Prevention – Support in the Early Years (-9 months to 5 years)

Scrutiny Review Panel
Tuesday 5th November 2024









Aim:

To review the offer of support to children in their early years and their families to ensure enough is being done to provide accessible and effective help at the earliest opportunity

The objectives of the review are:

- 1. To understand the demographics of the early years population in Stockport
- 2. To understand the universal stages of support and contact with professionals as a child grows
- To understand current pathways for additional support across the system, consider how this is delivered through family hubs and what is being done to make support accessible
- 4. To understand how families know about and are engaging with offers of support
- 5. To understand current challenges in the system and how they can be improved









Key policy documents

- Stockport's Start Well Strategy 2024-2027 mgConvert2PDF.aspx
- Healthy Child Programme 0-5 (OHID 2023) <u>Healthy Child Programme Schedule of</u> Interventions Guide - DHSC
- The Best Start for Life A Vision for the 1,001 Critical Days (2021)
 The best start for life a vision for the 1 001 critical days.pdf
- Family hub model framework (2022) Annex E Family Hub Model Framework
- Family hub service expectations (2022) Family Hub Service Expectations
- Development Matters (2023) <u>Development Matters Non-statutory curriculum</u> guidance for the early years foundation stage
- SEND code of practice: 0-25 years (2015) SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf









Start Well Integrated Model – Stockport Family

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Lead
Fran Jackson
(HCP 0 – 19 Lead)

Start Well Team leaders Health Visiting & Early Years integrated service aligned to Family Hubs

Start Well teams of Health Visitors, Early Years Workers, Portage and Health Visiting Assistants aligned to Family Hubs











Stockport's journey

2004

Staged implementation of Sure Start Childrens Centres

2014 - 2018

- Development of integrated Start Well Health and Early Years Model
- Stockport Family established
- Good Level of Development (GLD) increase in Stockport from 54% in 2012/13 to 70.4% in 2018/19, however, only 46% of FSM (Free School Meals) eligible children achieved GLD compared to the National average of 56%.

2020 - 2022

Impact of Covid Pandemic

- Disruption to universal services, early education provision and family support
- Increasing levels of poverty, family need and child development difficulties
- Widening health inequalities and attainment gap
- Accelerated public service reform, emerging new models (Fairer Start Local, Family Hubs providing opportunities for innovation)
- Recovery planning which recognised the impact of the pandemic on babies and children's development and parent mental health identified as a priority

2022 - 2024

• Family Hubs transformation programme

2024

- 68.7% of children achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD), 1.0% higher than the National average of 67.7%, and 4.3% higher than the Regional average of 64.4%.
- Outcomes have improved generally for boys and for SEND learners.
- Outcomes for children living in poverty (particularly boys) and other disadvantaged children remain challenging to shift progress for disadvantaged learners has not been sustained











Start Well Strategy 2024-2027

- Recognising how critical the early years are for children's development and success in later life, the refreshed Start Well Strategy articulates how the Council working with the Foundation Trust and other partners will work together with families and communities to prioritise outcomes for children in the earliest years of life over the next 3 years. The strategy is underpinned by the Healthy Child Programme (HCP), a key public health early intervention and prevention policy with alignment to the Greater Manchester (GM) Early Years (EYs) Delivery Model.
- The strategy covers pregnancy to school and supports a shared vision, alignment of priorities and provides a more consistent borough-wide offer with the ability to target services more effectively to the most vulnerable children and families. At the core of Start Well is midwifery, Start Well health visiting teams and early years education.
- The strategy sets out an ambitious programme of work and aims to provide a comprehensive, collaborative framework that encompasses an integrated approach to supporting optimal child development from pregnancy to age 5. By focusing on 2 strategic goals and 6 key priorities (see final slide), this strategy aligns the 'Best Start for Life: A vision for the 1,001 critical days guidance (2021) and seeks to ensure every child in Stockport has the opportunity to start well, live well and thrive.









Our whole system approach

This diagram shows the range of services that can support children to get the best start in life.



Objective 1

To understand the demographics of the early years population in Stockport







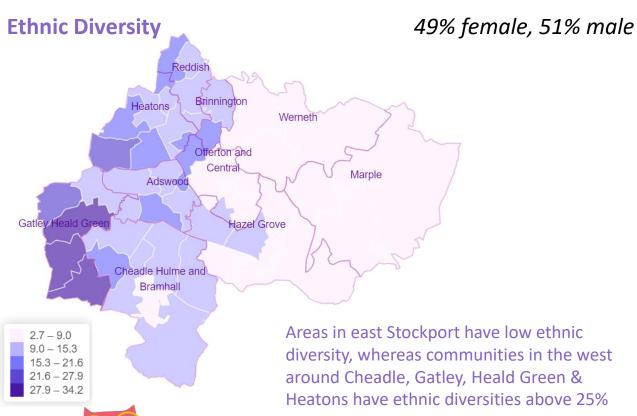


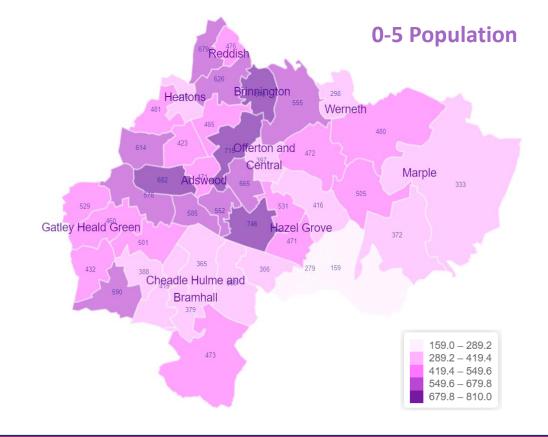
Demographics of the early years population in Stockport

Total population: 299,550

Children aged 0-5: **20,500**

6.8% of the total population are aged **0-5 years**, with a population distribution shown below. The highest 0-5 population is 810 in Brinnington; the lowest is 159 in High Lane















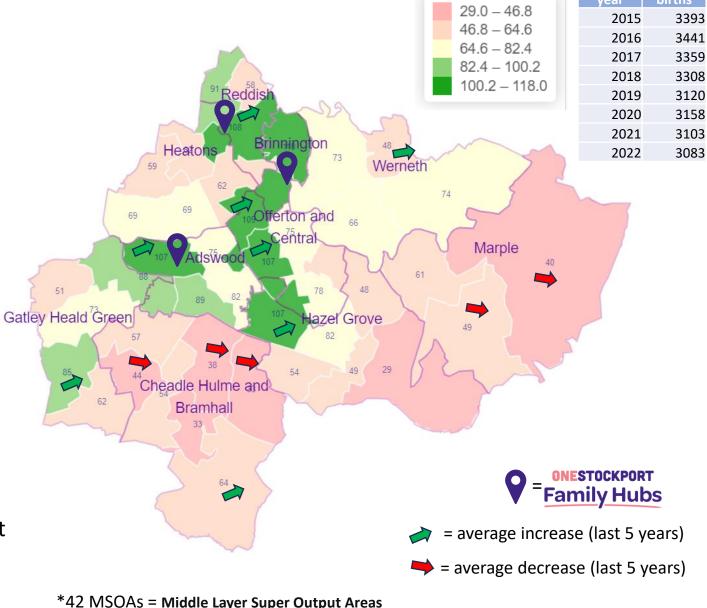
Stockport birth rates

Stockport's birth rate from year to year is gradually decreasing. The last 5 years average 3150 births per year.

The map shows the number of births in 2022 for 42 areas in Stockport - MSOAs*. Areas in green show higher absolute numbers of births, compared to areas in red. Areas with arrows show change over the last 5 years. Areas without arrows have stable rates.

A divergence is emerging. Areas already showing high rates tend to have **further growth** and tend to be less affluent (Central, Adswood). More affluent areas have **fewer** births and generally show a **decline** in rates (Bramhall & Marple).

Exceptions – Brinnington has the highest birth rate but it's stable. Woodford, Heald Green and Werneth currently have lower birth rates but show growth.







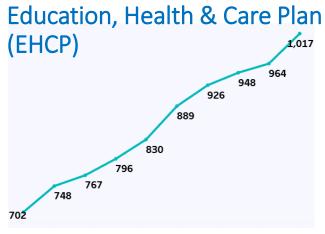


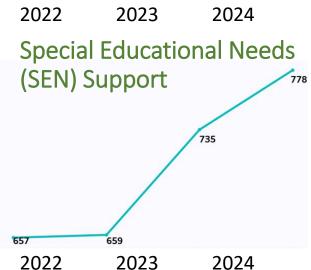






Children aged 0-5 with Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCP) & Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support

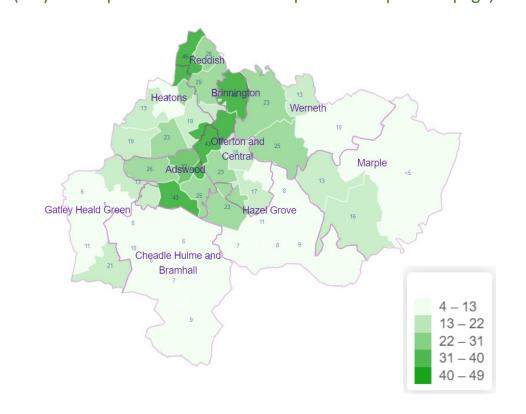




EHCPs continue to rise at an average of 4.0% each quarter.

SEN identification and support continues to rise at an average of 4.5% each year.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support for 0-5s (very similar pattern to low-income deprivation on previous page)













Level of Need across all Stockport Start Well Health Visiting teams - October 2024

Level of need	Number of children	%	Healthy Child Programme offer
Universal level	10,156	80.3	Mandated contacts – new Birth, 6-8 week, 9-12 months, 2-2.5 year
Targeted level	2,057	16.3	Mandated contacts plus Enhanced maternity pathway, and enhanced offer from Health Visiting service
Specialist level	435	3.4	Mandated contacts plus Enhanced maternity pathway, and enhanced offer from Health Visiting service. Children in our care yearly review health assessment.
Total	12,648		







Giving children the best start in life – where are we now?

- Increased number of ante natal contacts supporting earlier identification of need, continuity of care and relationships with families.
- Increased breastfeeding rates at 6-8 weeks (54.7%), which is higher than any previous annual rate(data goes back to 2008). Importantly, this increase is mostly driven by an increase in the less deprived areas. Breastfeeding not only supports babies to get the best start in life but also benefits mothers, families, and society.
- The Healthy Child Programme performance data reports the proportion of children receiving mandated contacts and timeliness of assessments is higher than the National and NW averages, indicating effective screening of child development needs in order to support readiness for school.
- Health Visitors play a key vital role in promoting child development and routinely screen children's development through the 5 mandated contacts using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire 3 (ASQ3). The ASQ3 is a screening tool that helps parents provide information about the developmental status of their child across five developmental areas: communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving, and personal-social.
- Take up of early education places for vulnerable 2 year olds remains high at 92% (summer 2024).
- Private, voluntary and independent childcare providers play an important part in the take up of this offer. 83% (510/615) of vulnerable 2
 years olds take their early education and childcare places in a private day nursery, preschool or with a childminder.
- Families are also able to engage in other offers of support whilst their children access their place.
- 99% of our settings are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted.
- 100% of our childminders are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted.

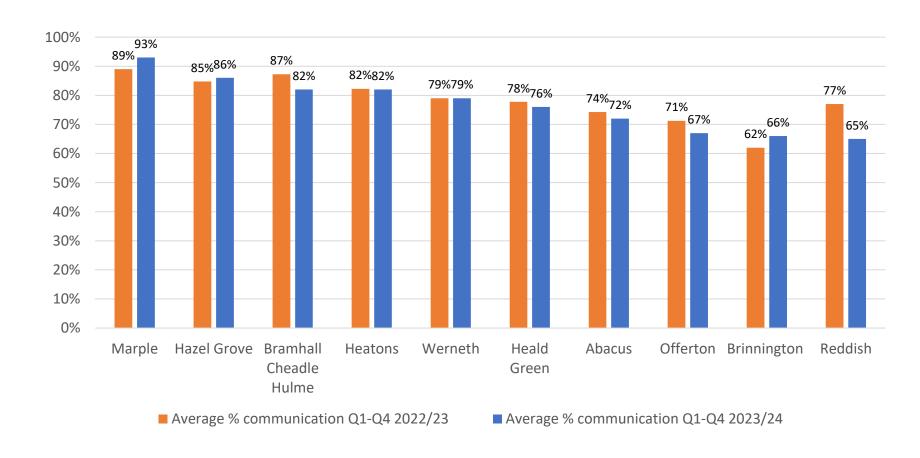








% Children ASQ3 at expected level or above in communication at 2-2 ½ year development assessment comparison 22/23 - 23/24





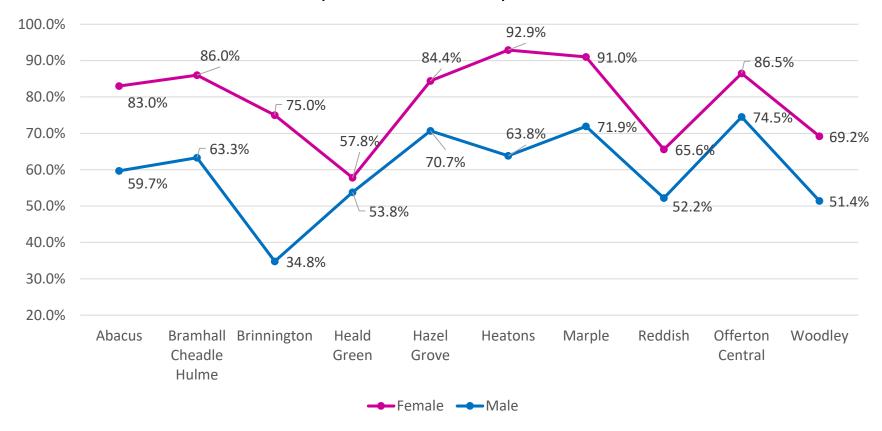






2 Year ASQ Assessment comparison between genders — Q1 2024/25

% Children ASQ3 completed at above expected level across all 5 domains





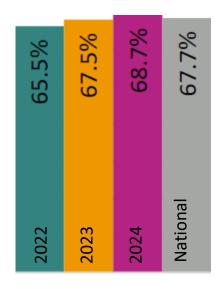






Children achieving a Good level of Development (GLD)

Within the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) assessment, 68.7% of pupils achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD), **1.2% points** higher than 2023.



Stockport average GLD

13.8% of our pupils (at all ages) require Special Education Needs (SEN) support, with 5% having an Education & Health Care Plans (EHCP)

Results for Special Education Needs supported children shows improvement year on year. This year, it's 1.8% better than 2023, and is **now above** the national average.

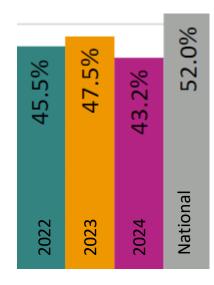


SEN Support GLD

Stockport 2023 Data

■ Stockport 2024 Data

Disadvantaged Children (*Pupil premium*) perform substantially lower (43.2%) than the Stockport average. (68.7%). The gap is seen nationally, but Stockport recognises and will focus on this challenge



Disadvantaged (Pupil Premium) GLD

■ National 2024 Data





■ Stockport 2022 Data





Correlation between deprivation and risk

Whilst the achievement gap has narrowed in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) measure, a more granular analysis of the data for early years children continues to highlight Stockport's challenge and the correlation between deprivation and risk:

- Stockport is the 8th most polarised borough in England
- Increase in Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility in Stockport from 6009 (March 2020) to 8773 (22/23)
- Babies and young children continue to be impacted by the pandemic and cost of living crisis
- Babies under 12 months living in disadvantage areas are at increased risk of vulnerability
- Healthy Child Programme data at a neighbourhood level suggests the inequalities gap widening and early child development differences are increasing
- Communication development a significant issue for 2 years olds living in areas of deprivation
- Outcomes at the end of the EYFSP remain challenging for white boys living in areas of deprivation and children eligible for FSM
- Early years children living in poverty do less well than their peers in neighbouring boroughs

However, the disadvantage attainment gap at KS2 is narrowing.









Objective 2

To understand the universal stages of support and contact with professionals as a child grows







Universal stages of support and contact with professionals as a child grows

- Family Hubs
- Midwifery Ante natal and post natal care
- Healthy Child Programme (0 5 led by health visitors) underpins our universal offer

5 mandated contacts:

- Enhanced antenatal offer for vulnerable families
- New birth assessment by 14 days postnatally
- 6-8 week child and parental mental health assessment
- 9-12 month developmental assessment
- 2-2.5 years developmental assessment
- Dad Matters Offer https://youtu.be/YuXNZOlbbTg

https://youtu.be/pLWnRUxcuf8

- Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC) <u>Stockport Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities (EPEC) Stockport Council</u>
- Early education and childcare 15 hours for 3 and 4 years olds
- Digital offer (see next slide)











Digital / Virtual offer

- Health Visiting & School Nursing 0-19 advice line Mon-Friday 9-4.30pm available for parents/carers.
- 0-19 Essential Parent digital resources and videos text/email directly to parents/carers https://gmca.essentialparent.com/ecare/start
- Start Well website Start Well Give your child the best start in life (startwellstockport.co.uk)
- Family hubs website One Stockport Family Hubs Stockport Council
- Facebook page <u>Start Well Stockport</u> | <u>Facebook</u>
- BBC Tiny happy people <u>BBC Tiny Happy People</u>
- Half termly top tips and virtual sessions <u>Half Termly virtual sessions October / December 2024 Start Well</u>
- Solihull multi user licence free online courses for parents
- Online courses for emotional health and wellbeing
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health padlet
- Social & Emotional Development, Wellbeing & Mental Health













Objective 3

To understand current pathways for additional support across the system, consider how this is delivered through family hubs and what is being done to make support accessible







Start Well programme of universal and targeted interventions

Ante- natal and postnatal support

Early Years

Digital

Pathways

- Solihull Antenatal course
- Family Nurse
 Partnership
- Breastfeeding Peer Support
- EPEC Baby and Us postnatal group
- New born Behavioural Observation (NBO)
- Newborn Behavioural Assessment Scale (NBAS)
- ASQ SE (social emotional)
- Home Start Perinatal Infant Mental Health Service
- Dad Matters

- Invest in Play Parenting course
- Solihull supported courses
- Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC) courses
- Early Help Assessment and Team Around Family
- Stay and Play
- Watch Me Play
- Infant Parent Service (IPS)
- Video Interaction Guidance
- WellComm, Big book of ideas,
- Enhanced Speech and language offer Speech, Language and Communication Therapist intervention
- Bookstart Corner
- Dad Matters
- Portage and opportunity groups
- ASQ SE and ASQ 3 activities
- Home Start Core Offer
- Funded early years education and childcare
- Healthy Start
- Timid to Tiger
- Circle of Security
- Under 2's household support vouchers
- SACS-R/iBasis (in early development stages)

- Solihull
- Essential Parent
- Family Hub website
- Start Well website
- Start Well Facebook
- Early Years App
 (Bramhall Cheadle
 Hulme, Gatley and
 Heald Green)
- BBC Tiny Happy People
- Health visiting and School nursing advice line
- Virtual top tips weeks

- Enhanced maternity pathway
- Physical Development
- Healthy Weight
- Social, Emotional
 Development, and
 Mental Health –
 conception 5
- Pathways to Talking -Speech, Language and communication
- Neo natal standard operating procedure
- Paediatricians' pathway for premature babies 0 – 2
- Care of the next infant programme (CONI)
- Infant feeding pathway
- Early Years SEND (draft)
- Parenting











Current pathways for additional support across the system and how this is delivered and accessible

Pathways

- GM Early Years 8 stage assessment pathway
- Enhanced Maternity pathway
- Pathways to Talking speech, language and communication
- Social, emotional development and mental health
- Physical development
- Healthy weight
- Infant Feeding
- Parenting offer
- Dad Matters bespoke offer in perinatal period
- Integrated Early Years SEND

How is this delivered and accessible?

- Face to face support in the home, Family Hub sites, health centres and other community venues
- Within childcare and early education settings
- Team around the early years discussions
- Through VCFSE groups
- Virtually (live sessions)
- Online parents can access in their own time 24/7
- Evening offer
- Use of interpreters where appropriate











Pathway highlights and impact

Enhanced Maternity Pathway

The enhanced pathway of joint visits for targeted families has seen a significant increase in antenatal assessment Q1 2022/3 =115 women had a targeted assessment Q1 2023/4 =151 women received a targeted assessment.

What did parents say about what was important to them

- Having an ongoing relationship with a named health worker including contact details and a way to get in touch and rearrange visits.
- Phone call check-in or leaflets explaining what was available in their area.
- Expert knowledge knowing professionals e.g. midwives would be present at parent and baby groups gave extra reasons to attend.
- Good experiences when accessing services encouraged them to seek out more.

Infant feeding

Increased breastfeeding rates at 6-8 weeks (54.7%), which is higher than any previous annual rate (data goes back to 2008). Importantly, this increase is mostly driven by an increase in the less deprived areas.

Early Years SEND

- Portage waiting lists significantly reduced between April 2021 and March 2024.
- 697 children were offered the portage intervention between April 2021 and March 2024

Team around the Early Years

 Over 1500 children discussed with consent for support since 2021

Dad Matters bespoke offer in perinatal period

Since January 2024, our Dad Matters perinatal mental health coordinator has engaged **515** dads universally and is currently working on a one to one basis with **18** Dads.

Pathways to Talking - Speech, Language and Communication (SLC) Pathway

- 974 WellComm assessments were carried out by Start Well Health Visiting teams.
- SLC scores have improved in Brinnington since offering the 18 month contact











Objective 4

To understand how families know about and are engaging with offers of support





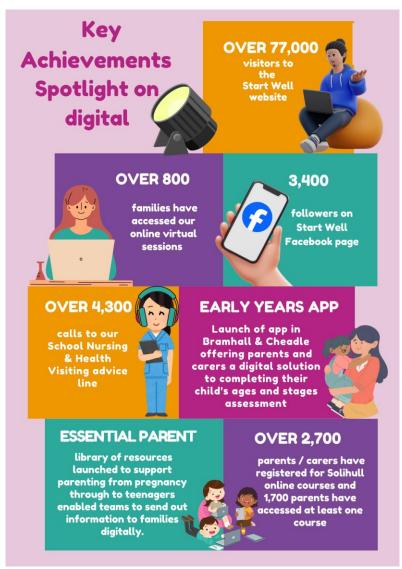




How families know about and are engaging with offers of support

- Named Midwifery and Health Visitor role key as universal provision reaches all families 0 - 5
- Integrated approach within neighbourhoods
- Digital and virtual offer
- Team Around the Early Years
- Annual Start Well Survey (see slide 27)
- Annual Family Hub Survey (see slide 28)













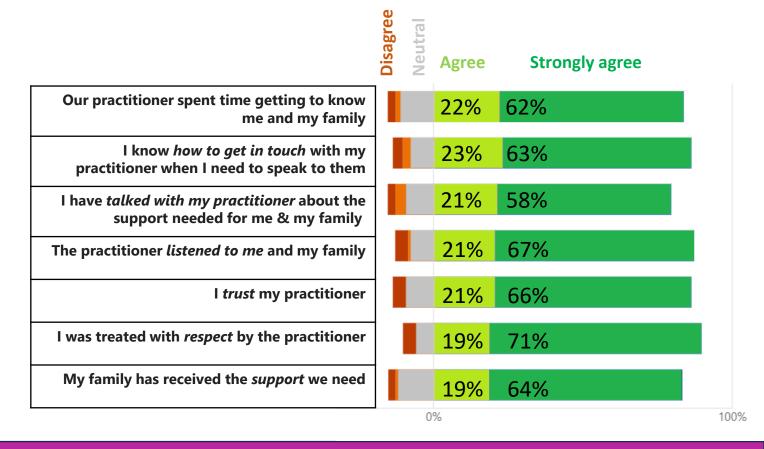
Start Well Health Visiting Survey (Family responses July 2023-Nov 2023)

Families feeling **welcome**, **being** *listened* **to**, *trusting* staff, being treated with *respect* and service *support* **satisfaction** score strongly, with room for improvement. A minority (6%) disagreed with knowing *how to get in touch* and *talking with the practitioner* about support.

How would you rate the current support you and your family have / are receiving from the Start Well Health Visiting team?

(Rating scale: 1 poor and 5 excellent)















What families are telling us about Family Hubs?

July 24 - 220 responses – high levels of feeling welcomed, trust, confidence returning for future services - with the purpose of increasing access, reducing stigma

75% agreed or strongly agreed that -I am satisfied with the quality of services provided by Family Hubs (23.6% neither agreed or disagree with this statement)

58.3% agreed or strongly agreed that - Family Hubs has made a significant difference to me / my family (29.2% neither agreed or disagree with this statement)

77.8% agreed or strongly agreed that - I would recommend the Family Hubs help and support to other families (19.4% neither agreed or disagree with this statement)

77.8% agreed or strongly agreed that - I find accessing Family Hub information easy, whether this is in a building or online. (16.7% neither agreed or disagree with this statement)

76.4% agreed or strongly agreed that - I feel confident going back to Family Hubs services if I need to in the future (20.8% neither agreed or disagree with this statement)

75% agreed or strongly agreed that - I feel welcomed by the person providing me with support (22.2% neither agreed or disagree with this statement)

83.3% agreed or strongly agreed that - I trust Family Hubs staff (12.5% neither agreed or disagree with this statement)











Objective 5

To understand current challenges in the system and how they can be improved









Telling a positive story about the potential for success and opportunity for our babies and children if attention is paid to the first 1001 critical days of their development could pay dividends

Strengths

- Sufficient places in Stockport
- High quality places
- Parents want to send their children.
- Outcomes above the National average
- Strong integrated and partnership working
- Focus on prevention and early intervention
- Significant access and contact points
- Confidence in identifying need

Challenges/opportunities

- Inequalities gap and outcomes for disadvantaged children, particularly boys
- Communication and language needs of children at 2 years in disadvantaged areas
- Children with SEND responding to the increasing level of assessed need within the system
- Normalising asking for help and support trust with communities
- Ensuring inclusion and equity
- Parental engagement and readiness to access intervention
- Shared understanding of child development across the workforce
- Consistent delivery of evidence-based interventions
- Recruitment and retention
- Measuring outcomes that matter











Start Well Strategy 2024 -2027

Vision

Working together with families and communities, all children in Stockport will have the best start in life, be ready for school and become lifelong learners

Ambition

By 2027 we will have narrowed the achievement gap at the end of Reception for children living in poverty, particularly boys

Core approaches and values

Inclusive practice, integrated working, relational, restorative and trauma informed practice, coproduction, make every contact count, prevention and early intervention, innovation and evidence based practices

Start Well outcomes

- Children will experience loving nurturing relationships
- Children live in safe homes free from adversity
- Children are supported to have good early years development
- Children and parents/carers have good physical and mental health and access to healthcare

Strategic goal - Ensuring the Start Well System is working together to give families the support they need

An empowered Start Well workforce



- Deliver a highquality workforce development and training offer to support integrated delivery
- Develop volunteer pathways as a route into employment
- Extend peer support programmes to build capacity and resilience within communities
- Ensure sufficient high quality early education and childcare provision
- Continue to develop a shared understanding of school readiness

Continually improving the Start Well offer

- Ensure better use of data and evaluation to improve the quality of our offer and improve children's outcomes
- Scale evidence-based practice to have the greatest impact on children's outcomes (changemaker)
- Implement
 recommendations from
 balanced system to ensure
 we make best use of
 resources to support SLC
 and physical development
 across neighbourhoods

Leadership for change



- Hold a shared accountability for improving early years outcomes and reducing inequalities, which goes beyond traditional early childhood services
- Grow front line leadership to share influence and responsibility for the quality of practice and impact on children's outcomes
- Ensure effective integrated delivery within neighbourhoods and strong partnerships

Strategic goal - Ensuring families have access to the services they need

Seamless support for families



- Identify and respond to developmental needs of early years children at the earliest opportunity
- Recognise the first 1001 days of life, from pregnancy to age 2, as a critical period to lay the foundations for lifelong health and wellbeing
- Prioritise specific projects that support equality of outcomes for early years children and their families
- Ensure the voice of infants and parents and carers informs and shapes Start Well services and offers

A welcoming hub for families ____

- Establish
 One Stockport Family
 Hubs as a way to
 access Start Well offer
- Work more closely with VCFSE organisations and groups to improve access and develop our offer

The information families need when & how they need it

r Further develop and clearly define the digita offer to extend access and options of support for families

Home Learning Environment

Thank you Any questions?

LJ Woodward, Head of Early Years and Neighbourhoods

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Glossary of Terms

- ASQ 3 Ages and stages questionnaire is a developmental screening tool that pinpoints developmental progress in children between the ages of one month to 5 ½ years
- ASQ SE Ages and Stages Social and Emotional- supports assessment of a child's social and emotional needs
- **Balanced System** -The Balanced System® is a framework and suite of tools and templates that can be used to improve the commissioning and delivery of Speech, Language and Communication services which benefit from an integrated approach to delivering outcomes.
- Dad Matters offers support for fathers in the perinatal period (conception 2 yrs)
- Enhanced maternity pathway Supporting parents and unborn baby antenatally through a joint midwife and health visitor contact for families requiring targeted support to enable relationship building and joint assessment and plan of care.
- EPEC Stockport Empowering Parents Empowering Communities is a popular parenting programme delivered for parents, and by parents, in their own communities.
- EYFS Early Years Foundation Stage sets standards for development, learning and care for all children from birth to 5 years old in England (Scotland and Wales have their own frameworks). All Ofsted-registered early years providers, schools, preschools and reception classes must follow the EYFS. The EYFS provides the framework to ensure that children are kept healthy, safe, and given the best start in life.
- FNP Family Nurse Partnership is a person-centred, preventative intervention programme offered to young first time parents aged 19 or under, and their children. It is an evidence based change programme that is delivered in the parents' own homes. It is designed to cover the first 1001 days of life, from early pregnancy until the child reaches the age of 2 years old.
- FSM free school meals
- **GLD** A 'good level of development' can be defined as a child reaching the 'expected' level of development at the end of their reception year, at the end of EYFS. It is an outcome of a summative assessment based on learning outcomes in regard to the prime areas of learning.
- TAEY Team Around Early years is a shared conversation between a child's setting and key professionals such as a health visitor to ensure access to the right support at the right time.
- **VCFSE** Voluntary, community, faith & social enterprise sector
- WellComm A tool kit for screening and providing intervention for speech language & communication in the early years







