



June 2026

Welcome to the June edition of Tameside's Families First Partnership Programme (FFPP) Newsletter. In this issue you'll find the latest progress and upcoming activity across each of our workstreams as we continue to embed the reforms and strengthen the support available to children, young people and families across Tameside.

Recap: What is the Families First Partnership Programme?

The Families First Partnership is a national programme led by the Department for Education (DfE) to improve how children's social care supports families. Its aim is to create a more joined up, family focused system, where services work together to keep children safe and support families. The reforms include the introduction of Family Help, strengthening multi-agency child protection, and improving engagement with family networks.

Enabling Programme Delivery

Our enabling services remain a vital part of shaping and delivering the Families First Partnership Programme in Tameside.

On 18 June, the group came together to share progress and identify any additional support needed.

We've also strengthened the group by welcoming a representative from Facilities Management and Capital Projects. Work is currently underway on feasibility studies for the Family Help spaces; this is an important step to make sure our buildings are designed to support multi-disciplinary working, creating spaces that help services work together to better support families.

Engagement, Co-Production and Podcast

This month, we were pleased to welcome colleagues from Bolton Council, who visited Tameside's Family Help teams to hear about our model and the early insights from our test and learn period. It was a really valuable and positive day, with both authorities sharing ideas, learning from one another, and supporting each other on their Families First journey.

This month's Children at the Heart of Improvement video podcast focused on the SEND reforms, featuring Hilary Cook (Head of SEND) and Erica Douglas-Osborn (Principal Educational Psychologist). [For those who missed it, you can watch here!](#)

Family Help

Family Help sits at the heart of the Families First reforms, bringing together Targeted Early Help and statutory services into one connected, multiagency system designed to provide timely, consistent support for children and families.

In June, the Single Assessment pilot came to an end, with those involved coming together to share their feedback. This will now be reviewed by the Children's Services Senior Leadership Team to inform any final refinements ahead of full implementation.

June's Family Help Strategic Group took a more interactive, workshop-style approach, led by Ian Waters (Mutual Ventures). Partners from housing, homelessness, domestic abuse, health and the Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector worked together to explore how they can be involved in Family Help – from community-based support through to fully embedded roles within multi-disciplinary teams.

This workstream is being led by: Nik Joseph (Head of Family Help and Families First Transformation)

Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPTs)

The Multi Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPT) play a crucial role in strengthening our collective response to children at risk of significant harm.

The MACPT test and learn has now resumed following a short pause.

June saw strong progress in building the team, including the completion of consultation for the Lead Child Protection Practitioner role, with Child Protection Chairs transitioning into post from 1 July. An interim Service Lead, education partner and dedicated business support are also now in place in the MACPT.

At June's MACPT Strategic Group, partners worked together to develop a new information and advice offer for parents and carers involved in child protection activity. We plan to continue to refine this offer based on feedback from parents/carers and expand it to include resources for children, young people and video content.

This workstream is being led by: Kayleigh Treanor (Head of Quality, Practice Assurance and Principal Social Worker)

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) remains a key mechanism for empowering families to develop solutions that help children and young people to remain safe and supported within their networks.

In June, consultation for the new Families Valued Service was completed, alongside recruitment of a dedicated Service Lead.

The Family Group Decision Making Strategic Group was also re-established. Meeting on 22 June, the group focused on shaping the model for Family Network Support Packages and clarifying how families will access support, including entry points for Family Network Meetings and Family Group Conferences.

This workstream is being led by: Nik Joseph (Head of Family Help and Families First Transformation)

Special Educational Needs & Children with Disabilities (SEN and CWD)

At Tameside we have decided to add a fourth pillar to our reform programme, SEN and CWD. A significant number of children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) also access early help and social care services. By creating a SEN and CWD workstream, we are hoping to ensure greater co-ordination between the two services.

The SEN and CWD workstream of Families First is currently under review to determine how it aligns with the broader SEND reform workstreams.

This workstream is being led by: Hilary Cook (Head of SEND) and Philip Wilkinson (Head of Family Help & Neighbourhood Social Work)

Get in Touch

Families First represents a significant opportunity to strengthen outcomes for children and families in Tameside, building on our improvement journey.

If you'd like to get involved or have any questions about the programme, please contact: Lucy Hamilton, Families First Project Manager (lucy.hamilton@tameside.gov.uk).

