

Birmingham Family Hubs - Newsletter



Newsletter Highlights

Family Hubs are coming to Birmingham



Spotlight on Best Start for Life



Family Hubs are coming to Birmingham

'Family Hubs are coming to Birmingham this summer. They will be a 'one stop shop' bringing a range of organisations and professionals together in one place, to offer services, advice, guidance and support on a wide range of family and parenting issues. These include infant feeding, mental health, parenting support, SEND, getting into work, debt advice, and health issues to name a few.

Family Hubs' is a central government project which aims to give children the best start in life. The Hubs will be both buildings across Birmingham and a website, so that families can access the right help locally at the right time in a whole family approach.

Family Hubs is a partnership in Birmingham led by the City Council which will be given £9.215m of government funding over 3 years to develop 'Best Start for Life' and 'Family Hubs' provision, offering families accessible help.

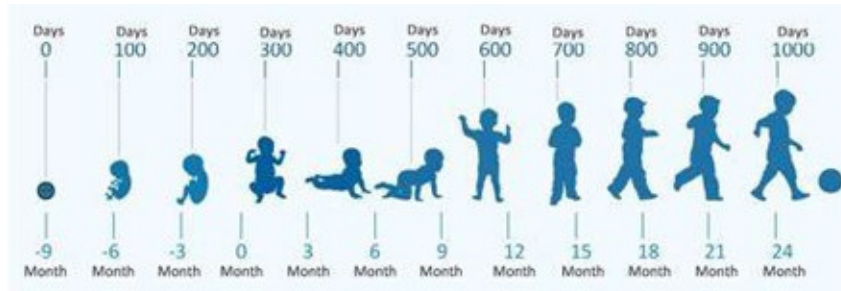
The first part of the Family Hubs programme to be rolled out is the 'Best Start for Life' offer, which focuses on the youngest children. It aims to help families find the services and support available to them from the time of their baby's conception until it is 2 years old – the first critical 1001 days where babies lay down the foundations for lifelong emotional and physical health.

'Best Start for Life' will be an online offering of services, support and information gathered from across the City, as well as a printed leaflet in a range of the most widely spoken languages in Birmingham.

Best Start for Life

Spotlight on 'Best Start for Life'

The support that 'Best Start for Life' offers will be available on one website where lots of useful information, organisations and links will be in one place. The offer joins up services like midwives, health visitors, children's centres, local parenting organisations and early help so families can find services, advice and support in one place.



The Purpose of offer is to clearly set out the services available to families with babies from conception to 2 years old, these include:

Universal services - available to everyone

- such as midwifery; health visiting; mental health support; infant feeding and specialist breastfeeding support; safeguarding; and services relating to special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Additional, targeted or specialist services and support

- Such as support for domestic abuse; help with drug and alcohol use or smoking cessation; debt advice; and help overcoming language barriers

Open access support - available to any parent or carer

- delivered by volunteers in the community for example, 'stay and play' session for parents and carers with babies in a community hall or family hub; or an exercise class for parents and carers in the local park

Paid-for services:

- that may already exist in your local area that you wish to signpost to families, such as an antenatal education group delivered by a charity for a fee.

The website will be accompanied by a printed leaflet which will help families to find the same help and support, who cannot easily access the internet. Both the leaflet and the website will be available in the languages most commonly spoken in Birmingham. 'Best Start for Life' will be available online and in printed form from July; this will be widely publicised nearer the time.

If you would like to know more about Family Hubs please email:

Familyhubs@birmingham.gov.uk