



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

Frequently Asked Questions

Help us to develop services for children, young people and families

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What is the proposal?

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) aims to ensure children and young people have the best start in life. We plan to open Family Hubs to provide comprehensive support in one location.

Who do we want to hear from?

This consultation is open for everyone to complete should they wish to. We are inviting people, businesses, services and other organisations including those who help children, young people, and their families already.

Why we want to hear from you

We seek feedback to ensure the proposed Family Hubs meet the needs of children, young people, and families in West Northamptonshire. Your input will help us plan services in the right locations.

How do I take part?

You can feedback by:

- Taking part in the online questionnaire
- Emailing: familyhubs@westnorthants.gov.uk, or
- Posting a response to:

Family Hubs consultation
Children's services
West Northamptonshire Council
The Guildhall
St Giles' Street
Northampton
NN1 1DE

If you have any queries, comments or would like a copy of the questionnaire in another format you can contact us using the above detail.

What are Family Hubs?

Family Hubs will offer a range of services and activities for families with children aged 0 to 19 years old, or up to 25 years old for those with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). The services include parenting classes, midwifery, health visiting, infant feeding advice, perinatal mental health support, and other resources to aid child development and family well-being.

Why are Family Hubs Important?

All families may experience difficulties at certain times. Family Hubs provide well-connected, community-based services that simplify access to the right information when needed. By investing in families and ensuring they receive support and information from birth through to adulthood, we aim to aid children's development, education, and ultimately improve their life chances.

What do we mean by the 'best start for life'?

At the core of Family Hubs are services that provide babies with the 'best start for life'. These services help parents build strong relationships with their babies by offering parenting classes, midwifery, health visiting, infant feeding advice, and perinatal mental health support. The first 1,001 days are critical as they represent a time of rapid development, laying the foundations for lifelong emotional and physical health. Read more about [start for life](#) (you will be taken to the NHS Start for Life website)

Who are Family Hubs For?

Support from a Family Hub is available for:

- Parents or carers of children that are aged 0 to 19 years old, or up to 25 years old with SEND,
- Those who are expecting a child, and
- Young people up to the age of 19 years old, or up to 25 years old with SEND.

Where are the proposed Family Hub Locations?

The first West Northamptonshire Family Hub will be in Towcester and located at The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester.

WNC plans to develop a network of Family Hubs and smaller local facilities known as spokes. Spokes will offer similar services to hubs but on a smaller, more accessible scale. The three main hubs are proposed to be Towcester (the first), Daventry, and central Northampton. Spoke locations currently include:

- Moulton
- Kingsthorpe
- Upton
- Brackley
- Weston Favell

Future suitability of each hub will be assessed based on access, location, and availability of alternative community-based venues nearby. Our goal is to help communities thrive with services tailored to local needs and ensure equitable access whenever possible. We aim to utilise existing WNC spaces and assets or partner with local community venues already serving families.

Part of the Central Library in Northampton town centre and Daventry Children's Centre are proposed to become the main hubs for Northampton and Daventry respectively.

For one of the spokes, we are proposing to partner with Moulton Parish Council to convert the community centre in this area into a spoke within the Family Hub network. In the Brackley area, WNC plans to convert part of the old Southfields school site into a spoke. For Weston Favell, WNC seeks to convert a property close to or within the Weston Favell Shopping Centre. Upton Children's Centre and Kingsthorpe Children Centres are being considered for conversion into spokes.

Why do we need to consult?

Under the 2006 Childcare Act, WNC must ensure there is a sufficient provision of Children's Centres locally to meet the support needs of local parents, carers, prospective parents, and young children. There are several Children's Centres in West Northamptonshire offering a range of family services to parents, prospective

parents, and young children (aged 0 to 5 years old), those in buildings owned by WNC are being considered for converting to Family Hubs or spokes.

Why convert Children's Centres?

The council is planning to change some of its Children's Centres into Family Hubs to make it easier for families to get help when they need it. This means that the buildings owned by WNC already, will be converted to make sure families can get support close to where they live. This does not apply to Children's centres where the buildings are not owned by WNC.

Family Hubs will offer lots of activities and resources for families with kids starting from before they're born up to 19 years old, or 25 years old if they have SEND. This will mean families can get help for a wider age range than what is currently available at Children's Centres.