

Our proposals for 'Family Hubs'

January - February 2021

In this document we are using the term 'Family Hubs'. However, this has not been decided and we would like to hear your views about what we call the model in the future.

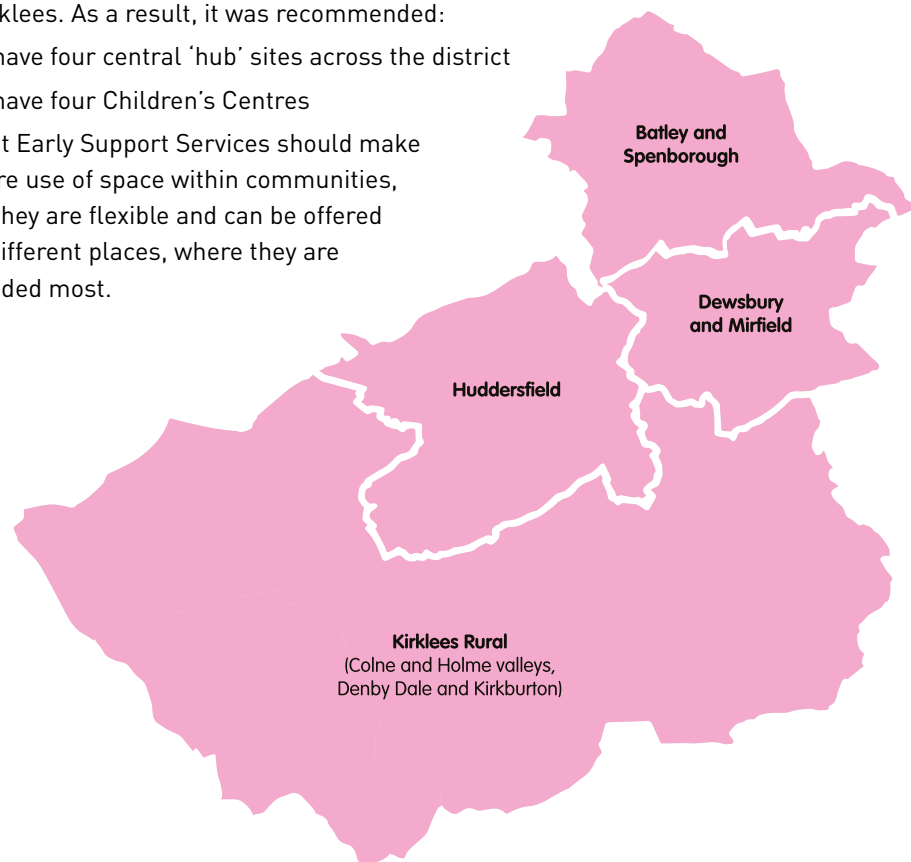


Why is your view important?

Early support, also known as early help, is support given to a family when a problem first emerges. It can be provided at any stage in a child or young person's life.

We have previously asked for your views about redesigning Early Support Services in Kirklees. As a result, it was recommended:

- To have four central 'hub' sites across the district
- To have four Children's Centres
- That Early Support Services should make more use of space within communities, so they are flexible and can be offered in different places, where they are needed most.



We have made a lot of progress with these changes and there is a wide range of excellent support for families. Now we are finalising the next steps so that the support available in our communities is the best it can be.

Your views are important in how we do this. They will help us make sure you get the support you need in the ways that you need it. This could be online, in a local building, or face to face in your home. We want to find the right blend of support for you.

What have we done so far?

- In partnership with others who deliver Early Support Services we have produced the [Kirklees Early Support Strategy 2018](#)
- Delivered a range of Early Support services for families with children aged 0-19 years (or 25 years for young people with special educational needs or disabilities). These are delivered by the Local Authority, the Voluntary and Community Sector, Health Sector and some by commissioned services, ranging from targeted support in the family home and group work, through to activity delivered in the community including Detached Youth Work and Play
- Developed a multi-agency approach to Early Support requests using the Early Support Multi Agency Panel (ESMAP)
- Worked with schools and developed 16 Community Hubs.

What does the 'Family Hubs' model look like?

The model aims to be flexible and responsive, supporting families with children 0-19yrs, (25 for a young person with a special educational need or disability), who need help when and where they need it, whether that be on-line via social media and websites, face to face in the family home, in a group using a Family hub site, in a school community hub building, a community building or a local outside play space.

Our aim is to support families, children and young people throughout their lives. This means providing support to expectant mums and families before children are born, as children grow up and young people become independent young adults

- Dewsbury and Mirfield
- Batley and Spen
- Huddersfield
- Kirklees Rural (Colne Valley and Holme Valley, Denby Dale & Kirkburton)

There are already Children's Centres in each of the above areas. These are: Dewsbury Moor; Birstall & Birkenshaw (Fieldhead Co-location Centre); the Chestnut Centre; and Slaithwaite Town Hall.

We are suggesting that these Children's Centres would be used for co-ordinating what's on offer, BUT the actual support will be delivered from a number of places and locations across each area, these may change overtime and will be based on local need.

More detail on the proposal can be found in the [report](#) that was discussed at Cabinet in December 2020.

What support would be available?

The proposed model aims to build on the current Early Support Partnership offer and the work of the Community Hubs, with consideration for what is already in the community. It will bring individuals and organisations together, with a focus on how people already support each other, who is delivering services in the community, what it is like to live in the area and what is important to you, what is needed in your area and who can help with this.

It will bring services together in each hub area, for example, midwifery, health visiting, school nursing, family support, parenting, family group conferencing, early years, youth work and play, voluntary and community services, schools and community hubs, mental health and wellbeing, adult services supporting entry into employment, housing, benefit advice, food and energy poverty. It is proposed that the support in each area would include:

- Support for the parenting journey - from getting ready to be a parent all the way through toddler years to your child becoming a teenager and beyond
- Early learning opportunities such as stay and play groups, being ready to start nursery and being ready to start school
- Activities for different age groups; working with schools to support their pupils and families; advice for families on staying healthy
- Support for particular groups, such as young parents, single parents and families where there are special educational needs or disabilities
- Family Support and one-to-one support in the home
- Activities and support for young people, tackling the difficult issues they might face in their lives
- Support for people who are experiencing issues such as domestic abuse or alcohol and substance misuse
- Support with employment, adult learning, housing, benefits and personal finances; helping to make sure people don't go hungry
- We would also have support online with a 'one-stop shop' of local organisations who can support. This would be easy to use and would point people towards whatever they need.

How can you get involved?

- After reading this background information, you can complete the questionnaire. We have also produced some [information](#) to answer any additional questions you may have to help you when completing the [survey](#)
- Email your questions or comments to: integratedearlysupport@kirklees.gov.uk
- We will be holding special events (which need to be online due to current Coronavirus restrictions) so that you can give us your views in person. If you would like to attend, please tell us by using the email address integratedearlysupport@kirklees.gov.uk

The dates and times for these events are:

11am - noon:

Huddersfield
20th January 2021
11 till 12pm

**Kirklees Rural/
The Valleys**
21st January 2021
11 till 12pm

Batley & Spen
27th January 2021
11 till 12pm

**Dewsbury &
Mirfield**
2nd February 2021
11 till 12pm

Evening sessions

Batley & Spen
20th January 2021
6 till 7pm

**Dewsbury &
Mirfield**
21st January 2021
6 till 7pm

Huddersfield
27th January 2021
6 till 7pm

**Kirklees Rural/
The Valleys**
3rd February 2021
6 till 7pm

The final date for sharing your views in any of these ways is 26th February 2021

We have arranged the public events on an area basis to allow discussions about local issues to take place but all events are open to anyone who wishes to take part and share their views.

What will happen next?

We will look at every response we receive and take account of your views. We will then draw up final proposals for the way we provide Early Support. These will be discussed by the Kirklees Cabinet (the council's main decision-making body) in Spring 2021.

If you would like this information in another format (e.g. community languages) please email us at integratedearlysupport@kirklees.gov.uk