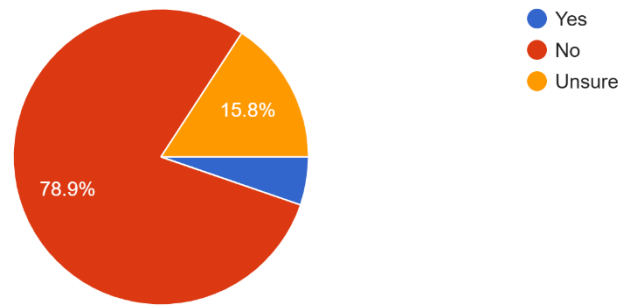
What you think of the early help offer across Stockton?

19 responses



Do you feel like you are involved in the planning of early help and that the services are co-produced?

19 responses



In particular relation to SEND, what works well within the Early Help offer?

Nothing

In my experience nothing works, early help was offered far too late for my son, this should be offered as soon as possible

The support for my son

Understanding family's needs who speak other languages and understand language cultures having school support

Nothing, did not receive adequate support

Not sure

Nothing

Again, I've had to research Early help myself and reach out to Services, i.e. send Health visitors, disability social worker etc

It's not explained what is available

Poor, no help

Early help Caseworkers such have training in SEND to help their understanding in order to support families.

Our experience was poor. Professionals did not understand the complexities of our daughter's disability

Nothing worked for us

Nothing they wouldn't help and said it was nothing to do with them.

Unable to answer

In particular relation to SEND, and are there any gaps in the Early Help offer?

Yes, massive ones, we were only offered these 6 years down the line

No, it's all good

Language, school support, helping families to understand a diagnosis and what that means

It only seems to be a sign posting service. Limited ability to actually make a practical difference other than agreed the relevant referrals to support services had already been made as we were proactive parents. Need more practical support and counselling available for families who have SEND.

Definitely, families that are crying out for help reaching out to early help often get sign posted to Stockton local offer and no support. Then told don't qualify for social worker. Families can feel very alone.

Seems pointless

Yes

Not meeting with me or contact me after school application. I did not no it had been rejected and was waiting for someone to get in touch.

Lots of gap's communication is the biggest gap

Early help for me seems to be only offered from age 5, I get no support for my 3 yrs old

No information

Alot of gaps

Knowing how to help and where to point in the right direction. Also find you get passed from person to person no follow up and no help

Lack of SEND awareness and training makes it hard for Caseworkers to understand families with SEND children.

Support for young adults with additional needs. System too complicated

Yeah, not fit for purpose

Yes. They said 'the issues are all send related so we can't help'

Yes, they don't actually help, they told me it was nothing to do with them.

Unable to answer

How well do you think partnerships are working in early help?

Partnerships from who

Very well

Not very well information is not shared well enough

Comes too late

Not very good, a-lot of the time they are dismissive and don't listen to your concerns

Not well

They don't

Not well, unless it was poor communication from the school my son was in at the time.

Again, nothing has been offered

I don't know what is available so not well

SPCF 23/09/25

I don't know

Not

Works for some but not others which isn't good. Everyone should receive the same level of support as other families with similar needs.

Parents need to be part of the partnership and it be collaborative working not being dictated too. Particularly with children who have suffered significant trauma on top of their Sen

No idea what they are despite having had 2 early help referrals and an assessment

It isn't

Unable to answer

Would you like to add anything else regarding SEND and Early Help?

I think all of this should be offered as soon as a child is put on the SEN register, if we had this help very early on, I don't think my son would have struggled as much as he did

Should be easier to connect and get information to help your child diagnose and information of different agencies that can help in one place

It needs to offer real practical support and not feel like another ticky box exercise to jump through the next hoop to get any real support to make a difference

Got told I was more qualified than them to help my Sen child with his behaviours

I received no help when I needed it

Early help is a key service for families and if utilised correctly could be invaluable for families

More parents support, more parent access to courses more help within a mainstream environment

More visibility particularly due to the length of time you are on the pathway to diagnosis

No

Not enough knowledge about FASD. Stockton is ASD only focused need to understand all neurodiversity effects children

Any support is better than I had, which was just the usual gaslighting 'you are amazing, you are doing really well'

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People Select Committee
Review of Partnership Working in Early Help
Outline Scope

Scrutiny Chair (Project Director): Cllr Marilyn Surtees	Contact details: m.surtees@stockton.gov.uk
Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager): Michelle Gunn	Contact details: Michelle.gunn@stockton.gov.uk
Departmental Link Officer: Kellie Wigley	Contact details: Kellie.wigley@stockton.gov.uk
PMO Link Aishah Waithe	Contact details: Aishah.waithe@stockton.gov.uk

Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?

Early Help focusses on support and interventions for children and their families when needed most therefore this review will contribute to priority one – the best start in life to achieve big ambition. In particular it will contribute to the following key moves:

- Giving children and young people the best possible start, in an inclusive community where everyone can thrive
- A safe community for all children and young people

The review will also contribute to priority two – health and resilient communities, key move ensuring happy and healthy lives for all.

What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?

Early Help (EH) offers support to children and their families who require help with a range of presenting issues including behaviour, family relationships, problems at school, budgets or debt, children's routine or other difficulties they may be experiencing.

The Department for Education have recently published Families First Partnership Programme (FFP), which is the start of the National reforms and expectations on Local Authorities.

The vision of the programme

The FFP programme will support safeguarding partners to bring together targeted early help, child in need, and multi-agency child protection into a seamless system of help, support and protection. This includes services and workforces, such as family support workers, social workers and other specialist and alternatively qualified practitioners, coming together to support families.

By targeted early help, child in need and child protection, we mean:

- Targeted early help: children and families with multiple and/or complex needs that require a plan to be in place and a lead practitioner appointed;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in Need (Section 17, Children Act 1989): a general duty for local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need or are disabled, and promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs; • Child protection (Section 47): the duty on the local authorities to investigate where they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child who lives, or is found, in their area is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. <p>This review will aim to gain a greater understanding of the effectiveness of the partnership and early help offer across the partners.</p>
<p>The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are families getting the right support at the right time to prevent escalation of needs? • Consideration of No Further Action (NFA) rate from Statutory Assessment • What is the local authority's and partnership offer across EH? • What is the demand on external partnerships to deliver EH interventions? • How effective and strong is the partnership offer? • How accessible are services? • How clear is the offer for both professionals and families, and how easy is it to navigate? • How effective are information sharing protocols across the partnership?
<p>Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?</p> <p>Cabinet, Council, partners</p>
<p>Expected duration of review and key milestones:</p> <p>7 months (reporting to Cabinet in January)</p> <p>Approve scope and project plan – May 2025 Receive evidence – June 2025 – October 2025 Draft recommendations – November 2025 Final report – December 2025 Report to Cabinet – January 2025</p>
<p>What information do we need?</p> <p>Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help System Guide https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-families-early-help-system-guide • Families First Partnership Programme https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/families-first-partnership-programme • Scrutiny review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment chrome- https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s8755/Select%20Committee%20Report.pdf <p>New information:</p>

Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)	What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?
<p>SBC Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Care • Education • School Support • Family Hubs • Early Help Teams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background information • Feedback from Early Help Strategy workstreams • The offer of support/what services are they offering? • How many families are working with partners? • How many families re-referrals are received? • NFA rate with Social Care Assessments
<p>Partners including those on the Children & Young People Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Care Board • Tees Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust • Education • Police • Catalyst • Family Action • HDFT 0-19 • Stockton Parent Carer Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data regarding number of families partners are working with & how many they refer to LA • Data regarding the number of families returning to partners for early help services • Partners experience of the partnership and how it works for them • Partners views on partnership
Other Local Authorities including pathfinder LA for the new reforms, Lincolnshire and Sunderland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practice examples of how other LA's deliver Early Help with their partners
Service users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service users experience of accessing and navigating the service • Service users experience of the online offer
<p>How will this information be gathered? (e.g. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)</p> <p>Committee meetings, reports, case studies, desk based research, focus group of service user</p>	
<p>How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?</p> <p>Committee meetings, information submissions, focus group of service users</p>	

How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?

The Equality Act 2010 protects everyone from discrimination on grounds of nine Protected Characteristics (including – but not limited to – age, gender, disability, ethnicity), and advance equality of opportunity for those with Protected Characteristics.

Public bodies must have due regard for advancing equality which includes:

- removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics
- taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people

The review will contribute towards meeting the Council's requirements under this Duty, particularly in relation to the outcomes for more vulnerable children.

How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

Early Help ensures that children and their families have access to support and interventions when they are needed therefore the review will directly contribute to Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030: Focus Area 1: All children and families have the best start in life

Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:

This review will contribute to greater understanding of interventions and approaches which are effective at supporting children and families at the earliest opportunity. The review will also identify where partnership working can be improved.

Project Plan

Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering	April 2025	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	22.04.25	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Agree Project Plan	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	12.05.25	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	Determine whether Communications Plan needed	TBD	Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
Obtaining Evidence	Evidence SBC services/officers Service User Focus Groups Feedback from Focus Groups and best practice from LA's Evidence from Partners	02.06.25 07.07.25 08.09.25 06.10.25	Select Committee
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	03.11.25	Select Committee
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	November	Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	TBD	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Final Agreement of Report	Approval of final report by Committee	08.12.25	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	20.01.26	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet/Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	15.01.26	Cabinet / Approving Body

People Select Committee – Work Programme 2025- 2026

Date (4pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
Monday 7 April 2025	Monitoring: Action Plan Scrutiny Review of Disabled Facilities Grant	Sam Dixon
Monday 12 May 2025	Monitoring: Progress Update – Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Draft) Scope and Project Plan • Background Presentation 	Haleem Ghafoor Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite
Monday 2 June 2025	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help & Family Hubs 	Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite Hazel Clark and John Lathaem
Monday 7 July 2025	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Care • School Support 	John Lathaem & Aishah Waite Louise Nixon Mandie Rowlands
Monday 8 September 2025	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITSTOP • HDFT • Family Action 	Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite Cheryl Hall Sarah Massiter Emma Crawford
Monday 6 October 2025	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catalyst • Best practice from other Local Authorities • Family First Reforms 	Lucy Owens Hazel Clark, Aishah Waite & Jane Smith
Monday 3 November 2025	Monitoring: Progress Update – Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response Monitoring: Initial Update Scrutiny Review of Disabled Facility Grant	Rebecca Saunders-Thompson TBC Sam Dixon

People Select Committee – Work Programme 2025- 2026

Date (4pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
Monday 3 November 2025 (informal)	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help	Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite
Monday 8 December 2025	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help – Final Report	Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite
Monday 5 January 2026		
Monday 2 February 2026		
Monday 2 March 2026		

To be scheduled

Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Provision