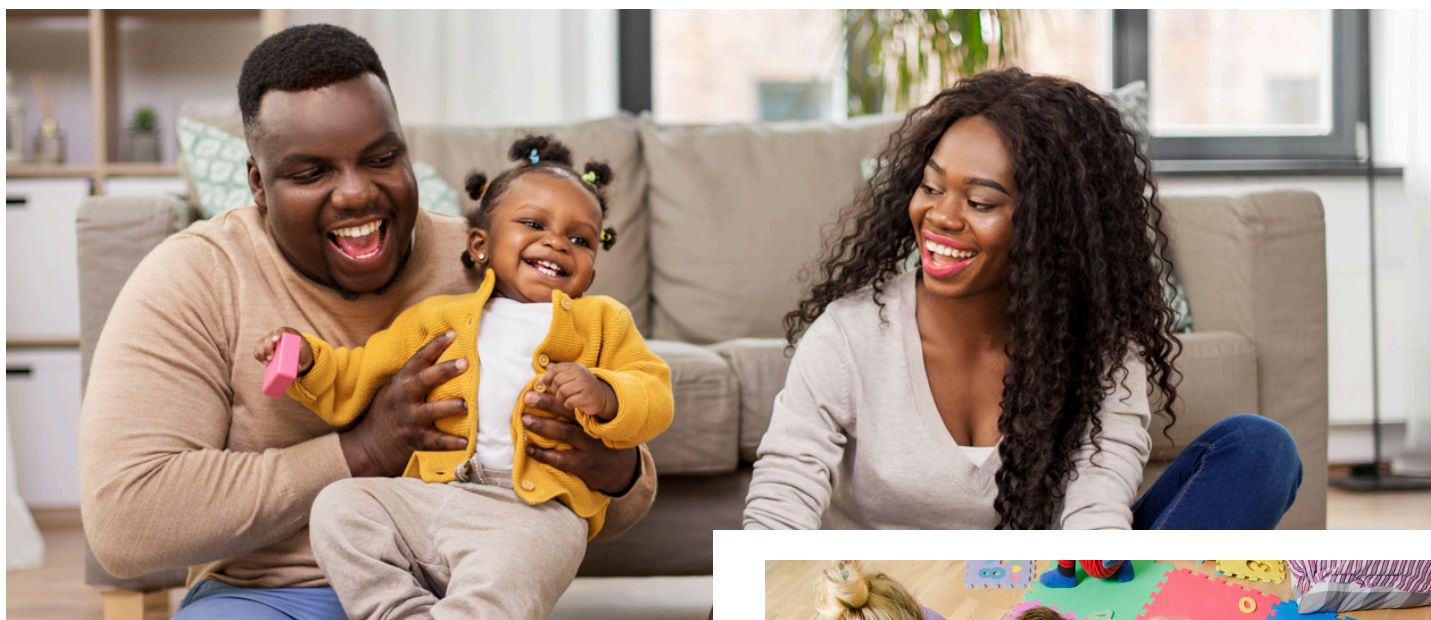




Families First for Children

Pathfinder programme update



What's new?

It's been another busy month as the Families First for Children programme shapes up.

A number of roles have been recruited to, we've submitted our delivery plan to the Department for Education, and established our multi-agency workshops.



Delivery plan update



This month, the team have submitted a delivery plan to the Department for Education, for final review and approval.

We're hoping this will be signed off by the end of June 2024, which will in turn mean the programme commences from 1 July 2024.

Big Conversation

Recently, our Big Conversation survey was sent out to over 500 families in the borough.

We want our families to give initial feedback on their views and experiences of the help and support they have received from us and our services.

The survey will close on Friday 21 June 2024.

Once collated, the headline findings will be analysed and reported back in the next edition of the Families First for Children newsletter.

Timeline and milestones



The programme is due to start on 1st July 2024.

During the summer, we will continue to run our multi-agency workshops, to scope out our vision, principles, and desired outcomes.

In July, we will run locality events to continue the big conversation with children, young people, parents, carers and fellow professionals to define how we will work together in the future.

In September, we will be entering the 'test & learn' phase for Family Help, and this will start in October for child protection.

Exciting times ahead!

The programme officially ends in March 2025.

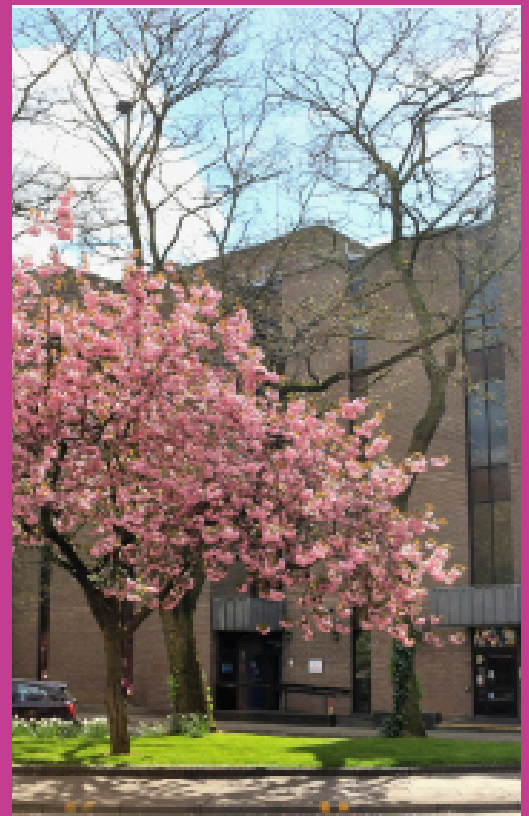
Meet the team

Since the funding was announced, recruitment has taken place to assemble the programme team:

- Antony Schaffarczyk - Head of Service and Programme Lead
- Julie Jones - Programme Lead
- James Cooksey - Practice Development Lead
- Chris Wilkes - West Midlands Police Lead
- Nicola Bayliss - Education Lead
- Rebecca Graham - Education Lead
- Ulla Obadi - Business Support Lead
- Sian Jones - Head of Safeguarding Partnership

We're still recruiting to the following positions:

- Health Lead
- Participation and Engagement Lead





Get involved with our workshops!

Several of the workshops have started.

We have starting to draft our Family Help Assessment & Plan suggestion so far from a young person is that they become known as Our Family Today, Our Family Tomorrow.

The aim is to develop a single assessment and plan with a family and to ensure that families only tell their story once, we know that this is one of the families' biggest frustrations.

As part of our Big Conversation a parent recently told us "I am exhausted. I feel like for the past year I have talked and talked and talked. But what has been done? Nothing. As a family we are deteriorating, our situation is no better, if anything it is worse. We are sent for assessment after assessment and from what I can see we are always someone else's problem. Eventually, someone is going to have to help us."

We have started to scope out the role of the Lead Practitioner, looking at the support that should be available for all leads, training available alongside skill set, knowledge, capacity, resources and mapping out existing pathways, to ensure we are working effectively with children, young people, and families.

We have started to look at the Family Network Support Packages which will provide practical and financial support to enable family networks to help children and young people stay safe and thrive at home.

Its not too late to get involved, please email of message the leads if you want to become part of shaping the future:

1. Developing our new single Family Help Assessment – Antony.Schaffarczyk@walsall.gov.uk or Julie.jones@walsall.gov.uk
2. Developing the Family Help Lead Practitioner role - Julie.jones@walsall.gov.uk or James.Cooksey@walsall.gov.uk
3. Providing children with the best start in life & connecting Family Hubs and Family Help – Rachael.Phillips@walsall.gov.uk or Julie.jones@walsall.gov.uk
4. Helping disabled children and children with Special Educational Needs – Zoe.Morgan@walsall.gov.uk or Rachael.Beards@walsall.gov.uk
5. Child Protection practice and enquiries – Antony.Schaffarczyk@Walsall.gov.uk
6. Our Workforce Development and Wellbeing Strategy across Children's Services – Claire.Jervis@walsall.gov.uk or Georgina.Atkins@walsall.gov.uk
7. Stable homes for children in care and young people leaving care – Jivan.Sembi@walsall.gov.uk or Zoe.Morgan@walsall.gov.uk