

Welcome

Families First Partnership Programme

February 2026



Aims of today's programme -



- To share information about the Families First Partnership Programme.
- To provide updates, information about next steps and how we are shaping a new model in Hull together.
- To provide an opportunity for you to ask questions, share views and join discussions.



The Families First Partnership (FFP) Programme Guide

Delivery expectations for safeguarding partners in England

March 2025

Families First Partnership Programme (FFP) – published 20th March 2025

- The FFP programme details delivery expectations for safeguarding partners in England, as part of a national agenda to improve the lives of children, and their families, through supporting better outcomes and stability.
- There is an expectation that safeguarding partners (local authority, police and health) lead on implementation, working alongside relevant agencies, interacting as a connected system. The vital role of education and community, faith and voluntary groups is recognised.
- The programme sets out expectations, and areas of flexibility for implementation, with areas of focus relating to Family Help, Multi-Agency Child Protection and Family Group Decision making.
- The FFP programme refers to individuals up to the age of 25, recognising that some young adults will continue to receive support as care leavers or through education, health and care plans.



Our approach to safeguarding children in Hull – Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Board



Pauline Turner
Director of Children,
Young People and
Family Services –
Hull City Council



Craig Nicholson
Detective Chief
Superintendent
(Head of
Safeguarding) –
Humberside Police



Paula South
Director of Nursing –
Governance – NHS
Humber & North
Yorkshire Integrated
Care Board



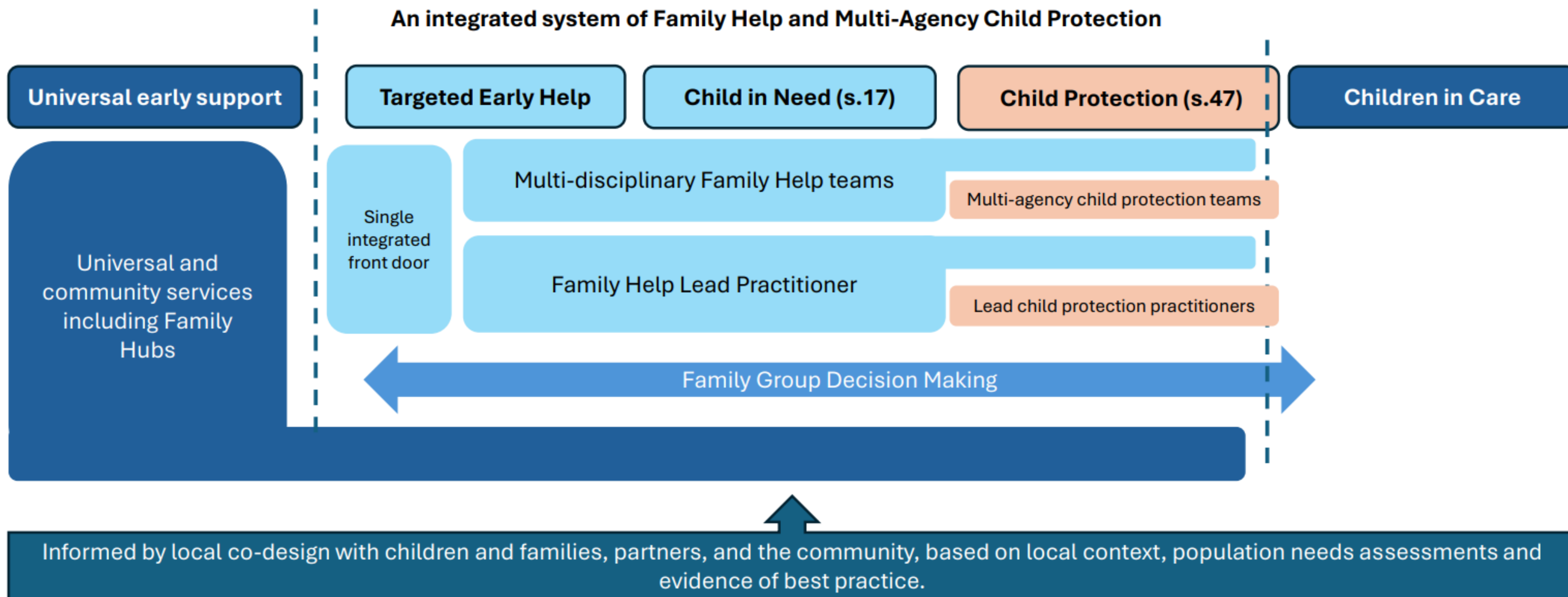
Rachel Wilkes
Chief Executive
Officer – Humber
Education Trust



Pippa Robson
Deputy Chief Officer –
Forum CIO

The Families First Partnership Programme takes a whole-system approach to rebalancing children's social care toward earlier intervention – strengthening multi-agency child protection is central

Locally designed systems that meet the needs of the population with effective, integrated and joined up services with partners



Key Workstreams



- **Family Help** – Brings together Targeted Early Help and Child in Need work into multi-disciplinary Family Help Teams. Relational support for children and families delivered at the right time, by the right people with minimum handovers. Includes an accessible and relational ‘front door’.
- **Multi-Agency Child Protection** – Multi-agency teams of practitioners who have the expertise, time and support to identify significant harm quickly and take rapid and effective protective action, whether the harm is inside or outside the home.
- **Family Group Decision Making** – Enabling opportunities for families to come together to offer support, and make plans, to respond to concerns regarding a child’s welfare to enable children to live within their family network wherever possible (mandatory at point of pre-proceedings).
- **Kinship Care** - How family networks can be engaged to support the needs of children throughout the children’s social care system, including those who are unable to live with their parents.
- **Digital Enablers and Systems** – Support all other workstreams with relevant system development and reporting. Develop case management system and reporting in line with DfE and System C guidance. Work across the partnership to understand and develop the needs of partners to have a single view of a child and family.

Family Help aims to improve outcomes by quickly addressing needs, enabling children to thrive and stay safely with their families. It will operate within communities, uniting local services through a combined, multi-disciplinary practice approach, that wraps support around families at the point of need.



Department
for Education

It is underpinned by the following key principles:

- wrapping support around the **whole-family at the earliest opportunity** – using the expertise of **multi-disciplinary** practitioners to provide holistic support;
- ensuring **consistency of relationships** between children, families and their lead practitioner;
- and **adopting one plan** that will stay with families but adapt as needs change.



Family Help is for children and families with multiple and/or complex needs including those currently eligible for **targeted early help** or receiving support and services as a **child in need**, and those subject to **child protection enquiries and plans**.

Merging Targeted Early Help and Child In Need

- In Family Help, we want to bring together targeted early help and Child in Need teams and services into **a seamless system of support** which encourages **earlier intervention**, recognises the individual needs of families and reduces handovers between teams and professionals.
- The aim is to **wrap support around families at the point of need** rather than families needing to reach a particular ‘threshold’ before they can get support. The sooner needs are identified and help provided, the more effective it will be.
- We do not need to **change legislation to implement Family Help**. Local authorities will continue to have a general duty to provide support and services where children are deemed to be in need.

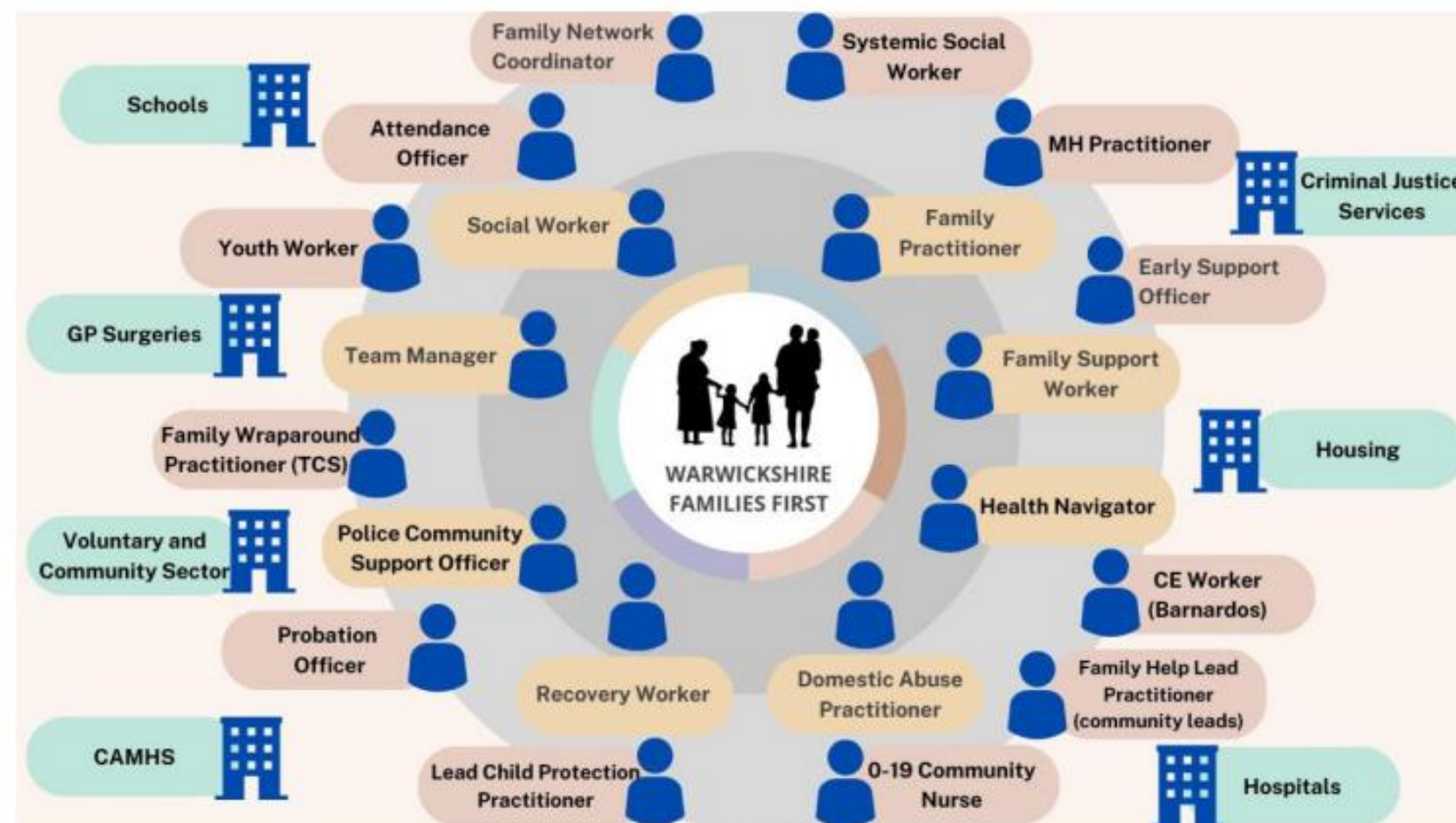
Single Assessment and Plan

- The aim is for one assessment and plan which evolves with the family as needs/circumstances change and can be jointly access by all agencies working with the family.
- These should cover non-statutory Targeted Early Help and support, and Child in Need services where required and in line with *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023*.
- We are aware that changes will be required to case management systems including bringing targeted early help cases and Child in Need cases into the same system, building new reporting requirements and giving partners access to systems.
- We are planning to provide technical guidance setting out the changes required and then will work with national vendors and local authorities on adaptation of systems.



Multi-disciplinary Family Help Teams

- Community-based, multi-disciplinary teams will provide comprehensive support to children, young people, and their families using a whole-family approach which considers the needs of the entire family and how those impact on children and young people.
- These teams may build on extensions of existing teams, but safeguarding partnerships should refer to population needs assessments to decide which agencies, services and practitioners should form part of the team.
- Practitioners from these teams may form part of the 'team around the family' (TAF) which a Family Help Lead Practitioner will coordinate to address various needs and help families navigate the support system.



Warwickshire's vision for multi-agency Family Help



Family Help – ‘Test and Learn’

- Family Help workstream – partners shaping what a Family Help team might look like and how we could ‘test and learn’
- Understanding demand across the system
- Who would we then want to have as part of a core family help team
- Mix of social workers/managers, family support staff, specialist practitioners?
- Could we co-locate some staff and have others ‘linked’ – where might we locate
- Things to shape – workflow, one assessment and plan, supervision and oversight, family feedback, measuring impact.....
- Shaping this up over the next couple of months

Vision for Child Protection Reforms

- Multi-agency child protection teams with dedicated, appropriately experienced and consistent core members from the local authority, police, health and education.
- Inclusion of other relevant agencies reflecting local needs and harms profile.
- Clear focus on addressing child protection concerns and taking decisive action where there is actual or likely significant harm.
- Responsibility for core, statutory child protection decision making and consultancy, working alongside Family Help.
- Establishing a new Lead Child Protection Practitioner role.
- Parental representation and family network engagement as part of child protection processes.

Functions of the multi-agency child protection teams

- MACPTs will **work closely alongside Family Help Lead Practitioners (FHLP)**, who will retain their role with the family throughout child protection activity with MACPT support and oversight.
- Child protection enquiries and plans should build on information and activity set out in the existing **single family help assessment and plan** - or inform one where the child is not already known to Family Help.
- Working Together currently requires child protection conferences to be chaired by a social worker independent from the line management for the lead practitioner. The **LCPP role** will fulfil this function.

Specific MACPT functions include:

- chairing **strategy meetings** and **child protection conferences**
- leading **section 47 enquiries**
- leading or overseeing single or multi-agency **investigations** (as required)
- overseeing the development, review and closure of **child protection plans**
- initiating **emergency action**
- building in **family group decision making** and **family network engagement**
- input to **onward planning** for children and families
- providing **advice and consultation** for practitioners
- deciding whether to move into **pre-proceedings** and the **Public Law Outline (PLO) process**, providing relevant evidence to **court proceedings**
- maintaining an **understanding of local patterns** of significant harm and **agency responses**
- **oversight of all children subject to child protection processes** and line of sight to and from the **local safeguarding partnership**

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)

- Empowering families and wider family networks to stay together safely, is central to the whole family approach in the `end-to-end` system reform. Child to stay central to all decision making.
- A culture of FGDM needs to be integrated into every part of the system, from early support through to care. This will be support by practitioners in both Family Help and Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams.
- FGDM is a term used to describe a voluntary process that enables a family network to come together to and make a family led plan in response to concerns about a child's welfare and safety. This will be supported by families working alongside skilled professionals.
- It will be mandatory for FGDM to be offered to families at the pre-proceedings stage to ensure that children on the edge of care are offered the opportunity to make a family-led plan prior to proceedings being initiated.

Next Steps

- Workstreams for Family Help and MACPTs, Family Group Decision Making, Kinship and Digital
- Learning from regional events and discussions
- Hearing from you at these events
- Take our time and consider what works for Hull
- Do some ‘testing and learning’
- Build on the good multi-agency work that already exists
- Listening to families and co-producing
- HSCP – leadership from the top to create the environment to shape together
- HSCP Conference
- Pathway developing to commence implementation
during 2026/27

Questions

Key Documents



Department
for Education

Document	Where can this be found?
Families First Partnership Programme Guide	The programme guide was published on gov.uk on 20 th March: Families First Partnership programme - GOV.UK
Pathfinders' Journey to Implementing Reforms – a Practical 'How To Guide'	https://khub.net/group/families-first-partnership/group-home
Delivering the Families First Partnership Programme: Support Offer and Monitoring Approach (2025-26)	https://khub.net/group/families-first-partnership/group-home
Knowledge Hub	https://khub.net/group/families-first-partnership/group-home
Ofsted's blog on the Families First Partnership programme and ILACS	The Families First Partnership programme: new guide and how this affects ILACS – Ofsted: social care

Thank You!

