

Family Hubs funding opportunity- briefing

January 2021

In November 2021, the Department for Education announced a funding opportunity for Local Authorities who do not currently have Family Hubs, to apply for funding to support the transformation work required to open Family Hubs by March 2024.

What is a Family Hub?

DfE key definitions of Family Hubs

- Joining up locally and bringing existing family help services together to improve access to services, connections between families, professionals, services, and providers, and putting relationships at the heart of family help.
- Bring together services for families with children of all ages (0-19) or up to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). They can include hub buildings and virtual offers.

DfE key principles:

- **More accessible** – through clearly branded and communicated hub buildings, virtual offers and outreach.
- **Better connected** – family hubs drive progress on joining up professionals, services and providers (state, private, voluntary) – through co-location, data sharing, shared outcomes and governance.
- Moving from services organised for under-fives, **to families with children of all ages**, reduces fragmentation (even though an emphasis on early years and the 'Start for Life' offer will remain).
- **Relationship-centred** – practice in a family hub builds on family strengths and looks to improve family relationships to address underlying issues.

Family hubs are a universal 'front door' to a range of early help, public health, and wider support services. The DfE wish to also engage with LAs that will embed thematic focuses through their family hubs to generate learning and develop resources on good practice.

The funding

The funding will pay for the change process only, supporting LAs to move to a family hub model through programme and capital funding. Funding will support up to 12 Local Authorities.

Local Authorities have the opportunity to apply for funding of up to a total of £1 million transformation funding, with up to £833k available for programme expenditure and up to £167k available in capital expenditure, per local area.

Potential programme expenditure against criteria (up to £833k)::

- local transformation team
- local consultation
- workforce development

- development of a digital/data strategy
- communications to families
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- Potential capital expenditure (£167k)- to be used enable minor adaptations to existing buildings, improving accessibility and to enable multi-agency working, eg.
 - IT upgrades or furniture/equipment such as sinks or specialist flooring for clinical use.

Timeline and next steps

Officers from across early help, early years, social care, education and public health developed and submitted a bid for funding in December 2021.

Milestones Dates

- **Bid round closes**- *17 December 2021*
- **Assessment of EOI applications**- *January- March 2022*
- **Decision announced**- *March 2022*
- **First funding instalment to LAs and finalisation of programme plan**- *April 2022*

The Hackney Health & Wellbeing Board will be advised on the outcome of the bid in March 2022 and, if successful, programme governance will be established, with direct reporting and accountability to the Hackney Health & Wellbeing Board, this will include providing sign-off of a finalised programme plan in April 2022.

More information about this funding opportunity can be found here:
[Application Guidance](#)