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Cabinet Member

16 July 2021

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – Councillor P Seaman

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Children's Services

**Ward(s) affected:**

All

**Title: Early Help Annual Report 2020/2021**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No - although the proposals affect more than two electoral wards, the impact is not expected to be significant.

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**Executive Summary:**

The Annual Early Help Report documents the Early Help activity in Children's Services for the year 2020/21.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet Member is requested to:

1) Consider and endorse the progress of Early Help work across Coventry City for the year 2020/21. This includes the partnering arrangements with the wider partnership.

**List of Appendices included:**

**Appendix 1** Early Help Strategy Executive Summary

**Appendix 2** Family Hub leaflet

**Appendix 3** Children's and Parent feedback

**Appendix 4** Partner feedback

**Other useful background papers:**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No, this report will not be considered by Scrutiny.

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

## **Will this report go to Council?**

No

**Report title:** Early Help Annual Report 2020/21

### **1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the Family Hub service in Coventry from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The report details how Coventry Children's Services have delivered the Early Help offer through the Family Hub Model. The report includes information on key achievements and milestones in the development of the Family Hub service, as well as challenges and next steps which will inform priorities for the forthcoming 12 months.

### **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 Cabinet member is invited to note the progress in this area of work for the year 2020/21.

### **3 Result of consultation undertaken - Shared Review and Plan findings**

- 3.1 The Early Help Offer delivered to children, young people and their families is continually been refined and developed as a result of feedback from children and their families and partner agencies with whom we work. The annual plan provides an opportunity to consider those representations from individuals and informs the future development of services delivered as well as the Hub environment and accessibility.

### **4 Timetable**

- 4.1 Delivering Early Help is a key part of our strategy in supporting vulnerable children and families through our Right Help, Right Time agenda. The work of the Early Help hubs in Coventry, including the work across the partnership work, will continue to be subject to quarterly oversight through the Coventry's Safeguarding Children's Partnership sub-group and annual oversight through an annual Early Help report.

### **5 Comments from the Director of Finance and the Director of Law and Governance**

#### **5.1 Financial implications**

The 2020/21 Troubled Family Programme included grant funding of £1,139,600 that was paid by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to Coventry City Council. Of the funding, £423,200 was payment by results, with Coventry City Council realising the full amount having reached 100% of its target in the year.

The renamed Supporting Families programme is running again in 2021/22 with a total of £1,157,000 available to Coventry City Council. Of the available funding, £441,600 is payable by results. In the first quarter of 2021/22, Coventry City Council met its first quarter target in full. It is expected that results will continue to be met in full for the remainder of the year, however if this did not happen Coventry City Council would receive less funding.

Looking further forward to 2022 and beyond, MCHLG are working to redesign the programme. Consultations with Local Authorities are ongoing.

## 5.2 Legal implications

Under the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare.

Local authorities, under section 10 of the Children Act 2004 have a responsibility to promote inter-agency co-operation to improve the welfare of all children.

## 6. Other implications

### 6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan ([www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/))

The work of the Early Help Hubs is a key component of the Children's Services Strategic Plan and Journey to Excellence 2019 - 2022

### 6.2 How is risk being managed?

The Supporting Families Team (SFT) review the progress of appropriate claims against the target to ensure progress is maintained, and report to the Strategic Lead for Help and Protection on a monthly basis. Each area team has been given an individual target for success and access to a named member of the SFT to ensure that advice, guidance and support is given directly to that team in a timely way to maintain performance.

### 6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The grants that are available to the Early Help Service support the ongoing delivery of the Children and Young People's Strategic plan and improve outcomes at the earliest opportunity for children and their families. The earlier that Early Help become involved in the life cycle of the problem, the less the impact that problem can have on the whole family.

### 6.4 Equalities / EIA

Within Early Help, the majority of the children, young people and their families will have experienced trauma, disadvantage and discrimination throughout periods of their lives. Our practice framework takes a strengths-based approach that is anti-discriminatory in its application, celebrating and respecting diversity and challenging institutional and individual forms of oppressive practice. As a service Early Help will ensure that their assessments and interventions are bespoke to the individual needs of a child and their families, that their services are inclusive and communication pathways are responsive of different languages, abilities and needs.

### 6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

None

### 6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

Coventry Early Help's ambition and vision is to engage partner agencies in delivering a greater proportion of the early help service, by building capacity and confidence with partners and addressing any areas of development need.

**Report author(s):**

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