

TITLE OF REPORT Department for Education (DfE) Family Hubs - Growing Up Well- Project Application	
HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD - 2nd September 2021	CLASSIFICATION: Open
WARD(S) AFFECTED All	
Group Director Jacquie Burke - Group Director of Children and Education	

1 . INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

- a. This paper provides background on a funding opportunity to deliver a Department for Education (DfE) project: Family Hubs - Growing Up Well. Application for this project requires the support of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

- b. At this stage, the specifics of how this funding would be utilised, or the detailed area of focus, for the project do not need to be agreed. This scoping process will take place in November 2021 if the bid is successful, working in partnership with the DfE and with the board's oversight and input (see more detail at Section 5 of this paper).

2 . RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. For the board to note the background and rationale for submitting an application for this funding, as well as timelines for the project if successful.

- b. For the board to approve and support a submission of an Expression of Interest for this project.

- c. For the board to agree for an update on the outcome of this bid and, if successful, for

the board to provide oversight and input on the scoping of the project and the further delivery of the project, based on governance arrangements to be confirmed in November 2021.

3 . BACKGROUND

- a. The Family Hubs – Growing Up Well project is part of the Department for Education’s work to champion family hubs.
- b. Family Hubs are a way of joining up locally to improve access to services, the connections between families, professionals, services providers, and putting relationships at the heart of family help. Hub buildings are supported by virtual offers, with services for families with children of all ages.
- c. The Department for Education will partner with a total of 5 local authorities on this project. Local authority partners will receive funding to take part. A total of up to £1.7 million over financial years 2021 to 2022, 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024 will be **distributed between all 5 local authorities** and will be a modest award.
- d. The Family Hubs – Growing Up Well project will largely work across education, health and social care to improve outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged families, young people and children. The project will focus on addressing *one* of two key complex issues:
 1. **Information sharing** – improve how information is shared between professionals who work with families in a Family Hub; and
 2. **Access and navigation** – improve the ‘user experience’ for vulnerable and disadvantaged families who need to access services through a Family Hub.
- e. The area of focus does not need to be decided at the application stage and will be identified, if successful, during a ‘discovery phase’, working with the DfE, local partners and based on the needs of families in Hackney.
- f. The role of the LA will evolve as the project does, but it will broadly involve working in partnership with the DfE to drive forward the project and provide local insight, with input provided at leadership, management and working levels to develop solutions grounded in local needs.

4. HACKNEY CONTEXT AND RATIONALE FOR APPLICATION

- a. The development of ‘Children & Family Hubs’, offering integrated services for children of all ages, is an area of opportunity identified through the ongoing LBH Early Help Review, and committed to in the 2021 Early Years strategy and the ongoing - in-line with the ongoing development of Children’s Centres and building on the 2018 Manifesto Commitment to “provide opportunities hubs for children and their families to access the services they need for play and outdoor learning, training and employment.” The role of Young Hackney youth hubs in providing integrated support for young people is also an area of potential development.

- b. This project also links to wider programmes and projects being undertaken to improve family, young people and child outcomes (0-19) across the council, through holistic, joined-up support and interventions, including but not limited to:
- **Supporting Families Programme**- Hackney has been engaged in phase 2 since September 2015, providing coordinated responses to support children and families who are experiencing multiple problems or a variety of needs.
 - **Home Office Trusted Relationships Fund**- With a goal to address the criminal exploitation of young people, Young Hackney has established a detached outreach team with an embedded clinical psychologist and developed enhanced detached outreach capacity across the local Community and Voluntary youth sector.
 - **Department for Education SEND Provision Capital Grant and High Needs Provision Capital Allocations**- Ongoing investment in new places and improvements to facilities for pupils with EHC plans, including the development of specialist post 16 provision for young people with ASD, the development of an additional resourced provision for primary aged children with ASD and investment in new places or to improve existing provision for pupils and students with high needs across a range of different educational settings.
 - **Contextual Safeguarding (Department for Education Children's Social Care Innovation Fund)**- Since 2017, Hackney has been developing a contextual approach to safeguarding across Children's Services and across the partnership. Additional funding has supported the formation of a new unit to drive the implementation and embedding of Contextual Safeguarding.
 - **Neighbourhoods programme**- working jointly with the CCG to maximise local improvements in the health and wellbeing of young people and families through:
 - Strengthened communication and more effective multi-agency working
 - System change in how health, education and social care deliver
 - Improved continuity of care and early help to prevent escalating needs (across health, education, the VCS and social care)
 - **Early Help Review**- review into LBH Early Help services to consider the effectiveness and accessibility of pathways and how well the organisation of services meets local need, in order to improve the delivery of holistic, whole-family early help across the system. Recommendations will be proposed and embedded in 2021.
 - **Early Years Strategy and Children's Centre development**- Ongoing partnership development of Hackney Children's Centres to continue to deliver integrated early education and childcare provision, and a coordinated approach to services for families, to promote health, childcare and parenting support, training and employment skills.
 - **Childhood Adversity, Trauma and Resilience** - roll-out of training and resources to establish a multi-agency community of practitioners that works in a way that is trauma-informed, adverse childhood experiences-aware and resilience-focused.

- **Integrated Joint Commissioning-** Undertaking a Health Needs Assessment (HNA) to inform the recommissioning of public health funded services for 0-19 year olds (up to 25 for those with a statutory requirement).
 - **Reducing Parental Conflict-** government funding to embed training and resources to help early help practitioners support a reduction in parental conflict for families. 'Tree of Life' training (a trauma-informed, evidence-based model) is being rolled out across early help services.
 - **Development of data tools to support preventative working-** Hackney's publicly accessible Directory of Services is supported by Better Conversations, a new tool developed with users to enable frontline staff to signpost and refer residents to a range of VCS, health and Council services, improving complex journeys.
- c. The DfE Family Hubs - Growing Up Well project provides an opportunity to build on this work, to ensure effective and early intervention support for families, and to deliver practical tools that will support ways of working that underpin a Family Hub model, in order to ensure Hackney's families, young people and children are able to access whole-family, holistic support through connected services.
- d. The funding associated with this project would allow some focused delivery of practical tools to enable practitioners, staff and partners to collaborate more effectively as a 'team around the family' and assist families to access the right support for them, as quickly as possible. Funding associated with this project, however, is relatively modest, and it should be noted that this funding would not be sufficient to deliver larger programmes of work, such as significant data migration or system integration, or the development and implementation of, for example, a single-access case management systems for partners supporting families.

5. TIMELINE AND NEXT STEPS

- a. It has been proposed by senior leaders in Hackney Council Children & Education to submit an Expression of Interest for this project. This Expression of Interest does not require Hackney to outline how funding would be utilised, or preferred area of focus, at this time. This application needs the support of the Local Health and Wellbeing Board before the 12th September deadline.
- b. A key aspect of the Expression of Interest is a self- assessment of the Local Authority's 'data maturity'. Whilst the Cyberattack has somewhat impacted the data maturity of the Local Authority, Hackney's data maturity has still been assessed to meet the requirements for an application for this project, however the self-assessment has reflected that this is currently at a lower 'level' than would have been the case had it not been for the cyber attack.
- c. Below are the key Milestones Dates for application and initiation of this project:
- **Expression of Interest completed-** *before 12 September*
 - **Bid round closes-** *12 September 2021*
 - **Assessment of EOI applications-** *September 2021*

- **Decision announced-** *October 2021*
 - **First funding instalment to LAs and commencement of discovery process-** *November 2021*
- d. If successful in the bid, the ‘Discovery Process’ will be a short phase, lasting approximately 12 weeks, that aims to work with the DfE to explore the current landscape of family support in Hackney at a local level, with reference to the national picture. It will include exploration of technological or other constraints. This phase culminates in a set of proposed solutions which will be tested in the next phase. This will require close partnership working with the DfE and relevant local stakeholders. Governance of the project will be considered and agreed if successful in the bid, and will be shaped by the areas of focus to be progressed.
- e. It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board provide input and oversight of the proposed solutions that will be tested in the second phase, as well as the associated governance of the project, and that regular reporting on the progress and impact of the project is provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: [Family Hubs - Growing Up Well: Application guide](#), where more detail on the project can be found.

Appendix 2: [Expression of Interest Form](#), to be completed by an applying Local Authority.

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