**Manchester Family Hub Funding**

**Prospectus 2023-2025**





# Key Information

### Applications live: Monday 25 March 2024

### Engagement provider drop-ins: w/c 15 April 2024

### Closing date: 4pm on Monday 6 May 2024

* Applicants will be notified of decision by 31 May 2024

### Applications only from voluntary, community and faith sector organisations

* Organisations must be based in Manchester and bids must evidence how they would work with Manchester residents in Gorton, Abbey Hey, and/or Openshaw (location of the Gorton Sacred Heart Family Hub and wider network area)
* Applications are welcomed from groups working together in a partnership
* Applications to be returned to: [familyhubprogramme@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:familyhubprogramme@manchester.gov.uk)
* Contact person: Liz Madge, [familyhubprogramme@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:familyhubprogramme@manchester.gov.uk)
* Drop-in sessions will be held which will provide the opportunity for interested parties to seek further information. These sessions will be held on the following dates.
  + Tuesday, 16 April between 2.00pm and 4.00pm at Gorton Sacred Heart Family Hub
  + Friday, 19 April between 10am and 12 noon (virtual session)
* If you are interested in attending any of the above sessions, please register your interest by emailing [familyhubprogramme@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:familyhubprogramme@manchester.gov.uk) **to inform of your interest. Further information will be provided upon registration.**

**Grant Values**

The following grants will be available for application:

### Small grants of up to £5,000

### Medium grants of up to £10,000

Grants will be awarded for a maximum period of up to 18 months from the date of the award. It is vital that applicants provide fully costed, including core costs, proposals that fit within the grant values.

# Introduction

Manchester is a diverse and vibrant city which has benefitted from economic growth and investment attracting residents of many cultures and faiths to the city. A proud and passionate culture permeates relationships, and the values of the city are enshrined in the 'Our Manchester’ behaviours.

* We are proud and passionate about Manchester
* We take time to listen and understand
* We own it and are not afraid to try new things
* We work together and trust each other
* We show that we value our differences and treat people fairly

Economic success is not evenly distributed, and the city continues to experience the impact from the pandemic which has exacerbated the existing health inequalities. This, alongside high levels of poverty, and pressures associated with the cost-of-living increases are falling harder upon communities already experiencing hardship.

In 2021/2022 there was 43% increase in demand for early help support, with the number of self-referrals increasing. Support needs were identified across a variety of domains, mental health difficulties, children with additional needs, behaviour concerns, increased incidences of domestic abuse and increasing poverty related issues.

School Readiness and Good Level of Development (GLD) outcomes for 21/22 are poor 53%. In Manchester there are higher levels of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) and pupils with English as an additional language (EAL). There is an associated increase in the identification of children with potential additional needs within the early years. The current SaLT and Parenting pathways in early years reflect increased need and the impact of social isolation on children’s social, emotional development, and communication.

Manchester has the second highest number of children living in poverty in England, with five wards in Manchester having over half of children living in poverty. The city's population continues to change with the number of children increasing, 136,240 0-18 years (2021 Census) with 20,653 0–2-year-olds (Sept 2022).

42% of whom have English as an additional language and 39% have free school meals. There are over 150 different languages spoken in Manchester.

In 2020, there were 8,280 women, living in Manchester, engaging with maternity services across the three Manchester Foundation Trust hospitals. However, in July 2021, only 66% of women eligible for the Healthy Start vouchers claimed them.

**Family Hubs Programme: Manchester 2022-2025**

Family Hubs are a place-based way of joining up the planning and delivery of family services and an opportunity to do more to support families at the earliest opportunity. They bring services together to improve access and the connections between families, professionals, services, and providers, by putting relationships at the heart of family support.

Family Hubs will provide an effective offer of early help enabling families to receive the right service at the right time. They offer support to families from conception and to those with children, 0-19 or up to 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), with a great Start for Life offer at their core.

Manchester is one of 75 LA’s chosen to become a trailblazer, as such, will be expected to make the fastest and most ambitious improvements to services alongside establishing best practice. We have four Family Hubs in Manchester – located in Longsight, Wythenshawe, Cheetham, and Gorton.

The right culture and behaviours are essential, and relationships are at the heart of achieving successful transformation. The Family Hub Steering Group oversee the programme and has clear governance and accountability arrangements. There is a clear vision and commitment to embed the ‘Think Family ‘approach and ensure all families can access local and bespoke services at the right time.

System transformation work is focusing on achieving the three principles of access, connections, and relationships. There is a focus on prioritising strength-based conversations, taking a trauma informed approach and co-production, to ensure inclusive practice and to involve families with lived experience. We are developing building stronger connections with VCSE, faith, and community groups, and will make Manchester Fairer by improving the digital offer and achieving equity for our communities.

The existing Start Well Strategy Outcomes Framework and refresh of the Early Help Strategy will enable us to combine and develop a Family Hubs Outcome Framework. Our measures of success will demonstrate improved outcomes and tell us how we are making a difference.

**National and local Context**

There are a number of strategies and policy developments both locally and nationally that have shaped the family hub programme.

**The Best Start for Life - A vision for the 1,001 critical days** – sets out the Governments vision for championing better support for families to make sure every baby gets the best start in life.

[The\_best\_start\_for\_life\_a\_vision\_for\_the\_1\_001\_critical\_days.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/973112/The_best_start_for_life_a_vision_for_the_1_001_critical_days.pdf)

**Family Hubs and Start for Life programme** sets out the vision for providing families with the integrated support they need to care for their children from conception, throughout the early years, and into the start of adulthood.

[Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme Guide (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1096786/Family_Hubs_and_Start_for_Life_programme_guide.pdf)

**Manchester’s Start Well Strategy 2022-25 (Appendix 1)** is at the heart of our ambitions for children and families in our city. We are determined that all our children should get the best start in life and to grow up to be safe, happy, healthy, and successful.



# The Grants

The purpose of the grant schemes is to improve outcomes for children and families through:

* Contributing to and/or increasing the uptake of services which could include; strengthening parent and child relationships, increasing/improving the offer of parenting support or meeting the wider family hub criteria (link below highlights wider criteria)

[Annex E - Family Hub Model Framework (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1096776/Annex_E_-_family_hub_model_framework.pdf)

* Community engagement, targeting those communities who have yet to engage and/or who are at risk of poorer outcomes e.g. experiencing racial inequalities (CERI), high levels of deprivation.
* Co-design/production of services and activities that meet local need.

Organisations will be expected to develop links with services which may include; Midwifery, Health Visiting, Early Help, Social Care, Sure Start Children Centre’s (SSCC) and other Family Hub partners e.g. faith and community groups and other Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) partners.

The work is underpinned by key principles:

* Parents, children and young people’s voice – the voices and lived experiences of children and young people will be critical to all funded activity.
* Quality and impact – we will ensure that our work is making a difference, and work with partners to build evidence, demonstrate value and champion the impact that services have on children, parents, and communities.
* Partnership – we will prioritise collaboration and collective impact, seeking to work with, and build up, others whilst building strong alliances and networks across the city.

Bids that propose the delivery of services that look to strengthen parent and child relationships or offer parenting support should look to demonstrate how families will be supported to achieve:

* Improvements in their relationship with their child
* Improvements in their mental health
* Improved engagement with other services
* Increased involvement in their child’s development
* Increased self-confidence
* Improved understanding of their child’s needs

Bids that support community engagement which will lead to an increase in engagement and take up of services across Family Hub network sites in Gorton, Abbey Hey and Openshaw should demonstrate how they will increase engagement with:

* Communities that have yet to engage
* Parents and Carers with additional vulnerabilities who are at risk of poorer outcomes
* Fathers and Co parents
* Families experiencing SEND
* Communities experiencing racial inequalities, deprivation, isolation

Evidence of planned engagement and codesign activities should be provided broken down by demographics i.e. age, ethnicity, deprivation and sex. Activities should be grouped into:

a) support for parents/carers, dads, and co-parents,

b) parent-infant relationship support.

**Access to the Service**

The organisation will ensure there is equity of access for all families. As a minimum, this includes a requirement for the organisation to comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, ensuring premises and services are accessible to disabled parents and carers. Volunteer peer supporters will reflect local community diversity.

**Location of Service**

Services and interventions will be delivered from:

* The service base and outreach into families’ homes
* The Family Hub or one of the Family Hub network sites
* A suitably accessible community venue
* A suitably accessible virtual platform

Services will be fully accessible and delivered flexibly on different days/time of day including weekends to meet family’s needs.

**Workforce**

A key element will be for the workforce / volunteers to have the skills and knowledge required to support:

* Advice or connection to further support (including accompanying to groups and appointments)
* Early identification and referral into appropriate support and wider Family Hub services

**IT Equipment and technology**

The provider will be responsible for the purchase, installation and maintenance of all IT hardware, software, and any externally hosted systems or software used to deliver the service.

**Safeguarding**

A culture must exist within the organisation that ‘safeguarding is everybody’s business’. Providers must ensure that those who use the services are safeguarded and that staff are suitably skilled and supported.Effective safeguarding arrangements should be in place to safeguard vulnerable children, young people and adults including, safe recruitment, effective training and supervision.  Robust processes should be in place to assure the service themselves, regulators and commissioners, that these arrangements are working.

Furthermore, the Children Act (2004) (Section 11) places a statutory obligation on organisations to ensure that they safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people whilst carrying out their normal functions. This is relevant to all services that may come into contact with children directly or indirectly.

* The organisation must ensure that robust safeguarding policies and procedures are in place which considers those of the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership and GM Safeguarding Partnership (GMSP) and are an integral part of service delivery.
* [Manchester Safeguarding Boards (manchestersafeguardingpartnership.co.uk)](https://www.manchestersafeguardingpartnership.co.uk/)
* [Welcome (proceduresonline.com)](https://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/)
* All adults and children who are suspected of being abused or at risk of being abused are reported using the agreed policies and procedures and the service will support safeguarding investigation enquiries and processes e.g. Serious Case Reviews’s where required
* The organisation will contribute to effective inter agency working to safeguard adults, young people and children
* The oragnisation will have arrangements in place for effective information sharing in line with national guidance and local safeguarding policies and procedures
* Appropriate recruitment processes are in place (including enhanced DBS checks) for all staff with access to vulnerable adults, young people and children in line with organisational policies and procedures
* Appropriate supervision arrangements should be in place in accordance with organisational appraisal / PDP policies and procedures
* The organisation should manage risk appropriately to protect vulnerable children, young people and adults from avoidable harm and treat and care for people in a safe environment

## How to Apply

### Please make sure you read the guidance notes carefully

### The deadline for applications is 4pm on Monday 6 May 2024

### Please return completed application forms to: [familyhubprogramme@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:familyhubprogramme@manchester.gov.uk)

### You will receive an acknowledgement of our receipt of your application

## Who will make the decision?

### All applications will be scored and ranked by a panel made up of representatives from the relevant family hub and will include: Family Hub Lead, a parent, representative from the VCSE and appropriate partner from the local area.

## What will happen after the decision has been made

### All applicants will be notified by email as to whether their application has been successful or not and we can provide constructive feedback, on request.

The successful applicant will be required to submit the documentation set out in the application form. We will send you an agreement with our terms and conditions for you to sign and return. If we need to ask you to change your approach in order to fill a gap, we will arrange to meet with you.

The funding will be paid as stated above and all payments will be made by BACs.

### Monitoring and evaluation

We expect you to monitor your activities, including keeping accurate records of how many families have attended the funded activity. Monitoring should be submitted quarterly and include quantitative and qualitative components.

You must be able to collect sufficient information to enable you to report each quarter on the work that you’re doing, demonstrating the impact your funding has made.

**Outcomes Framework**

Outcomes for each project will be requested and will include information on:

▪ Number of people attending groups and their age

▪ Parental status of users - mothers, fathers, grandparents, co-parents

▪ Where the group/service/offer is based

▪ Ethnicity of people attending groups

▪ Method of delivery of the offer - virtual or face to face

▪ Number of volunteers/staff on the project

▪ Training completed or delivered by staff on the project

▪ Case studies or video diaries to show benefits to families

Organisations will be expected to complete an outcomes framework to collate the information requested and the template will be shared with successful groups in due course.

**What if we are unsuccessful?**

Should your application be unsuccessful MCC may be able to help to identify other possible sources of funding for projects. Please get back in touch with your local Family Hub Lead.

**What do we do if we don’t agree with a funding decision?**

Following the grant making decision panel meeting, we aim to send confirmation of grant offer or rejection within the dates stipulated.

If your application is unsuccessful, we can provide constructive feedback upon request. Depending on the refusal reason, you may be able to apply for a different project, but you cannot re-apply for the same project unless your refusal confirmation says so.

**Advisory note**

If your annual income is above £5,000 per annum your organisation will need to register as a registered charity: https://www.gov.uk/setting-up-charity.