



Leicester
City Council

**MEETING OF THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION
SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

DATE: TUESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

TIME: 5:30 pm

**PLACE: Meeting Room G.01, Ground Floor, City Hall, 115 Charles
Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ**

Members of the Commission

Councillor Batool (Chair)
Councillor Cole (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Barnes, Haq, Joshi, Dr Moore, Pantling and Pickering

Standing Invitees (Non-Voting)

Youth Representatives
Jennifer Day Teaching Unions representative
Janet McKenna UNISON Branch Secretary

Members of the Commission are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed overleaf.

For the Monitoring Officer

Officer contacts:

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USEFUL ACRONYMS IN RELATION TO OFSTED AND EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

(updated November 2015)

Acronym	Meaning
APS	Average Point Score: the average attainment of a group of pupils; points are assigned to levels or grades attained on tests.
ASYE	Assessed and Supported Year in Employment
C&YP	Children and Young People
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CFST	Children and Families Support Team
CICC	Children in Care Council
CIN	Children in Need
CLA	Children Looked After
CLASS	City of Leicester Association of Special Schools
COLGA	City of Leicester Governors Association
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CYPF	Children Young People and Families Division (Leicester City Council)
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
CYPS Scrutiny	Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission
DAS	Duty and Advice Service
DCS	Director of Children's Services
EAL	English as an Additional Language
EET	Education, Employment and Training
EHA	Early Help Assessment
EHCP	Education Health and Care Plan
EHP	Early Help Partnership
EHSS	Early Help Stay Safe
EIP	Education Improvement Partnership

ELG	Early Learning Goals: aspects measured at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile
EY	Early Years
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage: (0-5); assessed at age 5.
EYFSP	Early Years Foundation Stage Profile
FS	Foundation Stage: nursery and school Reception, ages 3-5; at start of Reception a child is assessed against the new national standard of 'expected' stage of development, then teacher assessment of Foundation Stage Profile areas of learning
FSM	Free School Meals
GCSE	General Certificate of Education
GLD	Good Level of Development
HMCI	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector
HR	Human Resources
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KS1	Key Stage 1: National Curriculum Years (NCYs) 1 and 2, ages 5-7; assessed at age 7.
KS2	Key Stage 2: NCYs 3, 4, 5, and 6, ages 7-11; assessed at age 11.
KS3	Key Stage 3: NCYs 7, 8 and 9, ages 11-14; no statutory assessment.
KS4	Key Stage 4: NCYs 10 and 11, ages 14-16; assessed at age 16.
KTC	Knowledge Transfer Centre
LA	Local Authority
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LARP	Leicester Access to Resources Panel
LCCIB	Leicester City Council Improvement Board
LCT	Leicester Children's Trust
LDD	Learning Difficulty or Disability
LESP	Leicester Education Strategic Partnership
LLEs	Local Leaders of Education
LP	Leicester Partnership

LPP	Leicester Primary Partnership
LPS	Leicester Partnership School
LSCB	Leicester Safeguarding Children Board
LSOAs	Lower Super Output Areas
MACFA	Multi Agency Case File Audit
NCY	National Curriculum Year
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NLEs	National Leaders of Education
NLGs	National Leaders of Governance
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
PEPs	Personal Education Plans
PI	Performance Indicator
PVI	Private, Voluntary and Independent
QA	Quality Assurance
RAP	Resource Allocation Panel
RI	Requires Improvement
SA	Single Assessment
SALT	Speech and Language Therapy
SCR	Serious Case Review
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SIMS	Schools Information Management Systems
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
SLEs	Specialist Leaders of Education
SMT	Senior Management Team
SRE	Sex and Relationship Education
TBC	To be Confirmed
TFL	Tertiary Federation Leicester
TP	Teenage Pregnancy
UHL	University Hospitals Leicester
WIT	Whatever it Takes
YOS	Youth Offending Service

YPC	Young People's Council
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PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**Appendix A
(Pages 1 - 8)**

The minutes of the meeting of the Children, Young People, and Education Scrutiny Commission held on 11 July 2023 are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any petitions.

6. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS, AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer to report on any questions, representations, or statements of case received.

7. FAMILY HUBS

**Appendix B
(Pages 9 - 16)**

The Strategic Director of Social Care and Education submits a report on Family Hubs.

8. CHILDREN AND SOCIAL CARE

The new Director of Childrens Social Care (Damien Elcock) will introduce himself and talk to members about this service.

9. UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN (UASC)

The Strategic Director of Social Care and Education will give a brief verbal update on Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children in Leicester.

10. AN UPDATE ON RAAC IN LEICESTER CITY SCHOOLS

The Strategic Director of Social Care and Education will provide Members with a verbal update on the latest position.

11. WORK PROGRAMME

**Appendix C
(Pages 17 - 20)**

The Commission's Work Programme is attached for information and comment.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS



Leicester
City Council

Appendix A

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: TUESDAY, 11 JULY 2023 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Batool (Chair)
Councillor Cole (Vice Chair)

Councillor Dr Moore
Councillor Pickering

Councillor Pantling

Standing Invitees (Non-Voting)

Jennifer Day
Janet Mckenna

Teaching Unions
Union Representative

Also Present
Councillor Dempster – Assistant City Mayor

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed those present and led introductions.

There were no apologies for absence

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have had in the business to be discussed.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED:

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Commission held on 21 March 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION 2023/24

The Membership of the Commission for 2023/24 was noted.

5. DATES OF MEETINGS FOR THE COMMISSION 2023/24

The dates of meetings of the Commission for 2023/24 were noted.

6. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

7. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported that a petition has been received from Mr T Barker, on behalf of the Campaign to ask the Council to reconsider withdrawing the funding for its residential setting. The petition was in relation to item 8 of the agenda, Ash Field Academy Residential Provision - Consultation Findings.

The Chair informed those present that the response to the Hands off Ash Field Academy petition submitted at the meeting would be received as part of the substantive item Ash Field Academy Residential Provision - Consultation Findings..

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8. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS, AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer reported that no questions, representations, or statements of case had been received.

9. ASH FIELD ACADEMY RESIDENTIAL PROVISION - CONSULTATION FINDINGS

The Chair introduced the item. She asked officers to provide the Commission with as much detail as possible on the consultation findings on withdrawing the £400k funding per annum to Ash Field Academy, from 1 September 2024.

The Chair invited Mr Barker to address the Commission.

Mr Barker had requested to present the petition to the meeting. The petition had 1261 signatures and was in the following form:-

“We, the undersigned, request Following a city-wide review of funding for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), Leicester City Council is consulting on a proposal to withdraw the funding provided to Ash Field Academy to support its residential education services. The withdrawal of this

funding is very likely to force Ash Field to close its residential setting. Ash Field does not receive sufficient funding from other sources to maintain the service without it. There are no comparable services offered by any other state funded education setting in the city. This will have a devastating impact on the highly vulnerable pupils who attend, all of whom have complex special educational needs. It will also cause enormous upset and stress for their families and communities, and represent an immeasurable loss to the education landscape in Leicester. We believe that the withdrawal of this funding is a grave error. We call upon Leicester City Council to reconsider their proposal, and work with Ash Field and its stakeholders to preserve this badly needed service.” The Monitoring Officer advises that this petition has received 1261 verified signatures. Under the Council’s Petition’s Scheme, the petition has met the requirement for a senior officer to provide evidence at the meeting in relation to this petition. The Lead Petitioner has been asked to introduce their petition, to which a senior officer will respond.”

The Chair allowed Mr Barker 5 minutes to address the Commission.

Members were advised that Scrutiny Procedure Rule 9 (a) (ii) (e) stated that if a petition was presented at the same Committee meeting at which there was a report on the agenda on the same subject, a Councillor may propose that the petition be considered with the report. Otherwise, the petition would be accepted with debate and referred to the Monitoring Officer for consideration and action as appropriate.

RESOLVED:

That the petition be received and referred to the Monitoring Officer for consideration and action as appropriate. Leicester City Council have offered to work alongside Ash Field Academy, the offer had been declined at present.

The Strategic Director of Social Care and Education submitted a report providing an overview of the findings of strategic review of residential provision at Ashfield Academy and the associated consultation proposal to cease funding with effect from September 2024

The Director of SEND and Early Help introduced the report. The Consultation had run from 26 September 2022 to 9 January 2023, it was extended by 2 weeks, as requested by the school to give people time to send in their responses. 378 responses had been received through the Councils Portal and further information and testimonies had been received from families with children attending the school. Two visits had been made by Council Officers and Councillor Cutkelvin to talk to parents, pupils and staff members.

Members noted that:

- Concerns raised in the report were that Leicester City Council had been clear in stating that the provision is not educational in terms of academic learning. The Council do understand as stated by Mr Barker that it provides social independent skills.
- Use of the provision would need to be included in the children’s

Education, Health and Care Plan, out of the 160 pupils at the school, none of them have it recorded in their plan, the information is detailed in the report in terms of where it fits in to the Code of Practice, in the Children's and Families Act.

- There were currently 1000 children across the city in special schools. The central government did not provide enough funding for the care required and additional funding was not available to support the provision.
- The Council has a Disabled Children's Service which is used by 283 children that receive support. If a child or young person is eligible for assistance the parents can apply for a direct payment to activities and clubs such as Memphis, which is specifically for disabled children.
- Barnes Heath is a Council owned provision that can offer required support for families with disabled children.
- There are 2 children who attend Ash Field, who live at Barnes Heath on a permanent basis. The manager of Barnes Heath confirmed the position of those children and there isn't a need for them to use the residential provision, but because they want too.
- The Council could not respond in terms of redundancies as the proposal is to withdraw funding and not to close the facility. It would be down to the academy to make that decision. The Council will work with them to look at alternatives before it gets to that point. The funding is not due to be withdrawn until September 2024, so it would enable time to consider potential opportunities.
- The Council recognise the value of the provision, but there are also increasing numbers of children and young people with special needs and disabilities and therefore priority needs to be given to providing education to this group.

After a discussion and in response to members questions, it was noted that:

- Lead Elected Members had come together with both the East Midlands and Childrens Board through the LGA to reinforce what the ADCS (Association of Directors of Childrens Services) are saying regarding the way the funding was being put together, the increase in need local authorities were seeing and trying to spread out resources that were not sufficient.
- Executive Members were trying as many ways as possible, including working with the LG Childrens Board, letters had been written to Ministers and inviting them to meetings to be challenged directly. MPs had been lobbied at regional and national conferences.
- The ADCS had recently had their annual conference and the national SEND System was a major topic of event. A very clear agreement across the sector from all Directors in the room was that the changes introduced in 2014 were seriously flawed and there was an urgent requirement for the government to review the whole process in which EHCP's were developed, as they pushed people into an adversarial medical diagnosis approach to special educational needs, which doesn't put the child at the centre of their support.
- Conversations that had been held with Education Skills Funding Agency,

who ultimately review and controls the high needs block and they were clear that they don't regard the residential provision as education. If they were to believe we were using funding for something which they don't believe is educational funding or educational provision they could take action against the authority and say in effect that the authority were misusing funding and any costs should come from the general fund, which is in a very difficult position.

- If the Council were to argue that provision remained funded from the High Needs Block, it is already several million pounds overspent. There are national schemes to reduce spending and bring those over spends back into balance. There isn't any extra money available and the pressure is to reduce expenditure.
- School transportation is not education and is not covered by the funding. It is the single biggest cost pressure in the whole Council and the team are actively working to ensure we are able to meet the statutory obligations in terms of enabling children with EHCP's to access education.
- The Council have been working on a recovery plan for the last few months and are under pressure to get it returned to the Department for Education (DFE) it isn't just about the position today, it is about projecting forward based on the fact more and more EHCP requests had been received. Part of the plan will describe changes already in place and the spend across the board, which includes the following:
- A review of the banding that is given to schools with children with disabilities was completed 2 years ago, to make it a more open and transparent process and to ensure that the funding was being directed in the right areas.
- In terms of element 3, this is a top up that we give for children that are in mainstream schools. An amount is given for a 12 month period to support a child that has additional needs for the school to be able to support that child. We had looked at the costings and the way the funding is provided to make it more equitable and there was also an increase in the amount of money available for those children.
- Millgate School had a residential provision and the funding had also been withdrawn from there.
- Disperse Special School placements had been looked into, there is a high demand for our special school placements, due to more children being approved for an EHCP. Work was being undertaken with mainstream schools to look at how they can have onsite support units that will enable children to remain at that school with support.
- There are 180 children who are in a 16 plus provision, and work is in progress to look at opportunities to support young people in a further education college rather than a special school, which would help release places for younger pupils.
- Other authorities have seen success in working with families to build bonds and peer experiences with each other outside of school, to continue leisure activities and life skill learning, with support from personal budgets or direct payments. This will help to support young adults in their lives outside of education to focus on a greater independence.

AGREED:

1. Lead Officers to revisit this issue and with the view to explore further options and solutions with Ash Field Academy.
2. The Council takes a city-wide review of provision related to the High Needs Block funding.
3. The comments from Members of this Commission to be taken into account by Lead Officers.

10. INTRODUCTION TO CHILDREN'S, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION SERVICES (CYPE) - VERBAL PRESENTATION

The Strategic Director for Social Care and Education gave a verbal presentation on the portfolio of the Children's, Young People and Education Services Scrutiny Commission.

The various service Directors presented the following:

Childrens Social Care

- Caroline Tote had now retired from her role as Divisional Director in Childrens Social Care. The Council had a new recruit Damian Elcock, who essentially does the same role at Luton Council and will be starting on 21st August.
- 65M a year is spent from the general fund on Childrens Social Care. the vast majority, around 85% goes on our 641 children who are looked after either at placements or the support team works around them.
- The number of unaccompanied asylum seeker children that we have, has grown very rapidly over the last year since the Government moved from it being a voluntary process where councils would offer to take children who had arrived.
- The Government initially said that it would be a series of cycles, where are share as a local authority would be 3 children per cycle of 500 children, with 4 cycles per year, where we are currently going through cycles every 3 weeks.
- The number of unaccompanied asylum seeker children we look after in Leicester has doubled in less than one year. These children rapidly become adults as they tend to be 16 or 17 years old.
- Leicester is now in a position that 1 in 6 of our care leavers are a former unaccompanied asylum seeker children.

Tracie Rees, Send and Early Help

- Across the city there are 12 Children and Young Families centres which provide support to families across the city.
- The Council has been awarded a government grant to enhance the support for families via by creating a network of Family Hubs across the city.

- Commissioning and project management across the whole of children's social care.
- Statutory returns have to be completed on a very regular basis for Ofsted, the Department of Education and other organisations.
- Responsible for staff and administration across Childrens Services.

Pauline Killoran, Head of Service, SEND Integrated Service 0-25

- The team writes Education, Health and Care Plans using information provided by a range of professional
- Responsible for the Educational Psychology Service, who contribute to plans and support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Delivery of the the Disabled Childrens Service, that provides short breaks and respite for disabled children and their families
- .
- Responsible for the Connexions service that supports young disabled people to secure employment, training and further education.
- Responsible for increasing sufficiency, to ensure that there are enough special school placements across the city for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Jessica Nicholls, Head of Service for Send Support Service

- Responsible for the delivering a range of services to support children and young people with disabilities, this includes:
 - Early Year Service – providing specialist nursery provision.
 - Hearing Support
 - Visual Support
 - Social Emotional & Mental Health – for those with neurodiversity needs.
 - Learning, Communication & Interaction
 - Quality Inclusion Team
- All of these teams work closely with mainstream schools, special schools, academies and local authority schools to support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to achieve the best educational outcomes as possible

Sue Welford, Principal Education officer handing over to Sophie Maltby from August.

- Work to strengthen out structure and the importance of building connections is around those vulnerable children. Those children will mainly have SEND needs and a support plan and some will have needs that arise later on.
- Key education tasks revolves around early education, the sufficiency and quality the provision provides from childminders and the private, voluntary and independent sector.
- With the government's announcement for children to receive 15 free

hours from nine months from September 2024 and 30 free hours of childcare from nine months from September 2025. Work will be completed to ensure those children with special education needs are identified early.

- Early years support teams are working to support children in early years education with challenges around speech, language and communication.
- Admissions service, who particularly looking at in terms of in year admissions to all out schools, state maintained schools across the city including academies, local authority and foundation schools. They work very closely across all our education provisions, particularly mainstream to identify where DSPs are needed and working closely with SEND provision as well.
- They also ensure school building are suitable for children to attend. There had been big challenges around some of our school building conditions.
- Welfare Services is a key area and their work focuses on children enrolling on time and receiving a suitable education at the school they are attending. That children are attending school and identifying children that are missing school.

The commission wished Sue Welford well in her retirement and thanked her for her hard work.

AGREED:

1. A presentation on work completed to create family hubs and what they will be doing to support families to be taken to a future commission meeting.
2. The key issues discussed be added to the work program.

11. WORK PROGRAMME

Members of the Commission were invited to consider content of the work programme and were invited to make suggestions for additions as appropriate to be brought to future meetings.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Report to Scrutiny Commission: Family Hubs and Start for Life programme

Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny
Commission

Date of meeting: 29 August 2023

Lead director/officer: Tracie Rees

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Helen Sheppard (Senior Strategic Transformation Manager) and Lynda Hartley (Head of Service SEND and Early Help)
- Author contact details: helen.sheppard@leicester.gov.uk
Lynda.Hartley@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: v1

1. Summary

- 1.1. Leicester City Council is making progress towards the Family Hubs model in line with the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC).
- 1.2. Focus is being placed on developing an integrated network of support both online and at physical locations across Leicester in line with the programme's 178 minimum expectations.
- 1.3. To date progress has centred on building strong governance and shaping a robust delivery plan while also working to meet the initial key milestones set by the DfE, including the publication of a Start for Life offer and the establishment of a Parent Carer panel. Following on from soft launch events over the summer a full launch will be carried out in autumn 2023.

2. Recommended actions/decision

- 2.1. Note this report and accompanying presentation at scrutiny on 29 August for information.

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

- 3.1. There has been engagement with both the Parent Carer Panel that has been set up under the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme and the well-established existing Early Help Parent and Young Champions to help shape plans for the roll out of the model and ensure that parents' and carers' voices are captured.

4. Background

- 4.1. Leicester City Council is one of 75 local authorities selected by DfE and DHSC as being eligible to receive a share of £300m funding through the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme. Through this programme the aim is to create a system where families with children aged 0 to 19 (or up to 25 with SEND) have a main point of access where they can source a range of help in one place at the right time.

5. Detailed report

- 5.1. Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme

- 5.1.1. Based on deprivation levels and geographical representation, 75 local authorities have been selected by the DfE and DHSC to receive a share of funding to implement the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme.
- 5.1.2. Leicester is one of five authorities in the East Midlands region that has been selected to receive the funding (alongside Derby City, Lincolnshire, North Northamptonshire and Nottingham). Locally, Leicestershire has received funding for Family Hubs through a second, smaller but less prescriptive transformation fund.
- 5.1.3. Though the programme aims to create a system where families with children aged 0 to 19 (or up to 25 with SEND) have a main point of access where they can source a range of help in one place at the right time, approximately 75% of the funding is dedicated to developing and delivering the 'Start for Life' offer which covers support from conception to a child's second birthday (otherwise known as the first 1001 critical days).
- 5.1.4. In addition to the core programme, there are a number of additional elements that have been added by central government, including:
 - Family Hubs Digital Project
 - National Evaluation
 - Parent-infant relationship training offer
 - Workforce pilot bid

5.2. Family Hubs model

- 5.2.1. Family Hubs are intended to provide a central access point to enable families to access support and advice from an increased number of touchpoints across the city including:
 - a number of main buildings explicitly named as Family Hubs, with co-located teams of specialist services
 - a network of other buildings already accessed by families (e.g. schools and settings, GP surgeries, libraries etc.), where families can receive services, support and up to date advice and signposting
 - virtual access points and a family hub website
- 5.2.2. Across the Family Hubs network families will be able to access information, guidance and support on:
 - Antenatal and postnatal support
 - Feeding your baby and family
 - Child health and development
 - Speech, early learning and education
 - Attachment and healthy relationships
 - Special educational needs and disabilities
 - Parenting advice and support
 - Emotional wellbeing and mental health
 - Money and housing
 - Community groups in your area
- 5.2.3. Alongside the physical footprint of family hubs that is required, the guidance outlines a very clear virtual offer that is core to the successful delivery of the family

hub model. While having a role as a directory of information, providing details about the Start for Life offer and signposting to relevant services, this web platform is also expected to offer virtual elements of services. For example, this might include online training packages that are available 24/7 or online sessions which are streamed live.

5.3. Family Hubs programme conditions

- 5.3.1. The conditions that come with the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme mean that a set of 178 minimum expectations for provision need to be met. This includes expectations that we are required to meet through existing funding, for which we will not be receiving any additional money. Initial assessment indicates only about 25% of the total 178 minimum expectations for service delivery are already met under current arrangements.
- 5.3.2. To meet the requirements of the programme, by the end of June 2023 the local authority needed to demonstrate visible change in the provision of family hub services. To help evidence this visible change, five 'early adopters' launched the Family Hubs branding in May 2023 and phase one of the work to develop an online Family Hubs presence has completed. These early adopters have focused on building awareness of the Family Hubs brand as a concept rather than tying it to a specific geographical location. Therefore, this does not mean that the early adopters will necessarily be the permanent locations of the family hubs; decisions regarding this will be informed through a detailed needs assessment and engagement with families, young people and linked professionals.
- 5.3.3. All minimum expectations must be met in full by the end of March 2025, at which point the funding will cease and provision will need to be able to operate in a sustainable way.

5.4. Progress to date

- 5.4.1. Leicester's Family Hubs and Start for Life delivery plan was initially signed off 8 February but as a result of changing guidance from policy teams at DfE and DHSC this has gone through a number of cycles of amendments. The project delivery team is now working towards deadline of 25 August to have a final signed off version. Frustrations about this changing guidance have been raised with the Regional Delivery Lead who has acknowledged the impact this has on the ability to plan for the rollout of the Family Hub approach.
- 5.4.2. Leicester is working closely with other authorities in the East Midlands region that are also seeking to introduce Family Hubs so that best practice is shared. Similar barriers and concerns have been identified across the region by those local authorities that are part of the Family Hub and Start for Life programme.
- 5.4.3. From the existing set of twelve Children, Young People and Family Centres, five have been identified as early adopters of the Family Hubs model. At Braunstone, Belgrave, Eyres Monsell, Highfields and Thurnby Lodge Children, Young People and Families Centres the Family Hub branding and information material has been visible since May 2023.

- 5.4.4. To complement the physical Family Hub sites, a basic web presence has been developed at <https://families.leicester.gov.uk/family-hub>. This represents phase one of the development which was to meet the minimum expectations for delivery by April as set by the Department for Education. Further work is planned under phase two to add additional detail, build in interactive features and develop the website to be the one stop shop for family information (to completely replace families.leicester.gov.uk as the primary channel for parents, carers, service providers, etc.).
- 5.4.5. Strong governance arrangements to support the rollout of the Family Hubs approach are now in place. There is a set of core delivery workstreams which cut across the funded strands and ensure consistency in delivery across the project. These are supported by network provision groups which incorporate operational specialists across the local partnership that are aligned to the funded delivery strands. Many of the stakeholders identified to be part of the network provision groups attended a partnership event in the spring which helped to build a collective vision for each of the funded strands in the Family Hubs approach.
- 5.4.6. In addition to bringing in the voices of professionals, the input of parents and carers is being sought through the establishment of the Parent and Carer Panel. This group is only in its infancy, but a real focus is being placed on making sure this group is as diverse as possible – representing views from different communities. A Family Hubs participation lead has responsibility for driving engagement with young people and families as well as with linking with local communities to strengthen the family hubs network.
- 5.4.7. To build brand awareness of Family Hubs, representatives from the programme, including both staff and parent champions, have attended events as part of the Get Up and Go summer programme. This has provided the opportunity to speak to families about the Family Hubs approach and share information about the offer.

5.5. Next steps

- 5.5.1. Following from the soft launch events as part of Get Up and Go, a full launch for Family Hubs will take place in the autumn and will include a day of events tied to Family Hub locations, including signposting towards the digital platform and introduce the concept of the Family Hub network.
- 5.5.2. In line with the delivery plan, services and training will be commissioned (including Solihull, PEEP and Mellow Bumps) and a workforce development strategy implemented to coordinate a programme of training across topics to satisfy the minimum expectations.

6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

The programme will be funded by DfE S31 Grant for 23/24 Family Hubs and Start for life programme , revenue £1.74m and capital £0.08m.

Paresh Radia Principal Accountant

6.2 Legal implications

Any funds received from the DfE and/or the DHSC may be considered a subsidy under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and will need to be assessed against its principles and/or check if a Subsidy Scheme has been registered. Any funding paid by the Council may also need to be assessed in accordance with the same subsidy controls. Legal can assist if required.

If any goods and/or services are required to be procured they must be done so in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (**PCR**) and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (**CPR**) which Legal and Procurement can advise.

A Powers, Solicitor.

6.3 Equalities implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public-Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

The report provides an update on the progress towards the Family Hubs model in line with the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme funded by the DfE and DHSC.

Supporting families to care for their babies, children and young people has an important role to play in reducing health and education disparities right from the start, and improving physical, emotional, cognitive and social outcome longer term. The reason why a family does not engage with a service is often multifaceted. Families who feel marginalised, economically disadvantaged or socially excluded may be less likely to engage in interventions because they feel under-represented in existing service provision. Services that are accessible, universal and available to all families are critical for identifying families who need support.

Our children, young people and families' centres provide a range of services that support parents and carers from across all protected characteristics to give their children the best start in life. Start for Life is designed to help babies, children and young people to thrive.

All families should have access to the information and tools they need to care for and interact positively with their babies and children, and to look after their own wellbeing. It is important that equality considerations are embedded throughout the process.

Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

6.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are limited climate emergency implications directly associated with this report. However, as service delivery generally contributes to the council's carbon emissions,

impacts can be managed through measures such as encouraging sustainable staff travel behaviours, using buildings efficiently and following sustainable procurement guidance, as applicable to the service and any changes implemented.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

7. Background information and other papers:

8. Summary of appendices:

9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

10. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?

Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Commission (CYPE)

Work Programme 2023 – 2024

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
11 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashfield Centre • Introduction to CYPE services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petition: Ash Field Academy petition submitted. This was taken as part of the Ashfield Centre report on the agenda. • Ashfield Centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead Officers to revisit this issue with the view to explore further options and solutions with Ash Field Academy. The Council considers a city-wide review of provision related to the high needs block funding. • The key issues discussed be added to the work programme. The Family Hubs item to be added for the next commission meeting. 	
29 August 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Hubs report • Children & Social Care – intro to new director and the services. • Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) 		

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
12 October 2023	<i>Possible items tbc</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School attendance and exclusion report • SEN report 		
21 November 2023	<i>Possible items tbc</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance report for schools • Safeguarding Annual report 		
16 January 2024	Possible items tbc Council budget reports – general fund report and capital capital		
27 February 2024	Possible items tbc		

Forward Plan Items (suggested)

Topic	Detail	Proposed Date
Covid impacts on schools and children		
Mental Health impacts on children		
SEN support and funding		
Education Performance Report 2023		
Children not in state-maintained schools e.g.: Academies, Independent, Faith schools.		
Youth Justice Plan		
Home School Transport		
School attendance annual report		
Fostering Annual report and Adoption Annual report		
Education Govt reports e.g.: white paper / green paper		
Ofsted Inspection reports		
Childrens Safeguarding Annual report		

