

# Family Hubs and Start for Life programme sign-up form

This sign-up form for the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme asks you to confirm your commitment to the programme and your ability to deliver the programme's asks, as outlined in the programme guide. Eligible local authorities must complete the form to sign up for the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme.

Following successful completion of the sign-up process, we will share a Memorandum of Understanding for you to sign, and then release your first payment, which will be 50% of your funding allocation for the 2022-23 financial year. You will then need to provide more detail on your delivery plans. Further detail on what will be expected in the delivery plans is outlined in the final programme guide.

Trailblazers will be a group of up to 15 local authorities who lead the way in delivering the programme, making the fastest and most ambitious improvements to services and establishing best practices to benefit all local authorities delivering the programme. The trailblazer application form can be found at Annex A.

Local authorities **not intending to apply to be a trailblazer** may submit this sign-up form between August 2022 and 31 October 2022 as part of a rolling sign-up window. We strongly encourage you to sign up quickly to enable us to complete the review process and release your first payment.

Local authorities that **intend to submit a trailblazer application** will need to submit this sign-up form **and** the trailblazer application form at **Annex A** for one of two ‘trailblazer selection waves’. The deadline for the first wave, which will have up to eight places, is 31 August 2022. The deadline for the second wave, which will have the remaining places (i.e. seven places plus any unfilled places from wave one), is 30 September 2022.

When completing the general sign-up form, you should do so on the basis of not being awarded additional trailblazer funding. The trailblazer form is where you should outline what you would do as one of the programme’s trailblazers.

All forms and questions should be submitted to [familyhubs.startforlife@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:familyhubs.startforlife@dhsc.gov.uk).

## Section 1 – key information

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| Local authority name |  |
| Name of local authority’s single point of contact (SPOC) |  |
| Contacts details for the SPOC |  |
| Would you like to sign up to deliver the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme? *When answering this question, you should consider the requirements outlined in this form and the programme guide.* |  |
| If you have answered no to question 4, please explain why. |  |

## Section 2 – minimum expectations

You will be expected to deliver the minimum expectations as described in the programme guide for:

1. the family hubs transformation funding;
2. the funded services and initiatives – parenting support, parent-infant relationships and perinatal mental health support, early language support, infant feeding support, parent and carer panels and publishing the start for life offer; and
3. wider 0-19 (up to 25 with SEND) services that will be delivered through the family hub model but will not receive additional investment through this programme.

Please refer to the programme guide and annexes when confirming you commit to delivering the minimum expectations by the end of the programme (March 2025). **Selecting 'no' on delivering these minimum expectations means we cannot confirm your participation in the programme.**

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| Do you commit to delivering the minimum expectations for family hubs transformation funding by the end of the programme (by 2024/25) as set out in the programme guide at Section two? | Yes  No |
| Do you commit to delivering the minimum expectations set out in the programme guide for the funded services by the end of the programme? | Yes  No |

## Section 3 – ‘go further’ options

As outlined in the programme guide, we are also asking you to commit to going beyond the minimum expectations by choosing some ‘go further’ options to enable you to make the biggest difference for families in your area.

Please refer to the programme guide when answering the below questions and indicate the ways in which you might 'go further' by the end of the programme (March 2025).

The information you provide will be considered **provisional.** It will be used to support future conversations with you on which 'go further' options you can commit to, based on your current provision and local needs. These conversations will happen after the sign-up process, when we discuss your more detailed delivery plans.

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| Do you commit to delivering some of the ‘go further’ options by the end of the programme? | Yes  No |

1. **Please indicate the areas where you might ‘go further**’ **across the programme and provide a short summary of what you might be considering in each area?**

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| Use this box to answer for family hubs transformation (Max 150 words) |

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| Use this box to answer for parenting support (Max 150 words) |

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| Use this box to answer for perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationship support (Max 150 words) |

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| Use this box to answer for early language and home learning environment (Max 150 words) |

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| Use this box to answer for infant feeding support (Max 150 words) |

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| Use this box to answer for parent carer panels (Max 150 words) |

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| Use this box to answer for publishing Start for Life Offers (Max 150 words) |

## Section 4 – additional delivery expectations

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| 1. **Do you commit to delivering all additional delivery expectations across the programme as outlined in Annex N in the programme guide?** | Yes  No |
| 1. **If you selected ‘no’ in response to question 11, we *cannot confirm your participation in the programme. Please provide an accompanying explanation.*** |  |

## Section 5 – delivery planning

As noted in the introduction, we will ask for further information on your delivery plans once you have successfully completed the sign-up process. The information you provide below will help support these conversations and enable us to begin supporting local authorities to deliver.

1. **Please provide an indicative high-level outline of how you will use the first tranche of funding to support delivery in the first four months of the programme.**

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| (Max 250 words) |

1. **Please outline your provisional family hub opening milestones in the first half of 2023.**

*Regardless of starting point, we ask you to open family hubs as quickly as possible to support families and commit to delivering visible change within the first half of 2023. This may look different in each local authority area. You will not necessarily meet all the minimum expectations at the point of opening your family hubs, but you will be expected to do so by the end of the three-year programme funding period (end of 2024-25).*

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| (Max 250 words) |

## Section 6 – trailblazers

Local authorities interested in becoming trailblazers should tick 'yes' in the box below and complete the application form at Annex A. In completing this form, you should consult the Family Hubs and Start for life programme guide and the trailblazer guide.

Local authorities interested in becoming trailblazers will need to submit the general sign-up form and the trailblazer application form ahead of one of the two application waves outlined in the introduction.

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| 1. **Would you like to apply to become a trailblazer for the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme?** | Yes  - *please also complete the trailblazer application form in Annex A.*  No |

## Section 7 – further support

We are looking to understand what further support you might need during the programme. Any information you provide will be considered provisional information only. What you include here will not impact your funding or ability to sign up for the programme successfully.

1. **Please describe your current family support set up. This should describe how you deliver your family support services, for example whether through existing hubs or other models, and whether you already have an integrated approach with other local services.**

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| (Max 250 words) |

## Section 8 – expressing interest in support from the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF)

Additional support is available from the EIF to help 15 local authorities complete or update their local needs assessment and use this information to put together an action plan which is built around their local priorities. Please see Annex Q of the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme guide for more detail.

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| 1. **Would you be interested in support from EIF?** | Yes If yes, please complete questions 17 and 18.  No |
| 1. **If you would like to be considered for support, please list the name and title of your strategic and operational champion for your engagement in this support.** | **Strategic Champion:**  **Operational Champion:** |

1. **If you would like to be considered for the support provided by the EIF, please describe why your local authority area would benefit from this?** *When answering this question, you should refer to:*

* *How up to date and comprehensive your current local needs assessment is.*
* *Your current level of system maturity (refer to Table 1 of Annex Q of the programme guide for further information).*
* *Any other information you feel would highlight your suitability for this support.*

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| (Max 500 words) |

## Section 9 – expressing interest in research exploring early awareness and take-up of family hub services

We will be researching how families could be informed of and encouraged to take up family hub services from the earliest point of their child's life. This research will focus on how delivering birth registrations in family hubs could impact families’ engagement with the hub’s services. We are also interested in other services local authorities may use or plan to use for this purpose (e.g., midwives and health visitors). Please see page 66 and Annex R of the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme guide for more information.

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| 1. **Are you interested in participating in this research?** | Yes  No  Maybe – please include us in future communications |
| 1. **To what extent does your local authority currently provide birth registration services in family hubs?** | 1. Currently providing birth registrations from one or more hub/s  2. Clear plans to implement but have not started providing this service  3. Beginning to plan how to implement the service  4. Not currently offering birth registrations from family hub and no plans to |

## Section 10 – support for your participation

All following individuals should sign this form to confirm their support for your participation in the programme.

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| **Title** | **Name** | **Signature** |
| **LA Chief Executive** |  |  |
| **LA Director of Children’s Services** |  |  |
| **LA Director of Public Health** |  |  |
| **LA Chief Financial Officer** |  |  |
| **Leader of the Council** |  |  |
| **Chair of the local Health and Wellbeing Board** |  |  |

You should also confirm that you have sought to engage with the following individuals and organisations as part of your planning and provide the names and roles of those you are engaging with.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Sought to engage?** | **Name(s) and role(s)?** |
| **Local MP(s)** |  |  |
| **Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing** |  |  |
| **Cabinet member for Children and Young People** |  |  |
| **Integrated Care Board Executive Lead** |  |  |
| **Local providers of services that are relevant to the programme. This includes:**   1. Local health systems, e.g. NHS trust, local midwifery team, and health visitor leads. 2. Local third sector/voluntary and community/faith organisations/education settings, where relevant to the delivery of the programme. |  |  |

# Annex A: trailblazer application form

This annex is for local authorities eligible for funding from the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme and who are interested in becoming trailblazers. To become a trailblazer, you must submit this annex and the general sign-up form above for one of two 'selection waves’. The deadlines for these selection waves are outlined in the introduction to the sign-up form.

Trailblazers will be a group of up to 15 local authorities who lead the way in delivering the programme, making the fastest and most ambitious improvements to services for families and establishing best practices to benefit all areas.

In particular, they will be expected to go further and faster in year one in delivering new or improved services for at least one of the following areas funded by the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme: perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships, infant feeding, or parenting support.

We will consider selecting exceptional trailblazers in just one or two programme strands, but prospective trailblazers that are ambitious and innovative across all three strands are more likely to be successful during the selection process.

Please note that as part of evaluating local authorities’ applications, we will share your responses with other government departments and national delivery partners that are part of the assessment panels.

## Section 1 – current delivery

This section assesses what your local authority area has done to date to implement a family hub model, perinatal mental health and parent–infant relationship support, infant feeding support and parenting support.

1. **What steps has your local authority area taken to date to implement a family hub model, and how does this compare to the Government’s model set out in the programme guide?**

*Please answer with reference to the Family Hubs Model Framework (see Annex E of the programme guide) and consider the extent to which the Family Hubs Model Framework has been established in your area to produce good outcomes, including data where relevant to support your answers.*

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| Use this box for your answer (Max 200 words) |

1. **What steps has your local authority area taken to date to implement the Government’s vision for parent–infant relationships and perinatal mental health support, infant feeding support and parenting support?**

*Please answer with reference to the programme guide and* [*the Government’s Best Start for Live Vision*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-best-start-for-life-a-vision-for-the-1001-critical-days)*. You should consider the extent to which your local authority has implemented the minimum expectations and go further recommendations in the programme guide, and what existing plans you have to address any gaps. Please include data and the impact of your actions on outcomes where relevant.*

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| Use this box to answer for parent–infant relationships and perinatal mental health support (Max 200 words) |

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| Use this box for infant feeding support (Max 200 words) |

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| Use this box to answer for parenting support (Max 200 words) |

## Section 2 – maturity of the early help system

This section assesses the maturity of your early help system using questions from the Department of Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities' (DLUHC) Early Help System Guide. For each statement, please:

* Award your local authority a score of 0-5, using the scoring system outlined on page 14 of the [Early Help System guide](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-families-early-help-system-guide).
* Provide an evidence-based rationale for this score. Details on how to conduct a self-assessment are available on page 5 of the Early Help System guide.

You are welcome to re-use the scores and answers provided in your submission to DLUHC this summer or amend them for the purposes of your trailblazer application. Please see the early help system guide for the detail behind each of these descriptors.

1. **We have well established mechanisms to gather and act on feedback from families and engage people with lived experience in service design, governance and quality assurance.**

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| Use this box to answer (Max 300 words) |

1. **The workforce in our area operates effectively to deliver whole family working and is aligned with the levels set out in the workforce table (page 11 of the Early Help System Guide).**

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| Use this box for the answer (Max 300 words) |

1. **There is a senior strategic group accountable for the Early Help System, and the partnership infrastructure evidences a focus on early help, whole family and whole system working.**

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| Use this box for the answer (Max 300 words) |

1. **We have an effective data governance board that is accountable for our progress on data transformation. It supports us and our partners to unlock and resolve issues with data sharing and direct how we use data both for performance and analytics and how we consult on system changes that would impact across the partnership. Data are used by the partnership to support resourcing, planning, whole family working and early intervention. An identified member of the Children’s Services Senior**

**Leadership team has responsibility for driving forward actions from this board.**

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| Use this box for the answer (Max 300 words) |

## Section 3 – your proposals

This section assesses your local authority's ability to lead the way in delivering the Family Hub and Start for Life programme, focusing on parent-infant relationship support and perinatal mental health, infant feeding support and parenting support.

1. **How would you use the additional funding for parent–infant relationships and perinatal mental health support, infant feeding support, and parenting support to deliver tangible, innovative change for parents, children, babies and families in year one?**

*In your response, you should outline your plans, focusing on how you will make substantive progress in delivering ambitious and innovative interventions. You should also seek to provide assurance that:*

* *Your plans are deliverable and sustainable in the context of your existing provision and any wider workforce constraints.*
* *You will make use of your full year one funding allocation.*

*Please note that your answer for each of the three strands will be scored separately.*

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| Use this box to answer for parent–infant relationships and perinatal mental health support. If you are interested in establishing a parent-infant relationship team, particular consideration should be given to the guidance in Annex I of the programme guide (Max 300 words) |

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| Use this box to answer for infant feeding support (Max 300 words) |

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| Use this box to answer for the answer for parenting support (Max 300 words) |

1. **How would you improve access to perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships, infant feeding and parenting support services over the course of the programme by ensuring all families are familiar with their local family hubs?**

*In your answer, you should consider the examples outlined in the programme guide (delivering birth registration and/or the first antenatal midwifery booking appointment in family hubs) or any other innovative ideas you have for: introducing parents, expectant parents, and babies to family hubs at the earliest opportunity.*

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| Use this box for the answer (Max 300 words) |

1. **How would you use your existing expertise and trailblazer status to share your knowledge with other local authority areas?**

*Please answer with reference to:*

* *What your local authority already does to identify and share best practice.*
* *How you will build on this as a trailblazer for the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme.*
* *The elements of the programme where you have developed practice which you will be particularly well placed to share with others.*

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| Use this box for the answer (Max 300 words) |