

Overview & Scrutiny Review Scoping Document

Project Title:	Families First Task and Finish Group (Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill).
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Link with the Corporate Objectives

This review will support the following Corporate Plan objectives:

Improving Health and Wellbeing:

- Health outcomes are improved across our diverse borough through a targeted approach that reduces health inequalities
- Improved independence, quality of life, health and wellbeing through early intervention and prevention
- Everyone feels safe and secure, difference is celebrated and abuse and exploitation not tolerated
- Children and young people thrive and reach their potential with targeted support when and where they need it
- Communities build their capacity, with support to access information, guidance and funding
- Lasting solutions are delivered through strong and committed partnerships

Project Background:

The Families First Partnership Programme is a new national programme set up in the Department for Education (DfE) and supported by the Department of Health and Social Care and the Home Office. Through the programme, government is working in partnership with local areas (local authorities, police, health, education, childcare settings and other relevant agencies) to improve their local services and systems that help and protect children and families. The reforms include the introduction of Family Help, strengthening multi-agency child protection, and improving engagement with family networks. The programme will draw on the experiences of the 10 Families First for Children (FFC) Pathfinder Programme local areas (pathfinders), who have been testing the implementation of these system reforms since July 2023.

Implementing multi-disciplinary and multi-agency teams that work in a place based way will be a key enabler to both the implementation of the reforms and to Cheshire East's services for children improvement journey.

Project Objectives:

The objectives of this project are:

- To understand the rationale and evidence base for place based locality working and locality proposals for multi-disciplinary and multi-agency working for children and families in Cheshire East.
- To understand how this links to the Families First Partnership approach and the requirement to implement the reforms and be up and running by 31st March 2026.
- To contribute towards the development of the Families First Partnership plans.

Timescales:	The national timescale to be up and running with the Families First new ways of working is by the 31 st March 2026, therefore it is proposed that the Task and Finish commences asap in May/early June and meets approximately fortnightly thereafter, to inform the report back to Children and Families Committee on 15 th September 2025.
Lead Officers:	Kerry Madden, Families First Programme Director Lisa Davies, Director for Children's Improvement

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Scrutiny Project Plan

Objectives: -

Objective	Information Required	Source	How i.e. meetings, site visits, etc.	Owner	Deadline	Status RAG