

South East Family Hub Newsletter

2nd March 2022 – issue 3

Hello and welcome to the third newsletter for the South East region, focusing on the development of the Family Hub work. It has been great to meet with and speak to more of the South East Local Authorities recently, Julie and I are collating lots of examples of best practice through this networking.

South East Communities of Practice – please keep sending us your ideas

Thank you to those of you who have shared your ideas with us, we are meeting this week to explore the different themes for the 2022 workshops. We hope to try different ways of engaging with you to share good practice and find ways to overcome some of the obstacles too.

A community of practice can work in a variety of ways, but an effective CoP will always engage participants in developing their own thinking alongside those with a shared interest. We want to encourage those working on Family Hub development in the South East to build knowledge; share best practice; explore the evidence base behind established programmes to support families; and promote innovative ideas that could start to make a difference. We will start with a morning workshop but hope our CoPs will continue to communicate regularly over the coming months.

We will be holding our first Community of Practice workshops on 22nd March from 9.30 to 11.30. We will be sending out invitations in the next few days, but if you would like to take part and haven't received a link by Friday 4th March, do contact Carly.

NCFH SEND update:

The National Centre for Family Hubs are currently in the process of writing a new module for the family hub implementation toolkit relating to special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The module will support local authorities and their stakeholders to keep the needs of families, who have one or more children with SEND, at the heart of their planning and development of Family Hubs. The module is being 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. The draft module will also be shared with a wider range of people and professions from across the country before it is ready to be launched at the webinar on 29th March – just follow the [link](#).

If you are proud of your SEND practice and how it is integrated into your Family Hub model, please email julie.greer@annafreud.org

Family Hub blog:

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. Each blog will have its author's name, so check your team are okay with what you are writing before you send it to us. We may edit your words lightly but will run any changes past you first. Below is our first blog.

Family hubs: Concept or concrete?

Children's Centres were established around a physical building; a safe space for a Sure Start in life. In the early days of the policy, services were often successfully integrated and encouraged to use the same building for a range of early years provision for families, from health, education and from services we now think of as early help.

Transforming Children's Centres into buildings that can meet all the family needs may be an important part of a local hub model, but this thinking may also squash expectations and limit aspirations about the difference Family Hubs can make.

With a hub and spoke model, (even with an extended digital offer) family support may still become a series of places to go and people to see. Without the will to transform the way these services are received by families and further shaped and adapted to meet family needs, there is a danger that services will still not reach those who could most benefit from the coordinated, connected and accessible services, building on relationships-based practice, that Family Hubs can become.

Local areas need to come together to agree what the concept of Family Hubs means to them before they think about which buildings will be fit for purpose and which services to include. Family Hubs need to be the umbrella which shelters all early help services, reaching out to families universally. To put it another way; Family Hubs cannot just be the lace on the end of the parasol of Early Help. What will your umbrella look like?

Do you agree with the blogger? Do you have different views? What is your own experience? Do share with us by emailing Carly or Julie and we will share some of your thoughts in the next newsletter. You can also take up the challenge to write your own blog and get people thinking!

National Centre for Family Hubs (NCFH) resources:

The NCFH website is available to support you to look at ways in which you can develop a Family Hub model in your authority. You can find the website by going to 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 NCFH enquiries@annafreud.org if you would like a particular focus to training, or would like to share good practice in your area.

Upcoming NCFH training – new webinars added:

All of the following webinars are 90 minutes long, free of charge and take place virtually via Zoom;

Service Design and Commissioning of Family Hubs	3 rd March
Using behavioural insights to increase the reach and take up of family hub services	10 th March
How Family Hubs can improve the lives of CYP with SEND and those around them	29 th March

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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