

Families First Partnership Programme Newsletter



Hello,

Welcome to our Families First Partnership Programme newsletter.

Here you will receive the latest updates taking place across the borough of Rochdale as we deliver on exciting new national reforms taking shape in children's social care.

Thank you.

Latest updates

As this is our first Families First newsletter, we thought it would be useful to provide you with a little refresh on what the Families First Partnership Programme is all about, so...

What is the Families First Partnership Programme?

As part of the government's efforts to improve children's social care across England, a range of new safeguarding reforms have been introduced by the Department for Education. This is known as the Families First Partnership Programme.

These reforms, include key changes to the delivery of...

- **family help**
- **multiagency child protection**

- **family group decision making**

This is to **help more families stay together** and thrive **without the need for children to come into care**.

By providing more of the right help at the right time, and by services working together even more closely through a more joined-up and family-focused approach to early help and child protection, **more children can grow up safely, with the right love and support around them**.

The programme has received national funding to support councils across England make these changes.

What will these reforms mean?

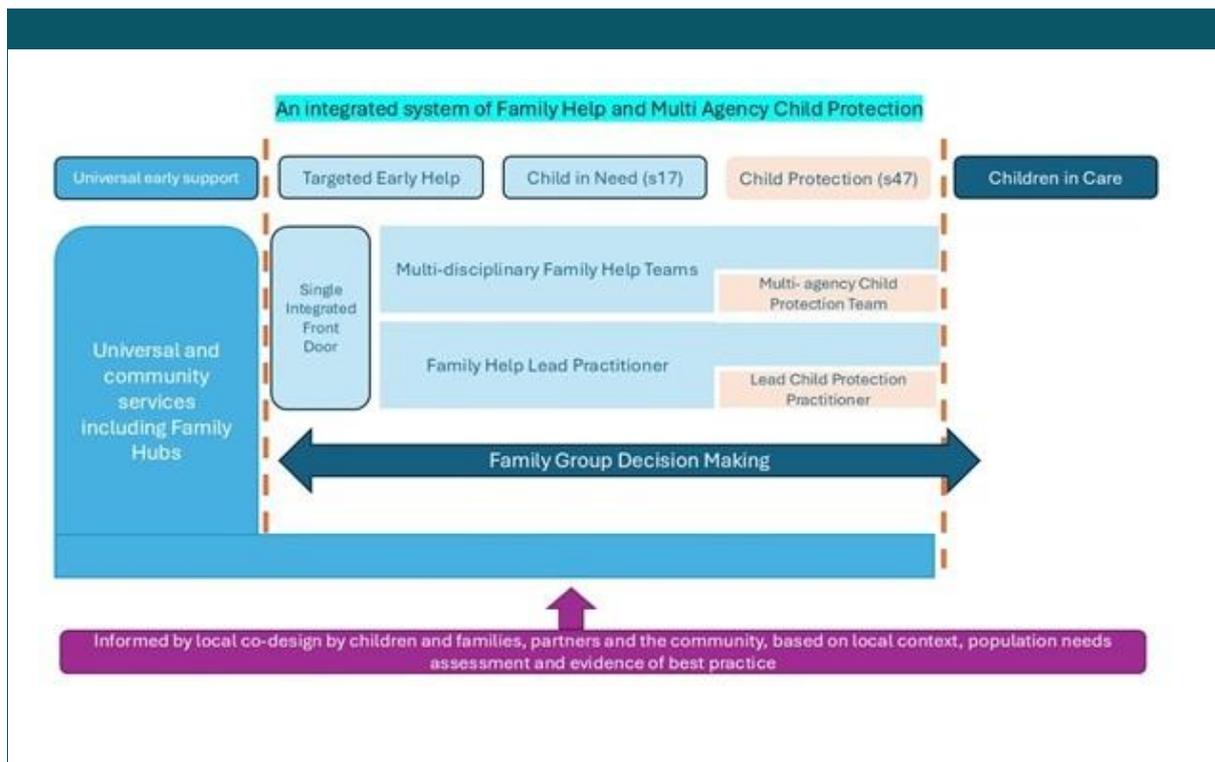
The Families First Partnership Programme aims to deliver key changes to the children's social care system to **improve the safety and wellbeing of children and young people**.

This will be done by bringing practitioners from early help, social work, police, health, education, and beyond closer together to promote the wellbeing of children and keep them safe from harm.

Changes will affect the way family help, multi-agency child protection teams (MACPTs) and family group decision making (FGDM) are delivered in order to better **support families to stay together**.

They also aim to help reduce the number of cared for children, provide more support from an earlier opportunity, and avoid children, young people and families having to tell their story multiple times or be passed between teams or practitioners amongst other key aims.

Here's what the **FFPP integrated system** looks like.



When will these reforms be introduced and who will they benefit?

The government has requested safeguarding partners across the country to begin implementing these reforms from April 1 2026.

The reforms will support children up to the age of 18 and young adults who continue to receive support from children’s social care as care leavers or through education, health and care plans, up to the age of 25.

Who is leading on Families First at a local level?

As we move forward in the delivery of these reforms, you will be pleased to know that work has already begun across our safeguarding partners to discuss and develop how these changes will be implemented across the borough.

This work is being led by Rochdale Borough Council’s children’s services (RBC), Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Northern Care Alliance NHS Trust (NCA) and Greater Manchester’s Integrated Care Board (GM ICB).

Key information

As safeguarding partners, we all have a role to play in these reforms and what unites our efforts is a common vision and mission.

Our vision

As Rochdale Borough's Children's Safeguarding Partnership, we are committed to creating a seamless, strengths-based family help system which is proactive, accessible, and rooted in our communities.

We want every child and young person in our borough to grow up safe, healthy and thrive, with support that is timely, coordinated, and tailored to their unique needs.

By working as one partnership, we will reduce complexity, build resilience, and empower local families to achieve lasting positive change.

Our mission statement

Our mission is to transform the way family help is delivered across the borough of Rochdale by creating a unified, responsive, and inclusive system that puts children, young people and their families at the heart of everything we do.

Through our collaboration, we will provide timely, proportionate, and strengths-based support that prevents problems from escalating, reduces complexity, and empowers families to thrive.

Together, we will build a culture of trust, shared responsibility, and continuous improvement to achieve better outcomes for every child and young person in our borough.

Contact us

Want to know more about Families First or have your say on how we can work to implement these reforms at a local level?

Contact us today with your views via FamiliesFirst@Rochdale.gov.uk or [visit our website for more information.](#)