



July 2026

Welcome to the July 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

The Enabling Services Group held this month's meeting on the 21 July. Representatives from our enabling services shared updates on recent activity contributing to the implementation of FFPP in Tameside and outlined their focus areas for the months ahead.

Key progress from our Enabling Services this month includes:

- Completion of the initial feasibility and costing exercise for Family Help buildings
- Facilitation of internal transfers to the new Families Valued Service
- Completion of data engineering and mapping to support the FFPP Quarterly Monitoring Return and Targeted Early Help Annual Data Collection
- Ongoing delivery of core training programme for Family Help teams

Engagement, Co-Production and Podcast

Following Bolton Council's visit to Tameside's Family Help teams in June, the following feedback has been provided on the session:

'I found the information that Tameside shared was really informative in order to help us understand how we can progress in Bolton. In particular, the relationship building amongst the teams to shift the previous cultures and how they blended the teams in a careful but swift way.'
Natalie, Integrated Front Door Service Manager, Bolton Council

'I found the visit to Tameside really useful and the team were so friendly and willing to share their progress. It was great to meet so many of them and hear about the work they have done, especially around people and creating environments to build strong relationships in the first instance. The structures they have created and their creation of a transformation team made up of a variety of skills and experience was impressive. Tameside's ability to communicate to the workforce in a variety of ways and using different platforms was really inspiring and showcased a future thinking and inclusive approach.'
Clare Donaghey, Senior Change Manager, Bolton Council

In this month's Children at the Heart of Improvement video podcast, we spoke with Ian Waters from Mutual Ventures, who is supporting Tameside as a coach for the Families First Partnership Programme. To hear about how Ian is supporting us to drive the reforms, [click 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.

During July, the DfE, Children's Commissioner and colleagues from our Sector Led Improvement Partner completed a deep dive into Tameside's Family Help Service, reviewing the model developed to date, speaking with practitioners, and observing key strategic groups. Their feedback and recommendations will play an important role in shaping our ongoing implementation of the Family Help reforms.

We have also confirmed the location for our South Family Help Team, with work now underway to prepare the building for staff. Meanwhile, teams have been migrating cases from EHM to LCS, to ensure we use a shared case management system for families.

Our next priorities are finalising the new single assessment and progressing plans to integrate safeguarding into Family Help, helping to create a more seamless experience of support for families.

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.

On 1 July, our Child Protection Chairs transitioned into the new Lead Child Protection Practitioner (LCPP) roles, marking an important milestone in the development of the MACPT. A permanent Service Lead for the MACPT was also appointed.

This month, we introduced an initial quality assurance framework and developed an internal escalation process to support professional challenge and resolution.

Meanwhile, the MACPT Strategic Group continued to co-design an information offer for families involved in Child Protection enquiries. Feedback is now being gathered from families on the draft leaflet, with plans over the following months to expand the offer through short videos and other digital resources to make information more accessible and engaging.

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 July an additional Family Group Decision Making Facilitator and Family Group Conference Team Manager started. Since starting in post, the Service Lead and Team Manager have completed a detailed review of three years of service data to better understand demand and identify any gaps.

This month's FGDM Strategic Group focused on shaping the future of the Family Group Conference service, mapping out short, medium and long-term priorities to strengthen the Family Group Conference offer as part of the reform programme.

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

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).

