

Area Board Briefing Note Update on the FACT Family Help Project

Service:	<i>Families and Children's Transformation (FACT)</i>
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Further enquiries to:	<i>Simon Thomas</i>
Direct contact:	<i>Simon.thomas@wiltshire.gov.uk</i>

Background

In early 2023, the Wiltshire Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) Partnership launched its Family Help project to enhance the local arrangements for the delivery of early intervention and prevention services for children, young people and families.

What do we mean by 'Family Help'?

Wiltshire's multi-agency Family Help arrangements enable children, young people and families to access the right help at the right time through a co-ordinated approach to prevention and early intervention through:

- a co-ordinated approach at a whole population/universal level to prevent needs from arising and to build resilience across all residents
- a robust multi-agency approach to identifying any additional needs at the earliest point and providing effective joined-up support that prevents the needs from escalating further

We use the term 'Family Help' to stress that the focus is on working with families and to avoid historical confusion associated with the term 'Early Help'.

Summer '24 Update

The project is now focussed on understanding the learning from the various strands of work and particularly the locality-based pilot activity in Warminster and Westbury with a view to embedding the successful features into the County-wide model for Family Help.

The Warminster and Westbury Pilot

What we set out to achieve and what we have achieved?

We wanted to develop and test some specific ways of working:

- Wrapping services/groups around local cluster(s) & communities.
- Creating a local case consultation system – Family Help Co-ordinator being local contact for support on case discussions.
- Applying a more flexible/responsive practice model – Localised team that built professional working relationships within the community.
- Creating a local community of practice – Warm hand overs and introductions for families rather than referrals
- Working with sibling groups across phases – bringing schools together to work across the whole family.
- Offering local training & sharing – Offering Peer supervision to the local pastoral care and parenting support staff in local schools, offering coaching and resources to support direct interventions
- Developing local 'voice' activity- Learning from the feedback of families

Over the last 15 months the pilot has been able to work with partners in the Westbury and Warminster area to provide a more individual response to Family Help. We have supported 53 families who under previous models would not have had received direct intervention within the home. We have been using

the Outcomes Star tool to understand impact and progress in families; analysis shows every family worked with has reported and shown positive progress.

In terms of other insights regarding impact of the project, early data analysis suggests specific positive impact in school attendance and school exclusion. There is also evidence that the provision of local advice to schools and other partners reduces unnecessary demand on the Council's 'front door' in terms of queries about support for individual children, young people and families. Work is ongoing to explore both quantitative and qualitative data and Oxford-Brookes University are currently undertaking the final stage of the pilot project evaluation to inform discussions about the future model for Family Help across Wiltshire.

Evaluation will also be completed on the Early Help Mental Health Pilot that has been integrated within the Warminster and Westbury activity; this project is due its national evaluation in September which will inform the future model of early help mental health support across the County.

What's next For Westbury and Warminster?

Family Help Pilot:

The specific activity of the Family Help Pilot Team ceased at the end of the Summer Term and has been transferred as 'business as usual' activity led by Spurgeons as the new delivery organisation for Family Hubs across Wiltshire (see below). All families that the pilot team are currently working have been introduced to staff from Spurgeons for any ongoing support needs.

Family Hubs:

The learning from the pilot has already fed into the delivery specification for the Family Hubs. These are the new Wiltshire wide service for families with children aged 0-19 (25 with SEND) delivered by Spurgeons since April 2024.

Family Hubs provide information, advice and support for all families with a mixture of evidence based interventions based on the local need. There are three flagship hubs in County Hall Trowbridge, Monkton Park Chippenham and Five Rivers Salisbury. Alongside this there are Community and Family Navigators based in community buildings such as libraries, leisure centres and community projects to offer support and guidance to families.

Further information can be found here [Family hubs - Wiltshire Together](#)

What's next for Wiltshire?

The county-wide aspects of the FACT Family Help project will continue as planned until April 25:

- Continued promotion of the All Together brand for Family Help

- Maintenance and development of the All Together web platform for families

- [All Together - Wiltshire Together](#)

- Ongoing roll-out of the whole system Family Help Workforce Development offer

- Further development and implementation of the Family Help outcomes framework

During this period the multi-agency partnership group will be reflecting on the learning and feedback from the pilot activity to inform a long-term county wide model.

Please contact fact@wiltshire.gov.uk if you'd like to find out more or get involved.