

SCHOOLS FORUM: ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT

Service Name: Enfield Children’s Centre

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Reporting Year: 2022/23

Brief description of service

The Local Authority is required to provide Children’s Centre services under the provisions of the Childcare Act (2006). The current model in Enfield is a commissioned service, led by De Bohun Primary School, with a single team operating across five main sites at De Bohun, Eldon, Carterhatch, Raynham and Hazelwood.

Enfield Children’s Centre provision consists of a core universal offer for families with children under 5 and targeted work with family support casework. The work of the Children’s Centre is a key part of the borough’s wider Early Help offer.

The service facilitates and co-delivers with a range of partners, including speech and language therapists, health visitors, local hospital maternity services, perinatal mental health services, domestic abuse support, Citizen’s Advice, and social work teams.

Summary of service provided during the year.

Enfield Children’s Centre provides various sessions throughout the week, operating for 48 weeks a year. These are delivered either by the Children’s Centre as standalone sessions, or in partnership with health, social care and voluntary & community sector partners.

These are either wholly universal or targeted, but widely delivered, community-based services. The programme currently has capacity to see up to around 220 children across its sites every week.

The sessions provided are as follows:

Session Type	Description
Baby Group	For 0 – 1-year olds. Parents with babies who are not yet walking to provide information, advice and guidance on topics such as childcare, child development, supporting those who may be anxious and reducing social isolation.
Stay and Play	For 1 – 4-year olds. Stay and Play sessions to enrich children’s knowledge and development through play, helping them to explore their creativity and language. Screening using the Play and Communication toolkit. Promotes school readiness through the introduction of a structured

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	<p>environment. An opportunity for Children's Centre staff to promote and broker early education placements for the 2-, 3- and 4-year-old funded offer.</p> <p>Supports parents to understand how their children learn and their role in this, particularly as a first communicator.</p>
Healthy Child Clinics	<p>Open access clinics run jointly by the Children's Centre and Health Visitors.</p> <p>Babies are weighed, seen by a health professional and parents are offered support and signposting by staff. This includes Play and Communication screening.</p> <p>Health Visitors deliver approximately 50% of their community-based services from Children's Centres.</p>
One and Two-Year-Old Development Reviews	<p>Part of the five mandated Health Visiting contacts delivered in the community through Children's Centres.</p> <p>Again, Health Visitors deliver approximately 50% through Children's Centres.</p>
Antenatal Services	<p>Appointment-based ante-natal checks delivered by both North Middlesex University Hospital and Barnet & Chase Farm Royal Free midwifery teams.</p>
Access and Advice	<p>Speech and Language appointments for children identified with emerging SLCN as part of the Play and Communication Programme.</p>
Let's Play (Social Communication Group)	<p>Specialist group sessions co-delivered with SALT for children with social communication disorder.</p>
Citizen's Advice Bureau	<p>A trained adviser provides one-to-one consultations covering Welfare, Benefits and Debt advice, Housing etc.</p> <p>There are up to 5 appointments per day, 5 days per week across different sites.</p>
Enfield Parent Infant Partnership (EPIP)	<p>Provides counselling sessions for mothers who are experiencing difficulties such as post-natal depression.</p>
North London Partners (NPL) Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Service (SPMHS) Stay and Play	<p>Specialist Stay and Play session for mothers experiencing difficulties such as post-natal depression, run with the NPL SPMHS across different sites.</p>
First Time Parents	<p>Bespoke multi-agency parenting offer, led and coordinated by the Children's Centre, working in partnership with Health Visiting, IAPT and SALT. It consists of six weekly sessions, three run by the Children's Centre and three by partners.</p>
Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC) Being a Parent	<p>A system for training and supervising parent-led parenting groups and courses for parents who experience a range of difficulties with their children. EPEC core parenting courses are adapted for developmental stage.</p>

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	<p>Jointly commissioned by the Children's Centre programme and Public Health with the Children's Centre acting as the EPEC Hub for Enfield.</p> <p>The Children's Centre is able to provide modules for parents with babies and for those with children aged 3-5.</p>
Family Support Surgery	<p>A weekly drop-in for families that have been identified as being likely to benefit from some low-level support for issues such as parenting, behaviour etc.</p> <p>These groups were introduced in response to issues exacerbated by the pandemic and have proved to be a useful way of meeting needs early and reducing the likelihood of families needing to be taken on to caseload.</p>
HENRY Starting Solids Workshops	<p>A series of workshops linked to the national HENRY programme, with a focus on starting solids and promoting healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>These sessions are delivered on a 6-week rotation, enabling the Children's Centre to identify parents through stay and play sessions and then refer in.</p>

In addition to the sessions described above, the Children's Centre also has a team of Family Support Workers. These workers take families onto caseload (with a maximum capacity of 20) and receive referrals via Early Help Triage (workers also sits on triage 3 days per week).

Workers engage with families for around 12 weeks on average, providing support and working with children's social care if necessary. Presenting issues often include:

- Behaviour
- Child health
- Disability
- Finance
- Education
- Housing
- Mental Health
- Isolation

Impact assessment

During the financial year 2022/23 the Children's Centre has provided a full range of services, having returned to pre-pandemic norms.

The focus of the universal and targeted offer has continued to be speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) and the Children's Centre continues to use the locally developed Play and Communication Toolkit to provide early screening for children seen by the service.

Some key performance indicators have included:

Total no of Children who have accessed a service at least once	3,811
Children who received Play and Communication Screening for SLCN	1,272

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As a result of screening Referred to Let's Play (social communication group)	146
As a result of screening Referred to other support sessions for SLCN	82
AS a result of screening Referred to Access and Advice (consultation with therapist)	123
No of families attending HENRY Starting Solids workshops	110
Food Bank Vouchers issued	107
Family Support Surgeries – number of families who attended	85
Family Support Referrals for direct work (up to 12 week interventions)	151

The impact of direct family support for those taken onto caseload is measured by using the Family Star Plus tool. The tool can help parents to make changes by providing them with a 'map' of the journey they need to take to be effective parents and a way of plotting their progress. Importantly, it also provides an evidence-based outcomes dataset to measure the effectiveness of early help in Enfield.

Parents assessed using the Family Star are asked to think about where they are on their journey of change and, in collaboration with their family support worker, are supported to identify themselves as either:

- Stuck (lowest score)
- Accepting help
- Trying
- Finding what works
- Providing effective parenting (highest score)

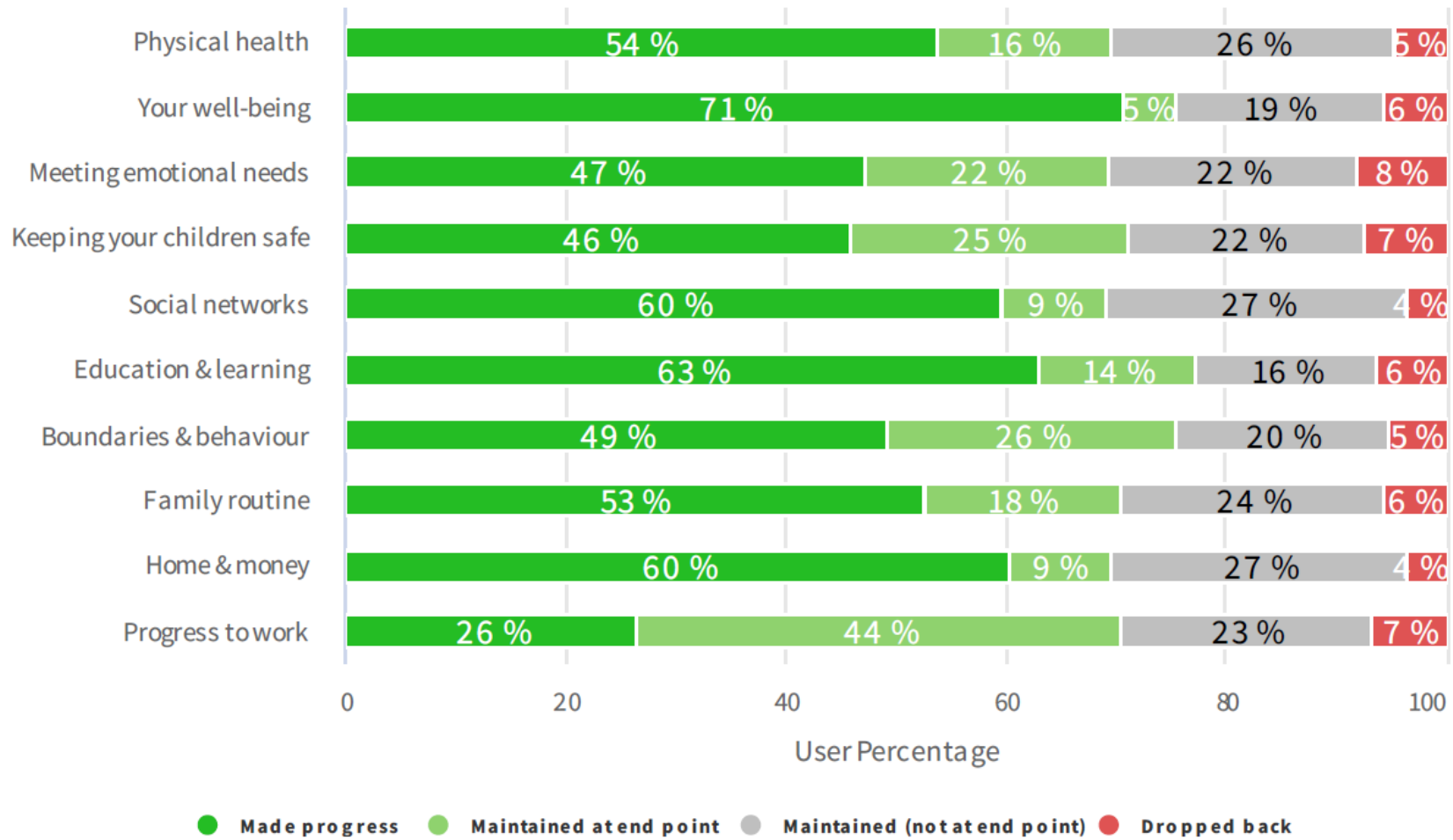
They are encouraged to do this across all areas of the star, which includes:

- Physical health
- Your wellbeing
- Meeting emotional needs
- Keeping your children safe
- Social networks
- Education & learning
- Boundaries & behaviour
- Family routine
- Home & money
- Progress to work

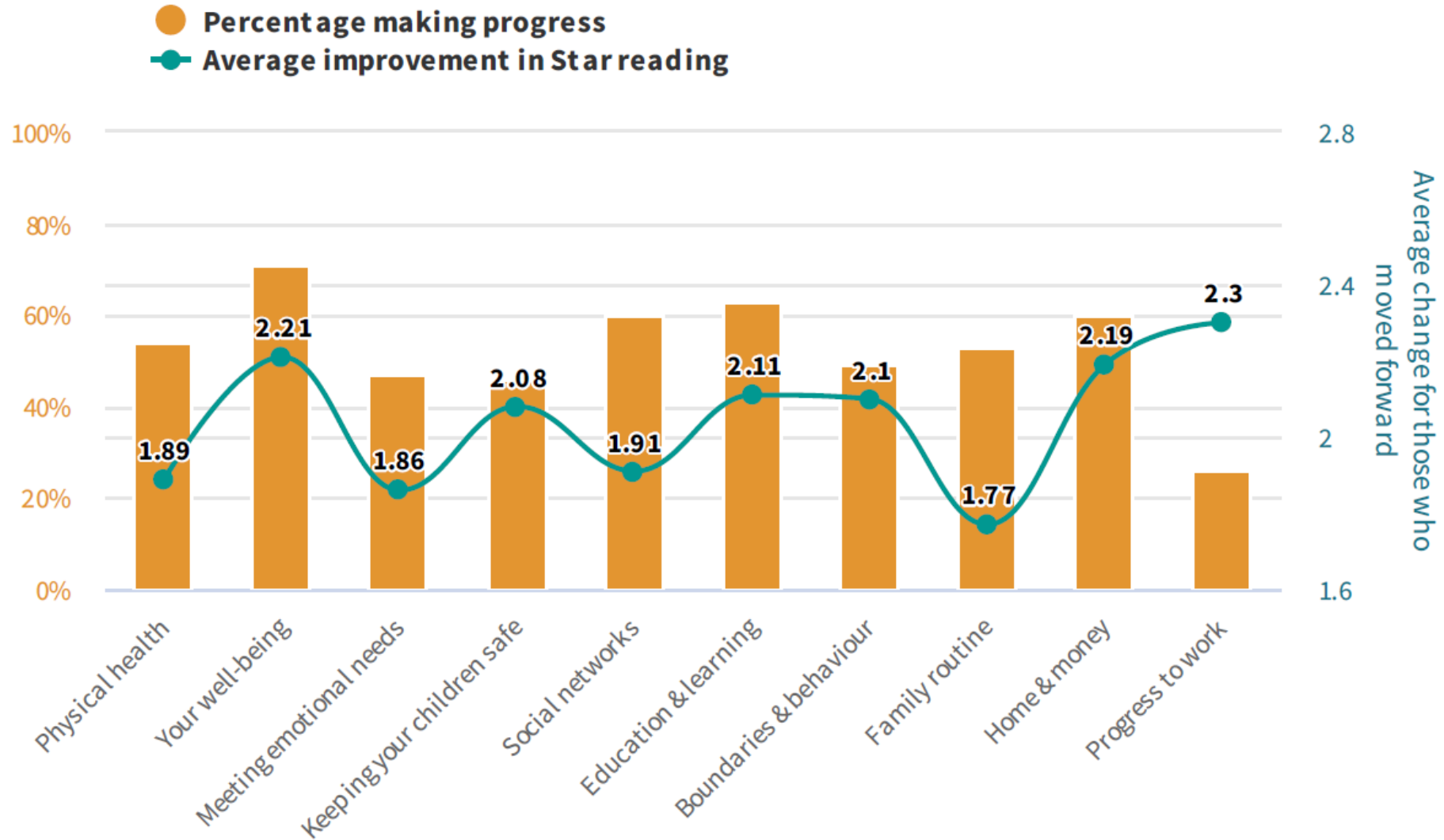
Comparison of a service user's lowest and highest star readings over time provides evidence of how much improvement has been made and in what areas. As described previously, there are 10 areas for possible improvement.

It can be seen in the chart below that most families make progress in each of the outcome areas, except for 'Progress to Work', where people generally maintained. Those shown in grey had maintained the same level at which they had started but left the service before a final review could be carried out. A much smaller number (in red) dropped back.

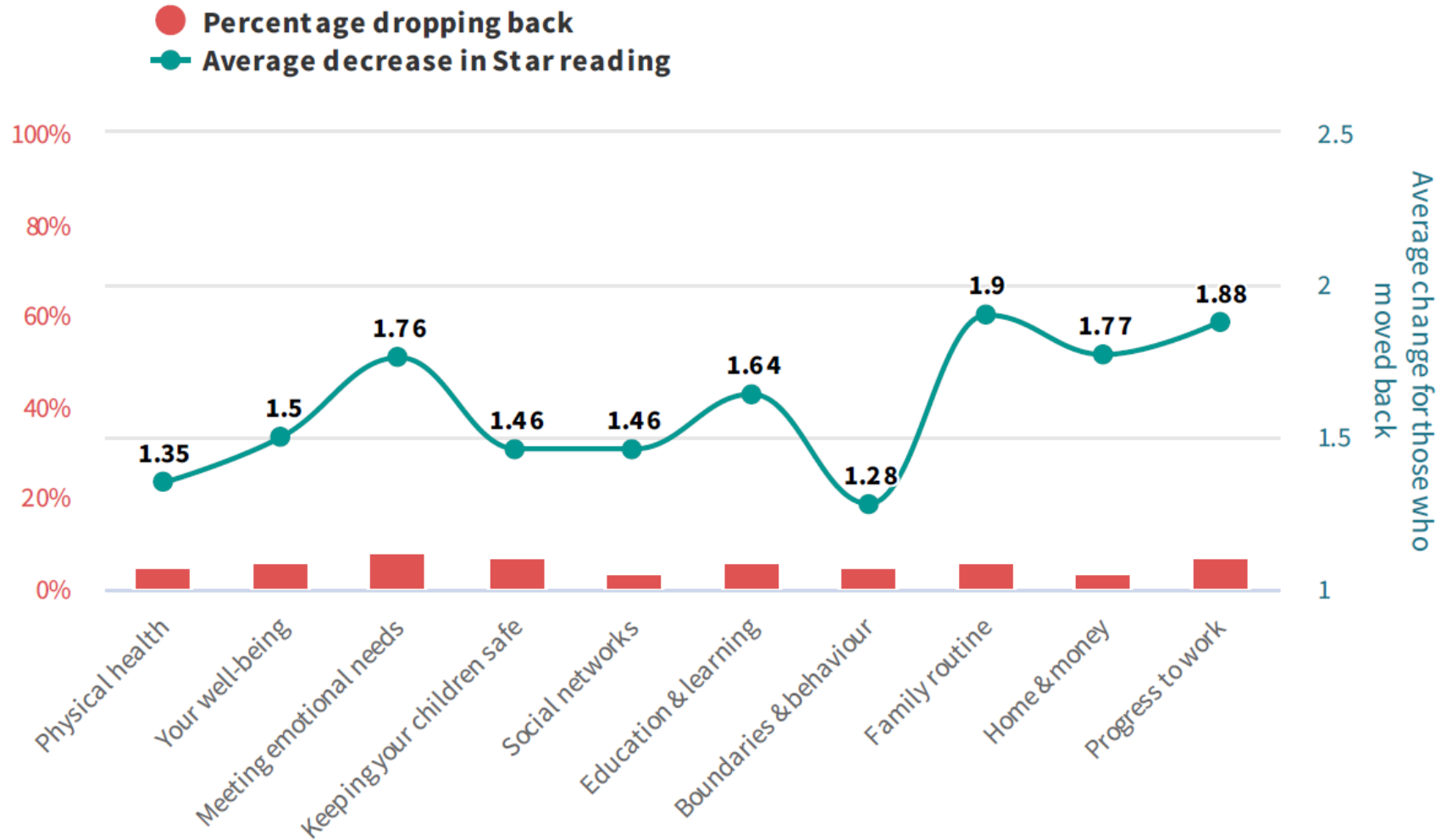
How much progress are people making in each outcome area?



In each outcome area, how much progress are people making?



In each outcome area, by how much are people dropping back?



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Challenges

When the Children's Centre moved to the current model in 2018, it delivered from 8 sites and 2 "pop ups". There were 18 staff members working directly with families. In the following 5 years, costs, (predominately staffing costs) have increased every year while funding has reduced both relatively and in real terms.

As a result, the Children's Centre is now delivering from 5 sites with 12 family support workers; admin and management has also been reduced. Funding shortfalls in 2022/23 caused by nationally agreed pay awards (all Children's Centre staff are school employees) has been met using an underspend accumulated during the COVID pandemic. This additional funding has also been used to run more stay and plays to increase exposure and access to families who were affected by the pandemic. With underspends now reduced and the service running at full capacity, the latest pay award will impact service delivery from 2023/24.

Successes

The Children's Centre has been able to increase the number of Stay and Plays at its sites by around 30%, by reducing the length of the morning sessions and doubling them up.

After the pandemic, it became evident that isolation had led to increased needs from families, and the Children's Centre was able to develop a response to this by implementing family support surgeries to enable early identification of needs, such as:

- Advice on routines and behaviour
- Applications to charities
- Terrific Twos / Nursery applications
- Referrals to Citizens Advice Bureau
- Child's Health
- Mental Health
- Isolation
- Food Bank Vouchers

The Children's Centre will be delivering services from the Autumn term from the new Family Hub site in Ponders End, and this will provide additional space and capacity for delivery in a much-needed area of the borough.

Financial and Staffing Information

For the Financial year, 2022/23 the total committed costs were £910k, of which £860k was for staffing.

From a total allocated budget £957k, this leaves £47k for any other expenditure such as consumables, courses/ mandatory training, repairs and maintenance etc.

The staffing structure of the service is as follows:

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- Strategic Lead Officer SM2
- Children's Centre Manager for Safeguarding & Family Support SM1
- Deputy Children's Centre Manger for Universal Services PO1
- Family Support Workers x 5 SO1
- Senior Early Intervention Workers Scale 6
- Office Manager/Personnel Scale 6 (0.8)
- Early Intervention Workers x 5 Scale 4/5
- Office Administrator Scale 4

Developments for coming year

During the coming year the Children's Centre programme will continue to provide a full range of weekly sessions from all of it existing sites.

The service will continue to develop its new family support surgeries and HENRY workshops and will continue to be responsive to a changing landscape of need. As part of this, the service will continue to work closely with health colleagues to develop and refine pathways and services for children with SLCN. Sharper focus will be given to increasing the availability of sessions for children with social communication needs, as this has been identified as a key area.

The Children's Centre will also work closely with the Council and other partners developing the Family Hub offer, with the key task in 2023 being the setting up and rolling out of services at Ponders End Youth Centre (part of this site is in the process of being remodelled as an early years zone).

Whilst there is some non-recurrent funding to temporarily bring in some additional support staff to assist with the Ponders End delivery, the core budget for Children's Centre services remains static, or effectively reduced due to the pressures of pay increases and inflation. Challenges will therefore remain in terms of capacity for the coming year and it is recognised that this will affect the Children's Centres ability to provide a truly universal offer.

To conclude on a positive note, the Children's Centre will continue within its means to provide high quality services for families, bringing together partners in the true spirit of early intervention.