



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care



Department  
for Education

# Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme

Update to NAFIS/Coram

**Eoin Cassidy (DHSC), Phil Dawkins (DHSC), Mitesh Mistry (DfE)**  
**Tuesday 1 November**



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

## Agenda

1. Update on Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme – Eoin Cassidy (Department of Health and Social Care)
2. Update on the Start for Life Offer section of the programme – Phil Dawkins (Department of Health and Social Care)
3. Global update on Family Hubs policy – Mitesh Mistry (Department for Education)

# The programme package

- At the Autumn Budget, the Government committed £301.75m for 75 upper-tier local authorities to deliver Start for Life and family help services over the next three financial years. This will be an important step in delivering 'The Best Start for Life: A vision for the 1,001 critical days' and meeting the Government's manifesto commitment on family hubs.
- DfE have since added an additional £28.7m to this to fund home learning environment recovery programmes

## The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme contains funding for the following components:



**£81.75m** to create a network of Family Hubs



**£10m** to publish Start for Life offer and set up Parent Carer Panels



**£50m** for parenting programmes



**£100m** for infant-parent mental health and relationship support



**£50m** for infant feeding support



**£28.7m** for home learning environment (HLE) recovery programmes

The £301.75m funding package also contained **£10m** for innovative workforce trials in five LAs in years two and three of the programme – 2023/24 - 2024/25

# Timeline

Spring

- Announcement of the 75 LAs eligible for participation in this programme

Spring -  
summer

- With LA and stakeholder feedback, we developed delivery expectations
- Draft programme guide shared with 75 LAs, and provisional interest in programme confirmed by LAs

Summer  
- autumn

- We shared the final programme guide on 8th August
- The LA sign up window ran from 08 August to 31 October
- There were two deadlines for LAs to apply to become a trailblazer (31st Aug, 30th Sept)
- Sign up forms and trailblazers applications are currently being reviewed

Autumn  
- winter

- LAs will develop **delivery plans** and begin transforming services

We are in  
this phase

# Publishing Offers - Minimum Expectations and Go Further



## Minimum

- LAs to publish their offers digitally – bringing together all Start for Life services in a single online space.
- All parents-to-be to receive a hard-copy of the local Start for Life Offer prior to birth.
- Physical materials such as posters and leaflets to be available in the places that parents and carers go (e.g., GP surgeries, Families Hubs, and Midwifery Units).
- Staff interacting with parents and carers in Family Hubs can signpost to the Start for Life Offer.



[Family hubs and start for life programme: local authority guide - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

## Go Further



- Start for Life Offers to be accessible with a single-click from the main webpage.
- Production of issue-specific physical materials (e.g., sleeping, childhood illnesses) available in libraries, Family Hubs, and GP surgeries.
- **The raising of awareness of local Start for Life Offers through social media, and additional outreach methods according to local need.**



Best practise examples – pls mail me at: [Phil.Dawkins@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:Phil.Dawkins@dhsc.gov.uk)



# DfE: Family Hubs





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**Any questions?**