



# Sefton Families First Partnership

## Newsletter - June 2026

### Children's Transformation Programme Update – Working Together for Children, Young People and Families

We'd like to share a brief update on the key areas of work progressing over the coming weeks. These next steps build on what we've already achieved and reflect our continued focus on improving outcomes for children, young people and families—ensuring our services remain effective, efficient and centred on what matters most.

#### YOUNG PEOPLES VOICES AT THE HEART OF FAMILIES FIRST IN SEFTON

We're excited to share a short video that brings to life what the Families First Vision, Commitments and Principles mean to young people in Sefton.

The video has been co-designed with children and young people who attend our Families First participation group. They have been involved throughout the process – from concept, to developing the script and choosing locations, through to editing and shaping the overall message.

You can watch the video here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzQ9kF7KBeQ\\_](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzQ9kF7KBeQ_)



#### DESIGNING COMMUNICATIONS WITH FAMILIES

Alongside the development of our Sefton Family Life Toolkit and supporting resources, we will be working closely with our participation groups to design a communication plan that works for families.

It is important that information reaches people in ways that are accessible, meaningful and easy to understand. Through engagement with children, young people, parents and carers, we will ensure that communications clearly explain the support available, how to access it and who can help families navigate the process when needed.

To access the Sefton Family Life toolkit click here: <https://www.seftonfamilylife.com/>

#### SYSTEMIC PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT – CPD OPPORTUNITIES

Following the launch of our Systemic Practice approach, we're pleased to offer a new CPD programme for colleagues across Children's Services, supporting our ambition to embed relational, systemic practice.

Programmes will be available from Autumn, offering opportunities to strengthen practice and improve outcomes for families.

Alongside this, we will be working with the Systemic Centre over the coming months to further develop reflective supervision, our practice model and clear practice standards—helping ensure consistency across our services. Please consider taking full advantage of this great opportunity.



# Sefton Families First Partnership

## BUILDING ON OUR STRONG FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE PRACTICE

Sefton has a strong foundation in Family Group Conferencing (FGC), and we are now beginning the next stage of work to explore how Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) can be embedded across the wider system.

This work will focus on understanding what good practice looks like in reality, ensuring that FGDM is effective for families, and reviewing family support network approaches and packages.

By learning from what works well, we can continue to strengthen our commitment to family-led solutions and support networks that help children remain connected to the people who matter most to them.



## REVIEWING THE OPERATING MODEL

Work has commenced to review the operating model to ensure our services remain fit for the future and continue to meet the needs of children, young people and families.

We recognise that this is an important area of work, all design sessions with staff are feeding directly into this and consultation with Trade Unions is continuing.

We remain committed to engaging openly and transparently, and regular updates will be shared as key decisions and proposals are developed.

## IMPROVING VALUE AND OUTCOMES

We are also reviewing areas where there are significant cost pressures, including Family Time arrangements. This work is not simply about reducing costs; it is about understanding the challenges faced by families, practitioners and services, and identifying opportunities to work more effectively together. We want to ensure that families receive the support they need while making sure that the solutions we provide are sustainable, efficient and achieve the best possible outcomes for children, young people and families.

## DEVELOPING AN OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

Over the coming weeks, we will begin shaping a multi-agency Outcomes Framework, helping us better understand the difference our work makes for children, young people and families.

The framework will support us to measure what matters, identify areas for improvement and ensure that our collective efforts remain focused on delivering positive and meaningful outcomes.





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## INTRODUCING MAGIC NOTES

Over the past several months, we have been exploring the use of AI-enabled tools to support our work and enhance practice. As part of this, we are now finalising plans for the rollout of Magic Notes, with further information to follow shortly alongside training and implementation details.

Magic Notes is designed to support professionals during meetings and conversations with families.

The tool enables meetings to be securely recorded and transcribed, helping to reduce administrative burdens and allowing practitioners to focus more fully on their interactions with children, young people and families.

It will also support more accurate capture of families' voices, reducing the need for parents and carers to repeat their stories and improving the overall quality of records.

We recognise the importance of using technology responsibly and will continue to engage with colleagues and stakeholders as we move into the next phase of rollout.

## LISTENING TO CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE

We have begun consulting with our cared for and care experienced young people about the development of a Care Leavers App.

These early conversations will help us better understand what young people would find useful and how digital solutions could support them as they move towards independence. As with all our participation work, the views and experiences of young people will be at the heart of shaping any future developments.



Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to this work. Whether you are a colleague, parent, carer, family member or young person, your involvement helps us design services that are responsive, inclusive and focused on achieving the best outcomes possible.

We look forward to sharing further updates and spotlight features as this work progresses. Together, we can continue building services that place children, young people and families at the centre of everything we do.

# THANK YOU

**If you'd like to get involved or have any questions, please contact the Children's Transformation Team:  
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