



Bolton Together Early Years Delivery Report April - June 2026

Bolton

Together

Working Together to Support Children, Young People and Families
Registered Charity in England and Wales (1163466)

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1.0 Introduction

At Bolton Together, we work to ensure every child in Bolton has the best start in life by delivering high-quality, inclusive, and family-centered support. This Early Years Delivery Report highlights our collective progress in empowering parents, strengthening communities, and ensuring the well-being of children from birth to age five and their families.

2.0 Bolton Together Update

April to June - here are just some of the highlights:

- Our providers attended the Bump to Baby Fair in May.
- We continued to contribute to the Best Start Family Hub Guide to activities for families and attended a variety of meetings with the Family Hub partnership, including Infant feeding,
- We delivered our Bolton Together Mini Roadshow.
- Implemented monthly meetings with Senior Family Hub Staff to enhance cohesion of delivery.
- Completed DFE Monitoring in partnership with Bolton Council.
- We contributed to the GM VCFSE School Readiness sessions and continue to be part of the GM Nurture network to ensure we're sharing learning and best practice.
- Our Bolton Together External Evaluation began with the Centre for Local Economies.
- Finalised the September 2026 to March 2029 VCSE Family Hub contract with Bolton Council.
- Held contract meetings with those providers whose funding included changes.
- Contributed to keeping the Infant Feeding Matrix Up to Date.
- Planned our Annual Event, coming on the 24th November 2026.
- Supported Dad Matters to consult with; Breastfeeding Together, The Bolton Infant Feeding Team and the Infant Feeding Meeting Members to produce a Dads Infant Feeding Resource.
- Recruited a new staff member to support with the delivery of our Early Years Programme.

Learning Languages Together

Learning Languages Together is a new programme that will begin in September 2026. Recreate U will begin delivery in Harvey and

Oxford Grove Best

Start Family Hubs. Over the last quarter they have recruited an ESOL Tutor to run the sessions, consulted with families and professionals to inform how the sessions will be structured, liaised with partners to book rooms and created promotional materials, sharing these with multiple partners and across Hubs.

learn language TOGETHER

WARM, FRIENDLY ENGLISH AND EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMME FOR ESOL-SPEAKING PARENTS AND CARERS WITH BABIES UP TO 6 MONTHS.

- ✓ English learning
- ✓ Wellbeing
- ✓ Play
- ✓ Connection
- ✓ Breastfeeding friendly
- ✓ Teaches Bolton's 5 Golden Rules

SIGN UP NOW

Harvey
Where: Harvey Family Hub, Shaw Street, Bolton, BL3 6HU
Block 1: 30th Oct - 11th Dec 3:30pm - 5:30pm
Block 2: 15th Jan - 19th Feb 3:30pm - 5:30pm

Oxford Grove
Where: Oxford Grove Family Hub, Oxford Grove, Bolton, BL3 3BH
Block 1: 4th Sep - 9th Oct 12:30pm - 2:30pm
Block 2: 30th Oct - 11th Dec 12:30pm - 2:30pm
Block 3: 15th Jan - 19th Feb 12:30pm - 2:30pm

SIGN UP THE FAMILIES YOU SUPPORT:

- Learn everyday English with a friendly ESOL teacher to support daily life and communication with their child
- Enjoy play, songs, stories and routines that boost early language development
- Connect using Bolton's Five Golden Rules for Communication
- Enjoy a free meal
- Take home simple picture-based activities and meet other parents and carers to build community
- Professionals are welcome to sign up families and attend first session

07563 899067
contact@recreate-u.co.uk

recreate-u
BEST START IN LIFE
Bolton Together



Progress during the Quarter

Bolton

Together

3.0 Progress During the Quarter: Introduction

In this section the quantitative and qualitative data collected from each strand of delivery over the quarter is presented.

3.1 Progress During the Quarter: Infant Feeding

This quarter, Breastfeeding Together celebrated Volunteers' Week, recognising the incredible individuals who give their time and expertise to support families.

**532 unique
parents
supported!**

Supervision and Continued Professional Development

Staff and volunteers receive structured monthly supervision supporting reflective practice, wellbeing, and professional growth. The programme includes three face-to-face and one online session monthly, offered flexibly to maximise accessibility. This quarter, the peer support team refreshed existing knowledge and completed new training.

Peer Support Training

The next Peer Support Training course begins early July at Oldham's Family Hub, covering accredited Breastfeeding Peer Support Training 1 and 2 to equip participants with skills and confidence for evidence-based support.

**288 babies
supported!**

“ I was really struggling with Breastfeeding and was very close to giving up and just formula feeding until Maaria came and helped me with it. I could tell she genuinely cared about how I was doing as she kept in contact even after the visit” Breastfeeding Together beneficiary

Young Parents Infant Feeding Project

The Young Parents Project provided targeted early intervention support to 51 young parents under 25 (2 aged 16–18, 49 aged 19–24), recording 94 contacts across the quarter. Of these, 23 required more than one contact, reflecting ongoing need for tailored support. Early intervention remained a priority, with 40 of 51 receiving support during pregnancy or in hospital, enabling timely assessment, positive service engagement, and building resilience as young parents transition into parenthood.



3.1.1 Quantitative Data

Total No of new mums receiving home visits this quarter	111
Total No home visits this quarter	244
Number of parents accessing Plan and Prepare for Parenting sessions	6
Number of parents accessing One to One Infant Feeding Support	156
% reporting improved outcome measures	100%
Number of Preparing to Breastfeed sessions delivered	7
% of parents reporting improved outcomes (Breastfeeding)	100%
Number of Plan and Prepare for Parenting sessions	6
% of parents reporting improved outcomes (Parenting)	100%
Number of Infant feeding peer support drop-in groups offered	90
Number of Walking Groups offered	22
Number of new beneficiaries attending Walking Groups	15
% of parents reporting improved outcomes (Peer support)	100%
No of parents/carers at Infant Feeding Drop in Groups	369

Number of parents supported at Bolton Foundation Trust Hospital Infant Feeding Peer Support Offer at Bolton Foundation Trust Hospital	707 86 Days
Number of Children accompanying parents/carers	288
Number of Equipment Hires	35
Number of parents accessing Live Web Chat service Available 7-10 pm, 7 days/week	40
No. of calls/messages providing support to families	2673

Antenatal Expansion

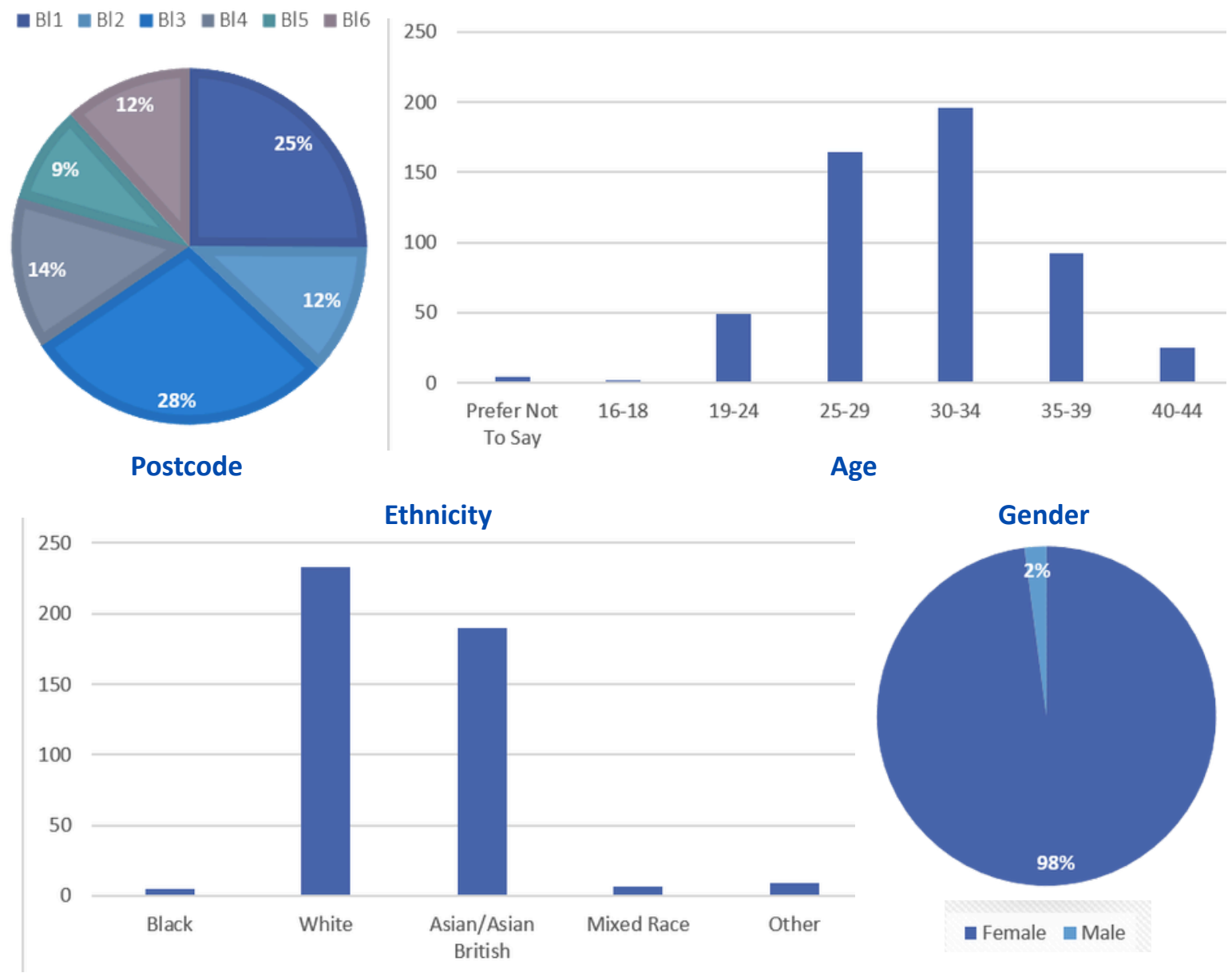
Additional funding has enabled increased staff capacity within Best Start Family Hubs and attendance at antenatal clinics, resulting in more antenatal contacts. Families now access timely, evidence-based infant feeding and parenting support earlier in their journey, strengthening relationship-building and enabling earlier intervention.

The recruitment of a multilingual Peer Supporter, Maaria, who is fluent in Dutch, Urdu, Punjabi, and English, has improved engagement with communities that traditionally experienced barriers to accessing services, building trust and ensuring culturally appropriate support. Early antenatal peer support establishes relationships that continue postnatally, promoting continuity of care.

“This service has been a lifesaver in many ways for me, from first meeting [a peer support volunteer] at the hospital at not such a good time to seeing [a member of staff] every week for the walking groups and drop in group- I truly miss when it’s not on due to bank holidays as it helps me start the week. I feel I can ask any questions and also be supportive to other mums who come for the first time” .

Breastfeeding Together beneficiary

3..1.2 Parent Demographics



Ethnic distribution shows a predominant representation of White, followed by Asian/Asian British, and smaller numbers of Black, Mixed Race, and Other groups. Age-wise, the majority of parents fall within the 25-29 and 30-34 age ranges, with fewer parents in the 19-24, 35-39, and 40-44 categories. Additionally, the data categorises parents across six postcodes (BI1 to BI6), with the largest segment (28%) in BI3 and the smallest (9%) in BI5.

The ethnic and age distribution of parents accessing infant feeding support in Bolton appears representative of both the local population and the typical ages for having babies in the UK. According to Bolton JSNA, the local population is 68.8% White British, with Asian Pakistani (9.4%) and Asian Indian (8.9%) being the largest ethnic minority groups, and 28% identifying with a non-White ethnic group. The support data mirrors this, with a dominant representation of White parents and Asian/Asian British parents. Additionally, the age distribution of parents accessing support, primarily 25-29 and 30-34 aligns with the UK’s average age of mothers at childbirth, which is 30.9 years overall and 29.2 years for first-time mothers.

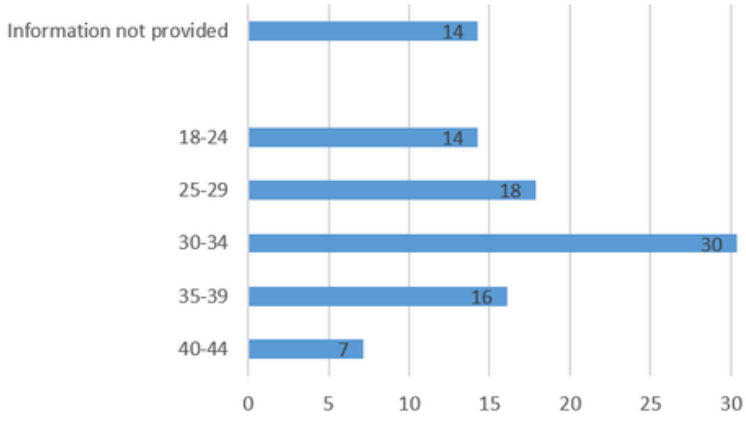
3.2 Progress During the Quarter: Parent and Perinatal Infant Mental Health Support including support for Dads

3.2.1 NHS GM Integrated Care Funded PIMH Delivery Quantitative Data

Number of parents receiving one-to-one support	11
Number of parents accessing peer support groups	48
% of parents feeling more confident about their ability to care for baby	100%
% of parents felt helped to build a better relationship with baby	94%
% of parents reporting they felt listened to	100%

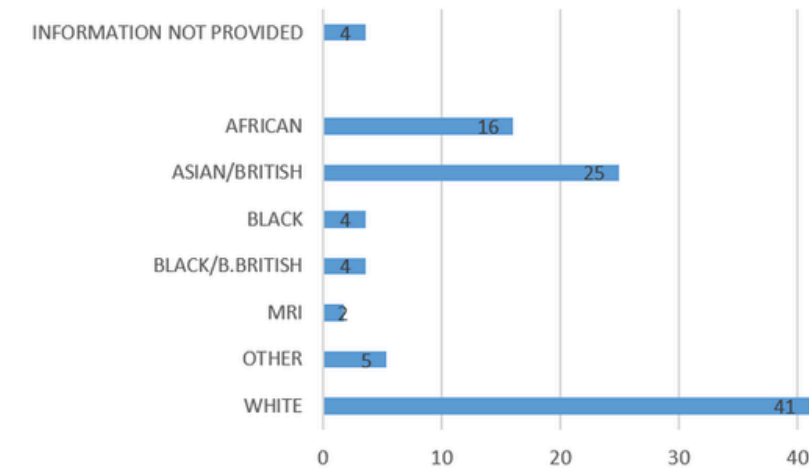
3.2.2 Parent Demographics NHS GM Integrated Care Funded PIMH Delivery

Age %

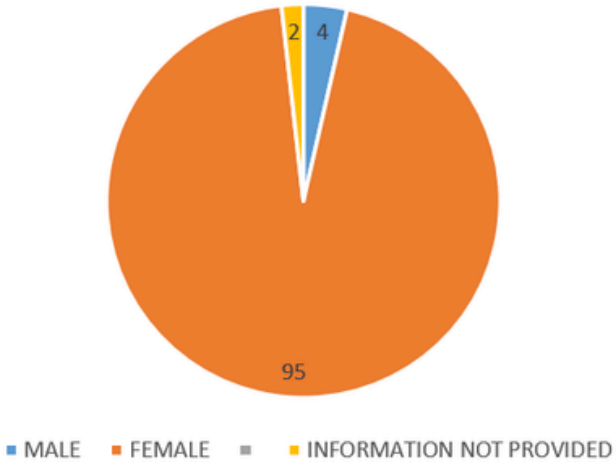


ACTUAL SUPPORTED	56
AGE YOUNGEST CHILD	4 weeks
AVERAGE NUMBER STAFF ON SESSION	2
AVERAGE VOLUNTEER/S ON SESSION	2
Sessions attended	279

Ethnicity %



Gender %

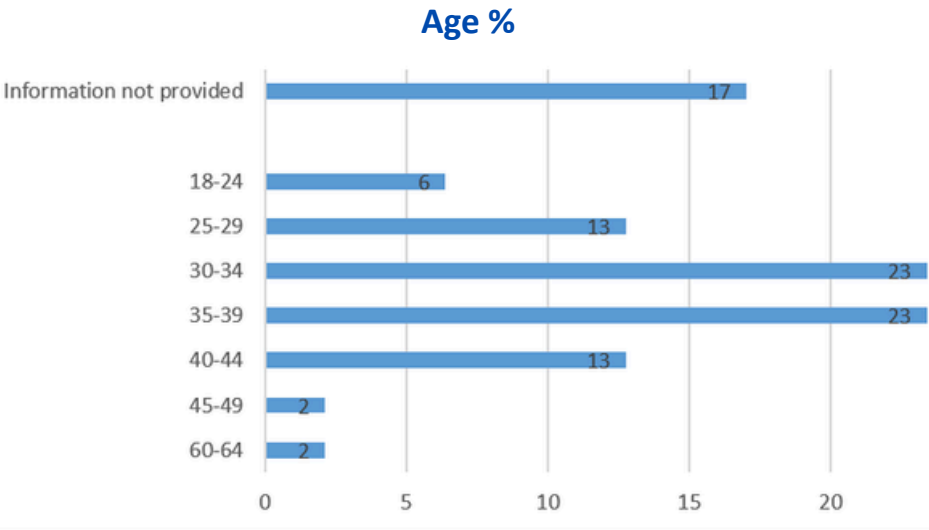


3.2.3 Family Hub Funded PIMH Delivery Quantitative Data

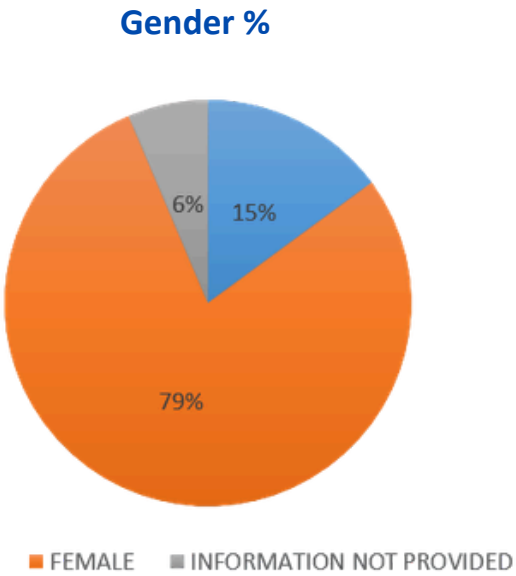
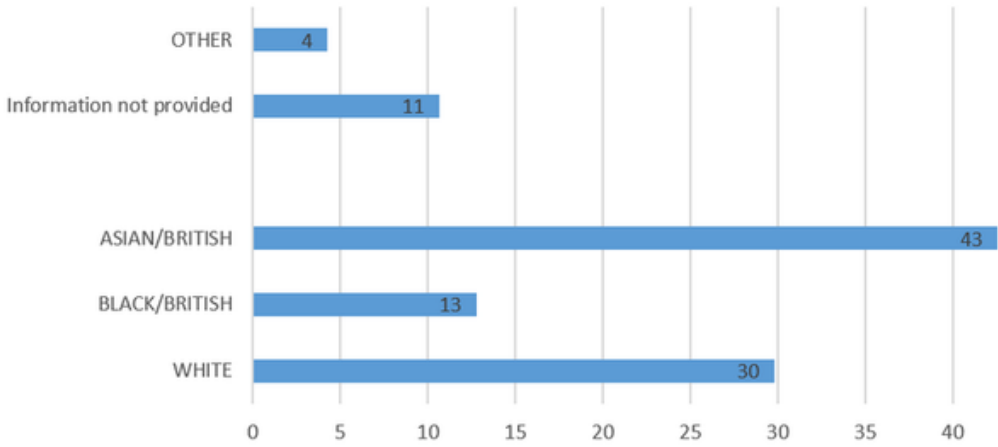
Number of parents receiving one-to-one support	41
Number of parents accessing peer support groups	11
Average % of parents feeling more confident	100%
% of parents felt helped to build a better relationship with baby	100%

3.2.4 Parent Demographics Family Hub Funded PIMH Delivery

ACTUAL SUPPORTED	47
AGE YOUNGEST CHILD	5 months
AVERAGE NUMBER STAFF ON SESSION	2
AVERAGE VOLUNTEER/S ON SESSION	3
Sessions attended	147



Ethnicity %



Home-Start HOST Diversity Coordinator

This quarter, the Diversity Coordinator continued supporting vulnerable and isolated families through home visits, volunteer matching and Perinatal Mental Health support, working in partnership with Health Visitors, BRASS, Best Start Family Hubs, Baby Basics and other agencies. She also completed Domestic Awareness Training and Safeguarding Refresher Training. Despite increasing complexity of family needs and engagement barriers, strong partnership working and culturally sensitive approaches maintained effective support in this quarter. A highlight was the successful Eid Party, which received overwhelmingly positive feedback from families. A key case study demonstrated the impact of the work when a mum referred for emotional wellbeing difficulties received consistent non-judgemental support, and over time became more confident in recognising her strengths, managing difficult emotions, and building a warm, responsive relationship with her children.

“When my child and I first moved to our new home, everything was new and challenging. Luckily Home-Start came to our aid with enthusiasm and sincerity. They frequently visited our home, listened to our concerns, helped me get acquainted with the area, learn about local services and how to care for my young child in a new environment. Thanks to them I gradually regained my confidence and my child quickly adapted and felt happier. The support helped us settle into our new life, made us feel cared for and less alone as we started over” Home-Start
HOST Beneficiary



Bolton Toy Library



Bolton Toy Library



Bolton Wanderers in the Community

Dad Matters Coordinators

This quarter, Dad Matters strengthened its presence in Best Start Family Hubs through drop-ins, Walk 'n' Talks, workshops and informal conversations. 69 Dads in total accessed the service, with 7 one to ones, 2 at walk and talk sessions and 60 through outreach sessions. 21 professionals attended training. Partnership working with Family Hub staff and professionals improved awareness and referrals. Challenges included low referrals, limited footfall and inconsistent attendance. Next-quarter priorities focus on targeted referral development and stronger links with midwives and health visitors. Consultation methods included informal conversations with fathers and feedback from Family Hub staff and professionals. A dad feedback form will be introduced in Quarter 2.

“It's really good to be able to talk to you about being a dad. For lots of my friends it can be like life has just gone back to normal, so it's nice to be able to talk to another dad about this stuff.” Dad Matters Beneficiary

3.3 Progress During the Quarter: Parent Engagement in Co-design - Parent and Carer Panels

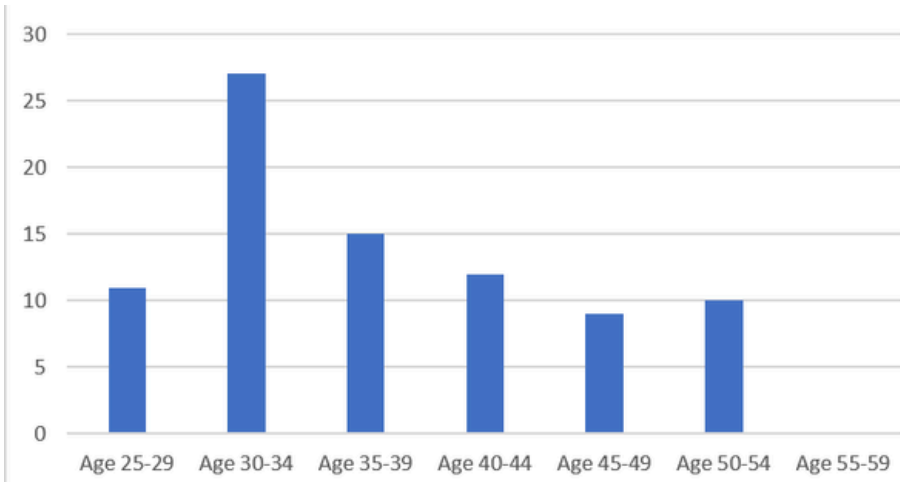
3.3.1 Quantitative Data

Number of parents and carers attending Harvey Parent and Carer Panel	9
Number parents and carers attending Bright Meadows Parent and Carer Panel	6
Number of Panels held	2

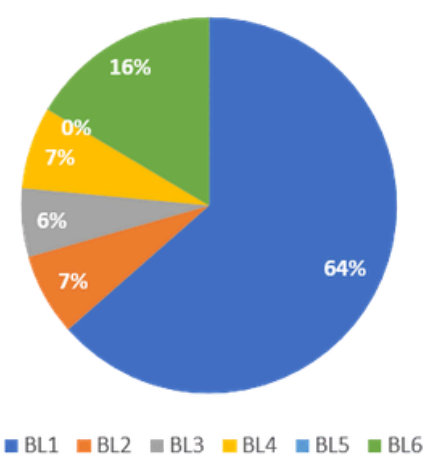
A total of 2 panels were held this quarter. Attendance was notably higher at the Harvey Parent and Carer Panel than at the Bright Meadows Parent and Carer Panel. This indicates solid overall engagement but uneven participation across hubs. Bolton Toy Library have worked hard to increase engagement at the Bright meadows panel, moving the time to ensure it is immediately following a stay and play for example and promoting this in their outreach work. We are monitoring this and plan to see it grow as it continues.

3.3.2 Parent Demographics

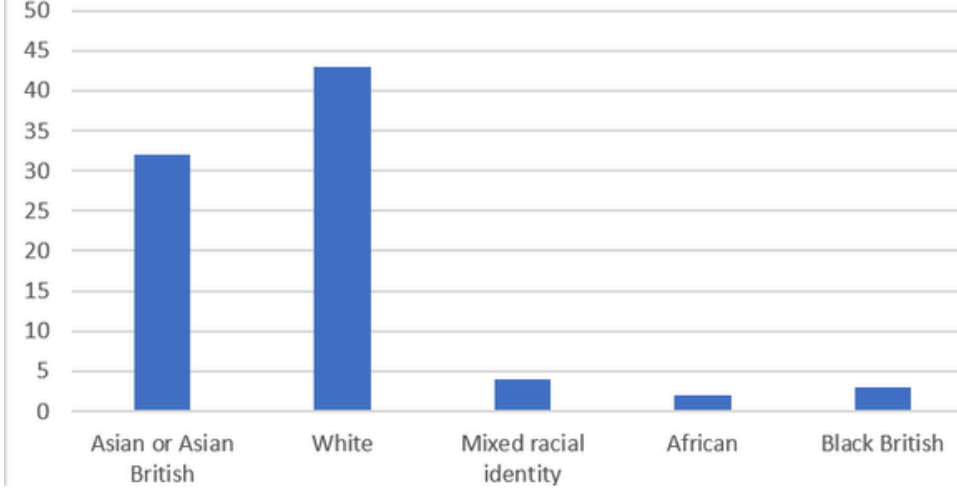
Age



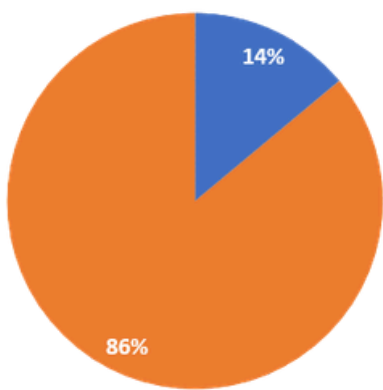
Postcode



Ethnicity



Gender



3.3.4 Parent and Carer Panel Feedback

Parent/Carer Panel - Harvey Best Start Family Hub

Nine parents/carers attended. Lizzie, Senior Family Hub Practitioner, led a session on developing a breastfeeding friendly scheme across Bolton. Breastfeeding rates locally remain low. Parents and carers provided their feedback and thoughts on the design and accessibility of the scheme, discussing barriers and opportunities, helping to shape next steps.

Parent/Carer Panel - Bright Meadows Best Start Family Hub

Six parents/carers attended. The session focused on session structure, timing and content. Feedback was very positive overall, with sessions described as “brilliant” and “good”.

Parents asked for longer sessions, as they feel one hour in stay and play is not enough for young children to settle. Family fun time with snacks and HAF provision are popular. Opinions differed on afternoon sessions, with school pick-ups (3:20 – 3:30) clashing with the 3:15 start. Popular suggestions included water and creative play, clear session themes, groups for home-schooled children, and an age-band split into 0 to 2 and 3 to 5 years. Tea and coffee in lidded cups and outdoor space for families with age-restricted children were also requested. Lizzie shared that SEND funding is in motion for early identification and tailored sessions in future. On wellbeing, counselling, parents discussed the iThrive programme, and Qwell (adult mental health). Lizzie informed parents that a booklet is to be distributed via post and GP surgeries, to highlight the services available to adults.



Bolton Toy Library

3.4 Progress During the Quarter: Expansion of Stay and Play Provision for under Fives

In both the Start Well Commission and Best Start Family Hub commission of Stay and Plays we are exceeding our targets. We currently deliver 12 Start Well funded sessions per week across Family Hubs, Start Well sites, and community centres. In addition, the Best Start Family Hub funded expansion supports the delivery of 15 sessions per week across those settings.

780 attendances
at stay and plays
this quarter!



Proud2bParents



The Hub Westhoughton

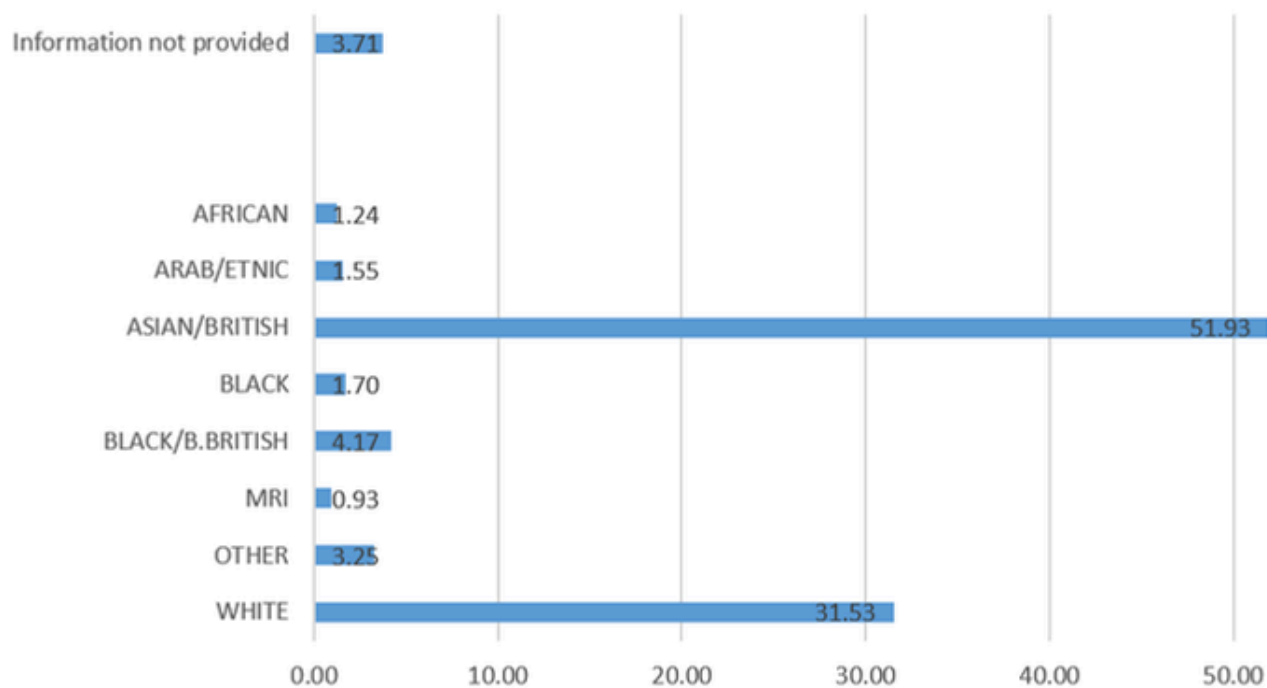
3.4.1 Quantitative Data

Programme	Families Reached
Family Hub Funded Stay and Plays	Total Unique Adult 216 Total Unique Child 264
Start Well Commission	Total Unique Adult 431 Total Unique Child 516

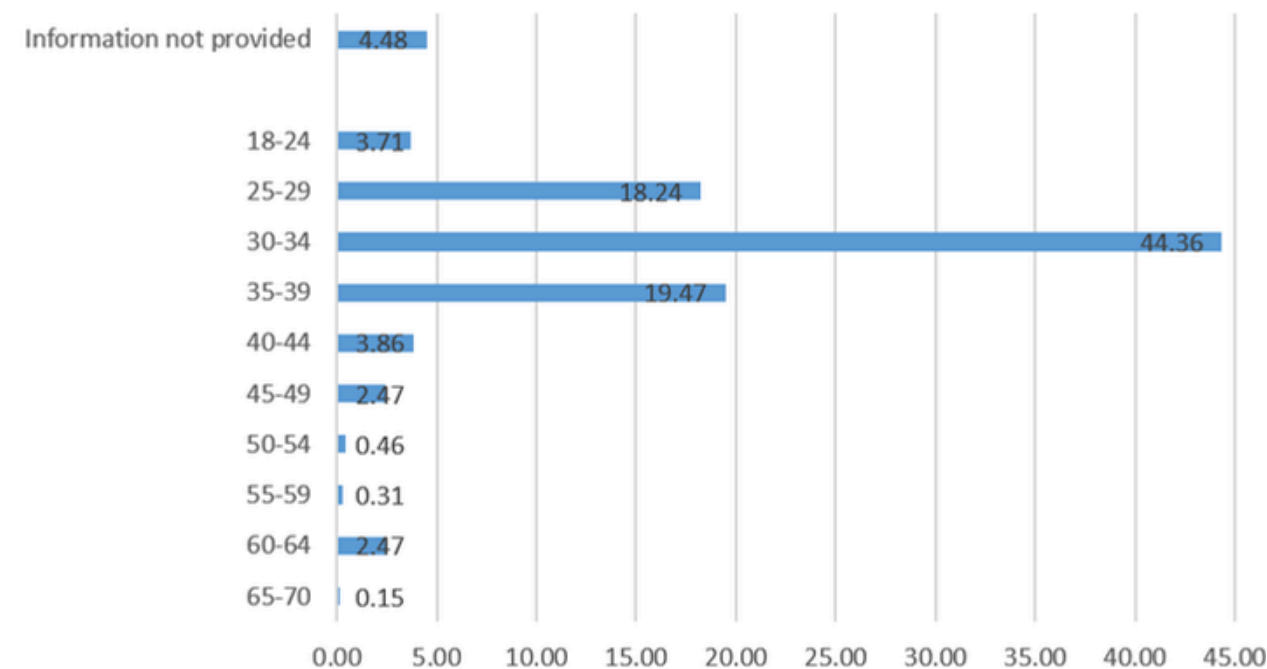
3.4.2 Stay and Play Parent Demographics

This data is representative of both Start Well and Family Hub Funded provision.

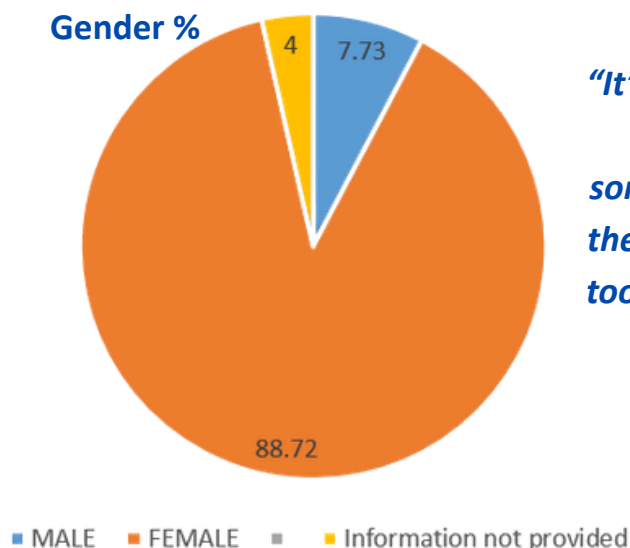
Ethnicity %



Age %



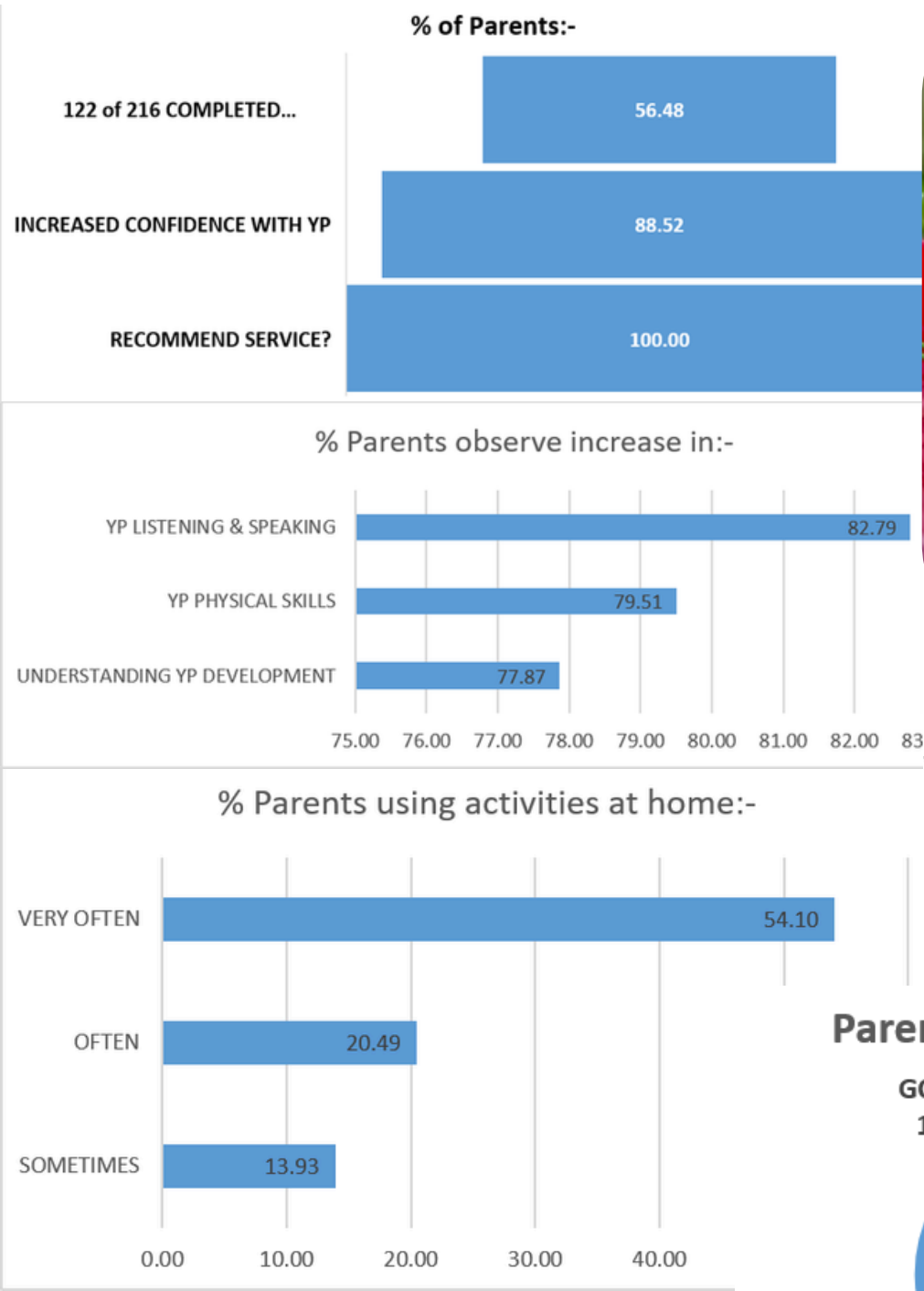
Gender %



"It's been lovely to see K's confidence. He didn't need much support from me and was happy to go off and find something to do. And L, started off quite reserved but over the course of the block, she has really come out of her shell too and been asking for forest school every week. Now that it's finished, she still asks when we are going back."

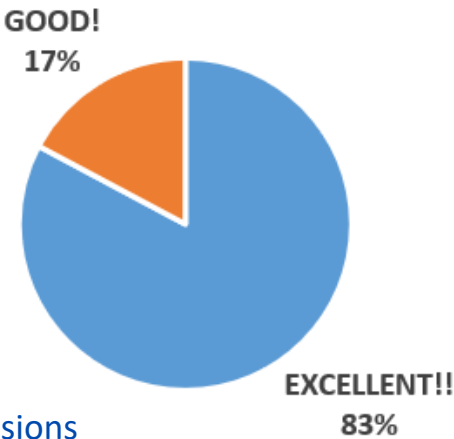
Little Bats Learning Beneficiary

3.4.3 Questionnaire Feedback: Family Hub Funded Stay and Play Sessions



Bolton Toy Library

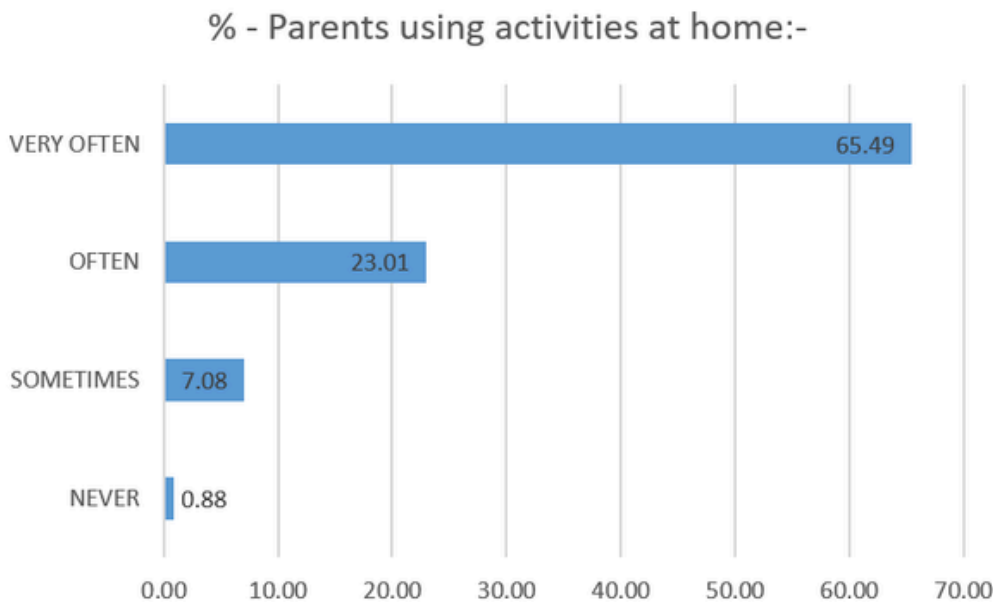
Parents found sessions:-



Feedback from Family Hub Funded Stay and Play sessions was overwhelmingly positive. Parents reported an 78% increase in understanding of child development, with the majority rating sessions as excellent and over half using the activities at home very often.

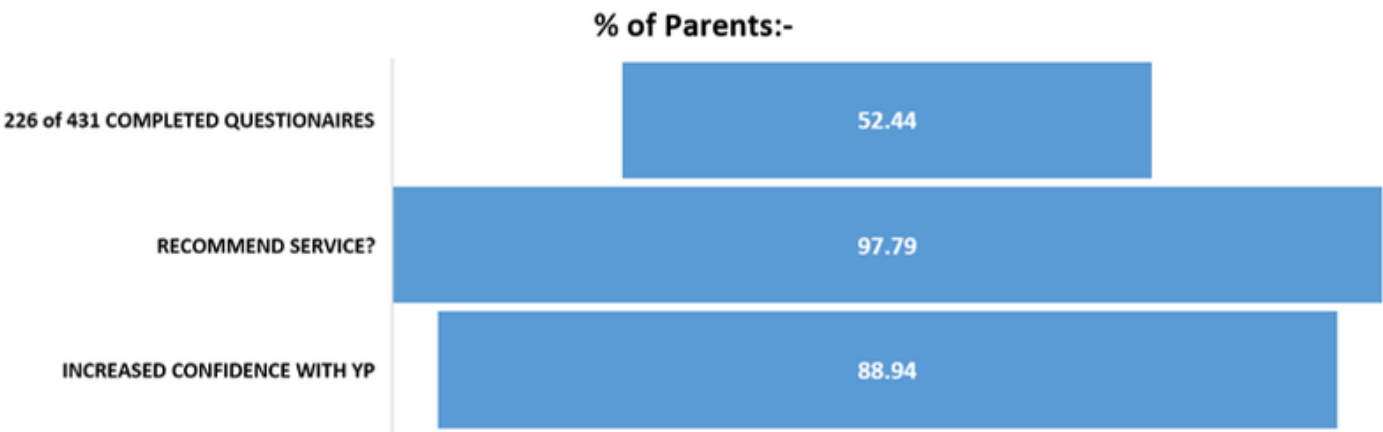
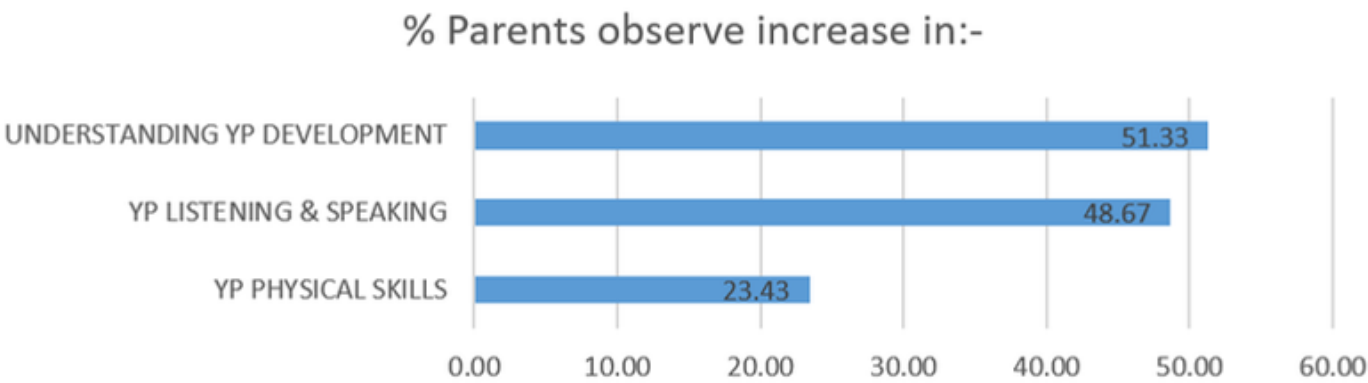
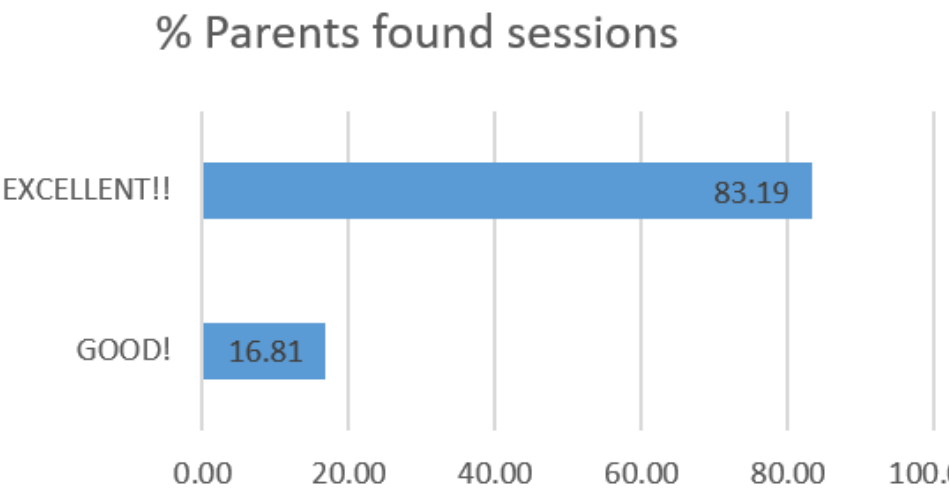
“My child really enjoys the singing time element of the session that the staff put on for us, it allows my child to express herself and sing along but also dance too.” BWITC Beneficiary

Questionnaire Feedback: Start Well



89% have increased confidence with baby!

To increase the number of parents and carers completing outcome measures, we will work with providers to explore creative approaches to this in the next quarter.



3.5 Progress During the Quarter: Togetherness (The Solihull Approach)

Feedback from the Togetherness Parenting Groups this quarter was overwhelmingly positive. Between April and June 2026, 14 parents attended the groups and 8 (57%) completed the evaluation form. All respondents said they would recommend the groups to other parents, with 100% reporting high satisfaction, improvements in their parenting, and positive changes in their relationship with their child at home.

“I have learned to have more understanding of how my actions can make kids feel and I can reflect on in their life”

Families Together - Togetherness Beneficiary



April to June 2026 - Catch Up and Attendance Data

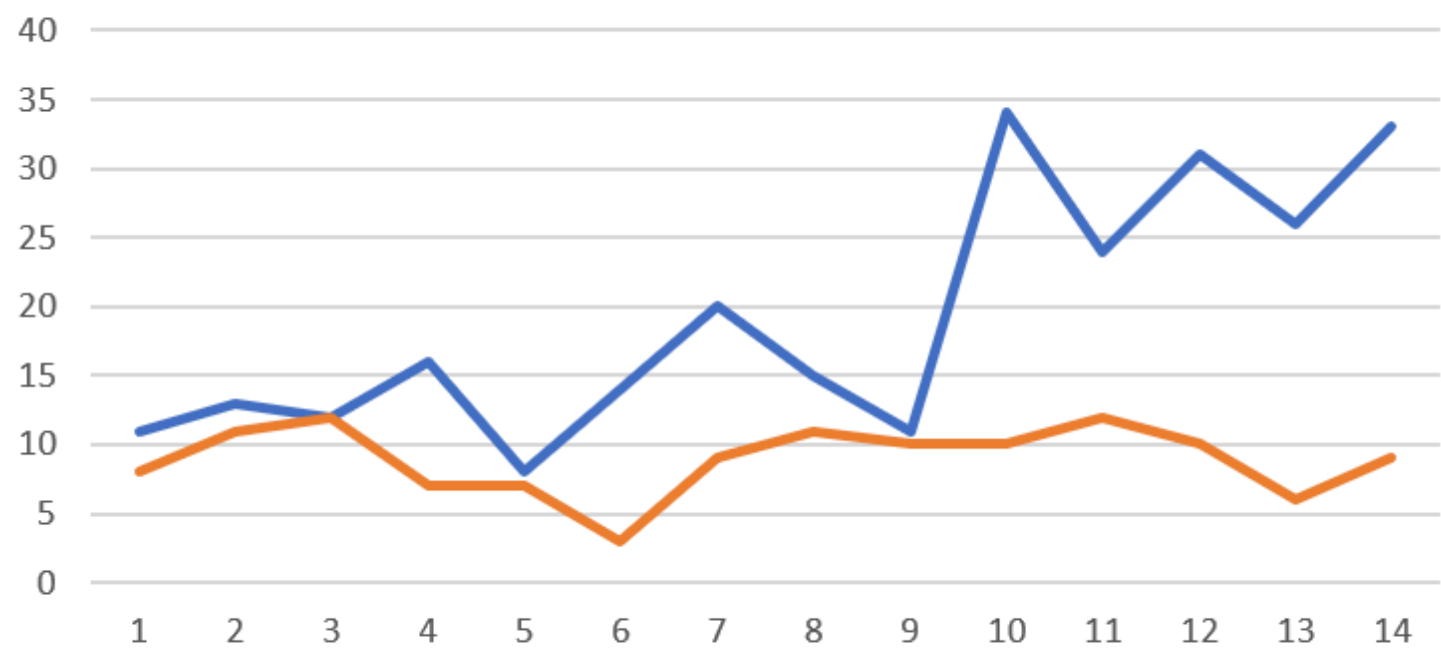
Start Date	End Date	Location	Completion and Attendance
30.04.2026	09.07.2026	Farnworth Family Hub	83% Completed 6 attended week 1 and 5 attended week 10, 17 Catch Up Sessions Delivered
01.05.2026	0.07.2026	Oxford Grove	100% Completed 8 attended week 1 and 8 attended week 10, 14 Catch Up Sessions

Between April to June , 14 people either started or completed the Togetherness Parenting Groups. The referrals came from

- 0-19 Service - 2
- Family Hub Practitioner - 2
- Self Referral - 7
- Social Worker - 3

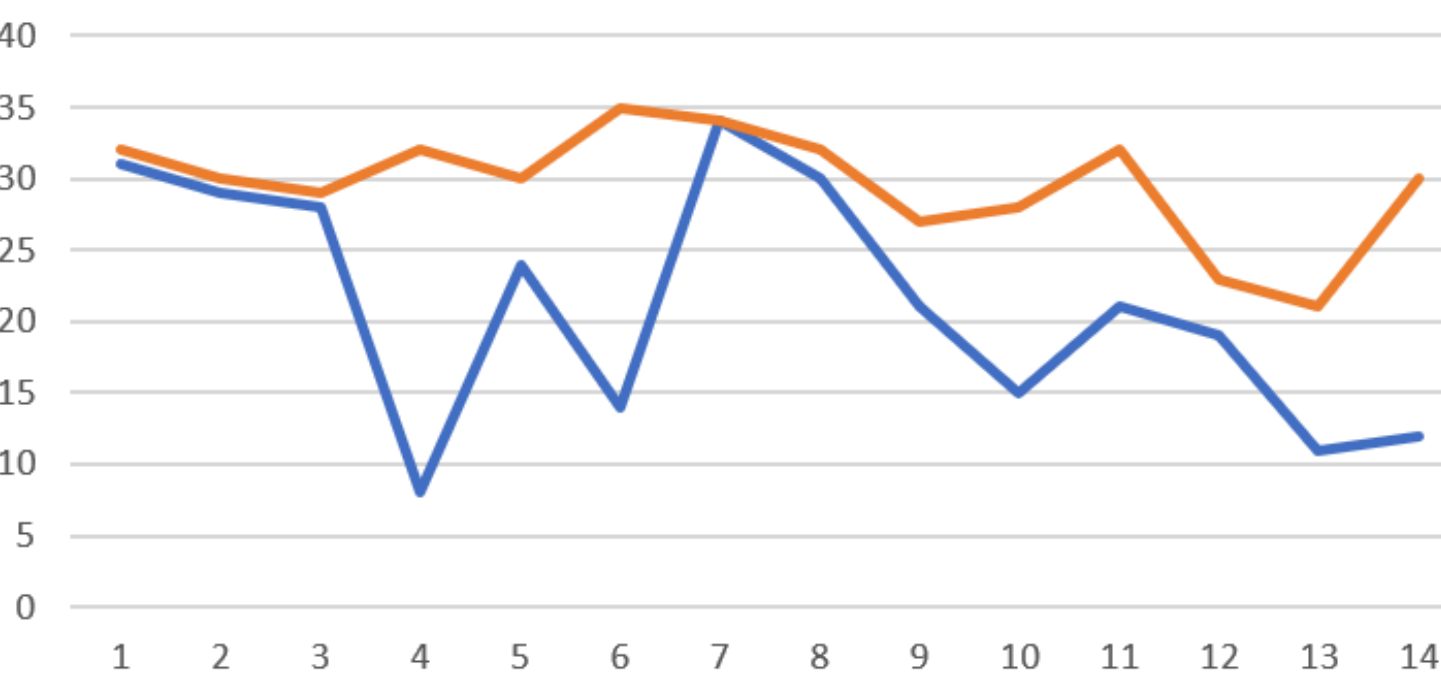
Attendees also heard about the Togetherness Groups from: Families Together, Home-Start HOST, Nurseries, Schools, The Best Start Family Hub Guide, Health Visitors and Bolton at Home.

Invasion Score



The Invasion Scores graph compares data from Week 1 (blue line) and Week 10 (orange line). Week 1 shows higher volatility while week 10 shows less. Overall, Week 10 scores are lower and less variable, suggesting a reduction in invasion related concerns. The data indicates that interventions between Week 1 and Week 10 contributed to more consistent and lower invasion scores, reflecting improved outcomes for parents and carers.

Warmth Score

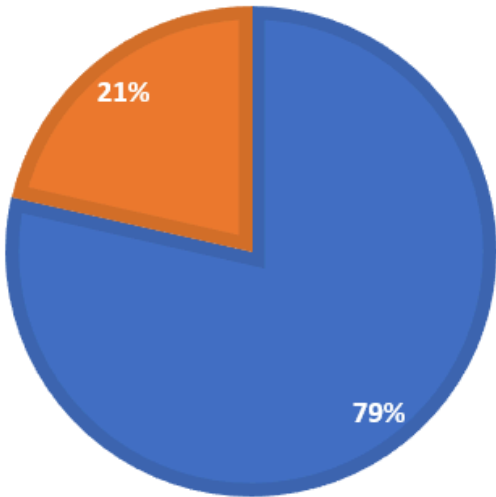


The Warmth Scores graph shows Week 1 (Blue Line) scores fluctuate, while Week 10 (Orange Line) scores are more stable, with fewer extreme highs or lows. Warmth Scores in Week 10 are often higher, suggesting improved warmth over time. The Week 10 scores suggests that warmth-related factors (e.g., emotional connection, responsiveness) have improved due to interventions.

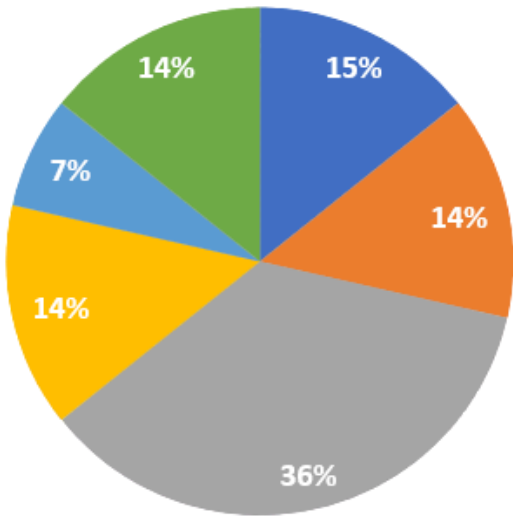
3.5.1 The Togetherness Parenting Programme Parent Demographics

Gender

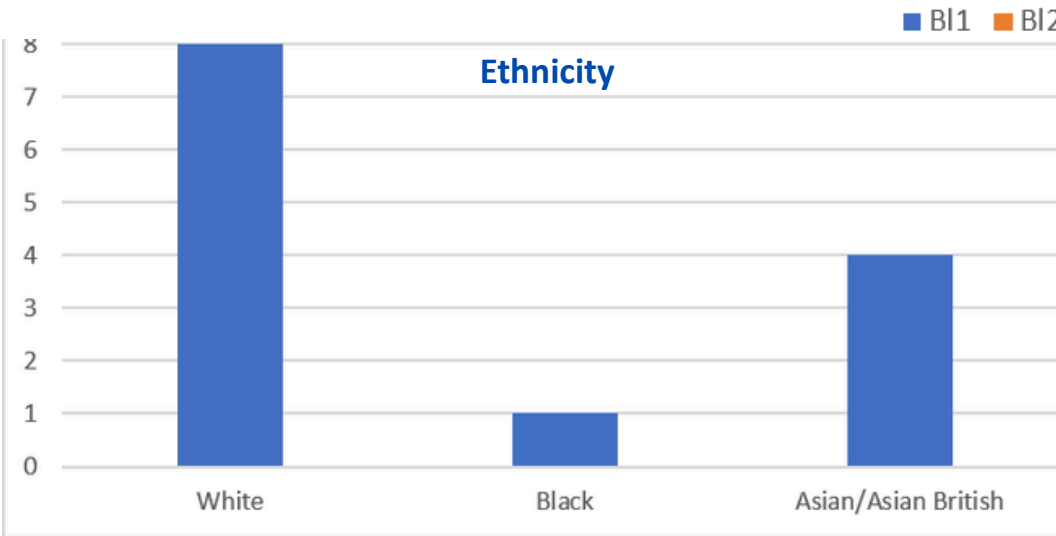
Female Male



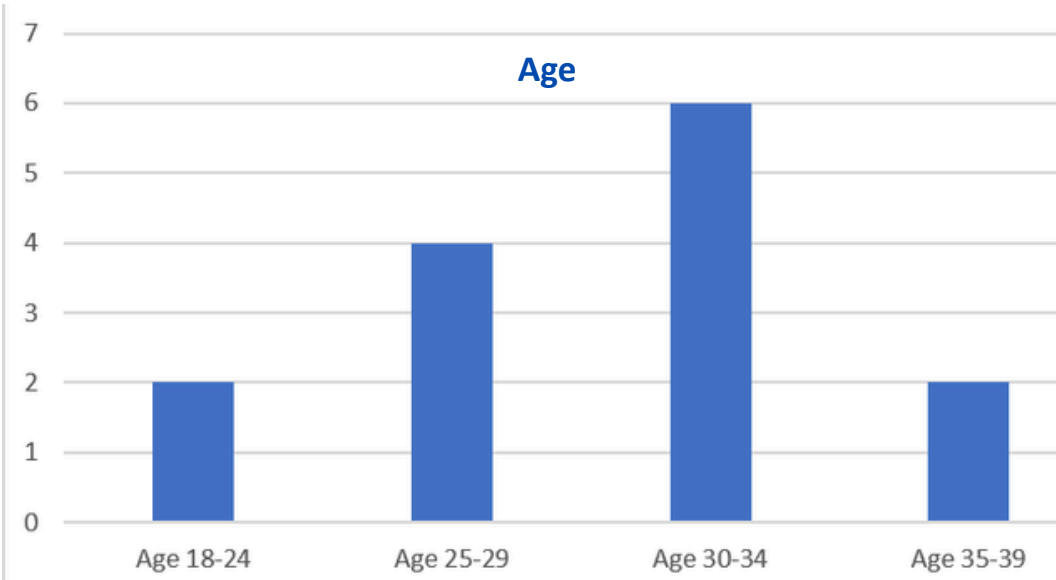
Postcode



Ethnicity



Age



“I learned how my child feels when I’m angry at him, I’ve worked on that and what makes me happy and what steps I’ve taken positive or negative” Families Together Beneficiary

The Togetherness Parenting Programme reaches a broad age range of parents and carers, with participation from both men and women. The data also shows a good spread across postcode areas in Bolton, demonstrating the programme is reaching families from across the borough. Feedback showcases how parents are reflecting on their responses more thoughtfully, understanding their child's feelings better, and making positive changes at home.



Case Studies and Testimonials

Bolton

Together

4.0 Case Studies and Testimonials

"The sessions have helped me as a parent to socialise with other mums who also attend the sessions, it's nice when you see similar faces turning up and coming over for a chat about how your week has been."



"I was so scared to come because my English is not perfect. But the staff made us feel like family. B is talking so much now, and I have finally made true friends here."



"We're really happy we have this and we can come along each week. It's important to us that our children are around other families like ours, and T enjoys coming so much and so do I."



"When I had my baby, I really wanted to breastfeed, but I found it much harder than I expected. In the first few days I was worried that my baby wasn't getting enough milk, so I used formula to make sure he was getting enough. Rosie came to see me, and she helped me understand how to know if my baby is getting enough milk and to increase my milk supply. Rosie gave me a pump which helped to increase my supply and my baby was much happier to breastfeed. I was using more formula but now I just give my baby the breast and some breastmilk in a bottle. Rosie stayed in touch to make sure I was ok and I knew I could contact her if I needed to. Thank you to everyone in the team who has taken the time to help me and support me, it means so much."



A mum and her 14-month-old daughter attended one of our sessions for the very first time as recommended by a family hub practitioner. Mum had never taken her child to any kind of play group before, and she does not attend nursery yet. Mum said she wanted to get her child used to playing with other children and to develop her speaking and communication skills. At first, they both presented as very shy and found it hard to engage in play opportunities together. The little girl stood and observed the other children playing and kept very close to mum. Mum did try to encourage her to choose something to play with, but they would both walk around the space without feeling able to engage with play or anyone else. The family continued to come to sessions each week. With encouragement and support from staff and other regular families that attend, they are now able to relax in the space and play well together. The little girl has grown in confidence and does not always need mum by her side. She engages with staff and sometimes with other children and parents/carers. Mum is very happy to see her child playing around and with other children and enjoys speaking to the other mums too. She is so glad she decided to attend. Mum said that her child has gradually got happier to play with other children and explores much more play opportunities. They have learnt new songs that they now sing at home and mum has purchased some new toys that her child has shown an interest in. Mum told me that the sessions have given her peace of mind that her child is developing well.



“Z has progressed in many ways since attending the Little Bats sessions. We get comments from parents whether we send her to nursery as her vocabulary and independence has developed more over the sessions. Attending little bats has made Z more in love with outdoor play. When we take her to parks, zoo, she loves pointing out the birds, flowers we see along the way. She has her own collection of stones, acorns, flowers which she has picked herself whilst we take her out. She also loves going on treasure hunts since Elanor introduced it in the sessions and mud play.”



“The range of activities has amazed me, I would never have thought of doing these things at home. It has really helped me to enjoy playing with my son, and I want to take all of this back home with me so other parents there can benefit too.”



A lady came to a few sessions of stay and play with her daughter and her friend. One week she opened up to me about how she hadn't been feeling well, she was struggling with tiredness and feeling anxious. We sat and chatted about how she was feeling and if anything had happened or was worrying her, I kept an eye on her daughter and tried to help by just listening. I signposted her to services and she was going to revisit her doctors to discuss how she was feeling. I also said I would give her a call to check how she was getting on. She came to stay and play the following week and we had a chat again. She said she was really grateful for the support she received and thanked me for my help. She was feeling a lot better and it had helped to talk it through with someone.



Dad was experiencing acute anxiety, depression and obsessive thoughts, leaving him feeling overwhelmed and affecting his confidence as a new parent. Dad found it difficult to process his experiences and was worried about unintentionally causing harm to his baby. He did not feel he had anyone he could talk to openly about becoming a father. He wanted practical guidance to help him understand his baby's needs and feel more confident in responding to her. Dad received regular telephone support from his Dad Matters Coordinator. Initial sessions focused on helping him process the birth experience, understand the factors contributing to his anxiety and OCD, and develop strategies to manage intrusive thoughts. As his confidence grew, sessions shifted towards strengthening the father-infant relationship, recognising the positive role he was already playing in his daughter's life and reinforcing the concept of being a 'good enough' parent. Practical guidance was also provided around understanding infant cues, responding to distress and age-appropriate soothing techniques. Over the course of support, Dad became noticeably calmer and more confident in his role as a father. He described feeling more emotionally present with his daughter and was able to enjoy spending time with her rather than worrying about making mistakes. He now feels better equipped to cope with the challenges of early parenthood and continues to access fortnightly support to maintain his progress and build his confidence further.



“I felt worried about coming to the group as English is not my first language. I felt very welcomed, and there was another lady who spoke Gujarati too, which made me feel better. The staff spent time making sure I understood each week and went through any paperwork with me to make sure I knew what it was. I feel like the course has helped me to understand what will happen as my baby gets older, and I understand how important it is to look after myself. I spend more time playing 1:1 with my baby now and make sure I let him lead the play too. I have also spoken with my husband about lots of things we covered, and we try to work together to make sure our baby is as happy as possible. I now plan to attend the Stay and Play groups as I find it good to be able to get out of the house, and I can ask any more questions that I have.”





Key Progress and Next Steps

Bolton

Together

5.0 Key Progress and Next Steps

5.1 Key Progress

This quarter we have confirmed funding allocations for providers for Year 4 onwards and continued contributing to the New Balance speech and language roll out. We contributed to the planning and coordination of the May Bump to Baby Fair and shared social media campaigns aligned with both Public Health and Best Start Family Hub campaigns, including Maternal Mental Health Week, Immunisations, Red Nose Day, and Child Safety Week. We co-designed the refresh of the Child Neglect Strategy and Toolkit as a Safeguarding Partnership Priority with input from members, and promoted key messages and World Book Day alongside our members. We worked with the Infant Feeding Team to ensure the new Infant Feeding Policy is part of our, and our providers' staff inductions for those staff working in Best Start Family Hubs. We also held regular meetings with Family Hub teams to ensure positive partnerships and joined-up delivery. We supported Recreate U with the development, coordination and promotion of the Learning Languages Together Project, and contributed to the Summer Family Hub Guide. Lastly, we recruited to our new Senior Project Officer: Children and Families role.

Next Steps

To sustain and amplify our impact, Bolton Together will focus on the following next steps:

- Contribute to the parenting strategy group.
- Share feedback from Parent and Carer Panels and work with partners to address this.
- Collaborate with midwives, health visitors, and GP surgeries to boost referrals to Dad Matters, Home-Start HOST, and perinatal mental health services.
- Finalise and promote the Dads Infant Feeding Resource, created in consultation with Breastfeeding Together and the Bolton Infant Feeding Team.
- Continue implementing training for staff and volunteers to ensure evidence-based, reflective practice.
- Monitor and adapt services based on quantitative and qualitative data, with a focus on reducing health inequalities and improving long-term outcomes for children and families.
- Finalise plans for the Bolton Together Annual Event on 24th November 2026, showcasing achievements and gathering stakeholders to celebrate progress and set future goals.
- Finalise Individual provider contracts for the new delivery in September.
- Induct our new member of staff.
- Implement creative approaches to gathering outcomes with families.

6.0 Summary

April to June 2026 marked a period of continued progress for Bolton Together and our network of providers delivering the Best Start Family Hub Programme. Key achievements included:

- Infant Feeding: Expanded support through home visits, drop-in groups, and antenatal clinics, reaching 111 new mums with home visits and 707 parents at Bolton Foundation Trust Hospital. 100% of parents reported improved outcomes in breastfeeding, parenting, and peer support, with targeted interventions for young parents and multilingual communities.

- Perinatal Mental Health (PIMH): 100% of parents receiving one-to-one or peer support reported increased confidence in caring for their babies, with 94% feeling better equipped to build strong relationships. Initiatives like Dad Matters and Home-Start HOST provided tailored support, including culturally sensitive outreach.
- Parent Engagement: Parent and Carer Panels grew in participation, with feedback shaping session structures, accessibility, and thematic content. Families called for longer sessions, outdoor spaces, and age-specific groups, reinforcing our commitment to co-design.
- Stay and Play Provision: There were 780 attendances from children at stay and plays this quarter, with 100% of parents rating sessions as good or excellent and 99% using activities at home.
- Togetherness (Solihull Approach): Achieved a 93% completion rate, with 100% of parents reporting improved parenting skills and stronger relationships with their children. MORS SF My Baby outcomes showed reduced invasion scores (less variability in stress-related concerns) and sustained warmth scores, indicating enhanced emotional security for children.
- Outreach: Initiatives like Toy Library on the Road and Eid celebrations connected isolated families to services, while Dad Matters addressed the unique needs of fathers through professionals workshops and peer support.

Case studies underscored the transformative power of our programme, helping a lone mum in temporary accommodation to supporting a dad overcoming anxiety after a traumatic birth. Family stories reflect our holistic, family-centered approach, where early intervention, emotional support, and practical guidance work together to create lasting change.



“The voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector is an integral part of local health and care systems. VCSE organisations deliver key services that support the health and wellbeing of the population. In addition, they contribute vital insight and intelligence on the needs of the people and communities they engage with and are frequently a route to engaging with communities themselves.”

(NHS England -

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/a-framework-for-addressing-practical-barriers-to-integration-of-vcse-organisations-in-integrated-care-systems/>)

Please click any logo to visit our Early Years Programme Providers' websites.



We extend our thanks to our providers, commissioners and partners for their continued collaboration to improve outcomes for families in Bolton, ensuring every child has the best start in life.

For more information please contact Bolton Together Head of Programmes and Partnerships: Katrina.fletcher@boltontogogether.org.uk or call 07756286407

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Working Together to Support Children, Young People and Families
Registered Charity in England and Wales (1163466)

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