



Connected Together : Community Strength in Early Help

Lancashire's Multi-Agency Early Help Partnership Conference

Farington Lodge

7th July 2026

9.30 – 4.00pm



Housekeeping



Welcome

Cllr Matthew Salter

Lancashire County Council Cabinet Member for
Education and Skills



Working Together Early: Multi-Agency Approaches That Work

Paul Turner

Director of Education and Inclusion



The role of Best Start in Life in driving Early Help:

A Strategic Approach

Sachin Shah

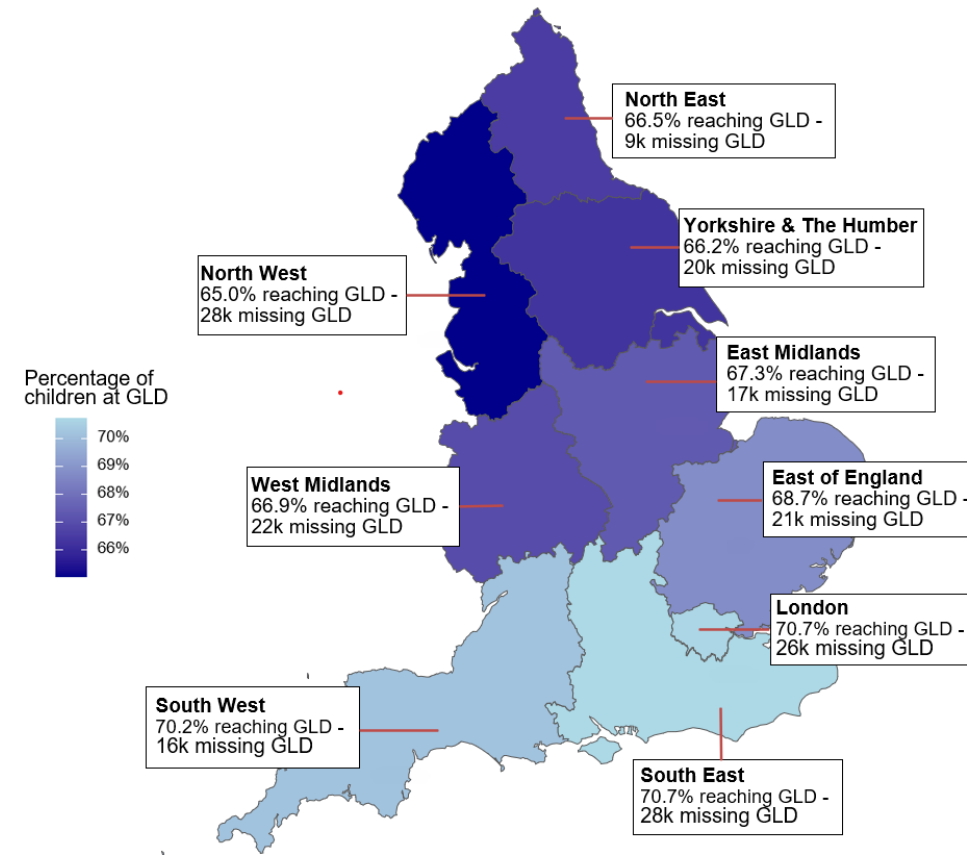
Deputy Director, Best Start LA Delivery
Division Department for Education

GLD – The scale of the challenge

- The Plan for Change set out a milestone of **75%** of children aged 5 achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) by 2028.
- This is an additional 40,000 children a year hitting developmental goals required to achieve target



Percentage of children achieving GLD in 24/25 by region



How we work with Local Authorities to get the best outcomes



Through close collaboration with **Local Authorities**, we are focusing support where it will have the greatest impact.



Best Start local plans



Strengthening **partnerships** across early years providers, health services, family support, and voluntary and community organisations.



Targeted support for children and families.



Promoting the **sharing of effective practice**



Local Authority Targets to improve GLD

More accessible early education and childcare



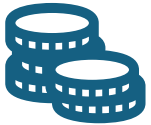
- 30 hours working parents entitlement
- More places in settings, including in school-based nurseries
- Increased funding to promote inclusion of children with SEND



SEND priorities



Strengthen the SEND offer in Best Start Family Hubs



Inclusive Mainstream Fund



Experts at Hand offer



National SEND and inclusion training package.

Improving quality and making reception year a priority



- Raising skill levels and stronger links between schools and settings
- System wide improvement
- Support for schools
- Better insight and target help



Our vision for Best Start Family Hubs



What it means for the system



LAs will act as strategic conveners, bringing a wide range of partners.



BSFHs will provide a one-shop-stop offering support, information and advice for families. Open to all but with a focus on 0-5 provision.



70% of hubs in the 30% most deprived areas, supported by up to **2,000 network sites** in community settings.



Professionals and services will act as one team to reduce fragmentation.

What it means for families

Warm, welcoming spaces that feel part of everyday life – places where children play, families can meet and access integrated services.

Help that comes earlier and with less effort – whether that's advice on feeding their baby, strengthening the home learning environment or getting the right support when additional needs first emerge

Clear, simple pathways to support and trusted relationships – so parents aren't pushed from one door to another or asked to retell their story. Practitioners understand the whole family and have strong relationships with them

Support rooted in familiar places – reaching families in community spaces they already use like nurseries, libraries and community centres. Not expecting families to navigate a system that works against them

The Model – core principles for delivering a joined up, family focused system



Connection



Relationships



**Access &
Inclusion**



Insights



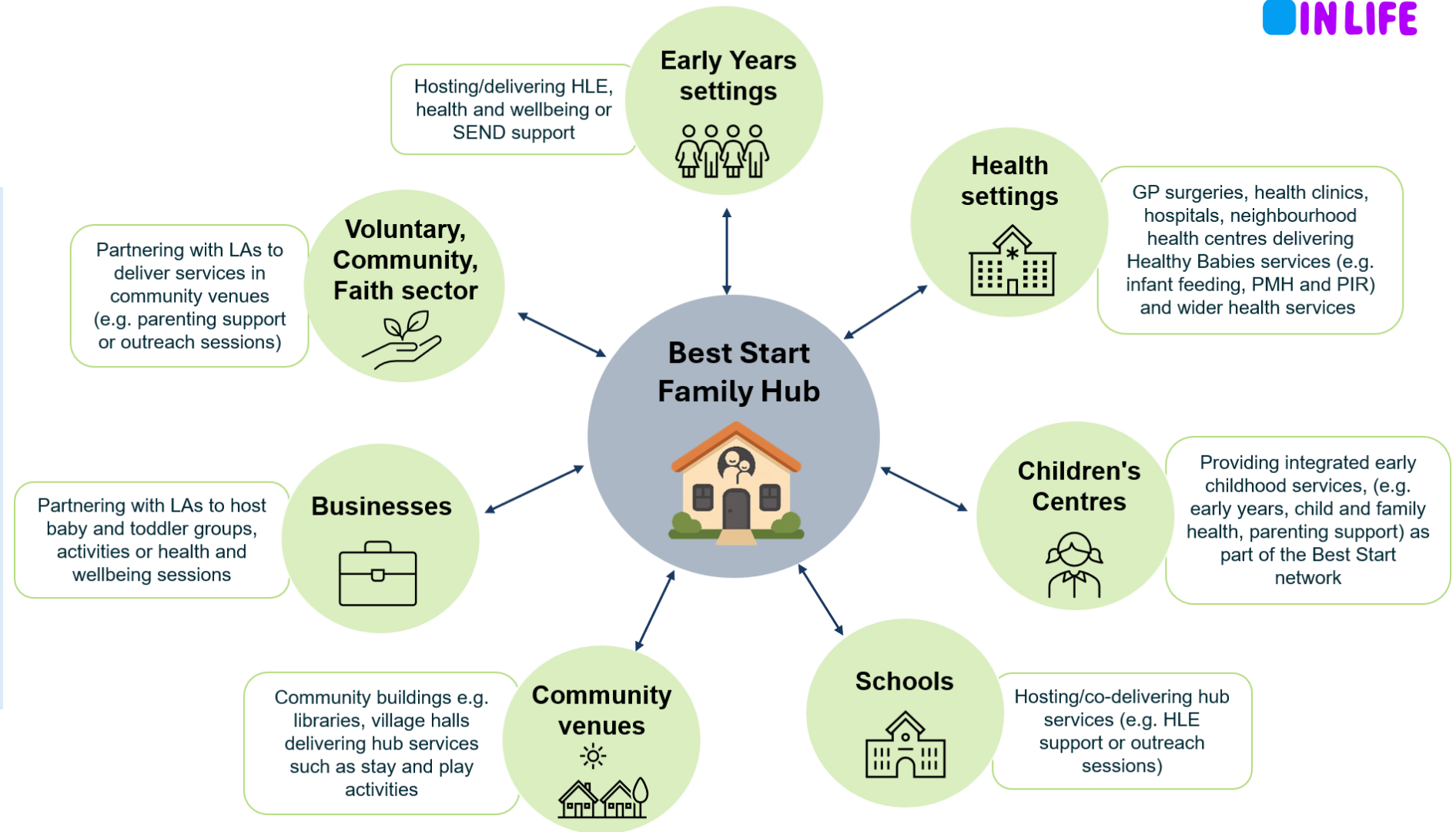
Data and digital

Integrated networks at a local level



➤ Community engagement and family voice should drive design of the network and services.

➤ And our Best Start in Life Champion Sue Robb embedding early years expertise into the heart of government





Strengthening the Early Help Workforce: Investing in People, Improving Outcomes.

**Launch of the Lancashire Multi-Agency
Early Help Academy.**

Kathy Ashworth
Head of Service, Early Help

Developing Early Help Culture and Practice

Strategic Development Priority

- A mainstream commitment to early help model is needed from the very top of organisations
- 'Early help is everyone's business'
- Practitioners need to feel confident about managing risk
- To be competent in using shared and agreed tools to support early help

In response to National Agendas – Families First Programme, Best Start in Life, Family Hubs, SEND Reform.



Lancashire's Multi-Agency Early Help Academy

- The Multi-Agency Early Help Academy is Lancashire County Council's approach to **supporting the skills knowledge and development of the early help workforce**.
- The workforce development programme offered through the Early Help Academy **builds on the success** of the previous multi-agency training programme and its design has been influenced through feedback and evaluations from participants over several years.
- In addition, it recognises a **renewed focus on the impact of giving children the best start in life, inclusive access to early help** and the **growing importance of family hubs** as a front door to access multi agency services within communities.



April 2024 – June 2026



20+ different training courses offered as part of the Early Help Multi-Agency Academy



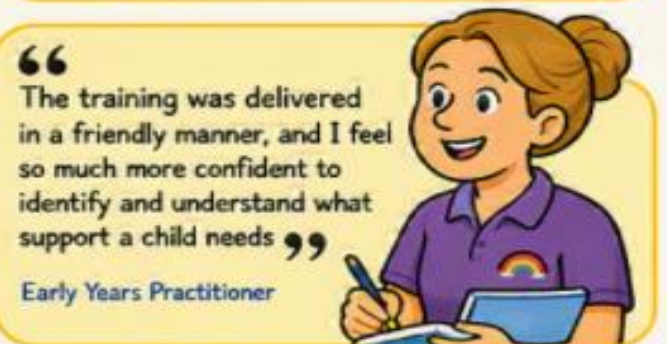
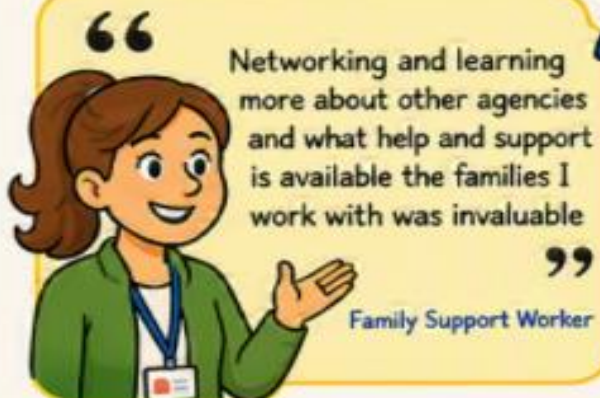
Run 254 sessions with 3612 attendees



Cross sector attendees (education, health, police, VCFSE, Housing, Nursery, childminder)

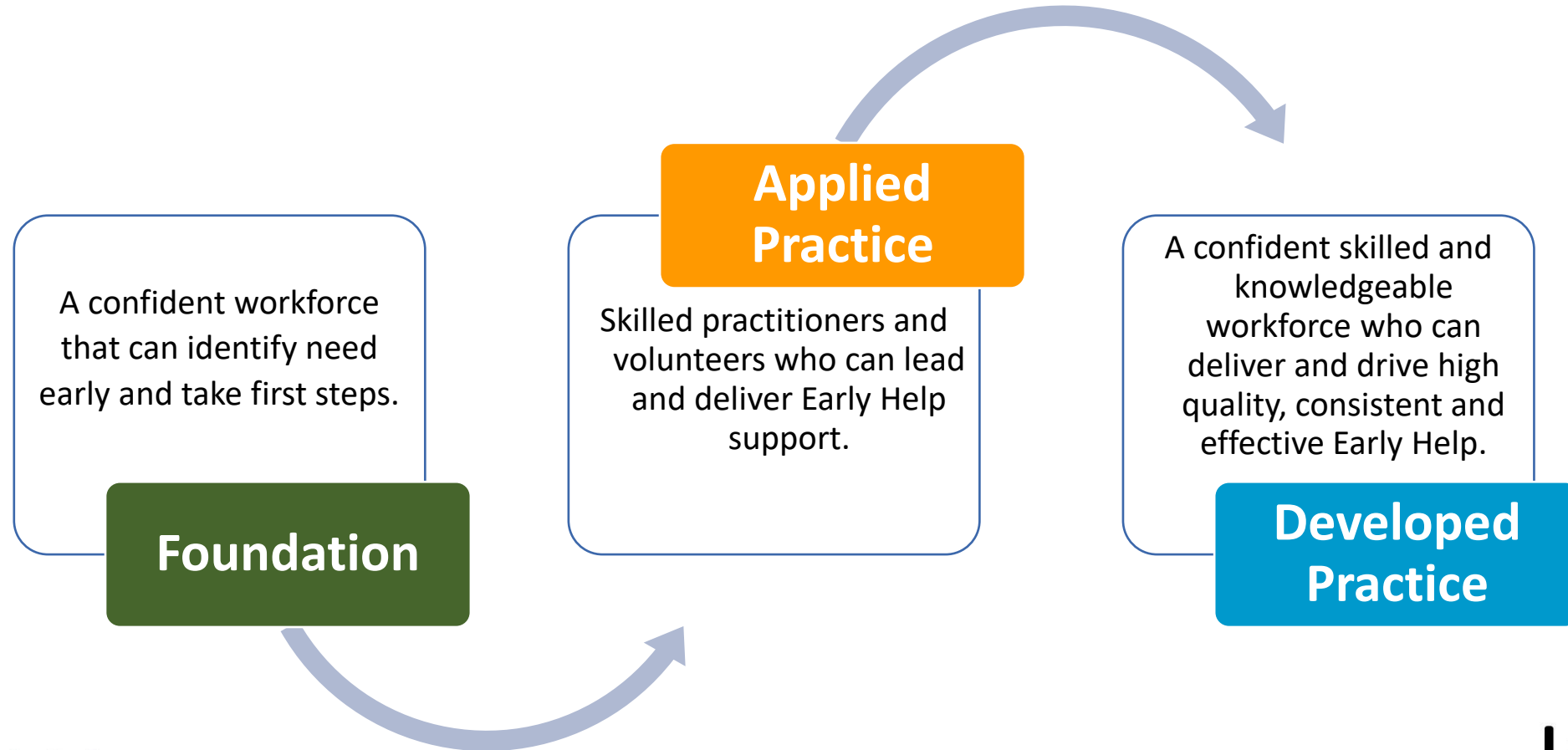


FEEDBACK FROM OUR PARTNERS IN EARLY HELP



Tiered approach to learning

Whether you are new to Early Help or looking to deepen your skills, the workforce development programme that the academy offers is designed to be practical, relevant, and supportive, helping you to deliver high-quality, strengths-based support to children, young people, and their families.



Workforce development programme – Modules

Tier 1: Foundation

- What is Early Help?
- Basic Trauma Awareness
- Cultural Competency
- An introduction to supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Noticing Neglect

Tier 2: Applied Practice

- Lancashire's Continuum of Need and Thresholds for support
- The Early Help Toolkit
- Working in Partnership to build a Team Around the Family
- Providing the Best Start in Life
- Understanding the child's world
- Understanding the teenage world
- Delivering Inclusive & Engaging Early Help Group Activities
- PEEPs Learning Together Programme

Tier 3: Developed Practice

- Introduction to Motivational Interviewing
- The Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children
- Difference between Parental Conflict & Domestic Abuse - eLearning
- Reducing Parental Conflict - Relationship Toolkit
- WellComm: Speech and Language Screening Toolkit
- Safeguarding in the Online world
- Supporting parents: Addressing barriers to Effective Parenting

Programme Overview

Tier 1: Foundation Modules

What is Early Help? (Webinar)

Overview:

This webinar is for all practitioners and volunteers who have contact with children, young people and families, to raise awareness of needs and help them to access the right support and the right time.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the webinar participants will:

- Understand what Early Help is and why it is important
- Understand the role everyone plays in providing Early Help
- Developing their understanding of the whole family approach
- Explore ways to engage families with support

Tier 3: Developed Practice Modules

Introduction to Motivational Interviewing (Half-day)

Overview:

This course introduces practitioners and volunteers to the techniques of Motivational Interviewing to work more effectively with people by building trust and supporting positive change.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course participants will:

- Understand the basics of Motivational Interviewing
- Learn its main principles and approach
- Know how it can support your work
- Build positive relationships with parents and carers
- Help people explore and feel more confident about making changes

Tier 2: Applied Practitioner Modules

Lancashire's Continuum of Need and Thresholds for support (Half-day)

Overview:

This course helps practitioners and volunteers decide the right level of support a child or family needs and how to get this in place. The course covers how to access advice and support through increasing understanding of the relevant pathways and processes.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course participants will:

- Understand what affects decisions about support, both locally and nationally
- Be more familiar with using Lancashire's guidance (Working Well with Children and Families) to support decision making
- Apply thresholds guidance to examples based on family situations and needs
- Feel more confident working in understanding and meeting family support needs



MORE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

STARTING THIS AUTUMN

FLEXIBLE LEARNING OPTIONS



eLearning Packages



Webinars

PRACTICAL TOOLS & RESOURCES



Practitioner Action Sets



Knowledge & Resource Library

EARLY HELP ACADEMY

WEBPAGE

Your hub for learning, resources and development

NEW OPPORTUNITIES ADDED



Evolving blended learning approach with new resources and CPD added throughout the year

CONNECT & COLLABORATE



Communities of Practice Events

LOCAL LEARNING

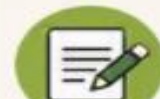


Place-Based INSET Days

CAREER DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS



Skills Boot Camps



Information on intakes & application processes



Employment Pathways in Early Help

BUILDING SKILLS.
BUILDING CAREERS.
IMPROVING OUTCOMES.

BENEFITS FOR YOU



Flexible & Accessible Learning



Learn When It Suits You



Responsive to Emerging Need



Ongoing CPD & Professional Growth



New Opportunities Added Throughout the Year

AVAILABLE VIA THE MULTI-AGENCY EARLY HELP ACADEMY WEBPAGE THIS AUTUMN

Your go-to place for learning, development and support



Break Networking & Marketplace

11.00-11.30





The role of Faith Organisations in Early Help

Peter Lumsden

Gather Movement Regional Connector for Lancashire

ROLE OF FAITH ORGANISATIONS IN EARLY HELP

Peter Lumsden

pjlumsden58@gmail.com

Keeping the 'F' in the VCFSE

- Faith networks, VCFSE alliance
- Methodist district justice advocate
- Gather regional connector, Lancashire
- Lancashire Forum of Faiths

Fullness of life

FEED THE
HUNGRY

WELCOME THE
STRANGER

HEAL THE SICK

COMFORT THE
BEREAVED

BEFRIEND THE
LONELY

HOUSE THE
HOMELESS

WHY?

WHERE?

Neighbourhood

District

County

Health

Local authority

VC

FSE

Spiritual wellbeing
Cohesion
Social action

Strategic Engagement

Where....who....what.....
'Faith' in the landscape of
place & people in Lancashire

FAITH NETWORKS IN LANCASHIRE

WHO?

600+ churches and
100+ mosques

Locations – areas
of deprivation



Well equipped,
rooms, kitchens

Members - actual or
potential volunteers

Distinctive role of faith or spirituality in well-being.

Wellbeing in Lancashire

WHAT?

Faith groups connect with wellbeing in the widest sense...

Starting well

- Baby / toddler groups (50% are church-based)

Growing well

- Food - community groceries
- Social isolation – low-level intervention through coffee mornings, 'Places of Welcome' etc

Ageing well

- Hospital discharges – volunteer befrienders

Dying well

- Engagement with hospices and chaplaincies to support the dying and the bereaved



Pendle Churches & Mos

Mark Cowling



Churches and Christian Organisations_F...



St. Mary's



Churches and Christian Organisations_F...



Churches and Christian Organisations_F...



All items



Family Centres/Hubs Pendle Local Autho...



Barnoldswick Family Centre



Brierfield Family Hub



Colne Family Hub



Nelson Family Hub and The Zone



Whitefield Family Centre



Mosques

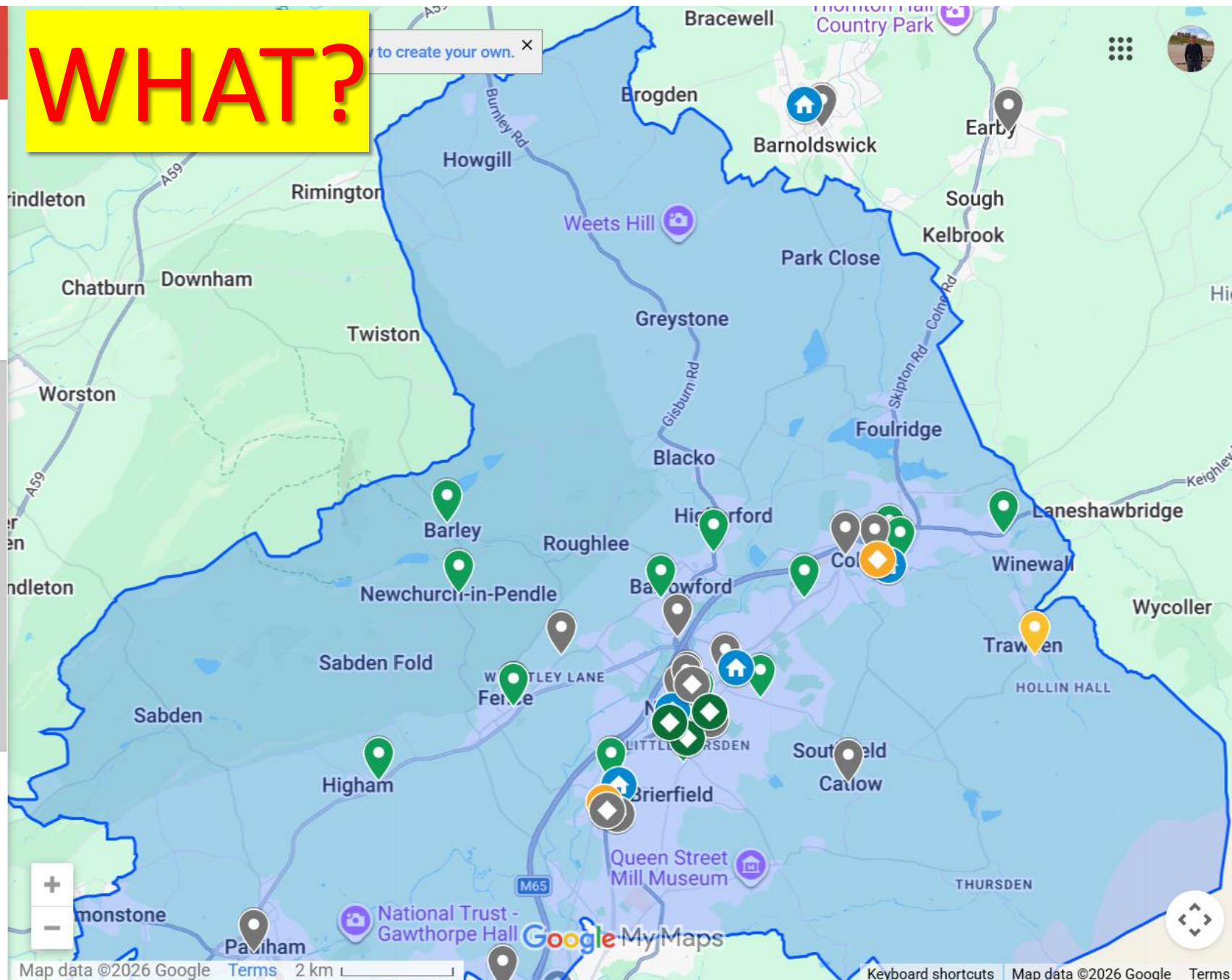


Madni Dawah Academy Brierfield



Jamia Masiid Madina Colne

WHAT?







The Midlife Reset

MOOD | ENERGY | STRESS | SLEEP | NUTRITION | HEALTHY HABITS

Overwhelmed, Low Energy or Struggling with Your Weight?

Join the Midlife Reset to help you reduce stress, improve sleep, eat well and feel better in yourself again.

A small group, clear weekly guidance and honest conversation for women who want to feel healthier, calmer and more in control.

In 6 weeks, you'll start to:

- ✓ Feel calmer and less overwhelmed
- ✓ Sleep better and wake with more energy
- ✓ Eat in a way that supports your body
- ✓ Think clearly and feel more like you
- ✓ Feel more in control of your choices



STARTS:
THURSDAY 21 MAY
1.30 PM | CLITHEROE

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK YOUR PLACE





6-WEEK
SMALL GROUP



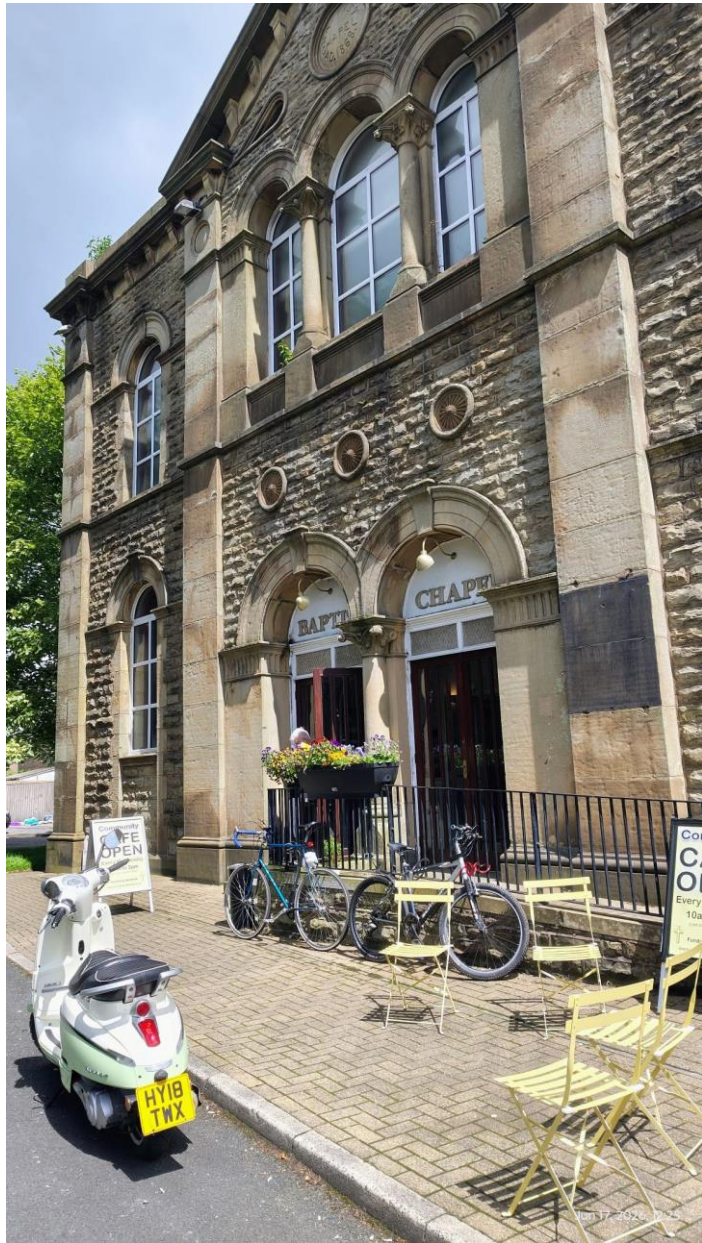
LIMITED
PLACES

STEPH HARDCASTLE | CERTIFIED HEALTH COACH

07963 565 192

STEPH@WELLHEALTH.UK





Jumping Beans toddler group, Chorley



1. SIGNPOST

2. HOST

3. DELIVER



50% of toddlers
50% of youth
workers
31% Faith
schools



**Safe
Families**



**Home
for Good**

**SEEING
CHILDREN
& FAMILIES
FLOURISH.**

Together, we hope for a society where **no family feels alone**, and **every child** has a home where they can flourish.

We believe **the Church is central to this vision.**





**Safe
Families**



**Home
for Good**

OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

12,011

Families
connected into
community



5,019

Current
volunteers



27,567

Children
supported

1,463

Churches and
community groups



8,284

Enquiries into
adoption, fostering
and supported
lodgings



58

Peer support
groups



10,660

Bed nights

Figures accurate as of 1st April 2026

WHAT?

SO WHAT?

WHAT NEXT?

From treatment to prevention

Integrating and coordinating place-based faith representation and action



Creating a Neighbourhood Health Service:

The role of churches and faith groups in social prescribing

Marianne Rozario with contribution from Esther Platt

Foreword by the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London



Strategic leaders at national, local and neighbourhood levels need to consider how the F of Faith Communities fits into VCFSE service delivery

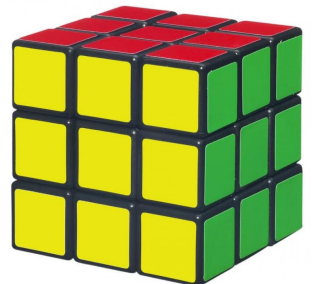
Churches and other faith groups often act as local community hubs.....

.... our faith communities can be part of a strategic shift from simply treating sickness to preventing it. Faith and health leaders alike should take on board these insights and recommendations and help realise the potential.

FILLING THE GAPS – JOINING THE PIECES



- a. **map** what churches /mosques are offering;
- b. **connect** public sector colleagues with faith groups;
- c. faith groups **attend** local network meetings;
- d. create the **infrastructure** of church / mosque groupings;
- e. fund an **'enabler'** to continue to connect and develop



Insight Exchange:

‘Early Help Conversations- That Make a Difference’

Hosted by **Chris Hayes**

Early Help Performance & Quality Review Officer

Panellists:

- Kathy Ashworth – Head of Service Early Help LCC
- Peter Lumsden - Regional Coordinator Gather Movement
- Sachin Shah - Deputy Director, Best Start LA Delivery Division Early Years Directorate, Families Group
- Tracey McKenzie - Head of service Lancashire health visiting and school nursing
- Julie Raine & Kerry Molineux – Home-Start East and Central Lancashire
- County Cllr Matthew Salter – Lead Member for Education & Skills





12.30 – 1.30



Closing Remarks

Kathy Ashworth – Head of Service, Early Help