

## **PART A Report to CABINET**

# **Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme**

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Children & Young people

**Officer Contact:** Gerard Jones, Managing Director of Children and Young People (DSC).

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**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

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### **Reason for Decision**

The purpose of the report is to explain the principles and objectives of the Government's Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme and to seek approval to receive associated funding from the Department for Education and Department of Social Care to support transition to the new model.

Authorisation is also sought to delegate authority to agree all spending decisions related to the Family Hubs to the Director of Education and Early Years and the Director of Public Health after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, noting the role of a new Early Years and Early Help strategic partnership and the Children's Transformation Board in this process.

### **Executive Summary**

Oldham is one of seventy-five local authorities pre-selected by the Department for Education (DfE) for the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme. Oldham is set to receive an indicative allocation of £3.48 million over three financial years of 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25. The Oldham sign up form attached to this report details spending priorities identified for Oldham for this period. A comprehensive delivery plan detailing

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indicative costings is currently being completed with partners for submission to the DfE by the 31 December 2022 for final approval.

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended that:

- the content of the report is noted and that approval is given to accept Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme funding from Government as indicated in para 2.5.
- authority to make all spending decisions relating to Family Hubs and the Start for Life Programme (including key decisions) be delegated to the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years and the Director of Public Health, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People
- authority be delegated to the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years and the Director of Public Health to award contracts stemming from a compliant procurement process and authority be delegated to the Director of Legal Services to sign/seal such contracts and any necessary incidental and/or ancillary documents.

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**Cabinet – Part A - 23rd January 2023**  
**Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme, 2022-2025**

**1 Background**

**1 Background Summary**

- 1.1 In April 2022 the Department for Education (DfE) announced that Oldham was one of 75 upper tier local authorities eligible for government funding to deliver Start for Life and Family Hub services over the next three financial years.
- 1.2 Family hubs aim to make a positive difference to parents, carers, and their children by providing a mix of physical and virtual spaces, as well as outreach, where families can easily access non-judgemental support for the challenges they may be facing. They integrate services across health (physical and mental health) and social care as well as voluntary and community organisations and education settings.

**2.0 Current Position**

2.1 the current position is detailed within the Part B restricted part of this report.

**3. Options/Alternatives**

- 3.1 Option 1: Approve the recommendations set out in the report
- Approve the receipt of the Family Hubs and Start for Life funding to support the transition to more integrated and accessible services that provide support to parents and carers and contribute to a reduction in inequalities in health and education outcomes for babies, children and families
  - Approve authority to make all spending decisions relating to Family Hubs and the Start for Life Programme (including key decisions) be delegated to the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years and the Director of Public Health, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People
  - Approve authority be delegated to the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years and the Director of Public Health to award contracts stemming from a compliant procurement process and authority be delegated to the Director of Legal Services to sign/seal such contracts and any necessary incidental and/or ancillary documents.
- 3.2 Option 2: Do nothing. This will result in loss of funding for Oldham to deliver the Family Hub & Start for Life Programme

**4 Preferred Option / Recommendation**

- 4.1 Option 1 is the preferred option because:
- additional funding is needed to affect a smooth transition to the new model of service delivery. Failure to accept the indicative funding that is being made available to the Council will seriously impede ability to implement an improved service offer as set out in the report for Oldham’s children and families
  - a speedy approval process for project spend is needed to ensure the programme is delivered to local and DfE timescales; and that all DfE programme reporting requirements are met.

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## **5 Consultation**

5.1 The sign-up form, which sets out programme priorities was developed through consultation with a wider range of partners from across the Council, Health and the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector over a series of individual and focus group discussions and a Stakeholder event held on the 17 October 2022.

## **6 Financial Implications**

6.1 Financial Implications are contained within the Part B restricted part of this report.

## **7 Legal Services Comments**

7.1 Legal comments are contained within the Part B restricted part of this report.

## **8. Co-operative Agenda**

8.1 The Family Hubs will make a positive difference to parents, carers, and their children by providing access to a range of integrated support services for the challenges they may be facing. This will develop skills and knowledge, enabling families to help children get the best start in life. As such the proposal aligns with the aims of the Council's Co-operative agenda (Thriving Communities theme).

## **9 Human Resources Comments**

9.1 Human Resources comments are contained within the Part B restricted part of this report.

## **10 Risk Assessments**

10.1 Risk Assessment comments are contained within the Part B restricted part of this report.

## **11 IT Implications**

11.1 None

## **12 Property Implications**

12.1 Property Implications are contained within the Part B restricted part of this report.

## **13 Procurement Implications**

13.1 Procurement Implications are contained within the Part B restricted part of this report.

## **14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 None

## **15 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1 None

## **16 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1 No

## **17 Key Decision**

17.1 Yes

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## **18 Key Decision Reference**

18.1 CHS-01-23.

The Chair of Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor McLaren, authorized the approval of a 'Rule 13' form on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023, allowing this item to be considered as a 'late item' insofar as it was allowed onto the agenda after the publication of the agenda.

## **19 Background Papers**

19.1 Reference to Background Papers are included within the Part B restricted part of this report.

## **20 Appendices**

20.1 Appendices are contained within the Part B restricted part of this report.