

Newsletter issue 7 – 13th May 2022

Hello and welcome to the seventh newsletter for the region, focusing on the development of the Family Hub work across the South East.

South East Communities of Practice workshops:

Thank you so much to those of you who attended the recent ‘digital offer’ workshop, we had attendance from most of the Local Authorities in the region. It was also great that we saw an increase in partner agencies attending too.

The next workshop takes place on Tuesday the 14th of June, with a theme of SEND. We will open the meetings from 9.20am to allow for warm introductions. The workshop invites will be amended to reflect this slightly earlier, optional start time, with the workshop starting promptly at 9.30am.

Please do send us your ideas of any items you would like to be included within the workshops and if you would like to share your own LA’s Family Hub journey. If you have colleagues who would like to be a part of the workshops, please ask them to get in touch with Carly, who can add their email to the distribution list.

It is really important for you to feel that you have shared ownership of the CoPs and there is more time built into the next one for discussion and sharing your own experiences, successes and barriers. Do share your stories and be reassured that no one is exemplifying family hubs in all areas and starting points are as interesting to share as anything. Please get in contact to share what you think will be of interest to our group.

Theme of Workshop	Date	Time
SEND	Tuesday 14th June	9.20-11.30am
Governance & Commissioning	Tuesday 19 th July	9.20-11.30am
Youth	Tuesday 13 th September	9.20-11.30am

Funding announcement:

As you will be aware by now, the DfE have announced the 75 upper tier local authorities who are eligible to receive funding to ‘transform Start for Life and Family Hub services’, www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-hubs-and-start-for-life-package-methodology-for-pre-selecting-local-authorities

With less than 30% of LAs in the South East selected, the majority of LAs in the region will be deciding what this means for their family hub development. We already know that many LAs are committed to transforming the way they meet local need and the integration of services is part of this approach. For others, lessons learnt during Lockdowns in the pandemic, have given opportunities to widen virtual and digital options, for example. There is also scope for wider regional collaboration and sharing ways of effective working are all part of this. Whilst some of you are still waiting on the DfE's announcement of the Transformation Bid, we wanted you to know that Carly and Julie are here to support all our LAs, regardless of funding status and we really appreciate lots of you being in touch over the last couple of weeks.

Family Hub blog:

Early Help or Help in the Early Years?

It is hard to argue with the call for better universal provision for families in the first 1001 days from a child's conception. Good, compassionate support for mothers and their partners through pregnancy, and the first two years of a child's life, is particularly important when the going gets tough and the messages become hard to deliver and equally hard to hear. The Best Start for Life is a vision that is easy to share.

*But is there a risk that a strengthened offer for the youngest children may impact on an area's capacity to develop family hubs for the length of childhood and into young adulthood? With finite resources, will it be hard to maintain the momentum for family hubs to offer support at the **earliest point** in a child's difficulties, in favour of support in the **earliest years** of a child's life?*

This early 'point' may be an anxious teenager struggling to attend school; a group of school aged siblings whose parent has just been diagnosed with a life limiting illness; a twenty year old Autistic whose struggles in the workplace are impacting on family at home. Each of these scenarios are repeated throughout the region and in a myriad of different ways and each would benefit from advice, signposting or intervention at the earliest opportunity through a family hub approach.

Can you make a strong argument for your local family hub approach in relation to the whole child 0-19/25? How can your data support your case for the whole child? How does your local data demonstrate improved outcomes in the longer term for families, and as children grow up, when you have been able to make a great offer for the first 1001 days?

Do you have something on your mind about Family Hubs? Are you playing with ideas in your head about how to improve services for families in your area? Do you have a burning issue that might challenge other people's thinking? We would really like to encourage you to contribute a short blog of between 100-300 words that might help to shape our thinking about Family Hubs and how to implement them in the South East so do let us know if you have something to share. You can let us know if you would like your blog to be anonymised or if you would like to have your name published with your work.

National Centre for Family Hubs (NCFH) resources:

The NCFH website is available to look at ways in which you can develop a Family Hub model in your authority; www.nationalcentreforfamilyhubs.org.uk

If you haven't already signed up for NCFH newsletters, please click on the link in the top bar of this webpage: www.nationalcentreforfamilyhubs.org.uk/contact-us/ and then look out for a confirmation email, which you will need to accept.

As well as the implementation toolkit, resource library and regular events and webinars, NCFH can also provide bespoke consultation packages to support you to develop Family Hubs. You can email Julie at julie.greer@annafreud.org, or NCFHenquiries@annafreud.org if you would like a particular focus on training, or would like to share good practice in your area.

NCFH SEND update:

The latest module in the implementation toolkit is now online, [Putting Families with children with special educational needs and disabilities at the heart of family hub planning](#).

We would welcome any feedback on the module and will be regularly reviewing our toolkit to make sure the information is useful to you. This module has been written in co-production with parents, carers and young people with expertise from experience and those who have expertise by profession, from education and health.

Are you in a position to make a response to the government's [Green Paper](#); **SEND Review, Right Support, Right Place, Right Time?** If you are, do take the opportunity to make a response to the consultation and where you can, think from a family hub perspective when you are drafting your answers. There are lots of questions in the SEND module to help shape your thinking.

If you would like to be part of the national SEND community of practice, please email NCFHenquiries@annafreud.org

Upcoming NCFH training:

The NCFHs have announced some more training opportunities;

Bite-sized training session for anyone developing, or working in family hubs, on AMBIT, Adaptive Mentalization Based Integrative Treatment, and whole family working.	Thursday 19 th May 12-1pm Live via Zoom Free
National Centre for Family Hubs Free Bite-sized Training: Integrated Care Systems (ICSs)	Wednesday 1 st June 12-1pm Live via Zoom Free
National Conference: Co-Producing Accessible and Inclusive Family Hubs*	Thursday 7 th July 9.30 – 3.30 Live via Zoom Free

Mentalization-Based Treatment for Families (MBT-F) - London & In Person Training	13 th -15 th July All day In person in London Free
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If you would like to find out more or book a place, please go to;

www.annafreud.org/training/national-centre-for-family-hubs/

We also wanted to remind you that all webinars are recorded, so you can access previous ones and those that you can't attend by going to;

[Previous events and training - National Centre for Family Hubs](#)

Ideas welcome

Please do contact us if you have anything you would like to be added to the forthcoming newsletters, we would be happy to include it for you.

Thank you to those of you who have taken the time to provide feedback and suggestions already, we are working on providing these for you.

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