



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Department
for Education

17 September 2024

Dear all,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the work that you are doing to support families during the critical first 1,001 days and beyond through your commitment to delivering the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme.

We are personally committed to this government's bold ambition of breaking down barriers to opportunity so we can create the healthiest generation of children ever. Child health and early years provision are at the heart of delivering the Government's commitments across its Health and Opportunity Missions. We understand first-hand the critical importance of the very earliest days and years of life on this journey.

Families with babies must be supported before childcare and education begin. There is strong evidence that the 1,001 days from conception to the age of two set the foundations for our cognitive, emotional, and physical development. Investment in this unique period improves outcomes throughout their lives - from early childhood through to health and educational outcomes later in life.

Through the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme, you and your partners are providing support for families during this crucial period and beyond. This means thousands of families have access to the support they need – from infant feeding to parent-infant relationships, perinatal mental health, parenting support, early language development and the home learning environment - to help give their child the best start in life.

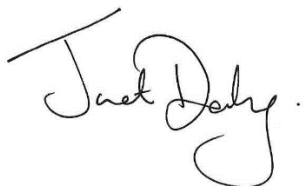
We have heard great examples of the work that is happening across the country to improve support for families. Among them is [Coventry](#), which is helping to deliver infant feeding services to diverse populations by offering universal and tailored services to women from backgrounds with low breastfeeding rates, and [Norfolk](#), which is improving integration between its parent-infant relationship and perinatal mental health services. Also, in [Doncaster](#), where there is a strong focus on improving outcomes for speech and language development. We are pleased to attach these case studies and hope that you will continue to share your learning and successes with us.

The Chancellor has confirmed the date of the next Budget will be 30 October 2024. This will confirm budgets for the 25-26 financial year and will be followed by a multi-year spending review to conclude in spring 2025. We recognise the difficulty of working in an uncertain and fiscally restrictive environment and we know that the question of funding beyond the lifetime of the programme is of the utmost importance to local authorities.

We are looking forward to visiting Family Hubs in the coming months to see first-hand the fantastic support that they offer, as well as continuing to learn about the challenges and opportunities within the sector as we continue to support families during the critical 1,001 days.

We thank you for all your hard work in ensuring that we can succeed in our mission to give every child the best start in life.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Daby". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'J' and 'D'.

Janet Daby MP
Minister for Children and Families

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'S' and 'M'.

Stephen Morgan MP
Minister for Early Education

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Gwynne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'A' and 'G'.

Andrew Gwynne MP
Minister for Public Health and Prevention