



Sefton Families First Partnership

Families First Partnership Newsletter September 2025

We're thrilled to share the progress of the Families First Partnership Programme, which has had a strong and promising start. Over the past few months, we've focused on raising awareness and deepening understanding across our children, young people, families, workforce and partners.

About the Programme

For those new to the Families First Partnership (FFP) reforms, this national programme builds on learning from ten Pathfinder areas. The goal is to transform the system of help, support, and protection – ensuring families receive the right help at the right time, with a strong emphasis on early intervention to prevent crisis.

2025/26 is our year of transformation, during which we will be co-designing and implementing key elements of the programme:

- Threshold document
- Single Assessment Plan
- Family Help model
- Multi Agency Child Protection Team

Phase 1 Highlights

Over the summer, the Children's Transformation Team has been actively engaging with the community – attending events, promoting surveys, and gathering valuable insights. So far, we've engaged with over 300 families and received lots of feedback, including over 100 survey responses. This feedback will help shape the future of our support services.



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Phase 1 Highlights continued

We've also hosted a series of awareness sessions and roadshows for professionals, engaging with approximately 300 individuals from across our workforce and partner organisations, including those in health, police, education, and community sectors.

Your feedback has been incredibly insightful, and we want to extend a huge thank you for your energy, commitment, and contributions. Your voice truly matters in shaping, designing, and implementing these reforms in a way that works best for our families in Sefton.

The Team is now collating and analysing all the feedback you shared with us to help inform the next phase of this work. We'll be publishing a summary of the feedback on our website and intranet over the coming weeks so everyone can see what was said.

Key Milestones by March 2026

- Threshold of Need Document: Co-produced across Cheshire and Merseyside, this will include a shared decision-making tool.
- Single Assessment Plan: A unified, co-produced plan to replace fragmented systems. It will be:
 1. Relational - building trust and strong connections with families.
 2. Flexible - adapting to changing family needs.
 3. Shared - developed and used across services.
 4. Ongoing - a living document that evolves over time.

Behind the Scenes

Our Children's Transformation Team has been working hard to gather and analyse a wealth of data to better understand local needs and variations across the borough. We've also completed 'as is' mapping to explore current pathways and identify opportunities for improvement.



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What's Next: Co-Design Workshops

We are now entering the co-design phase, where practitioners and partners will come together to shape what Families First will look like in Sefton. Central to this work is ensuring the voice of children, young people and families is heard and embedded in everything we do.

Early feedback shows a strong desire to do things differently – to improve outcomes not only for families but also for our practitioners and the way we deliver services.

Get Involved

We're excited to move forward and deeply value your continued input and support. If you haven't yet had the chance to get involved and would like to be part of a co-design group, please register your interest by scanning the QR code below.

You'll also find more information and resources about the Families First Partnership on our website – again, just scan the QR code.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Transformation Team directly at childrenstransformation@sefton.gov.uk



[Head to the website by clicking here!](#)

Together, we're building a future where every child and family in Sefton can access the right support at the right time. Thank you for being part of this journey — your involvement is key to making lasting, meaningful change.