

Barnardo's
Family Hub Offer
for Local Authorities

Barnardo's Family Hubs

Barnardo's is the UK's largest national children's charity, with a proven track record of supporting children and their families whatever their needs and wellbeing goals.

In 2022-23 alone, we helped more than 200,000 children, young people, parents and carers through 87 children's centres and family hubs across the UK. Our services offered a range of universal and targeted preventative and early intervention support, such as parenting programmes, play services, infant feeding and nutrition. We also provided more specialist services including SEND, support for perinatal mental health, infant-parent relationships, domestic abuse support, housing advice and intensive family support.

Barnardo's is fully aligned to the vision and ambition set out in the Family Hub Specification in August 2022 and is well placed to work collaboratively with Local Authorities to achieve these ambitious plans. As a national charity – with extensive local delivery experience – Barnardo's is a safe pair of hands, experienced in integrated working with social care, health, education, youth provision and community-based services. And because we are Barnardo's, the voice of the child guides us in everything we do. Our family hub offer is co-designed with children, young people and families, putting their needs and goals firmly at the centre of delivery.





A Trailblazing Charity

Barnardo's was delighted to be appointed lead delivery partner for parenting support and home learning environment for the Isle of Wight Trailblazing Site.

With the new Trailblazer funding, we will be reviewing and enhancing the offer of parenting programmes available to families, including the virtual offer to help more families access the evidenced based information and support. We are already delivering integrated family

support services on the island including community early help, intensive family support and young carer support across three hubs and five community spokes. We are continuously evolving the range of family support services we deliver with our families and system partners. This ensures we collaboratively deliver a holistic, accessible offer from within the family hubs and wider community to meet family's needs and enhance outcomes.

Feedback from a parent about the parenting programme delivered on the Isle of Wight:

“It has made a massive difference. It has made me more aware that it's ok to be not ok and to make time for myself. I communicate much better now with my child and the course has given me the confidence to move forward.”

Virtual Family Hub

Barnardo's Family Space is an online virtual family hub offer. It includes information, advice, guidance and support for all stages of parenting and caring journeys.

The content has been developed in partnership with national health institutes and associations including the Institute of Health Visiting and British Dietetic Association to ensure robust, consistent and high-quality information. Our Family Space ensures increased access to parenting and caring advice for all, allowing families to find support at a time and place to suit them,

therefore helping to eliminate health inequalities, provide choice and free up appointment times.

We are evolving our Virtual Family Hub to support local authorities to meet the requirements of the new Family Hub Specification. As an example, we are currently piloting and evaluating virtual infant feeding support and a family hub out-of-hours helpline.

Find out more:

[Barnardo's Family Space | Barnardo's Family Space \(barnardos.org.uk\)](https://www.barnardos.org.uk)



Spotlight on Children & Families in Newcastle

Barnardo's has been delivering family services in Newcastle for over 25 years. The City Council commissions Barnardo's to deliver family hub services for children aged 0-19 (25 SEND) and their families in the east of the city.

The programme works in collaboration with health agencies and voluntary sector partners and is based out of the Barnardo's Byker Sands hub, a well-established building in the heart of the community.

The service is based within an area of high need for families, with many facing the additional burden of the cost-of-

living crisis, high unemployment, poor housing and high levels of mental ill-health. There are also high numbers of care-experienced children and young people and a rich diversity to the local population, with over 200 languages spoken.

The Barnardo's service is highly valued and evolved to meet the needs of the communities in the East of the city, with the Byker Sands hub hosting a wide range of services from pre-birth to teen parenting support, intensive family support to youth work, dad's groups and co-located health visiting services, to name but a few.

The Barnardo's Family Support offer has six distinct delivery elements:

- 1. Locality leadership**
- 2. Community Hub** – parental engagement, targeted and responsive interventions delivered individually and in group, emotional health and wellbeing support, nutrition and healthy lifestyle interventions and drop-in/open access activities.
- 3. Family Partner role** – dedicated to long term relationship building with families, helping them to articulate their priorities and connecting them into assets and support within their own networks and wider community.
- 4. Early Help advice** – providing support to wider stakeholders on early identification of need and the Early Help and Supporting Families Pathway.
- 5. Intensive Whole Family Support** for families with children up to age 25 with additional need.
- 6. Family support volunteers**

Family comment:

“I want to thank you for your work with my child. We have always had an open relationship, but I feel since he started his work with you he is so much more confident in telling me how my behaviour can impact on him and that's down to you!”

Family Hub Principles

We are committed to embedding the DfE Family Hub Core Intentions of: “more accessible, better connected and relationship-centred” into all our family hubs. For Barnardo’s what this means is:

More Accessible	Better Connected	More Relationship-centred
• Models co-produced with families, children and young people. • A recognised offer understood by families. • Clear and simple communication. • Families know where to go and how to access the information they need. • Families feel safe and included in physical and online spaces. • Utilising local data and needs-analysis to adapt to change.	• A universal front door. • Strong integrated leadership that recognises the collective strengths of all partners. • Co-located teams with shared training, team meetings and data systems. • A culture of learning, reflection, and continuous improvement. • Supporting the wider Early Help system. • Outcome-focused support that is confident at evidencing impact.	• Strong connections and trusted relationships with staff and volunteers. • Trauma-informed and strengths-based, enabling families to thrive. • Responsive, identifying needs early and making every contact count. • Valuing the importance of continuity of support for families. • Building resilient communities through asset-based community development. • Delivering evidence-based programmes and approaches.



How Barnardo's can support the delivery of Family Hubs

• Lead Delivery Provider

As a commissioned lead provider, Barnardo's will co-design and co-deliver family hubs, drawing on our extensive experience of delivering family support service across England. As the lead, we will bring together local organisations across health, social care and community to be part of the integrated delivery model; ensuring families have access to the best support services available. All of this with families and children at the heart through the meaningful coproduction and the development of influential parent and carer panels.

• Supporting Delivery Partner

We know that some local authorities will be looking to commission experienced providers to deliver specific elements of a family hub. As a partner, Barnardo's can enable the delivery of local partners as well as deliver evidence-based programmes and interventions in 18 of the 24 core service elements. We are ambitious about 'going further' and expanding virtual support to families across the 18 core areas below. In addition, we also deliver peer support and infant-parent relationship models.

Activities 0-5	Early Language	Early Education	Intensive Family Support
MHWP	Parenting Programmes	Reducing Parental Conflict	SEND
Oral Health	Domestic Abuse	Housing Support	Nutrition
Perinatal Mental Health	Substance Misuse	Separated Parents	Youth Justice
	Youth Services	Infant Feeding	

Contact us

To find out more about how Barnardo's can support your Local Authority family hub offer or to hear more about our other integrated health models please visit:

[Commission us | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](https://www.barnardos.org.uk)