



VOCAL

VCSE Forums facilitated
by Salford CVS



**VOCAL Children,
Young People
& Families Forum**



Tuesday 16th May 2023
10.00am – 12.00pm
Broughton Hub

Number of people registered: 17

Speakers

Kate Berry (Salford City Council)
Caireen Rice (Salford City Council)
Katrina Fletcher (Salford CVS)
Simon Robinson (Salford CVS)

Salford CVS staff present

Michelle Warburton (chair)
Helen Johnson (minutes)
Ella Saltiel (facilitator)

The theme for this forum meeting: Family Hubs

Michelle Warburton welcomed everyone, and the attendees were invited to introduce themselves.



Family Hubs

Kate Berry, Early Help Service Manager and Caileen Rice, Family Hub Coordinator from Salford City Council, shared a presentation on the Family Hubs.

Prior to Family Hubs, there were Sure Start Centre sites across Salford. Salford City Council made a decision to revive outstanding sites and transform them into Family Hubs. Sure Start Centres had a focus on activities for 0-5 year olds and during the transition into Family Hubs, the decision was made to include activities for 0-19 years (up to 25 with SEND) to ensure that all family members were reached within the community.

During Covid, the Salford Family Partnership was created. This is an early help offer for children, young people and families in Salford and requires a commitment from partner services to work together to identify children and families in need, at the earliest possible opportunity.

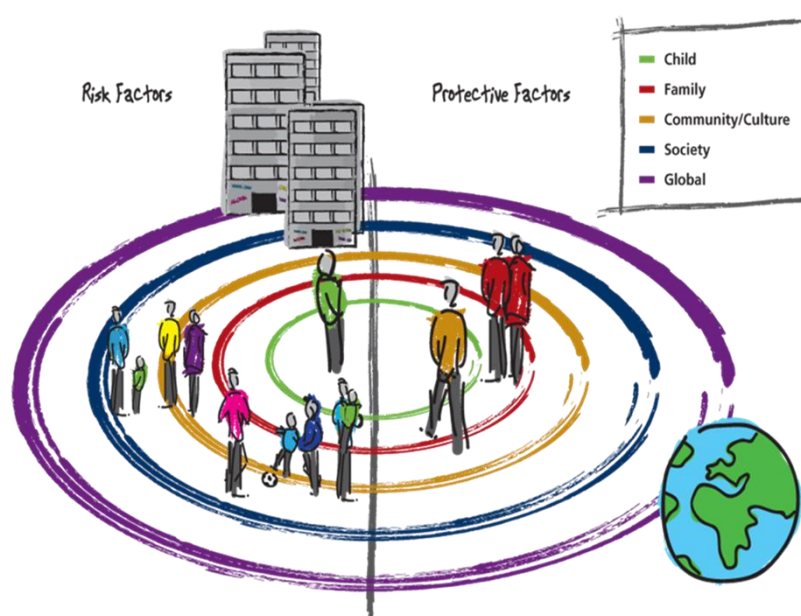



Figure 1: Ecological risk and resilience factors impacting on child development (adapted from Bronfenbrenner, 1979).

The Salford Family Partnership uses placed-based working, with a central focus on the child. Early Help isn't one service, it's a collection of services that come together in a neighbourhood to support individuals and families. There are clear connections between universal (population level), early help and preventions, specialist services and the VCSE sector to provide the right support, at the right time, from the right professionals.

Different workers can identify need, it could be an Early Help Practitioner, schools, or social workers. Family Hubs want to achieve a more universal approach as the



communities in Salford are diverse and each one is different from the next. Ella Saltiel and Katrina Fletcher are VCSE & Volunteer Engagement Workers for Salford CVS as part of the Family Hub Partnership and they reach out to understand these communities.

Salford Family Hubs are places within the communities that offer services and support for children and young people aged 0-25 years and their families. The Hubs enable integrated delivery and co-location of services such as Salford Council Early Help teams, CAMHS, adult mental health (Living Well, Wellbeing Matters), 0-19 health teams, youth service teams, school coordinators, school readiness advisors, area SENCOs, and organisations from the VCSE sector. The range of services delivered through the Family Hubs includes:

- Antenatal and Postnatal Support
- Early Help
- Relationship Support
- Parenting Support
- SEND provision
- Adult and Child Mental Health Support
- Education
- Digital/Social Media
- Webpages
- Better Off Now
- Digital Everyone

Salford recognises that the impact of parental conflict can cause greater impact on the child. Parenting support can adapt frequently and is about ensuring that parents are aware of the parenting offer across Salford. Parenting support is offered online as well as face to face and different models are used to fit with the family. Multiagency meetings help with early intervention.

The My City Directory is a space where organisations can share their event and sessions.

<https://directory.salford.gov.uk/kb5/salford/directory/home.page>

Organisations keep their space on the directory up to date themselves, but if there are any questions, they can be directed to Caireen Rice at caireen.rice@salford.gov.uk

The Salford City Council webpages are also having a refresh, including promoting the Start for Life offer, BetterOff – available in Gateways and is a one stop shop drop in to help reduce poverty by talking about issues including benefits, debt, financial assistance, housing, health or wellbeing etc. There is also a digital offer to make sure everyone can access digital, which will reach out to certain communities.

Start for Life Offer

At the end of August 2022, Salford City Council and partners completed the sign up process for the Family Hubs and Start for Life, up until March 2025. This was a

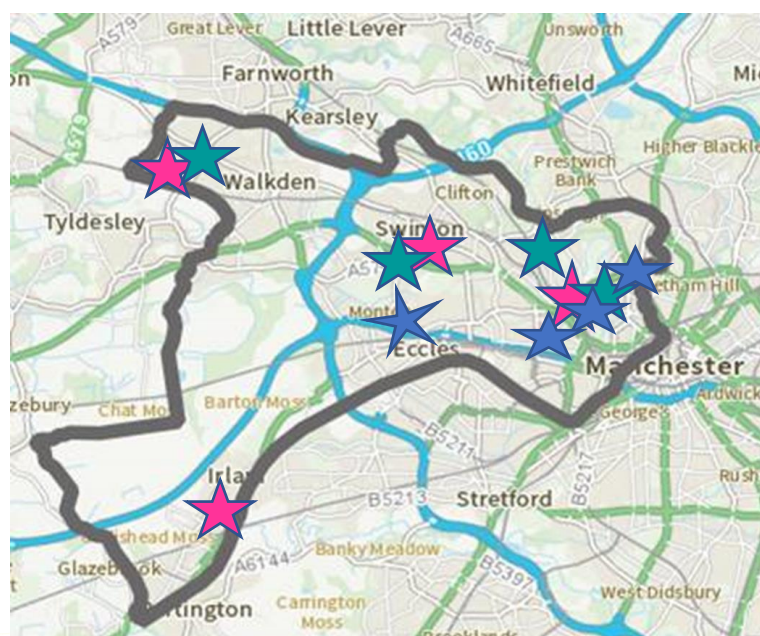
commitment from Salford to a three year programme, delivering the programme asks as outlined in the Family Hub programme guide. Salford's long term offer was to expand and advance the Family Hub offer. Ensuring the community has access to all services, at the right time, by the right person, in the right way.

Alongside this, Salford submitted an expression of interest to become one of the 15 "trailblazer" areas who will lead the way in delivering the programme. This involved making the fastest and most ambitious improvements to services, establishing best practices to benefit all local authorities delivering the programme. Salford submitted for three trailblazer areas and were successful with all three – perinatal mental health, parenting support, and parent and carer panels. Salford are keen to have a co-production and co-design model across all Family Hub services, as a major part of this work is to reach seldom heard families. The detailed programme guidance sets out for how clear expectations for how the funding should be used to meet the minimum expectations over the three year programme, with opportunities to go further. The delivery expectations are in the following areas:

- Family Hubs transformation funding
- Family Hubs capital funding
- Funded services – parenting support, perinatal mental health support, home learning environment, infant feeding support, parent and carer panels, and publishing the Start for Life offer

The aim of the Family Hubs is to provide services for wherever families go in Salford, not just in specific static places. There is a big emphasis on the virtual and digital offer and most importantly, the VCSE sector and bringing everything together.

Salford's delivery plan approval was received by the Department of Education on 27th January 2023. Manchester and Blackpool are the other trailblazers in the northwest, but they only have one trailblazer area each as opposed to Salford's three.



The four main Family Hubs are at Swinton Gateway, Little Hulton Children's Centre, Broughton Hub and Irlam Neighbourhood Centre, with satellite sites at Langworthy Cornerstone, Belvedere Children's Centre, Winton Children's Centre, and Hershel Weiss Children's Centre. The Family Hubs also link into the Youth Centres and the 0-25 offer at the Bridgewater Centre, The Deans, The Beacon Centre and Broughton Hub.

The Family Hubs are looking at partnering with VCSE organisations who can hold the Family Hub logo and advertise what they can offer. Currently, Salford Council have their logo embedded within the Family Hub logo and so to make it feel more of an inclusive partnership, feedback is welcome on how to adapt the logo for all partners to share. The Family Hub belongs to the community. VCSE organisations do not have to be based at Family Hubs sites in order to be a partner, it's about the offer not the building. Katrina Fletcher and Ella Saltiel can help link VCSE organisations into the Family Hub offer and take on any feedback.

Family Hub contact information:

[Salford Family Partnership - Family Hubs | Facebook](#)

[Salford Family Hubs | Instagram](#)

[Family Hubs \(children's centres\) | Salford City Council](#)

Family Hubs mainline number: 0161 686 7229



Family Hubs Grants

Simon Robinson, Grants Manager at Salford CVS, shared a presentation on the upcoming Family Hubs Fund.

Salford Council is keen to grow the range of services and activities on offer for families at the Family Hubs. Over the next few months Salford CVS have around 30 funds to offer. There has been some money particularly ring fenced for Family Hub partners.

Simon introduced a sneak preview to the grants as the information is subject to change. There is a pot of money around £130,000 for over 2 years and available to lots of VCSE organisations, for two types of investments:

Microgrants


Fast track investments of up to £500 for such things as training, DBS checks, equipment, insurance etc. It is a simple application form and a quick decision within 1-2 weeks. Ella and Katrina are the fast route way of dealing with this.

Two year grants

These are tapered grants which means more money is available in year 1 (up to £5,000) for organisations to invest in setting up their provision. Then slightly less money would be available in year 2 (£3,000). **The exact amount of money is to be confirmed.** Ella and Katrina would be the first point of contact to support ideas for this funding bid, and Ella Bulbeck from the grants team at Salford CVS can also help.

The type of family provision accepted for this funding includes:

- **Infant feeding**
 - Promoting equality, diversity and inclusivity by increasing cultural knowledge of staff in the perinatal care of parents.
 - Implementing peer support models that support breastfeeding.
 - Improving the knowledge and skills of Infant Feeding with parents/guardians.
 - Support infant feeding and parent infant relationships, ensuring good bottle feeding practices and breastfeeding in line with the latest guidance.
- **Parenting Support**
 - Supporting parents and raising awareness of the importance of bonding, attachment, and sensitive caregiving, putting the needs of babies and carers first.
- **Perinatal Mental Health and Parent-Infant Relationship Support**
 - Improving awareness of the importance of parent/guardian infant relationships.
 - Holding safe spaces where sensitive, inclusive conversations with parents and carers about wellbeing and challenges can be explored.
 - Developing the parent–infant relationship through play.
 - Providing perinatal mental health support for fathers and co-parents
- **Early Language and Home Learning Environment**
 - Providing support to families to enhance the home learning environment, increasing school readiness.
 - Improving speech, language and communication pathways and join up across Start for Life services to ensure support



The money can be spent on staffing costs, volunteer expenses, DBS checks, venue related costs, project materials, promotion and publicity, refreshments, public liability insurance and any other reasonable project costs.

VCSE organisations applying for the Family Hubs Fund will be expected to have the following policies in place at the time of application:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Equality/Diversity Statement or Policy
- Public Liability Insurance (cost can be included in budget)
- Risk Assessments
- Safeguarding Children Policy

They will also be required to have a Disclosure and Barred Service (DBS) check – this cost can be included in the budget. There will also be a requirement to maintain staffing/volunteer levels appropriate to numbers and ages of children supported.

The Family Hubs Fund will be a more refined and targeted investment to deliver projects under the umbrella of the Family Hubs and would be a small injection of money to support the increase of referrals.

Keep an eye out for updates on the fund and a release date.

Applicants are invited to discuss their project proposal with a member Family Hub Partnership Engagement Team:

Katrina Fletcher, Family Hub Engagement Worker

By email: Katrina.Fletcher@salfordcvs.co.uk or call 07529 224210

Ella Saltiel, Family Hub Engagement Worker

By email: Ella.Saltiel@salfordcvs.co.uk or call 07529 224209

Alternatively you can contact the Grants Team at grants@salfordcvs.co.uk or phone 0161 787 7795.

Breakout sessions

The attendees were invited to discuss:

What can we do as VCSE organisations to support the implementation of the Family Hubs for families?



The group fed back what they discussed:

- Our sector brings flexibility - we can shift and change what we do to meet the needs of the people using our services
- Reach out to people who won't want to go into the "official" buildings
- Signposting and raising awareness of different groups out there, advertising and outreaching
- Making a person centred approach and go along with the parents to the sessions. Collaborative working
- Building up confidence in people and families to walk into bigger buildings and spaces
- Reducing the stigma – see the person not the organisation, by building relationships in the communities. Reduce the feeling of being judged, and make it feel like a safe space where they'll get help and support in one place
- Banners in Family Hubs/Gateways of our VSCE organisations saying we are part of the Family Hubs. Add things like the school uniform rail we have at our organisation in these spaces, so they can access our services in the Family Hub buildings and be present once a month to show that we link into these buildings and show trust
- Bring those that attend VCSE groups to Family Hub sessions so they can see what goes on whilst with their usual support
- The community misses out if you don't have a partnership with this sector, we're not doing a proper job if we don't engage and it's in the guidance for the Family Hub

The Wishing Tree Project

Katrina Fletcher, Family Hub Engagement Worker from Salford CVS, shared a presentation on the Wishing Tree Project.




The Wishing Tree project was designed by Salford CVS in partnership with Salford Family Hubs, The Lowry, a local artist and a young parent group and was commissioned by The Lowry. It is an art installation that has been circulated across 13 Family Hubs, VCSE organisations and Gateway centres. Its premise was to engage with children, young people and families in writing wishes as a way of feeding back what they require from Family Hubs and communities and ensuring the Hubs and VCSE organisations are making this part of their offer. An online wish survey was also offered to get further outreach.

Commissioned sessions from The Lowry were delivered to different groups, including young people and early years, as part of the funding The Lowry receive in order to connect families and VCSE organisations with The Lowry for various art projects.

The project toured from August 2022 to March 2023 and captured 384 responses. The results were collated according to each place the wishes were collected from, so to ensure the needs were met in the correct areas. Similar feedback has appeared in other consultations and surveys across Salford, which has bolstered the data.





The results included:

- 28% expressing the need for safe and accessible outdoor spaces for children, such as parks, play areas, skate parks and nature walks
- 21% required better access to activities for children including arts and crafts, sports clubs, messy play and stay and play sessions
- 17% desired a safer and kinder community with less crime, more peace and more acceptance and kindness
- 13% shared financial concerns wishing for more money and reduced costs for families
- 10% wanted more health and happiness for families

The VCSE organisations and families who interacted with the project will be invited by The Lowry to take part in an art installation in September. During the session they will discuss what can be done to answer the wishes from the Wishing Tree project. The wishes will be spoken in different languages, places on a map across the floor and wishes will be answered.

Next steps

Michelle Warburton spoke about how the Family Hub work will continue; the grants fund will help support VCSE organisations to build a stronger Family Hub offer. There is current discussions with the Early Help team to develop a referral system from health services and an opportunity for individuals to be connected into VCSE organisations by the social prescribing model. There will be a pilot model which will be more open to referrals with young people, young parents and young people in transition from child to adult services or from care to independence.