

**Newsletter issue 5 – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022**

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

**South East Communities of Practice workshops:**

Thank you to those of you who attended the first ‘co-production’ workshop on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, it was great to see representation from 11 of the 19 South East authorities, as well as a range of partners working across the region.

The next workshop takes place on Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May at 9.30am. We will open the meetings from 9.20am to allow for warm introductions, as this worked well at the first workshop. 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, we would love to hear from you. You should have received the invites for all of the above workshops so please do let us know if you haven’t.

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. 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.

Here are the dates, times, and themes of the workshops:

Theme of Workshop	Date	Time
Digital offer	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	9.20-11.30am
SEND	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	9.20-11.30am
Governance & Commissioning	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	9.20-11.30am
Youth	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	9.20-11.30am

## **Family Hub blog:**

'From toddlers to teenagers'

*"My current work takes place within a Children's Centre, focusing on children under 5. My team have similar experience and most of us have worked together in this centre for years. I thought it was all we've ever known, so when the concept of Family Hubs was introduced, supporting families of young people up to the age of 25 (with SEND), I felt uneasy. What if I couldn't work with older children? What if I couldn't relate and provide support for parents and carers of these families? As a team, we all shared the same concerns. However, we also agreed that we did want to see change and we needed to make this work as it's the right thing for our community. We put our heads together and as a result, spoke to neighbouring LA's, sought training and resources online and spent some time together as a team. We completed a skills audit as a group and soon realised that we all have transferable skills which would enable us to work with families of older children and young people. We are experienced workers who know how to support families, and this is such a great foundation. We have sought evidenced based training programs that focus on children of all ages and we have linked with partner agencies to share training and resources. Some of us, including me, had almost forgotten that we had work experience before the Children's Centres, some of which directly related to working with older children. It's amazing what you forget when you don't find the time to think about it. My advice would be to approach this with an open mind, confidence and reach out to those key contacts you have, as it will bring advice, guidance, and opportunities to grow and work together. I know that many LAs are facing the same and it's nice to know that we are not alone".*

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.

## **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](http://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/](http://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](mailto:julie.greer@annafreud.org), or [NCFHenquiries@annafreud.org](mailto: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.

We hope lots of you were able to join the SEND webinar on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March, on the same day that the government's [Green Paper](#); **SEND Review, Right Support, Right Place, Right Time** was launched. Do take the opportunity to make a response to the consultation and where you can, think from a family hub perspective when you drafting your answers. There are lots of questions in the SEND module to help shape your thinking.

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

### **Upcoming NCFH training:**

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 <sup>th</sup> May 12-1pm Live via Zoom
National Conference: Co-Producing Accessible and Inclusive Family Hubs	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> July 9.30 – 3.30 Live via Zoom

This conference is suitable for those leading in the development of Family Hub models. It aims to promote the importance of meaningful co-production and inclusion of those whose views and ideas have not previously been heard or those for whom services are not easily accessible.

If you would like to find out more or book a place, please go to; [www.annafreud.org/training/national-centre-for-family-hubs/](http://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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