

A guide to family hubs networking meetings

When accessing a family hub, families should be able to find out about all of the services delivered anywhere within the network, how they can access them, and they will be connected to targeted and specialist services where needed.

Within Lincolnshire we already have our 48 children's centres, 10 of which are designed as family hub sites. Lincolnshire have been selected to be part of the Family Hubs programme, which enables us to develop our existing model further, putting babies, children and families at the very centre.

The purpose of the family hubs programme is to ensure all parents and carers can access the support they need when they need it. There is a strong emphasis on the first 1,001 days (from conception to 2 years), however family hubs does cover all support for families from 0-18 years (25 years for those with SEND).

The core funded workstreams within the family hubs programme include:

- Family hub transformation (including community, voluntary and faith sector capital grants)
- Parenting support (0-2 years)
- Early Language and Home Learning Environments (3-4 years)
- Infant feeding support
- Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships
- Parent carer panels and start for life

In relation to family hub networks, the overarching programme aims to deliver the following:

- increase the number and range of services delivered through the family hub network, including co-location of services and professionals, where possible
- increase consistency of the services accessible through the family hub network, within and between local authority areas
- improve the way that professionals, services and partners, including the voluntary and community sector, work together
- increase the number of professionals and practitioners working in a whole-family, relational way that builds on families' existing strengths

What this will mean:

- increased accessibility for families to more of the services they need, through a single point of access
- increased awareness and uptake of family hub services, including by disadvantaged and vulnerable groups
- improved experience for families of navigating services and reduced need for families to 'tell their story' more than once
- increased efficiency for professionals and services and more effective collaboration, leading to improved support for families
- increased consideration of a whole family's needs, leading to more appropriate and timely support
- strengthened relationships within families and between them and professionals
- reduced number of families being escalated to acute services enabling them to gain support earlier

What is a family hub network?

A family hub network is the totality of sites, partners, and physical, virtual, outreach services that are connected to the family hub. The family hub is the main site, however some services may be based in other connected sites. Family hub buildings with co-located professionals and services are a feature of the family hub model, but not where this compromises the offer to families in a location. The idea of the family hub network also provides opportunities for the use of other premises, including community buildings and faith settings, to be maximised owing to their accessibility, location and familiarity to families. For example, a youth centre might be a connected site where services for young people are delivered.

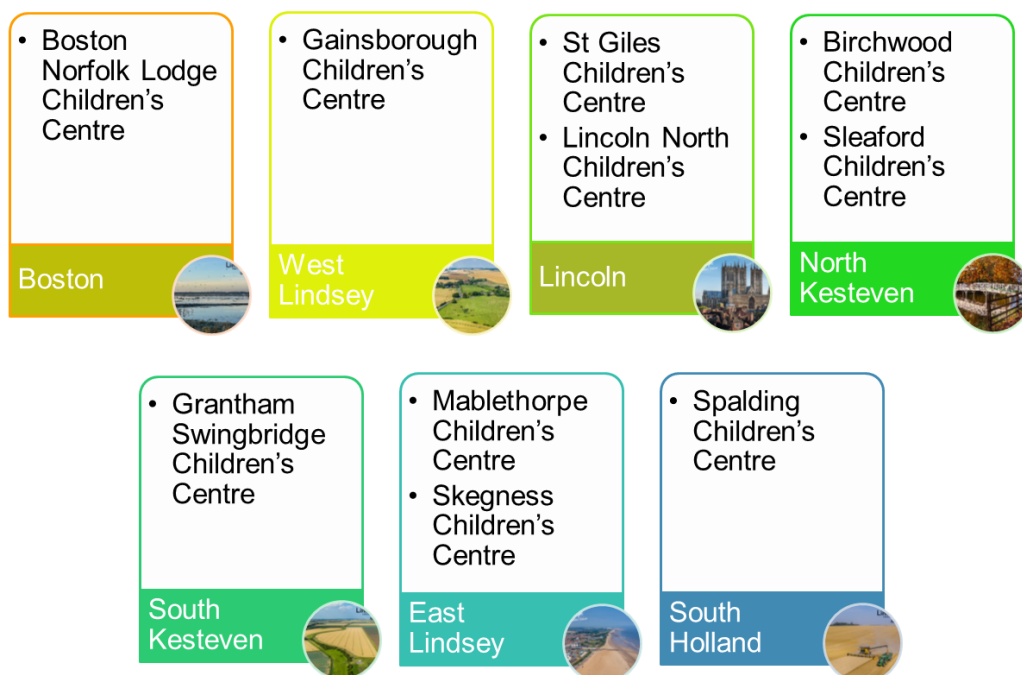
In assessing local need, you and your delivery partners should consider the geography of your community. For example, a rural community may benefit from a mobile facility, supported by outreach services and virtual peer-support groups. In some cases, the family hub network may support access to services by arranging transport to the family hub.

Families can access some services within the network on a drop-in basis. Open-access services are an important element of achieving universal access and reducing stigma, making sure services across the network are viewed as accessible to all. Family hub networks should facilitate access to voluntary and community services, to ensure families have access to a wide a range of support to meet their needs.

Underpinning the family hub network, information sharing between professionals and peer-supporters reduces the need for families to tell their story more than once, ensure families receive support tailored to their specific needs. Professionals working together through a family hub network will be better able to work with and provide services to families.

Where are the family hub networks in Lincolnshire?

Lincolnshire's 10 designated family hub sites are outlined below. To find out when your local family hub networking meetings are held, contact the local family hub site.



Who should be included within local family hub networks?

The family hub networks need to include the core team delivering the Start for Life offer locally, and also including a wide range of supporting services. These are teams involved in frontline, locality based working. Strategic leads are to be involved in the Family Hubs Steering Group.

Proposed family hub core delivery team, delivering the Start for Life offer, to be involved in the local family hub network to include:

- Parent/carer representatives
- LCC Early Years Locality teams, including:
 - Early Help Team Managers
 - Early Years Locality Leads (EYLL's)
 - Early Years Practitioners (EYP's)
 - Early Years Specialist Teachers (EYST's)
 - Children's Centre Business Support staff – Forward facing
- Commissioned partners, including:
 - Pre-School Learning Alliance trading as Early Years Alliance (delivering Best Start Lincolnshire: Early Years and Family Service and Children with Disabilities Service – including Early Support Learning Provision and Targeted Positive Activities)
 - Family Action delivering the Community Development pilot
 - Lincolnshire Community Health Service (LCHS) delivering the Family Hubs Speech and Language pilot
 - PAB Language (delivering Best Start Lincolnshire: Inclusion Service for ethnic minority children in their early years and their families)
 - Inclusive Communities Trust through a collaboration of Special Schools delivering the Early Learning and Portage Support Service
 - Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) delivering the expansion of the recovery college for perinatal mental health and the expansion of the peer support service for parents/carers with mild to moderate perinatal mental health needs.
- LCC Children's Health Service teams, including:
 - Health Visitors
 - Children and Young People's Nurses
 - Senior Family Health Workers
 - Family Health Workers
 - Antenatal education team
- ULHT Midwifery teams
- LCC Family and Baby team (FAB)

Wider supporting services to be involved in the local family hub network to include:

- Activities for Children 0-5
- Birth registration
- Debt and Welfare advice (e.g. Citizens Advice, DWP)
- Domestic abuse
- Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) and financial support
- Housing (e.g. Good Homes Alliance)
- Intensive targeted family support services, including those funded by the Supporting Families programme

- Local authority 0-19 public health services, based on local needs assessments
- Mental health services (beyond Start for Life parent-infant mental health)
- Midwife/ Maternity services (including Newborn Hearing Screening)
- Nutrition and weight management (e.g. One You Lincolnshire)
- Oral health improvement (e.g. Lincolnshire Community Dental Services)
- Reducing Parental Conflict
- SEND support and services inclusive of the Start for Life period (e.g. ESCO)
- Stop smoking support (e.g. STARR smoking, One You Lincolnshire)
- Substance (alcohol/drug) misuse support (e.g. We Are With You / Turning Point from April 2024)
- Support for separating and separated parents
- Youth justice services (e.g. Future4Me, Social Care)

NB: Services may be made available through the family hub but received elsewhere in the network (for example, via outreach, at a youth centre, a clinical setting, a voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisation or a faith setting) or received via drop-in opportunities.

What does a local family hub network meeting look like?

Each family hub network meeting will look slightly different, as the needs of each community will be different. The family hub networking meetings should be held face-to-face on at least a quarterly basis.

In order for professionals within family hub networks to have a good understanding of the Start for Life offer and to coordinate services locally to best meet the needs of their communities, it is essential for them to have a good understanding of the range of support available.

At a local family hub networking meeting, you should expect opportunities to:

- network and promote your local service offer
- learn more about the Start for Life offer and how evidence shows this will make a difference to babies and children's life-long development and outcomes
- plan how services should be coordinated and delivered locally* to best meet the needs of families in a way that provides seamless support for them through a coherent joined-up Start for Life offer (*for commissioned services, this would need to be in line with contractual arrangements).
- plan and deliver workforce development training to increase the family hub networks knowledge of your specialist area (e.g. housing support) both during family hub networking meetings and through wider training opportunities
- learn from other specialist services and improve your knowledge in new subject areas so you can take an Every Contact Counts approach to working with families (e.g. offering very brief advice and signposting)
- share promotional materials, which may be distributed via the family hub site
- receive feedback from parent/carer representatives (e.g. via Parent Carer Forums) about the range of services on offer locally, and to implement change based on this
- support with data, evidence and evaluation for the family hubs programme (for example, sharing good practice and outcomes achieved)

Any queries, please contact your local family hub site or email Familyhubs@lincolnshire.gov.uk