



Sefton Families First Partnership

Newsletter - March 2026

Hello everyone, and welcome to our latest update. A huge thank you to all colleagues, partners, parents, and young people who continue to shape the Families First Partnership. Your insight and commitment are what make this transformation real. Below is a round-up of what's been happening across the programme, including the Bootle Pilot, Single Assessment & Plan, Thresholds, MACPT design, Workforce Development, Participation, and our developing Outcomes Framework.

BOOTLE PILOT

The Bootle Pilot is the first major step in delivering the new Family Help model. It brings together Children's Social Care and Early Help practitioners into Pods within the Bootle neighbourhood. The aim is to test a fully joined-up way of working, including shared supervision, shared decision-making, and aligned practice - all within a neighbourhood footprint.

The pilot will help us understand what co-location enables, what barriers still exist, and what needs refining before Family Help is rolled out across the rest of Sefton. It will also test:

- The Single Assessment & Plan in real practice
- How caseloads flow within neighbourhoods
- Communication and supervision approaches
- System readiness, risks, and opportunities

The pilot team have held their first full team meeting, where colleagues had the opportunity to learn about each other's roles, and begin shaping how they will work together. The team will operate through a hybrid model, with a presence at both the Seaforth Family Wellbeing Centre and Magdalen House, ensuring flexibility and strong neighbourhood-based delivery.

Go-Live Date: The pilot will officially go live on Monday 13 April 2026 and will continue throughout the year, shaping the wider model as we learn from real-time practice.



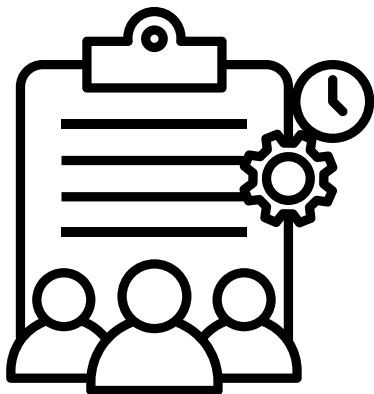


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SINGLE ASSESSMENT AND PLAN

The Task & Finish Group has now reviewed the content and structure of the new Single Assessment & Plan, incorporating detailed feedback from children, young people, parents and practitioners.

A naming poll received 133 responses, with **Family Support Plan** being the most popular choice.



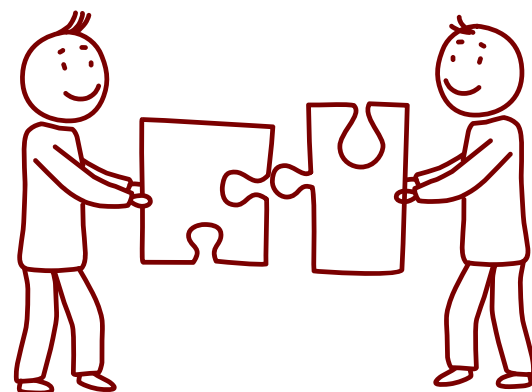
System build is underway, and testing will begin shortly. Next steps include developing family-friendly introductions and a partnership agreement explaining “what to expect”, as requested by the Family Participation groups.

The **Family Support Plan** will launch in May, starting within the Bootle pilot. This will allow for testing and refinement before a borough-wide roll out later in the year.

REVISED THRESHOLD DOCUMENT

Partners have been reviewing the draft *How We Support & Protect Framework*, Cheshire and Merseyside *Language Charter*, and the *Battery Conversation Tool*, with the final consultation period underway. Testing of the Conversation Tool has continued throughout March.

Following final feedback, the documents will move through governance for sign-off, local adoption, and future training.





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MULTI-AGENCY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS (MACPT)

The MACPT subgroup is now fully established and progressing well. Building on initial process mapping, the group has reviewed the current S47 pathway and identified options to support a stronger multi-agency model.

Police colleagues have shared learning from national pathfinders and other local authorities including Wirral, Warwickshire and St Helens, helping the group explore future model options, such as the role of joint visits, specialist assessments, and integrating services like domestic abuse support.

The next steps include developing structural options for the MACPT, analysing data on strategy meetings and progression rates to inform modelling.

OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK, QA & SYSTEM DESIGN



Work is underway to co-design a shared multi-agency Outcomes Framework that will help us understand how well the Families First Partnership model will support children, young people and families across Sefton. The framework will bring together measures from across Children's Social Care, Early Help, health, education, police and the voluntary sector to create a single, clear picture of impact.

Alongside defining outcomes, partners are also considering how we embed a consistent approach to quality assurance across the system. This includes exploring:

- How to measure both quantitative improvements (such as timeliness, progression and demand) and qualitative change (such as family experience, relational practice and practitioner confidence).
- How to align local measures with national outcomes

The next steps include seeking final approval and ensuring alignment with other initiatives such as Best Start in Life and SEND reforms.

PARTICIPATION - CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

Our Participation groups continue to grow, with new members from across parents/carers, staff, and young people. Families have shared powerful insight about how to ensure every family member's voice is heard, including non-verbal children, babies, and children with SEND.

Young people have explored creative ideas for capturing their voice within the Single Assessment & Plan, such as online options, simple forms, and the ability to write rather than speak.

Both groups are now helping to co-design:

- An "agreement" document that sets out what families can expect from the professionals working with them, and what professionals can expect from families.
- Content for the Families First video (with filming underway)

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & CULTURE

This group have been considering the required multi-agency workforce priorities to support children and families, as we move towards delivery of Families First Partnership.

In liaison with other subgroups, we have discussed the training needs and roll out required in relation to the Single Assessment and Plan and Cheshire and Merseyside documentation.

The next steps include identifying short, medium and long-term workforce priorities, with strong emphasis on consistency, confidence and multi-agency working across Sefton. This will be informed by a short workforce survey – so watch out for this arriving in your inbox shortly! The development of multi-agency Practice Standards focusing on shared values, behaviours, principles and culture will also be developed.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone across the workforce, partners, families, and young people who continue to contribute your time, experience and ideas. The work you're doing is helping us build a simpler, more joined-up, more compassionate system for children and families.

If you'd like to get involved or have any questions, please contact the Children's Transformation Team: Childrenstransformation@sefton.gov.uk.



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