

Public Document Pack



The following reports are Information Items for the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee.

- 1 Wellbeing Objectives 2018-23
- 2 Individual Pupil Funding
- 3 Anti Poverty Programme Annual Update



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FOR INFORMATION

SUBJECT: WELLBEING OBJECTIVE 2018-23

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION & CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is for information for Members for the 6 month implementation of the Wellbeing Objective 2018-23.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Wellbeing Objective 1 aims to improve education opportunities for everyone. This report highlights the progress at the 6 month stage for information.
- 2.2 Although at the start of the 5 year plan there is much work already in progress to improve educational outcomes in the long term as highlighted in 4.2. Currently progress is on track and there is no risk to delivering on the targets/steps listed.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Wellbeing Objective 1 aims to maximise our contribution towards the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016:
- *A prosperous Wales* – this Wellbeing Objective aims to improve the educational attainment of children and young people which will enable them to access skills or further education and employment.
 - *A healthier Wales* – this Wellbeing Objective recognises the need to support the mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and their families.
 - *A more equal Wales* – the Wellbeing Objective is aimed particularly to support the children and young people who are most vulnerable to under achievement to close the attainment gap. In addition parents are improving their literacy skills and confidence in order to support their own and their child's learning journey, inspiring the next generation.
 - *A globally responsible Wales* – wellbeing of children, young people and families will be supported as part of the Wellbeing Objective to reduce the gap in attainment and make positive contributions to society.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Wellbeing Objective 1 aims to improve education opportunities for everyone.

4.2 Although at the start of the 5 year plan some of the key areas of work to date are listed below under the steps / target areas:

1. Aim to reduce the impact of poverty within early years.
 - Flying Start continues to deliver with more than 2500 children aged 0-3 years being supported in the programme. There is a focus on improving take up and attendance with new ways of working being piloted in Sept 2018 for example, health visitors delivering baby clinics at the same time as Tiny Talkers speech and language groups to improve take up and attendance and consistency of key messages.
 - Wales Audit Office is using this step to evaluate CCBC's application of the 5 ways of working to the corporate plan.
 - Families First projects have worked with 3763 individuals in the first 6 months. 842 of 884 (95%) participants worked with reported improved emotional / mental wellbeing
 - The Childcare Offer has received more than 1000 applications from parents of 3-4 year olds eligible for support with childcare costs. Term 1 (Sep 17-Dec 17) = 98; Term 2 (Jan 18-Mar 18) = 412; Term 3 (Apr 18-Aug 18) = 526. The majority of applications are from main parents earning less than £26,000 per year (69%). 13% of applications in term 3 were from Flying Start areas. 22% of applications in term 3 were from single parents.
2. Raise standards of attainment.
3. Reduce the impact of poverty on attainment for both vocational and non-vocational qualifications to provide equality of opportunity.
 - The role of Person Centred Planning (PCP) champions has been developed across clusters of schools and person centred practice is being embedded in school. School are completing an ALN readiness survey in order to evaluate their progress against the requirements of the Act.
 - 500 people visited the Live Vacancy Event on 21/6/18 and a further event will take place on 7/3/18 to coincide with National Apprenticeship week.
4. Help those who are not able to follow a traditional attainment path.
 - A review of curriculum delivery for EOTAs has been undertaken and outcomes will be used to shape delivery going forward.
 - All schools are now responsible for arranging their own training in relation to team teach. The LA maintains a database of training received.
 - The review of additional support, and EOTAS is ongoing.
5. Support learning that enables young and adult employment opportunities including a focus on 'future skills'
 - The 3 ESF employability projects have been extended until the end of 2022. Bridges into Work 2 has supported 406 participants to improve their employability skills, 231 have gained qualifications, 73 have completed voluntary placements and 73 have gained employment. Working Skills for Adults 2 has supported 345 participants and 224 have gained qualifications.
 - Inspire 2 Work has also been extended to 2022. The project has supported 160 NEET young people, 95 have gained qualifications, 40 have gained employment and 9 have progressed to further learning opportunities.
 - Llamaus Moving Forward project which is targeted at 18 to 24 year olds, has been incorporated into our Progress Scheme which is for 16 to 18 year olds. Since April 2018, 4 young people have engaged with the scheme.
6. Improve 'Digital Skills' for all ages.
 - Adult Community Education provides a range of Digital Literacy courses throughout the borough in community venues and accepts referrals from individuals and organisations, including the three employability programmes. We can also provide separate digital literacy courses on request.

7. Improve the learning environment.
 - The Authority are currently preparing a financial plan for Council to consider which will outline the funding proposals for the Authority's contribution to the 21st Century Band B project (£39M). Subject to member approval of the funding mechanism this will be followed early in the spring term with a project plan for the full Band B programme for members to consider. It is hoped that the submission of the first business cases will quickly follow the commencement of the WG programme of April 2019.
 8. Safeguard all children and young people in order to create a climate for learning, particularly for those most vulnerable.
 - The LA has developed a range of intervention regarding building capacity and is working with EAS and regional partners to develop broader strategies focusing on wellbeing in order to develop the LA strategy for supporting wellbeing, developing capacity and implementation of interventions to support vulnerable children.
 - The LA has proposed a sustainable delivery model for safeguarding training which will start in January 2019.
- 4.3 The data set will be presented annually using the academic year data available in that year so will likely reflect academic year 2017/18 in May / June 2019 report.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act. The long term strategy is to reduce the attainment gap, develop a well skilled well educated workforce able to contribute positively to society.
- 5.2 Integration and collaboration through partnership working supports a coordinated approach for children, young people and their families aiming towards a long term prevention of poverty through improved educational outcomes.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The improvement of attainment outcomes are for all children and young people although particularly those most vulnerable to underachievement. This may positively discriminate through specific targeted interventions.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no additional financial implications of this Wellbeing Objective although there may be better use of both core and grant funding through collaborative partnerships developed.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications within this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 All responses from consultations have been incorporated in the report

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Members are requested to scrutinise the content of the report and to agree or challenge the judgement of partially successful at the full year stage in respect of the Well-being Objective assessment.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 Members are requested to scrutinise the content of the report and to agree or challenge the judgement of partially successful at the full year stage in respect of the Well-being Objective assessment.

12. STATUTORY POWERS

- 12.1 Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

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EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – INFORMATION ITEM

SUBJECT: INDIVIDUAL PUPIL FUNDING

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to provide Members with an overview of funding to Schools and the subsequent issues to be aware of with regards to comparative data contained in statistical documents relating to per pupil funding.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Report outlines the funding, the stages involved in the setting of school budgets and the issues to be aware of when reviewing statistical data in relation to per pupil funding.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The report considers the use of resources within the Directorate to ensure that key strategies are achieved.

- 3.2 Effective financial planning and financial controls contribute to the Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015. In particular as follows:

A healthier Wales, supporting vulnerable learners can improve their well-being and educational achievement.

A more equal Wales, a society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background is; and

A Wales of cohesive communities, improving quality of life with attractive, viable, safe and well connected communities.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Process for setting school budgets

- 4.1.1 Members will be aware that the majority of funding for pre-16 provision in maintained schools is from the Local Authority, which in turn comes through as part of the annual settlement from Welsh Government. There are many factors that are built into Welsh Governments formula for the allocation of funding. The Authority's funding is further supported through money raised from the council tax. The annual budget process within the Authority will allocate funding to all areas of the Authority's services, including schools.

- 4.1.2 Each year decisions are made by the Authority with regards to the distribution of funds and savings targets to be achieved. This process enables the Authority to set a balanced budget for the year ahead. In February of each year a report is presented to Council outlining the budget strategy, which includes funding levels allocated directly to schools through the Schools Formula and allocations to the Directorate of Education & Lifelong Learning, which further supports our schools.
- 4.1.3 Once Council approves the amount available directly to schools, the school formula methodology will allocate funds down to individual school level. It is important to point out that the formula methodology is unique to each Local Authority and that there is not one formula that all Local Authorities in Wales utilise. That said, each Local Authority's school formula is an open and transparent methodology for the allocation of funding to our schools and the major driver in the distribution of funds is pupil numbers. Each school receives a breakdown of the funding allocation for the coming year, providing an allocated amount known as the individual school budget (ISB). Each school Headteacher and Governing Body are then responsible for organising the spending plan. The setting of a detailed budget is very much part of the planning process within the school and is not set in isolation.
- 4.1.4 The majority of funding distributed to schools is on the basis of pupil numbers. The School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010 state that 70% of funding must be distributed on the basis of pupil numbers. Pupil numbers form part of all the following allocations within the formula (this list is not exhaustive):
- pupil teacher ratio (the ratios are set by the Local Authority and will vary for the age of the pupil)
 - additional support for non teaching staff in early years (nursery & reception only)
 - supply & relief cover costs
 - furniture & equipment (weightings on year groups in secondary)
 - administrative support, laboratory technicians; fixtures and fittings, printing, postage, telephones and refuse.
- 4.1.5 The balance of funding distributed relates to deprivation levels (i.e. Free School Meal numbers) and our school buildings. The funding for school buildings will include factors such as size (floor area) and conditions of the buildings and grounds, this will also include funding for national non domestic rates (NNDR).
- 4.1.6 In 2018-19 the Authority distributed £98m (ISB) directly to schools through the school formula.
- 4.1.7 In addition to the budget allocation that each school receives from the Authority, there are also a number of funding streams from Welsh Government to support the implementation of certain policies and priorities or target additional funding. These are often in the form of specific grants, such as the Education Improvement Grant (EIG) and the Pupil Development Grant (PDG).

4.2 **The Local Authority's Education budget**

- 4.2.1 In addition to the Individual School Budget (ISB) funding, the Authority also agrees a level of funding for the Education & Lifelong Learning Directorate. Included within this budget allocation are elements of funding that are also distributed to our schools, albeit outside of the formula mechanism. These include the following (based on 2018/19 figures):
- Additional Support Funding (circa £3.6m) – spend is targeted to provide additional support for pupils in mainstream schools (across primary and secondary). This spend relates predominantly to teaching assistants in our schools and we have a mixed economy in that central education has a bank of staff that are utilised in some of our schools, whilst some schools engage the staff themselves and receive funding.
 - Secondary Additional Funding (circa £1m) – allocated to secondary schools on a formula basis to assist with regards to reducing redundancies.

- Former Key Stage 2 grant (circa £1.3m) – pupil led class sizes funding (juniors).
- School Meal Admin. & Utilities Reimbursement (£424k) – is driven by school meal uptake in schools. This funding supports the impact on the school with regards to the administrative arrangements around school meals and the impact on utility costs associated with the catering provision.
- Relief Supply Costs (circa £467k) - supply cover costs linked to sickness in our Special Resource Bases and Maternity costs across all sectors. This funding is currently allocated to schools outside of the formula, thus ensuring that it is allocated to schools in the year that the absence occurs. This enables the school to make arrangements for the appropriate cover.

4.2.2 The approach taken by each Local Authority with regards to what is included as part of the schools formula (ISB) and what is retained as part of the central Education budget (and distributed by different means) will vary, as will the relative funding levels allocated.

4.3 Per Pupil comparative data

4.3.1 Whilst per pupil funding is utilised in Welsh Government statistics, there are a number of factors that we need to be mindful of:

- Formula Allocation (ISB) – whilst the majority of funding distributed to our schools through the formula methodology is pupil driven, there are also large elements distributed based on floor area and conditions of buildings. Consequently pupil numbers (year groups / class sizes), floor area and buildings will be unique to each of our 86 schools. The amount of ISB funding will be specific to each school and therefore the per pupil funding level for each school in the Borough will be different. This is because the analysis is quite simplistic, simply the amount of the ISB funding divided by the number of pupils.
- On the Stats Wales site, the analysis compares Local Authorities by taking the total ISB funding divided by total pupil numbers. Due to the reasons identified in para 4.2, this immediately creates an issue with regards to comparability. This is not just because the formula methodologies vary and funding levels are different but also because the ISB funding per pupil is based on the school formula allocation only and does not include other funding distributed through different means. Consequently, when reviewing comparative data of per pupil funding it would be more appropriate to look at the ISB plus non ISB funds devolved to schools.

4.3.2 It is certainly informative to review and consider comparative Local Authority data on per pupil funding. That said we need to be mindful that the statistics do not always provide a direct comparison, they are though a useful tool as part of any financial analysis and review.

4.3.3 The following per pupil indicators (2018/19) are on the Stats Wales website and present quite a different position. This demonstrates the need to consider and review the different indicators that review per pupil funding.

- Individual schools budget per pupil at an All Wales level - £4,291
- Individual schools budget per pupil in Caerphilly - £3,805 (22nd lowest)

This is the funding allocated directly by the formula only.

- Gross schools budgeted expenditure per pupil (includes centrally funded) – All Wales level - £5,675
- Gross schools budgeted expenditure per pupil (includes centrally funded) – Caerphilly - £5,660 (14th highest)

This includes formula driven and centrally funded school budgets.

4.4 School funding levels in recent years within the Authority

- 4.4.1 In 2018/19 schools were allocated budgetary growth of £547k this funding forms part of the Individual Schools Budget. In 2018/19, £98m is delegated directly through the formula. Within this allocation schools are required to fund pay, price and any other in year pressures.
- 4.4.2 In February 2018 the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for schools was reported to Council as part of the Budget Report 2018/19. The position at this point in time assumed that schools would receive an annual uplift in funding of 1.25% from 2019/20 to 2022/23, subject to review as the Authority's savings requirements became clearer. The February 2018/19 report identified a projected shortfall for schools in 2018/19 of 1.68%, 1.15% for 2019/20, 0.90% for 2020/21, 1.10% for 2021/22 and 1.26% for 2022/23. Members will be aware that this information is currently being refreshed following details of indicative funding for 2019/20 from Welsh Government and work around budget proposals for the coming financial year.
- 4.4.3 To date schools in the Borough have received a level of protection with regards to funding levels, when compared to other service areas within the Authority.

4.5 School Reserves

- 4.5.1 The Authority produces annual data with regards to the level of school reserves held at the end of each financial year. This information is included as part of the Section 52 Outturn Return to Welsh Government. In turn this data is published by Welsh Government to provide an annual picture on school reserves across Wales. The details with regards to the Caerphilly schools position at the end of financial year 2017/18 are attached in Appendix 1.
- 4.5.2 The annual funding allocation to our schools and changes in pupil numbers at a local level will obviously impact the projected financial position for our schools, which in turn impacts on school reserves. Finance support provided to our schools through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) will utilise information with regards to the balances position when projecting the outturn position for the current and 2 future years. At the end of financial year 2017/18, the total schools carry forward balance stood at £2.039m. To advise this position was distorted by the overspend position on Cwmcarn High (circa £1m), this was expected and is part of the budget strategy for 2018/19.
- 4.5.3 Under the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010, where schools reserves exceed a certain threshold, the Authority can direct the school to spend the surplus amount. The thresholds are either 5% of formula funding or £50k for a primary and £100k for a secondary school. If a school exceeds the designated level they are required to provide the Authority with a spend plan to reduce and this is reviewed as part of financial monitoring. It is important to note that the Authority's schools received late notification of funding from the building maintenance grant (£845k) and this did impact on the balances position at year end. That said the receipt of this funding was positive for our schools.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 Effective financial management is a key element in ensuring that the Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 are met.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct equality implications to this report, therefore no Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no financial implications as a consequence of this Information Report.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no personnel implications as a consequence of this Information Report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been reflected in this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this report.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Follows a request from Members for information on per pupil funding.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 Local Government Act 1972.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1: Summary of School Balances as at 31st March 2018

APPENDIX 1

	Carry Over Balance 2016-17	Formula 2017-18	Funding 2017-18	Actual Expenditure 2017-18	Carry Over Balance 2017-18	Movement In Balances	Balance as a Percentage of Formula
Primary.	1,914,973	51,936,199	53,851,172	51,607,050	2,244,122	329,149	4.32%
Secondary.	21,773	43,237,122	43,258,895	43,740,364	- 481,469	- 503,242	-1.11%
Special.	395,216	3,357,000	3,752,216	3,476,062	276,154	- 119,062	8.23%
	2,331,962	98,530,321	100,862,283	98,823,476	2,038,807	- 293,155	2.07%

SUMMARY				
	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
		£		
2016-17	1,914,973	21,773	395,216	2,331,962
2017-18	2,244,122	- 481,469	276,154	2,038,807
Increase/-Decrease	329,149	- 503,242	- 119,062	- 293,155
% Increase/Decrease	17%	-2311%	-30%	-13%

Note - the balances position for Secondary Schools is distorted by the Cwmcarn High position - overspend of £1,032k. Provision identified as part of the 2018/19 budget strategy. To be reviewed on closure.



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - INFORMATION ITEM

SUBJECT: ANTI POVERTY PROGRAMME ANNUAL UPDATE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is for information for members to understand the annual impact of the antipoverty programmes over 2017/18.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The four programmes are distinct from each other in purpose but complimentary in their objectives and outcomes for families. Working collaboratively the programmes have maximised their reach and therefore outcomes as well as preventing duplication in design and delivery.

- 2.2 The programmes have distinct elements but a synergy which has resulted in Welsh Government moving to two funding streams in 2019/20 to enable greater collaboration moving forward:

- Children and Communities Grant (Flying Start, Families First, Legacy Fund, Communities for Work Plus, Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People, Childcare and Play and St David's Day Fund) and
- A Housing Support Grant (Supporting People, Homelessness Prevention and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement)

- 2.3 All annual programme reports are included as Appendices. The report shows there has been increased collaboration maximising services to children, young people, adults and families in 2017/18.

- 485 families were supported through the Families First TAF model
- More than 2500 children aged 0-3 were supported through the Flying Start programme
- Communities First worked with 339 young people during their transition plan
- Supporting People floating support and accommodation based support has been delivered, for vulnerable adults / families, by 40 agencies offering flexibility in delivery working across the borough in partnership with other services.

- 2.4 Welsh Government have indicated that budgets for 2019/20 will be standstill which is a favourable position rather than the 5% cut which had been previously considered. However, there is understanding that there are still pressures on budgets with programmes being primarily staff delivery costs rather than other aspects which if reduced would have less affect on frontline services.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The antipoverty programmes deliver across the CCBC Wellbeing Plan Objectives including:
- Wellbeing Objective 1 Improve Education outcomes for all
 - Wellbeing Objective 2 Enabling employment
 - Wellbeing Objective 3 Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's well-being
 - Wellbeing Objective 5 Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
 - Wellbeing Objective 6 Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being
- 3.2 The antipoverty programmes together aim to maximise our contribution towards the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016:
- *A prosperous Wales*
 - The programmes aim to support children, young people, adults and families to achieve their personal goals which may include raising aspirations, children's development, attainment, employability skills, increase attendance at provision and build life skills for their future. In addition they support families to improve their resilience, financial management, parenting skills, language and literacy skills as well as support them to gain confidence to move on to employment support programmes, which aim to support and grow our economy.
 - *A resilient Wales*
 - Many of the programmes encourage delivery of and use of local community based provision for sustainability of local resources. All childcare settings and schools as well as some of the projects funded are signed up to the Healthy Schools, Healthy colleges, Healthy Early Years and healthy snacks schemes which also include Eco Schools / Early Years, and encourage children, young people and their families to use the indoors / outdoors natural environment.
 - *A healthier Wales*
 - The Healthy schemes are embedded into practice across many of the programmes projects, childcare settings, and group based provision encouraging healthy eating and activity, as well as reinforcing healthy behaviour messages, like no smoking, and advice on misuse of substances. There are also key health messages throughout the various projects and a specific project that encourages establishing healthy behaviours from the antenatal period. Using local community based provision for delivery of the programmes encourages walking rather than driving to settings and groups. New projects commissioned are also exploring transport training so that families are supported to access public transport.
 - *A more equal Wales*
 - The programmes have a main objective to reduce the impact of poverty on children, young people, adults and families through supporting them to access interventions, building confident and resilient communities and promoting positive development and attainment. Some of the programmes aim to early identify children with additional needs and support their parents to be able to support their child's development. Some programmes also link with employment based programmes to encourage adults to take up opportunities to return / start employment.
 - *A Wales of cohesive communities*
 - Through the collaboration of the programmes the geographical limitations have been overcome. Although a criticism of Flying Start and Communities First programmes are the geographical targeting of postcodes, this also acts as a way to support those communities in the most concentrated areas of need. The geographical nature enables targeting of resources; creation of well resourced quality community based provision and builds a value to their local area, which other families want to access. However, Supporting People and Families First cover the whole borough so that families in need are able to access relevant provision to meet their needs. Collaboratively the

programmes support safe, confident communities by minimising the chances of young people escalating through the criminal justice system and supporting the strategic planning for families subjected to domestic violence.

- *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
 - Improving understanding of culture and using conversational Welsh language across provision and especially in the schools and childcare settings has been embedded throughout programme delivery. Childcare settings are working on a quality assurance scheme called the Road to Bilingualism which identifies their current practice and targets for improvements. Facebook pages and communications are now bilingual so that choices can be made as well as having translation into other languages as needed.
- *A globally responsible Wales*
 - Wellbeing is embedded through practice across many of the programmes, including programme / project delivery and the new specification designs. The Solihull approach is being embedded across all staff teams to enable a common language and understanding of the importance of relationships and attachment. The focus now is on preventing / mitigating the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences [ACEs] and using trauma informed approaches including Psychologically Informed Environments [PIE] to ensure practitioners are aware of and recognise how to support children and adults who have embedded behaviours due to previous life experiences, and therefore improve their wellbeing.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 The programmes have distinct elements but a synergy which has resulted in Welsh Government moving to two funding streams in 2019/20 to enable greater collaboration moving forward:

- Children and Communities Grant (Flying Start, Families First, Legacy Fund, Communities for Work Plus, Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People, Childcare and Play and St David's Day Fund) and
- A Housing Support Grant (Supporting People, Homelessness Prevention and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement)

4.2 **Families First** is an early intervention/prevention Programme which supports families with a variety of needs. Each Local Authority shapes the Programme based on local need.

4.3 During 2017/18:

- Full implementation of the JAFF (Joint Assessment Family Framework) and central referral point to IAA (Intake Advice and Assistance team) enabling single referral from referrer for families, families having to tell their story once, identification of most suitable service, as well as prevention of families sitting on multiple waiting lists.
- Supporting Family Change (TAF model) engaged with 485 families of which 425 (88%) signed action plans agreeing to family support interventions.
- 18 projects deliver comprehensive family support and young people support to non-Flying Start families in need of support.
- Following support, 94% of individuals report improved family dynamics; 98% of participant parents report improved ability to support their child's learning and development needs and
- 96% of individuals report an improvement in family resilience (Distance Travelled). The collaboration between Families First and Flying Start has enabled wider reach of Flying Start type provision except childcare through JAFF referrals to joint commissioned projects. Similar collaboration between Families First and Supporting People has enabled joint commissioning of services and prevent duplication of separately contracted similar provision including debt management, and domestic abuse support services.

- 4.4 The **Flying Start** programme delivers in 26 small communities called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) based on the most disadvantaged areas in Caerphilly borough and targeted using the highest concentration of children aged 0-3 years living in income benefit households. Children do not leave the health visitor caseload or interventions until they transfer to school nursing in the September after their 4th birthday although these children are not counted in any returns to Welsh Government. The Flying Start programme delivers:
- Enhanced Health programme supporting families from antenatal stage until their child turns 4 years old, although they are not transitioned off the caseload until the September they attend reception.
 - Parenting Programmes and individual Family Support – antenatal, postnatal, Solihull parenting programme, Parent Nurturing Programme, STEPS to success programme as well as bespoke individual support in the home and PAFT.
 - Speech, Language and Communication interventions including Super Shellby support in childcare settings, Early Language Development groups, and Speech and Language Therapist support.
 - Funded Childcare place for 2-3 year olds before they take up their Nursery place, including early identification and support for children with additional needs. Places are delivered in both non-maintained and maintained childcare settings to meet parental choice offering English or Welsh Medium provision.
- 4.5 During 2017/18:
- As at 31st March 2018 2524 children aged 0-3 years old were on the caseload accessing the Flying Start programme
 - There was an average 2559 children aged 0-3 years old per term, which was 76 children (3%) more than the cap number funds plus an additional 307 children aged over 4 years which are not counted in the cap number (which would take it to 15% over cap)
 - There were 519 new births in 2017/18 and 439 movements in to Flying Start areas.
 - 638 children became newly eligible for Flying Start childcare place including 19 movements in of which 100% were offered a childcare place and 97% took up a place of 10.6% requested Welsh medium provision
 - 69.7% of sessions offered were attended; 4% of sessions offered were unfilled; unauthorised attendance was 12.5% and remains a focus moving forward. This is a reason for the step included in the Corporate Wellbeing Objective improving educational outcomes
 - 2% of childcare sessions were attended by a child with a registered disability; 0.2% sessions were attended by a child from a family where Welsh is the first language; 1.1% sessions were attended by children from families where English or Welsh was not the first language.
 - 229 of parents enrolled in a formal parenting programme; 153 (67%) completed 75% of the course which led to 93% positive distance travelled measured through evidence based tools
 - An additional 80 parents enrolled on informal structured parenting programmes of which 58 completed 75% or more of the sessions of whom all had positive distance travelled.
- 4.6 The **Communities First** programme continued to be delivered in 2017/18 but due to Welsh Government announcements and changes planned went through a period of transition which affected delivery. The programme continued to have a geographical focus, concentrating on tackling poverty in the most deprived *communities* in Wales, with an increased focus on ensuring the most vulnerable *individuals, families and groups* within those communities are supported.
- 4.7 Managing transition to Legacy and ending of the existing programme presented significant challenges including decreasing existing projects, upskilling and training staff needed for future delivery as well as supporting of projects to become sustainable or to be maintained as they moved toward Legacy development, for example, Parent Network continues to be jointly commissioned through Families First, Flying Start and Communities First (in 2017/18 and then the Legacy programme in 2018/19). There was increased synergy developed between the employability programmes being delivered and the newly developing Legacy programme which enabled better support, engagement and movement for those most vulnerable adults.

- 4.8 **Supporting People** programme covers the entire county and delivers support to vulnerable people in all tenures, with the support being provided by 40 agencies in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors. The support is related to allowing vulnerable individuals to access, maintain or move to appropriate accommodation for their needs. It does not incorporate care services such as domiciliary care, residential or nursing homes.
- 4.9 The services are available to any individual or family above the age of 16, are generally specialist in nature and specifically cater for those threatened with homelessness, young people, refugees, victims of domestic violence, those with substance misuse and mental health problems, people with learning disabilities, ex prisoners and older people. Generally the support is for a limited period (up to two years), as the expectation is that people will, given sufficient support, overcome their crisis or vulnerabilities and move on into a more stable lifestyle.
- 4.10 The support can be delivered in the person's home (floating support 41 %) or in a specialist setting such as a domestic abuse refuge, homeless hostel, specialist supported housing, extra care scheme or sheltered housing, (accommodation based 59 %). Supporting people programme grant pays for the provision of support, whilst housing benefit pays for the rent and service charges associated with such specialist accommodation.
- Supporting People joint working with Families First - Jointly commissioned project to provide support for people with financial issues, specifically around Debt, services for families or individual single people, facing eviction or who have a form of disability.
 - Supporting People joint working with Housing
 - Supporting People fund a number of staff based within Housing Advice to provide support to anyone facing homelessness and those with housing related support needs that enter the office.
 - Supporting People fund location based Floating Support workers in Caerphilly across two sites with an additional one due to start in the North of the borough shortly.
 - Supporting People fund Cornerstone, a dedicated service for rough sleepers/homeless individuals across the Caerphilly borough and coordinators of the Night Shelter Scheme.
 - Supporting People provide a dedicated worker for B&B's across the Caerphilly borough, providing Housing Related Support to anyone in Bed and Breakfast or temporary accommodation.
 - Supporting People and Housing Advice staff work together when producing Personal Housing Plans for all individuals going through Housing Advice.
 - Supporting People also contribute towards the sheltered housing and alarms provision across the borough for all tenures
 - Supporting People fund a wide range of Supported Accommodation for all ages who find themselves homeless
 - Supporting People partnership with Social Services
 - Supporting People fund an officer based in integrated Health and Social Care Centre – dealing with housing related support issues, signpost/support individuals to social services or health services, link in with the CPN and accommodation services.
 - Supporting People, Housing and Social Services provide accommodation for those with Learning Disabilities and/or Physical Disabilities who do not require staff services 24/7 to move them into independent housing
 - Supporting People fund accommodation projects for vulnerable parents and their children within the borough
 - Mental Health Supported Accommodation projects are funded across the borough at varying levels to meet the wide range of needs identified
 - Accommodation and community support for those with Substance or Alcohol Misuse is funded by Supporting People to address the increasing need.

- Gwent Wide services
 - Supporting People commission some services across Gwent where there are needs identified in each area The floating support services for Gypsies and Travellers, High Level MAPPA Probation clients, and tenants of United Welsh properties is a contract between Caerphilly, Monmouthshire and Blaenau Gwent.
 - There is also fixed site accommodation projects for domestic abuse provision for those with acute mental health needs or substance misuse issues based in Blaenau Gwent and young people with complex needs based in Newport.

4.11 The annual delivery reports for all programmes are attached as appendices

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

5.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act. The long term strategy is to reduce the attainment gap, develop a well skilled well educated workforce able to contribute positively to society.

5.2 Integration and collaboration through partnership working supports a coordinated approach for children, young people and their families aiming towards a long term prevention of poverty.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The reduction of poverty through programme interventions, as well as improvement of attainment outcomes are for all children, young people and adults are targeted particularly to those most vulnerable to underachievement. The programmes may positively discriminate through specific targeted interventions.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific financial implications highlighted in this report, although with current budget constraints and rising staff and building costs there are decision within programmes that are needed to remain within the grant budget envelope and not impact LA budgets. This is increasingly challenging to not impact frontline delivery as staff costs increase and the grants remain the same or less per person than 10 years ago.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no personnel implications contained within this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 All responses from consultations have been incorporated in the report

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Members are requested to scrutinise the content of the report for information on the antipoverty programmes.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 Members are requested to scrutinise the content of the report for information on the antipoverty programmes.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Children and Families Measure (Wales) 2010

Author: Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager
mutchs@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director, Education and Corporate Services
Christina HARRY, Interim Chief Executive
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Councillor Philippa Marsden, Cabinet Member, Education and Achievement
Councillor Derek Havard, Chair Education for Life Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Carol Andrews, Vice Chair Education for Life Scrutiny Committee
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning and Strategy
Sarah Ellis, Lead for Inclusion and ALN
Paul Warren, Strategic Lead for School Improvement
Jane Southcombe, Finance Manager (Education, Lifelong Learning & Schools)
Ros Roberts, Performance Manager
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Nicole Scammell, Head of Corporate Finance and Section 151
Tina McMahon, Community Regeneration Manager
Rebecca Boulton, Families First Manager
Shelly Jones, Supporting People Manager

Appendix 1 – Families First Grant End of Year Report 2017 -18

Appendix 2 – Flying Start Programme Annual Impact Report 2017/18

Appendix 3 – Communities First – Lead Delivery Body Report for the year ending 31 March 2018

Appendix 4 – Supporting People – Planning for the Future 2016-2019



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Families First Grant End of Year Report 2017-18

Local Authority:	Caerphilly
Name:	Rebecca Boulton
Position/Responsibility:	Families First Team Manager
Contact Tel. No:	01443 864804
Address:	Floor 2, Penallta House, CF82 7PG.
Email:	boultr@caerphilly.gov.uk
Date:	17/05/18

Please complete this form and return to familiesfirst@gov.wales by 18 June 2018.

Part A – Delivery

Please provide a summary of progress in delivering the Programme this financial year. Please include the reasons for any significant overspend/underspend and any staffing issues experienced in the programme during the year. As a guide, we would expect this to be approximately 250 words for each element.

JAFF/TAF	Funding Allocated: £ 597,022 Actual: £ 589,189
JAFF	<p>The JAFF referral is now used for all Families First projects and referrals are logged through IAA, creating one pathway using a 'single point of contact' approach. The new JAFF referral process went live on March 13th 2017 and training was rolled out across the borough. After six months of use, a consultation was completed by professionals and families, gathering their views on the new referral method. Following the consultation, some changes were made to the JAFF and an event was held where consultation on further amendments took place.</p> <p>The updated version of the JAFF has been used since 27th October 2017 and has been very well received. The updated JAFF referral form has been promoted throughout Education, Social Services, Health and the Third Sector.</p> <p>The JAFF form has improved referrals across the programme as a more in-depth assessment of the children, young people and families is carried out helping to better inform Families First projects of need. The proportionate assessment is based on the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act. The JAFF process has increased partnership working as it requires teams to communicate closely and share</p>

	<p>information.</p> <p>In addition, as the JAFF is a “working document” enabling families to only tell their story once. As the family are referred to different Families First projects, the JAFF follows them so that prior information on the family is shared and the family do not have to start the referral process from the beginning.</p>
<p>TAF</p>	<p>The TAF team, known locally as Supporting Family Change (SFC), has worked with 485 families in the period 2017-2018 of which 425 signed action plans. This equates to 1392 individuals worked with and 4009 support sessions. This year has been a continually busy year for the team as they have worked with similar numbers to last financial year.</p> <p>99% of families who had an action plan have shown improvement in terms of distance travelled; particularly in the domains of emotional wellbeing and family relationships. At 3 month post evaluation, 90% of families still felt that they were able to sustain the positive changes they had made when working with SFC. The support workers continue to work closely with organisations and agencies to meet the needs of the families as outlined in their action plans.</p> <p>The most common referring agencies this year have been Children’s Services (including a number of step down cases), Primary Care Services and Self-Referrals. The IAA team are a single point of contact for families in Caerphilly and therefore, they have taken an increased number of phone calls for self-referrals.</p> <p>This year has also been a transitional year in respect of SFC as the team has expanded with an additional Support Worker post and also the creation of three new posts; Education Support Worker (0.5 FTE), Youth Respect Programme (YRP) Worker (0.5 FTE) and a Psychologist (0.4 FTE)</p> <p>The implementation of the Education Support Worker role within SFC has greatly supported the roll out of the JAFF, with a flowchart for schools that aims to aid their decision making when responding to children and young people’s needs. The Education Support Worker has also been supporting schools to develop their understanding and completion of ISCAN referrals to ensure that referrals are accepted.</p> <p>During this year the Psychologist has been able to deliver support sessions, individual case consultations, team training in the areas of attachment, mindfulness, psychological formulation and systemic working. This work input has been invaluable in continuing to upskill the team members.</p> <p>SFC have continued to deliver the Non-Violent Resistance strategy which was delivered to 3 groups of parents and carers (approximately 30 parents). Feedback has been positive regarding this strategy and it has reduced the amount of verbal and physical aggression within their families. The YRP worker has also complemented this work by delivering this programme to young people who are demonstrating these behaviours.</p> <p>The team have also undertaken extensive attachment training and this has been successfully incorporated in the SFC parenting programme, which has allowed parents/carers to develop an understanding of how attachment and life experiences can impact on a child’s development. In addition, two members of the team have undertaken Gro Brain training</p>

	<p>and it is hoped that workshops for parents can be developed to support their understanding of how best to respond to their babies and young children.</p> <p>As a point of progression, SFC are considering how they, and other projects within Families First, may form a multi-agency focus group, working to support children and young people with mental health and emotional wellbeing needs. The focus group would involve a multi agency collaborative referral panel aimed at strengthening integrated service delivery for children, young people and their families where there are identified mental health and emotional wellbeing needs.</p>
<p>Family Support</p>	<p>Working with a “whole-family approach” is at the centre of many of Caerphilly’s Families First projects. Support for families with multiple, complex needs has been offered through our TAF project which has engaged with all members of the family when planning and working towards outcomes.</p> <p>In addition, a number of projects work with the whole family, involving parents, children and young people, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families Learning Together • Health Outreach • Wellbeing • Confident Parents, Stronger Families • Targeted Youth and Family Engagement <p>Where other projects have worked with individuals within the family, consideration has been given to other family members. For example, where a young person has worked with the Youth Respect project, the parent/carer is able to receive support from a TAF Key Worker or YOS Family Support Worker,</p> <p>This year, we have developed our family support by offering Parent Advocacy, which is a new project this year. There has been a slow start with referrals to the project, but with increased promotion we are finding that more parents are taking up Parent Advocacy which has complimented our Children and Young People’s Advocacy and enabled all members of the family to receive advocacy support.</p>
<p>Young People</p>	<p>Support for young people has been largely offered through our Targeted Youth and Family Engagement project, which focuses on supporting young people who are not engaging well in services, building their confidence and enabling them to recognise their behaviours.</p> <p>However, there is a variety of support specifically for young people that is run in addition to this including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for children and young people affected by Domestic Abuse • Support for young people showing early indications of abusive, aggressive or controlling behaviours • Support for Young Carers • Children and Young People’s Advocacy • Wellbeing support <p>The support for young people has been well received and demand for support has been placed on projects, in particular Targeted Youth and Family Engagement. We are working towards implementing a more targeted support over a set number of weeks, to ensure that cases are closed in a timely manner and that more children and young people can</p>

	<p>access support quickly.</p> <p>In addition, staff have accessed various training and development sessions this year which have been fundamental to supporting families and young people in terms of understanding needs and the best way of helping families to address their issues. The training sessions have focused on issues such as eating disorders, suicide, cognitive behavioural therapy, personality disorders, autism and how to support families with difficult behaviours.</p>
<p>Disability</p>	<p>We have a number of disability focused projects, most of which are focused on assisting children with disabilities and emerging needs to be 'school ready'. This will give children the best chance at succeeding in school, at the same rate as their peers.</p> <p>Throughout the first year of the new programme, our four pre-school disability focused projects (Early Prevention, More than Play, Little Voices and Outreach SRB – discussed in greater detail below), have been meeting together to discuss children with disabilities and emerging needs who are being worked with across multiple agencies and who could, or are already benefitting from different interventions. This ensures that there isn't a duplication of services, messages to the family are consistent and all partners are aware of the needs and progress of the child.</p> <p>In addition, Confident with Cash now works with families who are open to TAF or who have a disability. The introduction of a Welfare Benefits advisor has been significant this year to support families affected by disability. £93,000 of benefits have been obtained for families who did not know they were entitled to financial support, or were unable to gain benefits without the support of a Welfare Benefits advisor.</p>

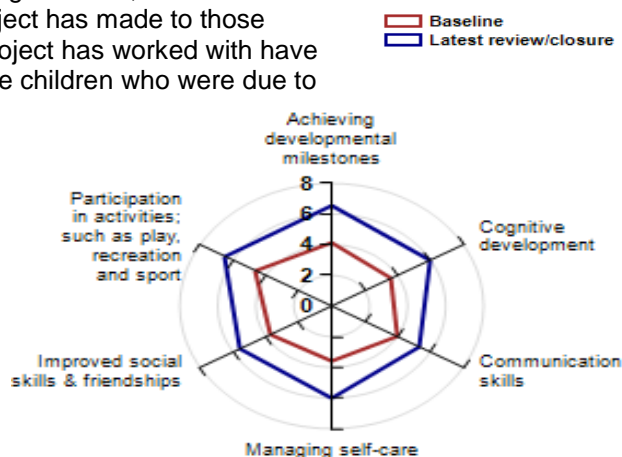
Part B – Strategic Commissioning

Please provide an outline of the progress made on implementing each of your strategic projects, including how your projects are meeting local need. As a guide, we would expect this to be no more than 250 words per project. Please refer to evidence and/or case studies where applicable.

Please also provide details of changes to projects and new projects started mid year if applicable (please add more boxes if required).

Project Number 1	Name: More Than Play	Funding Allocated: £ 98,920 Actual: £97,815
<p>The More Than Play project works with pre-school children, 18 months-3 years with emerging developmental delays, disabilities and/or additional needs. The aim of the More Than Play project is to maximise the learning and development of children through play. This project delivers a bespoke package in the home with the child and family which is delivered in 6-8 week blocks, and children's progress is reviewed at the end of each block using the Early Support Developmental Journals.</p>		

The project has worked with 89 families during this time, and the diagram below evidences the impact the project has made to those children and their families. All children the project has worked with have made progress in key skill areas; 100% of the children who were due to begin their educational placement during this time have done so, with transitions supported by the project. Younger children are successfully attending their local playgroups with support where necessary from other Families First projects. Very good working relationships with other projects have been formed, and regular information sharing takes place to ensure tailored packages of support for children and their families, preparing them in readiness for school.



Feedback from families and professionals has been very positive, with 100% of families who responded to questionnaires reporting improved ability to support their child’s learning and development needs, improved emotional wellbeing, improvement in family resilience and relationships and ability to contribute to changes in their lifestyle/behaviours.

Case Study:

F was referred by his health visitor with concerns regarding his speech and language, listening, social communication and attention skills, and displaying poor behaviour, scoring at an average of 12-15 months – he was 26 months at referral. F was very difficult to engage in purposeful play and showed no interest in playing with his peers. F paid no attention to unfamiliar people who visited the family, and showed no recognition or interest in extended family members. More Than Play became involved and offered weekly intervention at home; F received 2 blocks of intervention before he started school. The Family Support Practitioner (FSP) liaised with his speech and language therapist to ensure consistency, and referred to Little Voices as well as liaising and sharing information with the Community Paediatrician. The FSP engaged well with the family, and structured the activities to focus on F’s highlighted needs. During More Than Play’s intervention, F received a diagnosis of Autism. F made significant progress during the intervention and settled well in school, although does need some assistance in the classroom with visual clues. F’s family is much more relaxed about F and his diagnosis; their extended family has also come to terms with the diagnosis and the whole family is supporting F well, meeting his needs and feeling more positive about the future.

Project Number 2	Name: Early Prevention – Little Voices	Funding Allocated: £ 44,984 Actual: £ 47,428
<p>Little Voices provides support for families with children aged 1-3 years old who have a need to develop their speech, language and communication skills. This service is jointly funded through Families First and Flying Start. The service provides early language development groups in the community via referral. These groups are run by the projects Early Language Facilitators. The group sessions involve engaging activities such as role play, messy play, singing and reading to ensure that there is a language rich environment for the child to grow and develop their skills. The group workers conduct Wellcomm assessments to assess the child’s speech and language at the beginning and the end of the term and the child will either close to the service or progress onto another term of support depending on their progress throughout the term. The sessions heavily involve the parents and family members to ensure that they understand their child’s needs and how they can best support and continue the child’s development at home. Staff have undertaken several training sessions with a speech and language therapist to build on their knowledge and make sure they are fully able to support and advise parents. Some of the staff have also signed up to complete the Working with Parents Level 4 Qualification. The project’s groups have been well attended, with many children being referred by their Health Visitors. The project are looking ahead to the next financial year and are incorporating new language strategies into their groups, for example the use of the ‘First 100 words’ framework.</p>		

Case Study:

Child A was referred into the Little Voices service by the Health Visitor, who identified a speech and language delay during her review. Child A attended a Little Voices group with Mum and took part in all the activities on offer. The staff worked with Mum to provide information and advice on how to encourage the development of Child A's speech both at group and at home. They carried out assessments on the child at the start and end of the intervention offered. Child A has progressed from a 3 to an 8 in his Wellcomm assessment and has showed much improvement in his speech from only saying a few unclear words at the beginning to now saying complete sentences. He has also grown in confidence and become a lot more social with other children at the group His parents are very happy with his progress. Mum's comment "the service has been very effective with enthusiastic staff who liaise with the children very well, with very good varied activities".

Project Number 3	Name: Early Prevention – CCBC Education Early Prevention	Funding Allocated: £93,130 Actual: £ 74,212
<p>The Assisted and Supported Places project (Early Prevention) provides support for children with emerging developmental delays, additional learning needs and behavioural needs who would benefit from engaging in group provision by being placed in local nursey or childcare setting. This project is available to children who are one academic term away from beginning Rising Threes. The early intervention work undertaken within Assisted and Supported Places enables better targeting of additional support for children starting school identifying children who need support and at what level.</p>		
<p>The year started off slowly due to the criteria changing from the previous year thus becoming a lot more specific. This resulted in low referral numbers and therefore in Quarter 3 it was decided to expand the criteria to include children with speech and language difficulties and behavioural issues. Parents of children experiencing challenging behaviour needed to undertake, or already be accessing, parenting courses (either via Families First or Flying Start). This resulted in an increase in referrals and take up of placements.</p>		
<p>The project continues to review placements and make any recommendations for referrals onto other agencies where appropriate, extensions if targets not met in full and arrange sharing of information with Nursery Schools to help aid transition if appropriate. The Childcare Placement Officer has also been able to support several parents this year with referrals on to appropriate agencies within the Families First Programme and continues to work closely with other Families First projects where children may be accessing support from several projects.</p>		
<p>Case Study: Child A was referred by Assessment Nursery. The project identified physical disability requiring additional support through Supported Places scheme. Child A had significant delay in all areas of development especially speech and language and physical skills. Child A met their targets in full. Their gross and fine motor skills were greatly improved resulting in the child no longer always having to use their walking frame. The child's social interaction was much improved. The total length of the placement was 17 weeks.</p>		

Project Number 4	Name: Early Prevention – Outreach SRB	Funding Allocated: £133,317 Actual: £120,436
<p>The Outreach Specialist Resource Base (SRB) Speech and Language Service is an early identification and intervention service for children with significant and specific speech and language difficulties. The service builds the capacity of nursery classes to manage children with significant and specific speech and language difficulties.</p>		
<p>Referrals for the Outreach SRB Service were made by school staff in the Autumn term for children in the second year of nursery. Referrals were made via a Caerphilly Joint Assessment Family Framework Tool (JAFF) form. Information on the JAFF referral process was disseminated to</p>		

schools through the county's school Educational Bulletin. 251 referrals for children within CCBC were received at the end of October 2017. The high volume of referrals received exceeded expectations. Two Prioritisation Panels identified 120 children to receive an assessment visit from a Specialist Speech and Language Teacher who initially assessed the children to identify those with the greatest needs. Following the initial assessments period, the Specialist Teachers compiled a Play Plan for each relevant child. Families First funded TAs were assigned to specific children and followed learning objectives on the Play Plans to effectively support children on the programme. A total of 1264 support sessions were provided by Families First funded TAs and 79 consultations were made by the Families First SLT.

During the summer term of 2018, the Specialist Teachers will re-assess the children and subsequently, through consultation with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Community SLTs, will identify those with severe and/or specific speech and language needs who would benefit from a part-time Assessment Placement in one of Caerphilly's Speech Language and Communication Specialist Resource bases. Children would access a part-time assessment place in the September of their Reception year.

Case Study:

JC's nursery referred him to the Outreach service due to concerns regarding his language development. JC was accepted for an assessment by one of the Outreach SRB's Specialist Teachers and targets were set to develop his attention and listening, his understanding and use of language to a 3-word level and develop his vocabulary skills. JC has taken part in intervention sessions with one of the Outreach SRB Teaching Assistants (TA) He has made excellent progress throughout the sessions. His attention and listening abilities have improved greatly. JC initially demonstrated fleeting attention and became easily distracted, particularly by toys in the environment. He often required prompting to focus and engage. But now JC attends appropriately and participates fully throughout each session. JC has exceeded his target of three key word comprehension and is now following instructions at a four-word level accurately. Shape and colour coding symbols proved to be an effective strategy to prompt JC to consistently link three key words – Subject, verb, and object. He is now using three key words in his everyday talking without the visual aid of the colours and shapes. JC is due to be re-assessed by the Specialist Teacher in the Summer Term and it is anticipated that he will not require further action to support his speech, language and communication.

Project Number 5	Name: Confident with Cash	Funding Allocated: £83,810 Actual: £83,810
<p>Confident with Cash continues to support families with financial and debt management and benefits, however this year the criteria has changed to become focused on families affected by a disability or those open to Supporting Family Change (TAF Team). The project is a joint contract with Supporting People ensuring most families throughout Caerphilly have access to support around finances, debt and benefits. This year the project gained a Welfare Benefits Adviser to compliment the two Debt Advisers which has proven beneficial for families.</p> <p>There is a well established correlation between debt and mental health and the improvement in Distance Travelled indicates an improvement in wellbeing which is maintained, thus lending further evidence. During the year the project has dealt with £535,000 of debt and has worked closely with the Debt Relief Order (DRO) intermediaries and successfully completed 5 DROs writing off £64,000 of unmanageable debt with families. The project has a high success rate as they work intensely with families resulting in a low percentage of disengagement compared to other traditional debt advice projects.</p> <p>The new Welfare Benefits adviser has successfully gained £93,000 of benefits for Confident with Cash families despite not being in post for a full year.</p> <p>The project has regularly prevented evictions, imprisonment for non payment of TV licences, and helped clients with court forms.</p> <p>Case Study: The family consists of Mum, Dad and their three children and it was identified Mum</p>		

has mental health issues and had issues with budgeting. There were rent arrears of £1600 identified and the landlord was prepared to go to court for eviction. There were also £289.71 gas arrears, £240.07 electricity arrears and £1500 water rates arrears. The couple were exceptionally worried and stressed, and whilst it wasn't an option they wanted, felt they would be better off financially if they separated and Mum claimed benefit as a single parent.

The project worked through budgeting and identified where clients could make savings and cut down on their non priority debt. A Customer Assistance fund Application was made for water arrears. Gas and electric arrears were negotiated at a new rate of £5 each per week which is affordable for the couple.

No formal arrangement was in place for repayment of rent arrears, so the project worker arranged for a Standing Order to be set up for weekly rent plus £10 to cover the arrears, at this point the couple were not aware of what a Standing Order was and this was worked through with the adviser.

Following work with the project the gas and electric arrears are now being covered, along with rent being paid by Standing Order, therefore court action for eviction was prevented. Children had been consistently late for school as Mum was taking Dad to work then taking children to school. This issue was resolved as the children were enrolled in breakfast club, so they would be taken to school first before Dad going to work. Following the positive outcomes with the project Mum and Dad are able to stay together. Mum and Dad say they are feeling more confident about the future. Their landlord (United Welsh) also commented that had it not been for the involvement of the project there would have been court action.

Project Number 6	Name: Targeted Youth and Family Engagement	Funding Allocated: £516,948 Actual: £489,512
<p>The Targeted Youth & Family Engagement (TYFE) Project supports young people and their families when they are experiencing a range of difficult circumstances which are having a negative effect on family life. The project works to provide support for coping with difficult and challenging situations, building confidence, self esteem and resilience, and improving well being and relationships through working together and trying new experiences that are sustainable post intervention. The project often engages with the hardest to reach families, working with young people and families facing challenges such as social isolation, anxiety, self-harm, challenging behaviour and difficulties with inappropriate boundaries.</p> <p>There are four elements to TYFE: Youth Engagement (for young people aged 8-25), Family Engagement (for families with children aged 8-25), Young Parents (aged 13-25), and Caerphilly Adventures (supporting youth and family sessions for group based outdoor activities).</p> <p>Youth Engagement has carried out many 1:1 and group sessions throughout the year, all of which have gone very well. The sessions have focused on engaging with young people on issues such as low self-confidence, low self-esteem, body image issues, sexuality, social skills and behavioural issues. The group has been able to engage in personal and social development sessions and issue based workshops in order to better deal with issues, whilst also building relationships and engaging with peers. The sessions are delivered in an environment where young people feel safe to discuss their feelings and open up about things they may not have shared before. Positive feedback has been received and the young people have reported that the sessions give them the opportunity to address their issues, have fun and be themselves and at times diverting their thoughts away from the difficulties that they are experiencing. Many involved have built their confidence and are now able to access other provisions within their communities with the support of a youth worker.</p> <p>Family Engagement sessions have gone from strength to strength over the past year working with families who find it difficult to work with other services. Some group sessions have been delivered with Caerphilly Adventures that enable families to work together in an outdoor environment that is often challenging for them as individuals and as a family unit. This enables families to experience physical exercise in the outdoors and crucially to learn new skills and face challenges that require team work and problem solving together. The feedback from the families has been very positive for these sessions with clear outcomes evident. One of the most popular series of sessions has been furniture upcycling, which involved working together to build low cost pieces of flat pack furniture then painting/decorating these. These sessions, whilst building family relationships and working on communication through positive time together, have enabled the families to learn skills</p>		

they can now use at home. There has also been an improvement with the families wellbeing and mental health as they have opportunity to socialise with other families in similar situations.

The Young Parents element has worked to engage young parents in group sessions and 1:1 sessions. The project runs 4 weekly community groups that cover the whole Borough with each group attended by 8-10 young parents. During these sessions new and expectant parents engage in a variety of issue based sessions that help support them with issues affecting them as young people, but also as young parents. This has included work around setting personal goals and problem solving, budgeting and debt, confidence and self-esteem, paediatric first aid, digital parenting and friendship groups, healthy relationships and domestic abuse, as well as a range of arts based activities and activities that engage them in their local communities.

In order to support young Dads the project delivers a couples group once a fortnight, where the whole family are engaged in sessions with young parents' Youth Workers and the Caerphilly Adventures Instructor. These sessions focus on activities for the family that strengthen family communication, improve mental health and wellbeing and provides learning and relationship building experiences that will enable them to better parent their children.

For this year Caerphilly Adventures has merged with TYFE which has provided great support to all TYFE elements.

Caerphilly Adventures has delivered a mixture of activities that are challenging but also realistic. Throughout the sessions the families have had opportunities to gain accreditations, with there being over 80 different achievers this year. Many of the families are experiencing very difficult issues at the time of working with the project and are able to use this opportunity as a break from the stress in their lives along with building relationships in the family unit. The project has also undertaken a lot of work with children and young people, supporting them during an educational transition.

"I really enjoyed attending this project, I have been to some brilliant new places, doing things I thought I would never do (caving, climbing, kayaking, canoeing, beach adventures walks, waterfall walks, orienteering, gorge walking, bush craft, etc.). 72 year old Grandmother with an SGO.

Case Study (Youth Engagement): Young person was referred in order for him to gain a sense of independence in a safe environment and have the opportunity to improve social skills as he was severely isolated. The young person had difficulty reading social situations and this made him vulnerable particularly in relation to social media. His parents had implemented boundaries, but the young person was opposed to them and resulted in very challenging behaviour in the family home and at school. The young person was also struggling to understand his own sexuality and identity and his parents were also struggling to support this.

Weekly Youth Engagement sessions have provided the young person with the opportunity to have time away from the family home, giving him an opportunity to become more independent. In turn developing his confidence, self-esteem, and social skills. The young person began to interact with other young people within the group in order to develop social skills and build positive relationships.

The young person's confidence improved and he now feels confident enough to attend other youth groups, such as a community LGBT group. The young person now feels more comfortable with his sexuality and self-expression. The young person has built positive relationships within the Young Engagement group, the LGBT group and school.

The relationship between the young person and Mum has improved, with the young person now feeling confident enough and comfortable enough to talk to his Mum about any issues. The young person is now accepting of the rules and boundaries put in place by his parents in order to protect him in his use of social media.

Project Number 7	Name: Families Learning Together	Funding Allocated: £154,491 Actual: £146,144
Families Learning Together is a project set up to support families to develop their literacy, numeracy and promote early language development. The project allows the whole family to gain in confidence and skills and enables parents to support their children at home and school. Families Learning Together provides fun and stimulating sessions for parents and carers with		

children aged 0-15 years. The project provides families with the opportunity to participate in either group or individual home sessions depending on their need. The project focuses on 3 key areas: literacy, numeracy, and early language development.

There are many benefits for the families who participate in the project. Children will have a greater chance of achieving at school, as their parents will do more at home to support their education and are more able to support their children with homework and day to day learning. This is achieved by developing the skills and confidence of parents, increasing their understanding and refreshing their skills to enhance learning in the home environment. This will often lead to adults wanting to progress for themselves as well as for their children and may lead to adults gaining skills to help them access work and volunteering opportunities. Benefits for children include: improvement in skills, a greater understanding of literacy and/ or numeracy and increased confidence. Feedback from schools has shown an improvement in the children's' understanding and concentration after attending, a more positive commitment of parents and carers in the school community and an increase in the amount of homework being completed.

This year, the project has successfully engaged with families in the Upper Rhymney feeder schools and delivered groups in the Foundation phase at Fochriw and Pontllytyn and in Key stage 2 at Bryn Awel and Abertysswg. In this area, schools find it very difficult to engage with parents and we were very pleased to have had 4 groups running successfully. We have worked with 22 adults and 24 children on numeracy in the Upper Rhymney area. The project has also successfully targeted parents from St James' Primary School in Lansbury Park in Caerphilly. The parents were awarded the prestigious title of Learning Group of the Year for Caerphilly CCBC at the Gwent 5 Counties Partnership Awards, in recognition for their hard work and commitment to improving their own skills and the skills of their children. The group of adults has had a numeracy focus and have worked hard this year to complete their files to gain a numeracy qualification.

Case Study:

The children were on the Child Protection register and the family needed support from a variety of sources. We were asked to provide home sessions to work with the youngest child who is in year 2 of primary school. She needed literacy support and the parents needed to gain ideas in how to support their children. School initially reported that the parents didn't complete any homework including spelling and reading practice. A tutor was appointed to the family. They worked closely with the social worker and the class teacher to build a scheme of work to benefit the family. The main focus was literacy support but it was evident that the family needed support with a number of soft outcomes. The tutor planned activities that focused on supporting the targets from the class teacher, the dietician and general social service goals. The family have bonded well as a unit and engaged well throughout the programme. Initially the parents lacked confidence and were reluctant to participate in sessions. With regular and consistent support they soon overcame their worries and are now working well with the tutor on a weekly basis. The youngest child has shown a significant improvement in skills with the class teacher reporting the improvement and confidence during a recent core meeting.

Project Number 8	Name: Health Outreach	Funding Allocated: £161,778 Actual: £148,518
<p>This year the Health Outreach Team has focussed on an Ante Natal pathway. Working in partnership with Midwifery in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, the project provides a pathway for prospective parents in Caerphilly Borough which begins antenatally and continues through the baby's first year.</p> <p>All prospective parents, after receiving their 6 month anomaly scan, are invited to a Golden Ticket Event where they have an opportunity to meet a range of professionals with knowledge and information relating to the ante natal and post-natal period. 155 parents have attended the 6 events this year. At the Golden Ticket, attendees are invited to sign up for an Ante Natal Solihull Parenting group, 96 parents have completed the groups this year. A recent evaluation revealed that 99% of those who completed felt the sessions had prepared them for becoming a parent and increased their knowledge of their baby's needs and development.</p>		

All Mums under the care of Community Midwifery at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr are contacted within 72 hours and weekly thereafter, for the first month after discharge from hospital by the Responsive Feeding Team. This is a service for both breastfeeding and bottle feeding mums. Mums are visited at home or given advice over the phone. This year the project have supported 108 mums, 73 breast feeders, 33 bottle feeding mums and 2 mums that were mixed feeding. Evaluation of the service indicates that 100% of Mothers who receive support from the project value the service and appreciate the holistic support offered. The project's work was presented at the Welsh Government Task and Finish Group for Infant Feeding this year as an example of best practice.

Mums joining the pathway at any of the first two stages are then offered Sensory groups. The group covers the 0-6 month period focussing on baby's brain development through sensory activities and offers the opportunity for parents to continue to receive support with childhood issues such as colic, sleep, feeding etc. 99% of parents report that attending the group makes them feel more confident to support their child's learning and development needs.

The final part of the pathway is the On the Move and onto Food group which focusses on weaning and encouraging movement in the 6-12 month age group. Mums are given 1st and 2nd stage weaning advice and babies are encouraged with Mums to move around stations containing food based messy play activities. Evaluation shows that 100% of parents feel the group helps them to make informed choices about their child's nutrition and make positive changes to family eating behaviours.

Case Study:

Mum struggling with attachment, positioning and soreness on verge of giving up breastfeeding, also pressure from family to put baby on bottle. Mum visited 2 hours after responsive feeding call. Advice given, discussed benefits of breastfeeding with the family and the importance of support. 14 weeks later Mum is still breastfeeding and attending Parc y Felin Breastfeeding Support Group. In an evaluation of the service a mother who has completed the pathway stated that "this fantastic service ... gives invaluable support over the first year of baby's life"

Project Number 9	Name: Parent Forum	Funding Allocated: £80,300 Actual: £87,890
<p>The Parent Network continues to grow, with new groups being set up across the borough as the established groups become self-running. This year 24 groups were set up, with an additional 7 running under their own direction. By using low cost community venues or no cost venues in schools and libraries, sustainability is now possible. In 3 areas, the parents were supported by the project and other partners to set up their own parent and toddler groups which they are running with minimal support from partners.</p> <p>Every member of the parent network staff team was once a volunteer for the network, living locally and understanding their own communities. By growing and shaping the staff, the project is better able to meet the needs of the communities they work in. Parents and Carers are now far more proactive within their own communities, getting involved with events and setting up their own groups and activities taking part in training and ensuring that they have a voice in the development of the services they need. 91% of the parents worked with this year have seen the benefit of becoming involved and helping to shape services.</p> <p>56 consultations have been completed this year using a range of approaches focus groups, workshops, discussions, paper and online at local, regional, and national level. Welsh Government attended a number of focus group sessions consulting on a range of issues from the removal of reasonable punishment to the development of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act.</p> <p>Across the year, 215 individuals have been engaged in the project. 491 group sessions have been facilitated by both paid and volunteer staff, with a total of 31 active volunteers engaging with the project throughout the year. Welsh Government awarded Caerphilly a Children Zone pilot in Fochriw which builds on the successful model of delivery within that community. Parents from the forums in Rhymney and Fochriw are currently training as play workers to support their children</p>		

through the summer months to access play and the outdoors following a drop in facilitated play opportunities within the borough due to cuts in budgets and loss of funding.

During October Fochriw Forum went to London supported by Gerald Jones MP to visit Westminster. The trip followed on from one earlier this year to the Senydd which helped the parents to understand how important their voice and encouraged them to be more proactive within their own community. Overall a successful year for the network one which parents have shown positive improvement in their wellbeing, moving on to new opportunities and developing stronger community links.

Case Study:

SW is 26 and has 2 daughters aged 8 and 2. SW is originally from Manchester and moved to Caerphilly around 6 years ago. SW was in a violent relationship and started to move from place to place trying to hide from her eldest daughter's biological father to escape the violence. She has a lack of confidence due to locking herself away for nearly 4 years. One morning after dropping her daughter off she used her new found confidence to just drop in. SW said she loved the idea of the group and really wanted to be involved, she talked to some of the other mums who had taken part in family learning and encouraged them to join. SW has taken part in sign language, IT, and confidence building training. SW is currently taken part in the NYAS peer counselling course and would like to help others who have been through similar situations. SW has said "I don't know where I want to be in the future I'm taking one step at a time! I'm finding new things I enjoy and people I have met through the Parent Network." SW has joined the new Lansbury steering group. She is keen to help make changes. She has set a community Facebook page and posts everything that is going on her area. She attends sessions regularly and has shown to have a very powerful voice her community. SW is great at speaking to services at the group sessions and her advice is becoming extremely valuable to them, they have taken on-board her ideas and have started to implicate them in their practice.

Project Number 10	Name: Children and Young People's Advocacy	Funding Allocated: £80,000 Actual: £71,628
<p>The Children and Young People Advocacy Project offers an impartial and independent advocacy service to children and young people under the age of 25 years living within Caerphilly County Borough. This involves working with the child or young person and addressing any advocacy issues and bringing them to a resolution.</p>		
<p>The advocate listens to the child or young person's concerns and issues on a one to one basis. The advocate advises children and young people of their rights, provides information and ensures their understanding. The service seeks to work within a rights based approach to enable them to exercise choice and control and ensure that they are part of the decision making process.</p>		
<p>The role of the advocate includes supporting, empowering and representing the child or young person by promoting their views, wishes and feelings. Advocacy support includes enabling children and young people to: have a voice; be involved in decision making; make informed choices; have access to services; provides support with dispute resolution; ensures that children and young people feel listened to and respected; provides support with reading, writing and understanding letters and raising confidence so that the child or young person feels more able to deal with similar situations in the future.</p>		
<p>The types of issues that children and young people may encounter and need help from an advocate include: awareness of rights; complaints and legal advice; challenging behaviour; contact and residence; exclusion and attendance; education issues; bullying; family conflict. 100% of the issues presented were resolved throughout this year for the children and young people.</p>		
<p>The project has continued to promote the service to organisations throughout Caerphilly to ensure that all children and young people have access to advocacy should they need it.</p>		
<p>Case Study: A referral was received from CAMHS. X's relationship with mother had completely</p>		

broken down, X had left home and was residing with a friend's family, struggling to attend school and complete GCSE exams, and was struggling financially. X was emotionally drained and had mental health issues. The Advocate visited X, provided one to one support and explored the issues. The Advocate gathered X's views, wishes and feelings. The Advocate applied for and X was awarded financial assistance (EMA) at Student Finance Wales. The Advocate liaised with X's mother and referred both Mum and X for mediation and supported X at mediation sessions which helped to improve their relationship. X now enjoys contact with Mother and siblings. Advocate referred X to Llamau and supported X by completing a housing application. CAMHS support had ceased and X felt further CAMHS support was necessary. The Advocate wrote to CAMHS explaining the situation and the need for ongoing support which was accepted, X is now accessing regular CAMHS appointments. X is much happier and more confident, X did well in GCSE's and is now attending a college course, has a regular income and relationship with Mother has improved. A housing application is being dealt with. X felt that everything had been improved.

Project Number 11	Name: Parent Advocacy	Funding Allocated: £76,358 Actual: £69,648
<p>The NYAS Parent Advocacy Service is a brand new project for Families First in Caerphilly from 1st of April 2017. The project delivers an impartial and independent advocacy service to parents or carers of children/young people under the age of 25 living within Caerphilly County Borough. The work undertaken by the Parent Advocate involves supporting, empowering and representing the parent/carer whilst addressing any advocacy issues with the aim of bringing them to a resolution. The first year of the project has had a large focus on promoting the project to partners across Caerphilly.</p> <p>The project has worked to resolve 100% of the issues presented by parents. Support required by parents range from helping to resolve housing difficulties, debt, accessing correct benefits, resolving contact issues, supporting parents at meetings with Education and Local Authority bodies, helping parents navigate and understand Social Services systems and processes.</p> <p>The project also fosters a partnership arrangement with Caerphilly Parent Network and has developed and delivered an accredited OCN Level 2 qualification to the 'Supporting a Voice' Parent Peer Advocate volunteers from the Parent Network. There are eight volunteers who offer low level support within their community groups and generate referrals to a professional Advocate.</p> <p>Case Study: Referred by Supporting Family Change (TAF Team). Advocacy support to help parent voice concerns over their child's educational placement. An initial meeting was held with the parent to establish issues to be resolved. A meeting was then held with the school to find out what action they were taking in light of the parents concerns around the child's support needs. The parent was given information and supported in communicating with LEA. A referral was also made to SNAP to support the child's education. The parent feels more empowered as they now have more information to support the schools decision. The Advocate will continue to provide support at education meetings and when liaising with LEA to ensure the needs of the child are met and the parent is happy with the end result.</p>		

Project Number 12	Name: Targeted Parenting Support (Confident Parents, Stronger Families)	Funding Allocated: £183,242 Actual: £180,040
<p>This was the first year of a new Families First Targeted Parenting Support project being run by Barnardo's. Over the past year the service has introduced a more robust process, from referral to closure thus ensuring delivery is efficient and effective.</p> <p>The team have focused a great deal on creating more detailed support plans for families based on their strengths along with areas for improvement. Outcomes are then selected and a bespoke intervention is created in order to meet the desired outcomes which are regularly reviewed.</p>		

Quarter 1 and 2 proved to be a difficult time for the service due to it being the start of a new project. A number of factors contributed to this such as induction periods for practitioners, limited processes in place and a high volume of referrals being transferred to the service. In an effort to tackle this additional money was granted for two part-time practitioners that stayed with the service through Quarter 3 and 4. A more robust process from referral to closure was introduced which included the introduction of support plans, time limited interventions and specific targets. Practitioners participate in weekly allocation meetings to discuss their cases, what sessions they had planned and what closures were due which are valuable in ensuring that the team are clear of service expectations and contract requirements. They have also helped to motivate practitioners and have supported them in keeping focused and organised with their time. As a result of these changes the service exceeded targets and are confident with the new processes going forward.

Throughout the year it was highlighted that there was a need for an intervention that specifically addressed behavioural issues for 7-11 year olds particularly those with additional needs. A parenting programme (Time Out for Parents) was sourced which specifically focused on additional needs. All practitioners recently attended training and are now in the process of promoting this new and exciting programme to families and professionals. The team work on encouraging parents to attend groups through taster sessions and parents who previously did not want to attend groups are now reconsidering.

The project will continue to evaluate and measure the impact and difference that is made in the lives of all families, to become more responsive and to improve the outcomes for children, young people and families.

Case Study: Referral made by Supporting Family Change (TAF Team). Dad was suffering with depression and both parents lacked confidence with the children. Both parents had conflicting parenting styles, meaning a lack of consistency and routine for the children. Both parents attended group for Parent Nurture Programme to help manage the children’s behaviour, improve their parenting and family relationships. A referral was made to Confident with Cash for financial support and a referral to Wellbeing to support Dad’s emotional and mental health. Both parents successfully attended and completed the group programme, improving their parenting styles and implementing strategies to improve the children’s behaviours. Family relationships improved following structure and boundaries making the home more enjoyable. Dad’s wellbeing improved following the group setting.

Project Number 13	Name: Domestic Abuse	Funding Allocated: £133,048 Actual: £154,725
<p>The Domestic Abuse provision has three elements, family safety planning, children and young people support and group support for children, young people and parents.</p> <p>The Family Safety worker has continued to complete comprehensive risk assessments, risk management plans and safety work including access to target hardening equipment to ensure families remain safe within their home and free from abuse. The worker has continued to support families around accessing legal advice relating to safety measures and child contact, liaising with housing to support moves for safety reasons, and liaising with police, health, local services and the IDVA to ensure a holistic early approach to support the family.</p> <p>The children and young people team work with those who have experienced domestic abuse within their home. Children’s experience of domestic abuse can vary greatly; they can experience both short and long term cognitive, behavioural and emotional effects. Each child will respond differently to trauma and some may be resilient and not exhibit any negative effects, while others will be profoundly affected by what they have experienced or witnessed.</p> <p>The specialist staff have engaged the children and young people using interactive tools tailored to their needs. This could be through play, discussion, workbooks and using their likes and hobbies. In addition the workers supported parents to meet the needs of their children, gain further understanding of the impact of abuse on their children, themselves and their relationships. Staff have provided a fully holistic support package that enables the family to move forward in their</p>		

lives, free from the fear of future abuse, promoting their resilience and minimising the impact of childhood trauma on their lives.

Groups have been provided for children and young people and for parents. You and Me, Mum has continued to be a successful group throughout the year with onward referrals being made to multiple professionals in order to support the parents to their fullest. Kidz Club has run group work for 7-12 year olds to explore their experiences, access peer support and develop their understanding of healthy relationships through a range of fun activities suitable for their age and needs. ADAPT programmes have been completed throughout the year consisting of targeted 6 week courses for 13-17 year olds to explore healthy relationships, grooming, CSE, sexual consent, sexting and staying safe. This group has made significant progress over the last year, with two schools requesting the programme in addition to the community based work.

Families First also funded Emphasis for the final quarter of the year and will continue to run this as a pilot for 2018/19 monitoring the impact the project has on children and young people at risk of becoming NEET and/or homeless.

Case Study (Multi-agency): Mum was working with the Family Safety Worker and a referral was made for the child (H). Mum described H as being depressed, anxious and angry. Mum also stated that she would like H to have an awareness of healthy relationships and good/bad role models. Work was carried out around worries, talking through worries and how to manage them. The CYP Worker recommended certain activities to be carried out at home including family group work and also the “worries monster”. Self-esteem work was carried out with H looking at positives and achievements. Creative work was carried out around this by H expressing the positives through drawings and memories. H has used a lot of feelings cards to help her recognise her emotions at different occasions. Work around domestic abuse was a large focus as H has disclosed previous incidents. The CYP Worker and H talked through safety, good/bad role models, different areas of domestic abuse and healthy relationships. Children’s rights have been carried out also emphasising the importance of safety and how H can keep herself safe and improve her wellbeing. With this H and the CYP Worker has looked at support networks and how she can manage her own emotions. H is a lot more confident and has fewer worries, she stated that there are still a small amount of worries however nowhere near as big as they were before. Mum asked her Family Safety Worker to be referred onto the Freedom Programme for more information and support. H is starting to make friends in school and is starting to socialise more within the classroom. Work was carried out with Mum around the effects of domestic abuse on children and talked through tools and techniques from the NVR programme of how to manage challenging behaviour. Mum is finding the tools very helpful and stated that the family home is a lot calmer and happier than before.

Project Number 14	Name: Wellbeing	Funding Allocated: £95,576 Actual: £100,124
<p>The Wellbeing project is a new service to Families First this year. As it is a new project, time has been taken to develop processes such as staffing, advertising and marketing, networking with agencies, developing the project structure, finding beneficial resources and training. Other services were keen to engage with the project and the project started with an influx of referrals.</p> <p>The team consists of 2.3 FTE workers that deliver one to one sessions in the home and facilitate groups. The project meets with individuals or families in their home for 4 pre-engagement sessions where they identify the family’s needs and create a plan to improve their wellbeing. The individual or family then progresses onto an 8-week one to one package in the home, or can attend a group in their local area with other individuals of a similar age. This year, the project has run groups for primary aged children, teens, and adults. These group sessions involve the individuals engaging with activities to enable them to talk about their wellbeing openly to others, as well as providing them with techniques to improve their outlook.</p> <p>The project has been eager to receive training for all staff which has enabled the project to meet the high demand of referrals that they receive due the nature of the service and reach more</p>		

families with various needs. The feedback from citizens and professionals has been valuable to the project's success and presence within the community. They have received excellent feedback, case studies and evaluations and citizens have made recommendations to others who may benefit from the service.

The team have worked extremely hard to establish the project and are always proactive in ways to develop. The project is looking forward to what they can offer in the near future as they feel there are lots of development opportunities available for the service and will welcome suggestions and support to enable this to happen as it has been proven that Wellbeing is needed due to the uptake of citizens who need the service and their outcomes.

Case Study:

L would not leave her home, spent many hours in bed, low motivation, very tearful. She felt that she did not communicate very well with her family, not needed within the home. Confidence and self-esteem was at an all-time low, felt that she was not worthy. L received 2 packages, these were both group sessions. 1st package L was very anxious, quiet but wanted to change, this was her motivation. L started to contribute to the sessions and took on board strategies and took small steps to going out and reducing her isolation. L was extremely proud of the small steps she achieved. At the start of the 2nd package she had made huge improvement. L has now increased the distance in which she will travel from the home. She now takes the children to school by herself which she never did before, will go out weekly with family, distanced herself from negative relationships, communicates better with her partner and now prioritises some time for herself whilst meeting the children's needs. L has also attended a few school events which she hasn't done before. The biggest change is L's confidence and her ability to share experiences and build friendships with others. L has also started driving lessons which is ongoing but this is positive step for her independence and a goal she has been striving to achieve. Comment from individual: "The group has helped me to understand I have the right to think about me now and again and not to feel guilty about, it also helped me to build up the courage to go out on my own with using the music method. Without [the project] I wouldn't be the person I am today, so thank you all so much."

Project Number 15	Name: Young Carers	Funding Allocated: £9,460 Actual: £7,466
<p>The Families First funded Young Carer's work is group work which compliments the Local Authority's 1:1 Young Carer's work. Groups are time limited to 6 weeks. The separation of 1:1 and group work had some difficulties initially due to the reduction in staffing in both funding streams, which impacted the number of young carers worked with. However, the process of transition between 1:1 and group work has become more streamlined and staff and professionals now have a better understanding of how this works. Staff develop session plans to encompass a range of issues and needs.</p> <p>The issue based group presented a challenge initially due to the ages and location of young people across a large borough. This meant that some groups had a wide age range of young carers, whilst other young carers were waiting for the right issue based group to start. Through discussions the decision was made to adopt a more general approach to groups with issue based break-out sessions. This has allowed the service to be more responsive to need and reduced the waiting time for young carers. These sessions have worked well and the young carers have responded positively to having a mix of issues in the group.</p> <p>All of the young carers that attend groups value the opportunity to have an 'escape' from their caring responsibilities for a couple of hours a week. We have been able to offer a supportive and empathic environment for them to relax, have fun and share any issues they may be struggling with. The sessions are structured to provide time for educative work, whilst allowing time for fun and some flexibility to be responsive to issues that the young carers may bring to group on a week by week basis.</p> <p>Young carers accessing 15 groups have been able to benefit from the Local Authority funding also and attend trips with other families and young carers.</p>		

Case Study: Young person was referred by Supporting Family Change (TAF Team) due to being a carer for their parent with mental health issues. The young person attended 6 1:1 sessions through the Local Authority which were complimented by 5 group sessions. The young person improved their Distance Travelled around resilience, confidence, mental health and wellbeing, caring and understanding parental illness. The young person engaged well with 1:1 and group sessions. The young persons needed 1:1 sessions prior to group as she was anxious about meeting new people and attending a group session. The young person improved in confidence week by week and gradually began to engage with the other young people in group. She was able to share her experiences during group and found it helpful to be amongst young people with similar experiences.

Project Number 16	Name: Youth Respect	Funding Allocated: £28,519 Actual: £29,207
<p>Youth Respect provides a 10 week programme on a 1:1 basis to young people who are showing early indications of, or are already exhibiting abusive, aggressive and controlling behaviours in the family or intimate relationships. All young people open to the project must be open to either Supporting Family Change (TAF Team) and/or the Youth Offending Service.</p> <p>Referral rates have been pleasing and consistent for 2017/18; referrals have exceeded the set target but even more pleasing is the engagement rate for completion of the programme and positive feedback received. Only one young person who completed the programme has been re-referred back, which evidences sustained learning and maintenance of positive outcomes.</p> <p>Since the project commenced in November 2015, professional relationships with local schools and key partners for the success of this project have been established, which has been key in positively engaging young people in environments they are comfortable with (as the home environment for this type of work is often not appropriate).</p> <p>Feedback received from families has also highlighted the importance of adopting the 'whole family approach', as the YRP delivers intervention to the young person, but Mum/Dad/Nan/partners etc. are also provided with equitable support as the 'victims' via the YOS Family Support Worker.</p> <p>The positive reputation of YRP has grown significantly since its inception and the project frequently receives phone calls from other agencies asking if they can refer into the service as there is a clear need for the young person however they do not always meet the Families First criteria.</p> <p>In summary, YRP is a very well used resource and delivers results and positive outcomes.</p> <p>Case Study: Upon receipt of referral, S was an open case to Youth Inclusion Support Panel YISP (prevention service linked to YOS) and was displaying abusive behaviours towards his Mum and Mum's partner. There were issues in school – internal exclusions for threatened aggressive behaviour towards teachers, including suggestion of a weapon. S was also causing problems in the local community and the family were generally at breaking point. S agreed to engage with the 10 week voluntary Youth Respect Programme (YRP) to address his aggressive behaviour. The sessions were held in the school environment and Mum and Mum's partner were supported via the YOS Family Support Worker.</p> <p>In the early stages, S displayed significant bravado and controlling behaviour against his Mother was evident. In addition to the controlling behaviour, S was also making threats to shoot/kill his Father, which posed the risk of turning into criminal behaviour.</p> <p>Intervention with S was always a difficult challenge and the pattern formed that he would complete the work; display an explosive reaction but then calm down fairly quickly when it was talked through. The turning point for S was talking through numerous situations and discussing alternatives as to how he could manage his emotions for a better outcome.</p> <p>In summary, this intervention resulted in extremely positive change for the young person, Mum and partner. It was a very complex case, and some issues remain for S and his family, but in relation to Distance Travelled the whole family have come a long way and a strong exit strategy</p>		

was implemented to ensure this change is maintained.

A key element to this successful outcome was not only the direct YRP work completed with S, but also the family intervention work with Mum and partner. Mum has also had to make changes to how she interacts and communicates with her son so by both parties being open to change, positive changes were achieved.

Please provide a brief overview of the evaluation of the programme, including customer evaluation and cost saving achieved (see section 9 of the Families First programme guidance) where appropriate (500 words max).

After Caerphilly's successful commissioning for 1st April 2017, the programme has undergone a transition year. New projects and contracts have been introduced to the programme, alongside organisations transitioning from old contracts to updated specifications. This has required a great deal of promotion across Caerphilly, to help establish the new Families First programme and new criteria. The programme has become more 'targeted' in its approach to ensure that families receive the right service at the right time. There have been a number of difficulties that naturally occur with new contracts including delays in recruitment, which in turn created a 'slow start' in the first quarter.

We implemented a new JAFF referral process in March 2017 in Caerphilly and therefore, this has been its first full year in use. This process has now become embedded into Caerphilly's referral pathway and IAA team, with increased knowledge amongst professionals on how to complete the referrals and when to refer for early intervention. This had led to more appropriate referrals with a greater level of detail, in line with the proportionate assessment in the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act.

The programme has achieved fantastic outcomes for families across Caerphilly. 99% of families under TAF have shown an improvement in their distance travelled measures, and across the programme as a whole, 87% of families and 96% of individuals have reported an improvement in family resilience with 99% of families affected by disability reporting an improvement in family resilience.

In terms of feedback through National Performance Measures:

- 97% - children who have improved their speech, language and communication skills (*up from 93% last year*)
- 98% - participant parents with improved ability to support their child's learning and development needs (*up from 76% last year*)
- 87% - participants with improved emotional/mental wellbeing (*up from 79% last year*)
- 96% - families that report they feel they can contribute to changes to their lifestyle/behaviours (*up from 93% last year*)
- 94% - individuals that report improved family dynamics (*up from 91% last year*)

Of closed cases in 2017/18, 98% of families felt that the project was effective and 99% of families felt that they were listened too.

Feedback included:

- Have found [TAF] to be a great help. They have referred me to services that I would not know about. Was treated as an individual and not just another case, very efficient.
- I had been dealing with things for years and had felt there was a stigma around getting support. After [TAF], I am much more confident in asking for help.
- Without [the Wellbeing project] I wouldn't be the person I am today, so thank you all so much.
- The support I have received has been amazing, very helpful and I finally feel safe.
- I was very lost before support from [Domestic Abuse project] but I now feel that I will eventually be the person I was before all the abuse started.
- I was heading down a route of deep depression because of my debts, but Confident with Cash helped me loads and now I can go to sleep easy at night knowing I'm debt free.

- This fantastic service ... gives invaluable support over the first year of baby's life.
- The course has given me my confidence back. Our home is happier now, there is less shouting and we are happier people.

Please provide up to 3 case studies to illustrate the success and positive impact of your programme (note – this information may be shared both internally and externally and each study should be 250 words max).

We have included individual case studies within each of the project reports above.

Please outline examples of good practice or lessons learned which could be shared with other local authorities (250 words max).

Outlined below, Caerphilly has been working closely with the other Flexible Funding programmes and implementing joint contracts for a number of years.

An example of good practice would be the joint initiative with Flying Start which enables families living outside of Flying Start areas to access similar referred provision with the exception of the funded 2-3 year old childcare placement. We believe this could be replicated in other Local Authorities by utilising joint contracts with Flying Start.

Support for families in Caerphilly is largely achieved through a joint contract (Section 33 agreement) with ABHB. Community Nursery Nurses deliver baby massage, sensory groups, pre natal Solihull parenting programmes and weaning and dietary advice to families across Caerphilly. Our Responsive Feeding team also support breast and bottle feeding by providing new mothers with a home visiting service, 72 hours after birth. The Responsive Feeding team was chosen as ABHB's example of good practice in the Welsh Government *'Review of infant feeding in Maternity and Early Years settings in Wales'* and as a case study example to help inform the Welsh logic model for community-based breastfeeding interventions.

In addition to the above support, families in non-Flying Start areas can also be referred for speech and language support through 'Little Voices' Early Language Development groups (mirrored in Flying Start as 'Tiny Talkers'). Families with children who have emerging needs or disabilities can also be referred for a bespoke package of support in the home, prior to starting Rising Threes. Again, this support is offered through both the Flying Start and Families First Programmes.

Please state your progress in aligning with the other Flexible Funding programmes? (250 words max)

The four Tackling Poverty Programmes have been meeting on a monthly basis for a number of years as a "Programme Collaboration Group". The meetings have been used as an opportunity to discuss work being undertaken in each Programme, issues arising and areas of collaboration. Recently we have expanded the Programme Collaboration Group to include representatives for all 10 Funding Flexibilities Grants. Although we are not a Pathfinder authority, the group has allowed us the opportunity to better understand the remit of the other grants, what the funding is used for in Caerphilly and how the funding works alongside other grants or statutory services. This is enabling us to better prepare for the implementation of Funding Flexibilities and to begin to identify ways in which we can work together and where we foresee difficulties.

We also have a number of joint projects and initiatives across the Flexible Funding partners. These are discussed in greater detail in the relevant project sections above:

- **Health Outreach** – joint Section 33 agreement with Flying Start. This project allows all expectant parents in Caerphilly borough to access pre and postnatal support for their

newborn and family.

- **Confident with Cash** – joint contract with Supporting People. Families First will work with families who have a disability or are a TAF family and other referral criteria is mostly met by the Supporting People element, ensuring that most vulnerable families can receive support.
- **Domestic Abuse Floating Support and Emphasis** – joint contract with Supporting People. This ensures there is no duplication of work, compliments the services offered by Supporting People and also allows work to be undertaken with young people below the age of 16.
- **Parent Forum** – joint contract with Flying Start and Legacy funding. It is often used as an exit strategy from Programmes for families to receive community support after an intervention, or as an engagement pathway to refer families on to Programmes of support.
- **Parenting** – jointly commissioned with Flying Start. This allows us to ensure there is a clear pathway and no duplication between the parenting programme.
- **Little Voices** – jointly commissioned with Flying Start. Enables families living outside of Flying Start areas to received group based speech and language support.
- **Targeted Young and Family Engagement** – although not a joint contract, this works alongside the Youth Service funding received from 'Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People at Risk of Offending' grant.
- **Youth Respect** – The workers under this project are jointly funded by Families First and funding from the 'Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People at Risk of Offending' grant.

General Comments, including any significant issues/challenges faced in-year and how you addressed these (250 words max).

Caerphilly has now been working under the new Families First guidance for one financial year, after completing commissioning ready for 1st April 2017. The year has had some difficulties with new contracts beginning, recruitment taking place and programmes of work being established. Communication with organisations regarding contract management has been key during this time. Projects submit quarterly monitoring to the Families First Central Support Team and are met with to discuss the contract on a quarterly basis. However, where issues have been identified further meetings take place, including shadowing the service to better understand how the staff and organisation work. We feel that open communication with partners and the Families First Board has helped us to work through many of the initial issues with new contracts.

Demand for support remains ongoing, particularly for Parenting, Wellbeing and Targeting Youth and Family Engagement. We are working with projects who have waiting lists to prevent these escalating. We have upskilled staff to be able to offer more varied group support (so that more families can be worked with at a time) and have implemented a time-limited approach to support so that cases close quicker and families on the waiting list can be seen sooner.

Flying Start programme Annual impact report 2017/18

The Flying Start programme has expanded from the initial 10 catchment areas to 26 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) based on the most disadvantaged areas in Caerphilly and targeted using the highest concentration of children aged 0-3 years living in income benefit households. The Flying Start programme delivers:

- Enhanced Health programme supporting families from antenatal stage until their child turns 4 years old, although they are not transitioned off the caseload until the September they attend reception.
- Parenting Programmes and individual Family Support – antenatal, postnatal, Solihull parenting programme, Parent Nurturing Programme, STEPS to success programme as well as bespoke individual support in the home and PAFT.
- Speech, Language and Communication interventions including Super Shellby support in childcare settings, Early Language Development groups, and Speech and Language Therapist support.
- Funded Childcare place for 2-3 year olds before they take up their Nursery place, including early identification and support for children with additional needs. Places are delivered in both non-maintained and maintained childcare settings to meet parental choice offering English or Welsh Medium provision.

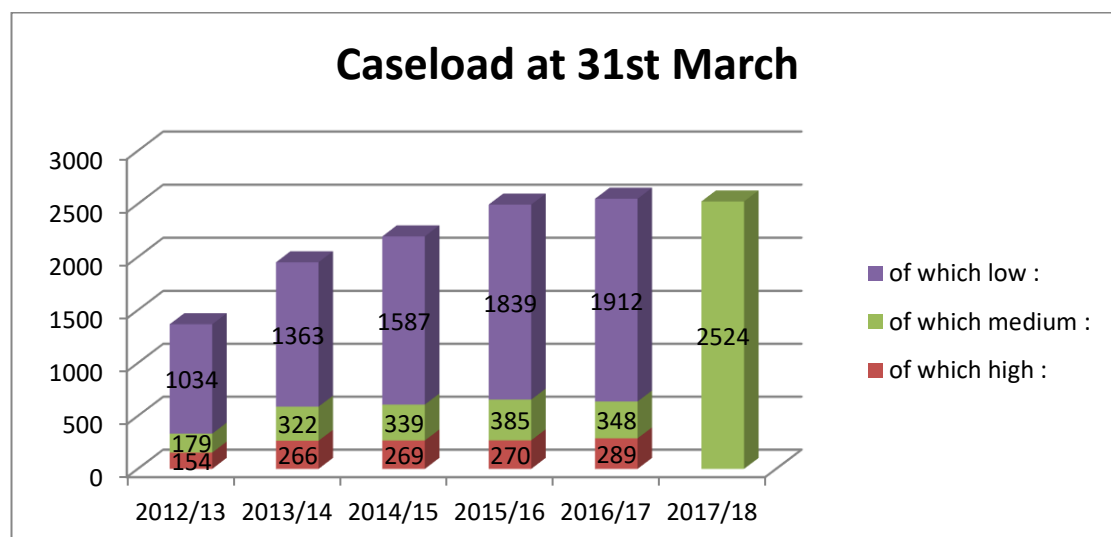
Caerphilly started delivering the full Flying Start programme with all 4 components in the initial ten Flying Start areas in 2008-09. Therefore those children completing the Foundation Phase in the summer of 2016 will be the first cohort of Flying Start children who had access to the full programme prior to Nursery. The Programme has expanded the areas from 10 areas to 26 LSOAs during 2012-16.

The programme aims to establish positive behaviours in children and families, through healthy lifestyles, positive parenting, attendance and aspirations. Programme outcomes are based on the conditions of well being and are developing a range of population indicators to show progression in these outcomes:

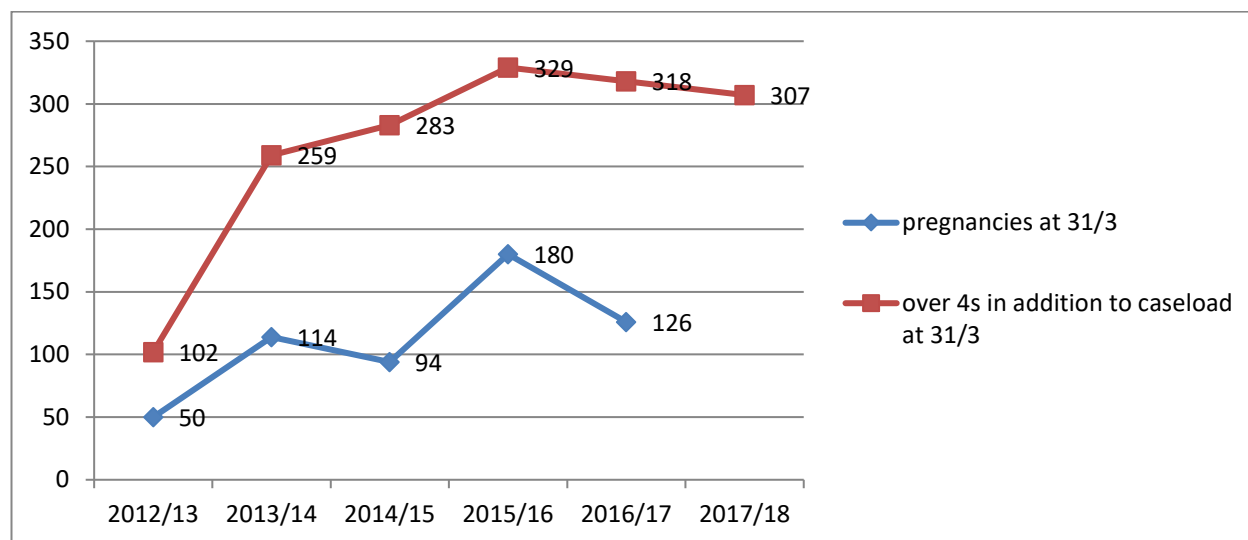
- Flying Start children are healthy and thriving
- Flying Start children and their families are capable and coping well
- Flying Start children reach their full potential

During the last period of expansion 2012-16 the programme has grown from a caseload cap number of 1250 to 2483, doubling the size of programme and enabling a reach of 29% of the children aged 0-3 in Caerphilly county borough (based on Nov 2016 caseload data) in all of the 10% most disadvantaged LSOAs and some of the 20% most disadvantaged.

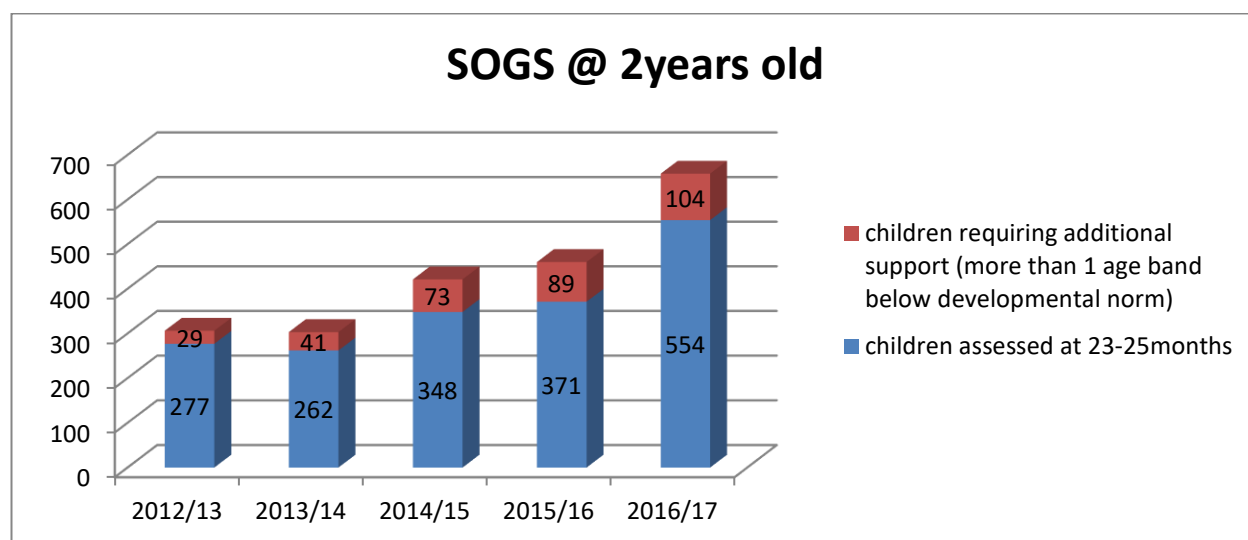
The Health Visitors are changing their family assessment to a resilience assessment and so the data will change accordingly.

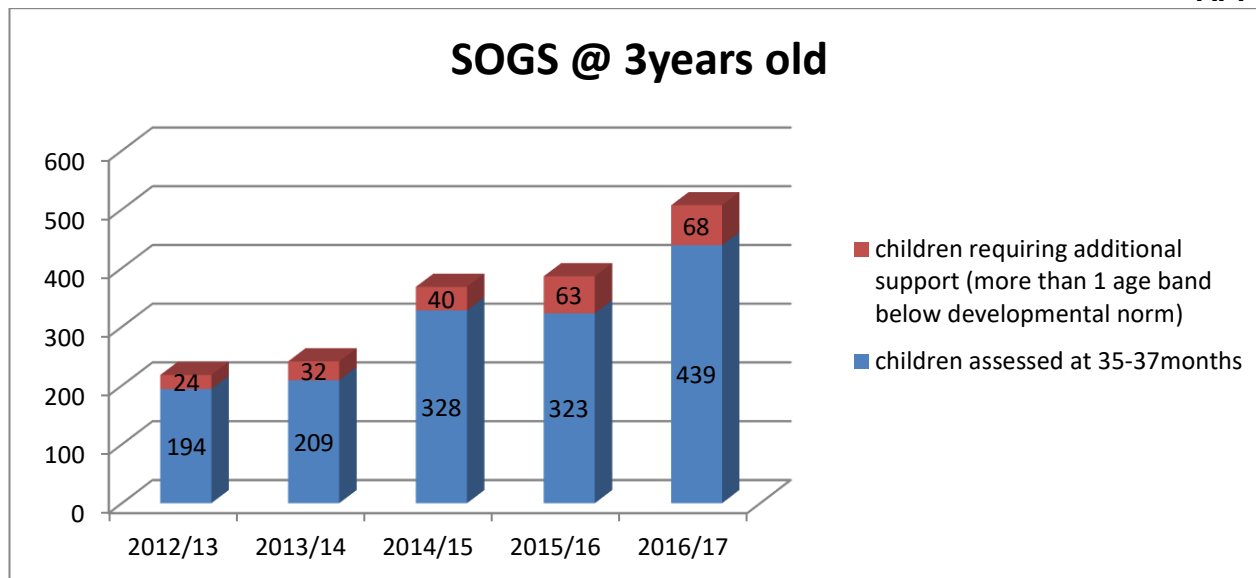


In addition Flying Start health visitors, health team and parenting team work with families in the antenatal period, to start interventions and support at the earliest point. This enables healthy relationships, realistic expectations and a healthy pregnancy as well as reducing anxiety during pregnancy which is better for brain development in the baby. The health visitors also carry 4 year olds on their caseload until they transition to school nursing in the September after their 4th birthday. There have already been interventions throughout the programme and so the impact of the additional 4 year old children is limited. Pregnancies and children over the age of 4years are not counted in the returns or data as they have officially left or not yet entered the programme, even though they may be in receipt of some Flying Start services. From 2017/18 pregnancies are no longer counted but moved to number of antenatal contacts.

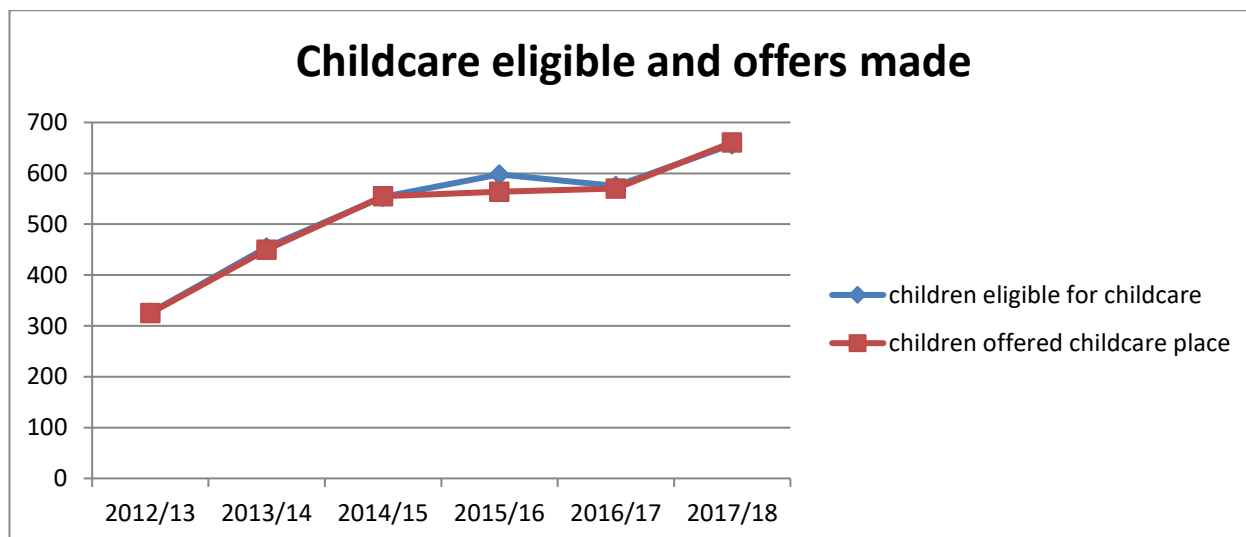


Children have developmental assessments at 2 key points in the programme at 2 years old and 3 years old, although this will change moving forward to 18months and 27 months in line with the new Healthy Child Wales programme. The Schedule of Growing Skills assessment is a child development screening tool and primarily used to identify significant delays of more than one age band below their expected level, to enable referrals to specialist services. The graphs below show that the Flying Start population of children has a higher number of children with development delays requiring additional support / more specialist interventions than in the wider borough population (statemented children at school age 3.1%). SOGS are no longer routinely undertaken on all children in Flying Start and so this indicator discontinues from 2017/18.

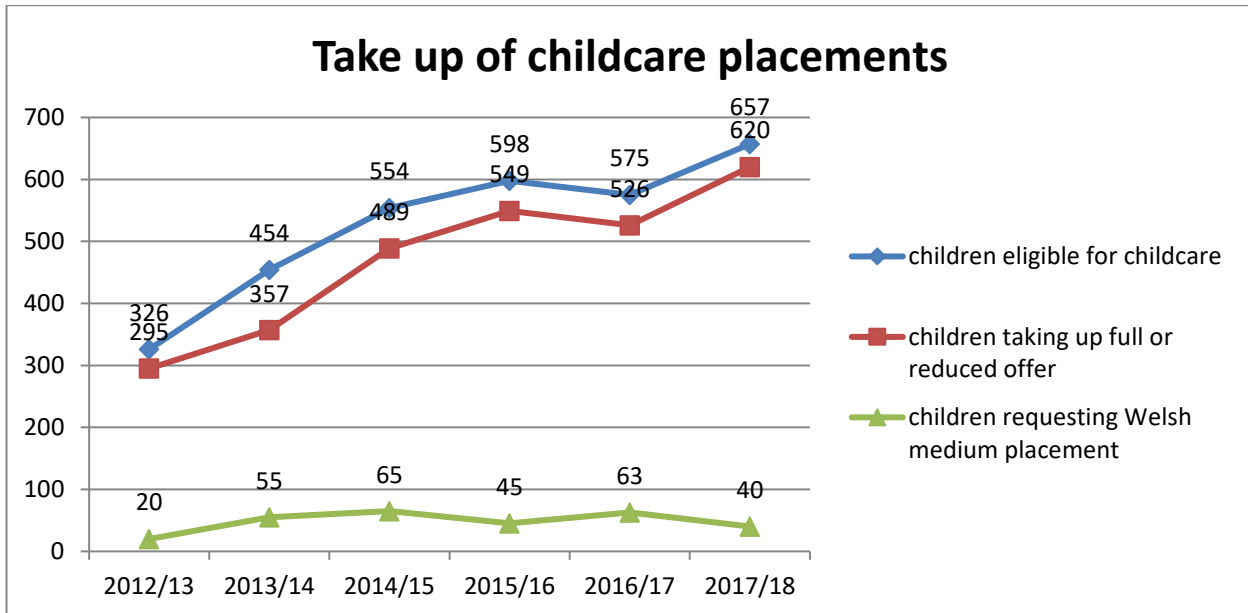




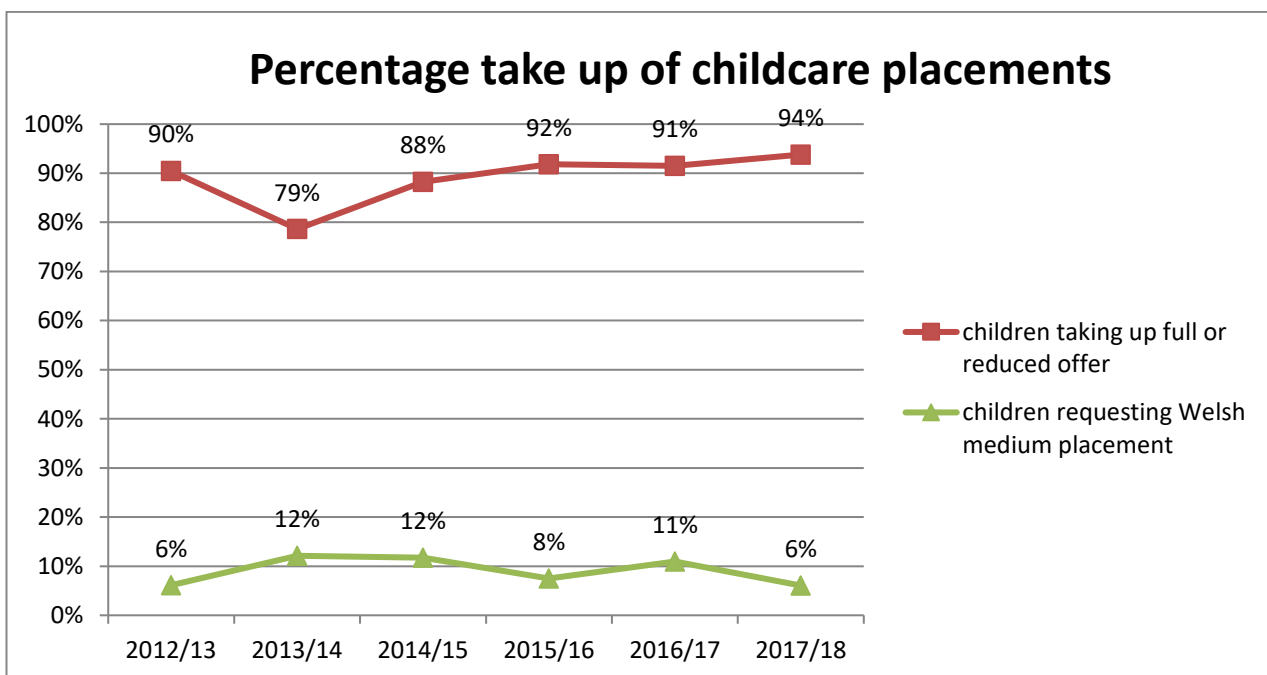
Childcare places are offered to all children with options of Welsh or English medium places and ability to use a childminder or day nursery to enable working parents to have wraparound for their working hours should they need it.



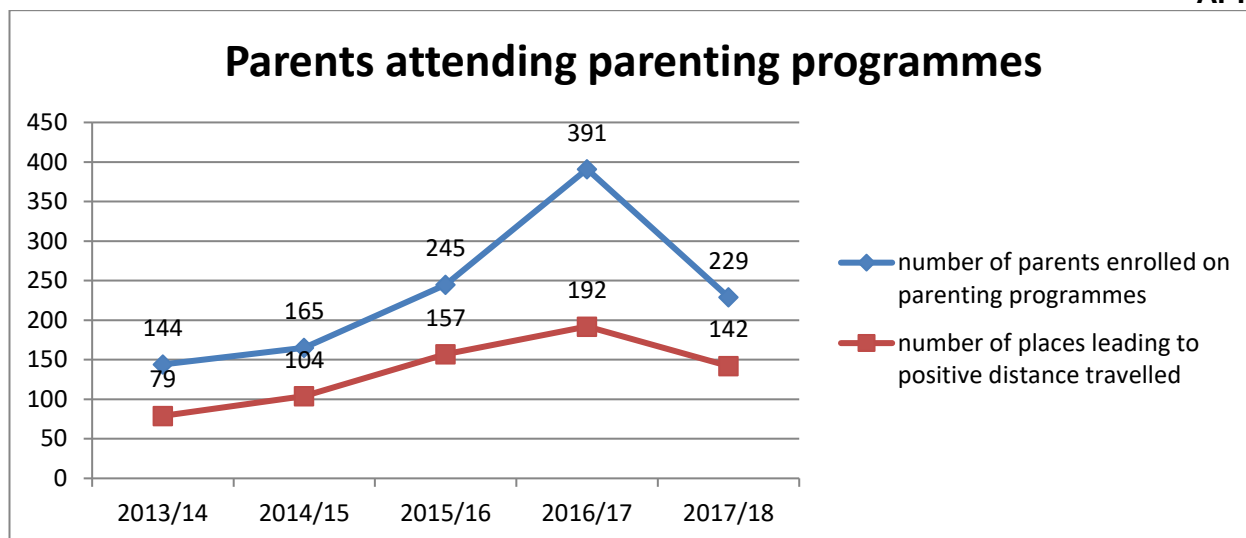
Childcare settings are a mix of maintained (employed and run by Caerphilly CBC) and contracted non-maintained settings (mix of providers including private business, voluntary management committee, Charitable Incorporated Organisations and sole traders). The increase in provision required has had added benefits to the local community through improving sustainability of community based provision, improvement in conditions of provision including infrastructure and equipment as well as upskilling staff and increasing those achieving level 5 qualifications. This has also created a significant number of jobs in the community and enabled career progression for staff and is in addition to the actual delivery of the provision for the development of the children in our most disadvantaged areas. The ratio required is 1:4 and so there are a significant number of staff involved in delivery as well as additional staff to support children with complex needs on Early Years Action plus. All children have development assessments which form the basis for their individual plans which may have progress to a play plan if there are emerging needs or outside agencies involved in their support.



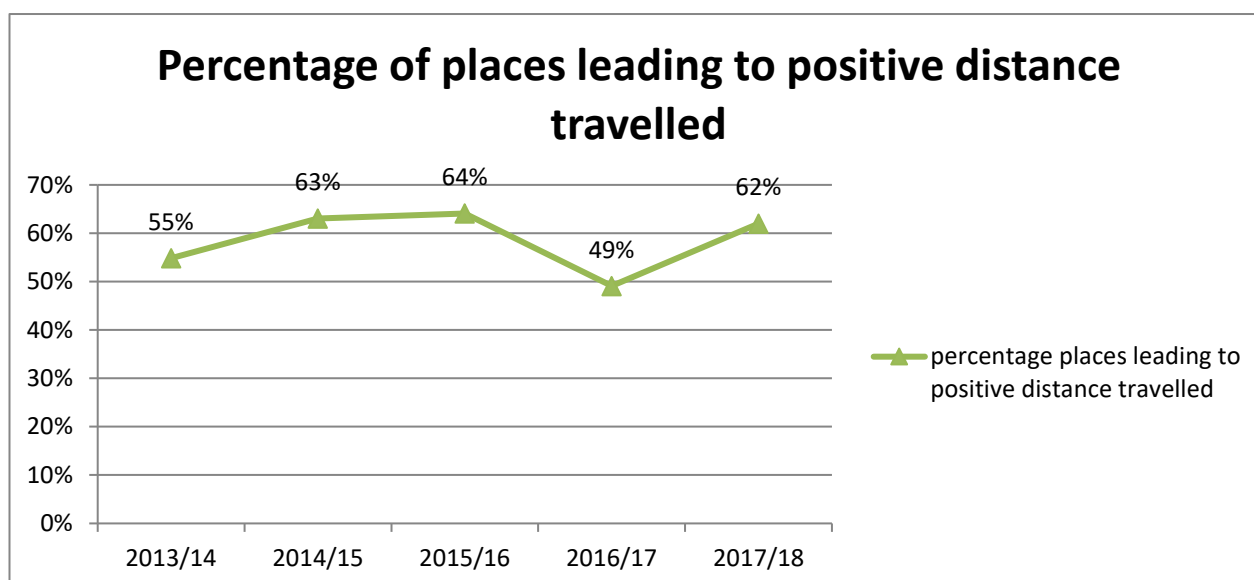
The health visitor checks with the family during the 18 month visit regarding language preference for childcare and this often prompts the family to check they are registered with the central team ready for an offer letter. The offer letter is sent to all families the half term before they are due to start asking them to return the slip with their choice of setting named. The family then books their appointment with their setting to complete all paperwork and plan transition.



All parents are encouraged to attend parenting programmes or access bespoke packages of support in the home depending on their circumstances and family needs. This has shown a positive trend over recent years removing the stigma of accepting parenting support.



Many parents are recognising the positive aspects of parenting programmes and understand the difference in their skills from what they perceived in the beginning and what they now understand at the end of the course. Many realise that they weren't coping as well as they thought at the beginning of the course but now understand the improvement in their parenting skills.



Bespoke packages can be anything from 4 sessions in the home to 1 year or 3 years depending on the family's needs and the outcomes they are working towards. Most packages are completed within 1-2 terms but some need more long term work to change entrenched behaviours, although the maximum so far has been 18 months.

Speech Language and Communication is embedded throughout the delivery of all groups and interventions to improve parent and child understanding of how to support SPC development. The group based programmes are aimed at 1-2 year olds and support SLC in a play based structured parent and toddler course. The groups develop activities based around a story and show how to encourage a love of books and reading stories, as well as songs and rhymes.

Case Study Flying Start family support**5 Star review on Facebook by parent NW**

Recently completed the Flying Start Solihull course and could not fault it, especially the team leaders S and L. Very relaxed and friendly environment, and very enlightening. Looking forward to the next two.

5 star review on Facebook page by parent SG

I got help from Flying Start after my second child. I had post natal depression and couldn't leave the house. Flying Start were amazing and helped me become the mum I'm proud to be. The service is great and I highly recommend.

Message from parent C

*I've just completed the Solihull course in Hengoed with S&M and the girls have helped me no end. I struggle with a lot of things. Battle my own demons with anxiety and stuff, but the girls have taught me its ok not to be ok. Ways to deal with parenting advice and ways to explain things to my children. Its been so helpful and given me confidence in parenting. I still lose my s*** but I feel like I can cope and there is light at the end of the tunnel. So thank you!*

Case study Flying Start Childcare**5 star review on Facebook by parent KW**

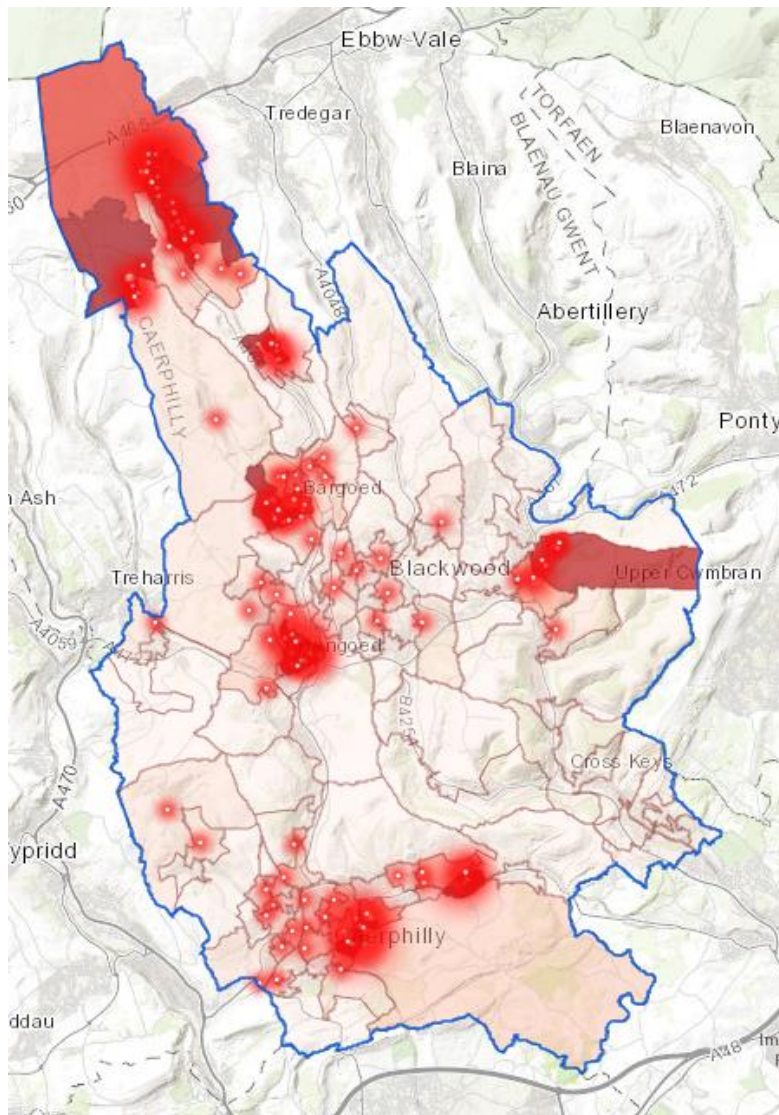
My daughter has come on amazing since joining Phillipstown Flying Start. Her face lights up every morning when she sees the girls every morning.

5 star review on Facebook by parent NME

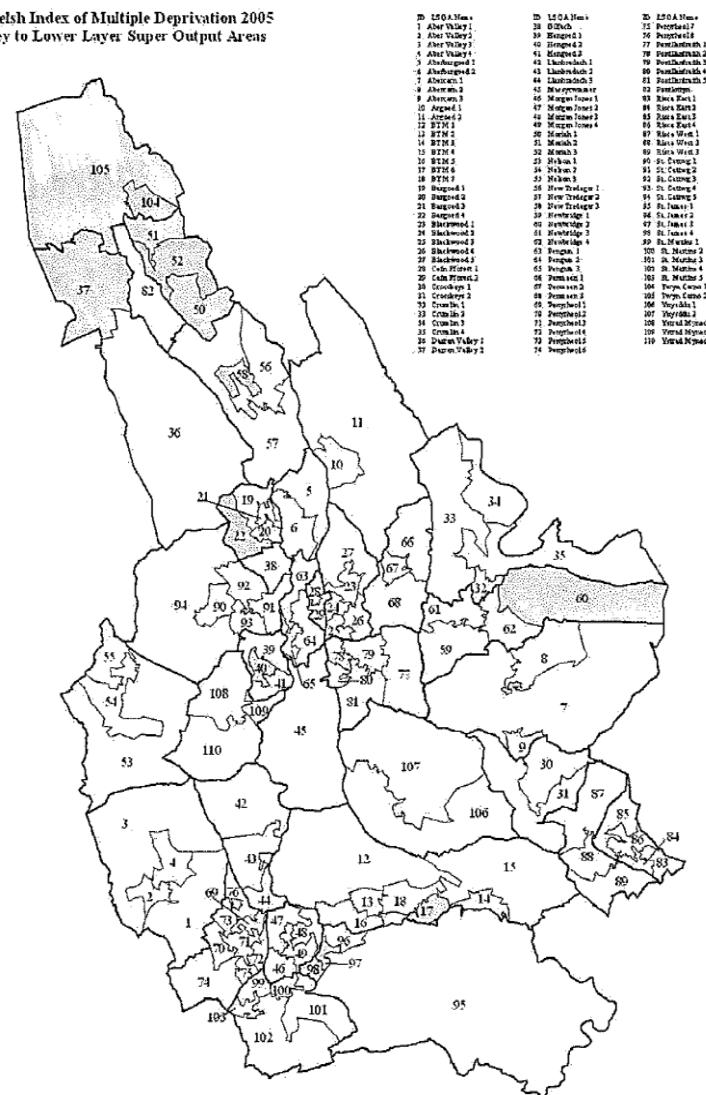
Cefn Forest Flying Start I cant thank them enough for all they do. My daughter loves it there. The staff go above and beyond and my little one always has so much fun and learns lots. Thank you

Initial data analysis of first Flying Start cohort

Flying Start programme began full delivery in September 2008 so children born would then have had access to the full programme. Of the 280 children attending childcare from that cohort, 245 children remained in the borough at the end of Foundation Phase. Therefore 35 children had moved out of the borough entirely and some children had moved away from their original Flying Start area so a direct correlation with their Primary School Foundation Phase results was not achievable. The largest moves seem to be from Hengoed, Bargoed, St James and Panside areas.



Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2005
Key to Lower Layer Super Output Areas






communities first cymunedau yn gyntaf



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Lead Delivery Body Report for the year ending 31 March 2018

Lead Delivery Body:	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Lead Delivery Body Signature: <i>Please use electronic signature</i>	
Local Authority Area:	Caerphilly County Borough
Cluster(s)	Upper Rhymney Valley, Mid Valleys East & West, Caerphilly Basin (x4 Clusters)
Are you an Early Adopter of the new employability grant?	No
Report to be completed and returned in hard copy and electronically to WG by 15 May 2018. If you would prefer to complete the form earlier we would be pleased to receive it before the end of March.	

Guidance on Completing your Annual Monitoring Report

- An electronic version should be forwarded to the Communities First Transition Team
CommunitiesFirstandCommunityGrantsMailbox@gov.wales
- Staff details – please ensure that you have completed details for all CF-funded staff in the LDB and Cluster(s).

Overview

Please provide an overall summary of highlights and progress made by the LDB and Cluster(s) against your Detailed Transition Plan for the year. This can be in addition to what you told us at the mid-year point.

Phasing out of the Communities First programme in the borough was completed by 31st December 2017, when the Community Regeneration department restructure process was completed. In the main, staff either left for positions in other departments/organisations or were successful in gaining posts within the new Legacy/Communities For Work+ programmes. The remainder of the Communities First grant funding has been used to phase in the new programmes during Q4 (January – March 2018) covering salaries and supporting work in the identified priority communities and employment support, which will migrate to the Legacy & Communities For Work+ programmes in April. During the reporting period the focus was on preparing the team and the community for the introduction of the new programmes. Where necessary staff attended training to equip them with the appropriate skills to deliver the new programmes, this included Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) training to support the new approach to working with communities, endorsed by the PSB. Similarly, community groups were supported to access training/learning opportunities to support their sustainability post Communities First.

Youth and Family

The remaining members of the youth and family team have wound down and have started to transition young people. Those from areas that are not priority will be supported via Caerphilly Youth Service provision whilst the young people from priority areas will transition across to projects being delivered by the Legacy fund. The number of areas being covered has dramatically reduced and so has the number of children and young people being engaged. Provision has been focused on children and young people with the highest levels of need. The team managed to maintain as many sessions as possible as far into the year as was possible. Sessions in schools in priority areas continued, with a focus on a school in the south (Rhymney area) and one in the North (Lansbury Park area). Work has continued in Bedwas Comprehensive, although significantly reduced and sessions drew to a close in Phillipstown due issues with capacity. The Learning Pathway Centres have now been absorbed into Education.

Community Involvement

Please provide information on how you have ensured continuing community involvement in developments and decisions during this transition year.

Please describe your community involvement activity during the last six months (from 1 October to 31 March)

During the reporting period the team supported several groups to continue meet (Bargoed Women's group, colouring group Ty Sign & others) and assisted with training for volunteers and plans for drawing in funding to become sustainable post Communities First. The GAVO Development Officers visited groups & offered support, particularly those that will fall outside the new priority areas as part of Legacy going forward.

The team have continued to strengthen links with the Caerphilly Parent Network organisation & CCBC Housing department in priority communities by running joint community engagement events. At least 1 event was held between October 2017 & March 2018 (Halloween, Christmas & Feb half term) in all 8 communities to enhance established relationships and support new ones. The Area Co-ordinators (Legacy) have used these events to 'fact find' about the community and identify needs that will inform the area plans going forward as well as identify key community members to work in partnership with.

Since January the Legacy team have ensured links with employment support team (C4W/C4W+) are maintained by supporting community hubs/weekly drop in sessions at outreach venues in the communities. Wherever possible, the hubs have been in or near the priority communities for Legacy and the Participant Engagement Officers (C4W+) have been working with Legacy Co-ordinators to establish hubs that offer wrap around support such as help with digital skills, benefits & housing applications and essential skills.

In terms of young people, unfortunately involvement with both Youth Forum and Junior Forum was reduced in Q3 and Q4 due to staff capacity. 2 youth workers have been retained under the Legacy fund and they will consider how to retain the links with the forums in the future, albeit for a smaller cohort of young people from the priority areas.

As a Community Regeneration department we have been establishing & building on hubs from 3 key venues (Hafod Deg, Rhymney; Atlee Court, Lansbury Park and Graig Y Rhacca Resource Centre) as bases for staff from C4W, C4W+ & Legacy programmes but also for community activities. There are plans for the C4W/C4W+ team in the West to have a base at the new Citizens Advice Bureau in Bargoed when it opens later in May/June 2018, which will mean all staff in the department are based in the community for most, if not all of the working week. Partner agencies & council departments will continue to use these hubs to deliver services and opportunities to expand the number of partners engaged in the hubs are ongoing.

Please outline how communities have been included in developments and decisions during this period

The GAVO Development Officer posts finished at the end of December 2017 and since January 2018 the new Legacy team have been working with existing voluntary groups in the priority communities to support their activities or work in partnership to set up new activities/services, some of these are outlined below:

- Lansbury Matters – drop in & sessions at Atlee Court, community events
- Graig Y Rhacca Resource Centre volunteers – Community events, Rec Rock sessions & plans for joint building management
- TLC volunteers, Ty Sign – community events & engagement activities, link with CAP project
- Community centre, Park Estate (Bargoed) – community events & engagement activities
- Youth Centre, Cefn Hengoed – 'connection café' drop in
- Community House, Phillipstown – community events, luncheon club
- Fochriw Spinning Yarns group – community events, trips, engagement activities
- Caerphilly Parent Network groups in focus communities – engagement activities, community events

The young people were very much involved in the consultation period prior to the decision to bring CF to a close, but afterward there has been little opportunity to engage children and young people in developments and decisions during this period as there has been very little for them to be involved with. Due to the loss of funding most of the staff have left and this is not something the young people can be involved in. As things move forward with Legacy Funding there will be further opportunity for them to engage in developments and the Youth officers will also consider how to resume links with the Junior and Youth Forum.

Please set out your proposals for continuing to involve communities in developments and decisions during the next six months

- Continue and maintain the principle of asset based community development & encourage partners to adopt the approach
- Continue to work with active voluntary groups & support individuals to have a voice in the priority areas
- Consider how best to resume links with the Junior and Youth Forum for young people from the priority communities
- Implement the Lansbury and Fochriw Children First pilot project plan in conjunction with Flying Start & the Parent Network building on learning from the visit to Pembury, Hackney organised by WG.

Transition Plan

Please let us know about your involvement with the Public Service Board over the last few months

The Public Service Board (PSB) has been fully briefed to date by both Caerphilly CBC and Welsh Government. A report has been submitted to the Board in relation to Welsh Government timescales as well as Caerphilly's proposals for phasing out Communities First and implementing the Legacy and Employability structures. The PSB has also received copies of all cabinet reports relating to the phasing out of the programme; and senior CCBC officers including the Community Regeneration Manager and the Corporate Director for Communities have attended Board meetings on several occasions to provide further updates as the process has progressed. In

particular, further discussions have also taken place to identify gaps in provision that will occur, with representation made to the Public Service Board for consideration. The PSB has expressed concern regarding the loss of CF services and projects, although to date no further commitments have been made from them regarding possible measures to address any of these gaps in provision, with the exception of Gwent Police who have funded an additional officer to cover Lansbury Park as part of their work with the “Coalition for Change” board (see below).

Specific focus has been given to Lansbury Park as a key strategic focus area for regeneration. The original Deep Place study was presented to the Board for ratification and they have endorsed this approach as a pilot way of working for the Legacy programme within Caerphilly. The Board have also endorsed the newly established “Coalition for Change” Board, which has been formed as a means of driving forward the approach in Lansbury. Each Public Service Board member has now nominated a senior representative to sit on the Coalition for Change and this will be the decision making body that has the authority to change priorities, allocated resources and command support from their respective agencies. The scale of the challenge in Lansbury requires a commitment over many years, which will require an approach to public service provision that seeks to better coordinate services to achieve maximum impact. We intend to adopt a place based focus, with a radical review of public services to assess how well they meet the outcomes required by residents, and how they could improve impact and value for money. The role of the Public Service Board is key to implementing this approach, and having endorsed the approach to Lansbury Park it provides an opportunity to develop this across a number of key areas across the borough.

The Community Regeneration Manager has been identified as the lead officer for the skills and apprenticeships theme of the wellbeing plan for the PSB. This will ensure strategic and operational links will be made between employment support programmes and the PSB’s developing apprenticeships programme. This also links the to City Deal’s developing apprenticeship & skills programme.

2017-18 Transition Plan Projects				
Priority	Activity/Project	Date project ended or will end	Is the project continuing after 31 March? Yes/No	If yes, please tell us who will be delivering the project and how it will be funded, e.g. Legacy Fund, Communities for Work Plus, local health board, voluntary sector or other. If no, please briefly outline the implications for your cluster area(s).
Prosperous Communities	Employment Support	N/A	Yes	This work will be carried out as part of the Communities For Work Plus programme.
	Digital Inclusion/Digital Skills	N/A	Yes	Most elements of this project will continue funded as part of the Communities For Work Plus programme, carried out by the Participant Engagement & Support Officers.
	Digital Fridays	N/A	Yes	As part of Communities For Work Plus , the Participant Engagement & Support Officers will support the network of volunteers to continue to run the project from Libraries across the borough.
	Prevention Project (Young Risk Takers)	31.03.18	No	This project has now drawn to a close and any young people who require further intervention will be referred through to Legacy projects, Families First or Youth Service
Learning Communities	(Young Peoples) Personal and Social Development (PSD)	31.03.18	No	This project has now drawn to a close and any young people who require further intervention will be referred through to Legacy projects, Families First or Youth Service
	School Support Project	N/A	Yes	Youth Workers will continue to work with a reduced amount of Schools via the Legacy programme .
	Learning Pathway Centres (LPCs)	31.12.17	No	Since the end of December 2017, the staff at the LPCs have been funded by the Education Department of the Council. This will continue going forward as the project has been absorbed by CCBC Education.
	Family Support (St Martins Comprehensive School, St James Primary, Caerphilly Basin)	N/A	Yes	Family Support Workers will be funded by the Legacy programme to continue this work.

Healthier Communities	Mental Health Support (Classes & 1:2:1 support)	31.12.17	No	Most elements of this project will continue funded as part of the Communities For Work Plus programme, carried out by the Participant Wellbeing & Support Officers. However this will only be available to eligible participants i.e. those actively seeking employment.
	Mental Health Support (Groups & activities)	31.12.17	No	Elements of this project will continue funded as part of the Legacy Programme (Gardening Project & Mens In Sheds in Ryhmney & Caerphilly Basin).
	StreetGames	31.12.17	Yes	Several sites will continue in the borough run by volunteers. Links will be made via the Legacy programme as appropriate.
	Healthy Lives	30.06.17	No	The team has continued to receive enquiries for Foodwise & X-POD classes since completion of the project, which have had to be passed on to partners where appropriate. However we have found that suitable classes are not readily available with little or no provision in the community. This issue may be taken forward as part of the Legacy programme in the future.
	Physical Activity Project	31.12.17	No	All community based classes ceased by the end of September 2017. With support & training provided by the CF team, 2 classes are continuing to run led by volunteers, which is a real success. All other classes were signposted to other appropriate provision if available.

Please detail the total number of participants that have taken part in CF Transition Plan activity during the year ending 31 March 2018, this should include the number reported at the end of September. If you are completing the form before the year end an estimate is acceptable.

Please note that there has been a change within the recording of a number of projects due to the phasing out of CF. Because of this we will not be reporting the total number of participants due to the uncertainty of double counting.

However, we are able to report the following numbers of Young People engaged in projects run by the Youth Workers;

- 255 in generic projects (Prevention, Personal and Social Development and School Support)
- 84 in LPC's
- Total = 339 young people

Please give details of posts which have ended since the mid-year monitoring report, or will end on 31 March, and the destination of staff concerned (if known), e.g. re-deployed within organisation, new post elsewhere, voluntary exit, redundancy

Post/Name	Date post ended	Destination
Gemma Walker	31 st December 2017	Re-deployed within organisation
Angela Adams	31 st December 2017	Voluntary exit
Jenni Walton	31 st December 2017	New post elsewhere
Gill Powell	31 st December 2017	Returned to substantive post within organisation
Sophie Moore	31 st December 2017	End of fixed term contract
Natalie Falcus	31 st December 2017	End of fixed term contract
Lisa Davies (Post 20% funded by CF)	31 st March 2018	Post will now be 100% funded by other grants including Families First

Rhiannon Hazlewood	29 th October 2017	New post elsewhere
Kelsey Pitt	15 th October 2017	New post elsewhere
Steven Coombes	31 st December 2017	New post elsewhere
Martin Kelly (part time)	31 st December 2017	New post elsewhere
Clare Sutton (maternity leave)	31 st December 2017	New post elsewhere
Zoe Williams (GAVO)	31 st December 2017	New post elsewhere
Ceri Smith (GAVO)	7 th November 2017	New post elsewhere
Steve Keenan (GAVO)	31 st December 2017	Redundancy
Neil Jones (GAVO)	31 st December 2017	Redundancy
Carol Smith (GAVO)	31 st December 2017	Redundancy

Please provide details of any support/training you have received through the Welsh Government funded WCVA Training and Support Contract during this period. Please indicate how useful this support/training has been during this transition period.

White Rose Information & Resource Centre

As part of the phasing out of the programme, the Directors of the White Rose Information & Resource Centre received support from the WCVA regarding HR (Human Resources) and payroll management. The aim was to safeguard the sustainability of the Centre post CF and was successful, as the Directors incorporated the advice & guidance into their policies and procedures.

Graig y Rhacca Resource Centre

The Centre Directors were approached regarding the support that could be provided by the WCVA Support contract. However unfortunately this was not taken up.

Co-Production Network Wales

We approached the Support contract regarding training for the Coalition for Change Board (Lansbury Park) which includes members of the PSB. However after discussion WG deemed the request ineligible for support, so Russell Todd facilitated the link between the Council and the Network. The Co-Production Network successfully ran an introductory workshop session with the Board in January and will deliver further workshops for delivery Managers in the coming financial year (2018/19).

Please give details of any buildings which have closed, or are at risk of closing, on 31st March 2018 as a result of Communities First finishing.

As far as we are aware there are no buildings in the borough at risk of closing as a result of Communities First finishing.

Please tell us about the impact of Communities First ending on third sector organisations in your Cluster(s) area.

- **GAVO** – lost development workers, down to one core funded worker to support community groups in the borough
- **Groundwork** – loss of staff funded by the programme. MVE team moved from their office building means loss of income for the organisation
- **Caerphilly Parent Network** – able to continue using Legacy funds in partnership with other programmes

Please detail any additional information, not recorded above, of which you feel we should be aware.

An overview of the outcomes achieved for Youth projects during Q3 & 4 are below:

Prevention Project (Young Risk Takers)

- 43 young people engaged
- 39 reached 10 hours of engagement = 90%
- 4 young people completed NICAs level 1 in climbing
- 29 rated the project good or excellent (it was difficult to get evaluations completed as the project was drawing to a close and many disengaged)

- 85 sessions were delivered this year

(Young Peoples)Personal and Social Development (PSD)

- 58 young people engaged
- 43 reached 10 hours of engagement = 74%
- 48 rated the project good or excellent (it was difficult to get evaluations completed as the project was drawing to a close and many disengaged)
- 176 sessions were delivered this year

Schools Support Project

Since the last reporting period the number of schools being supported has reduced to 3.

MVE 2 schools were supported:

- 15 young people engaged
- 12 reported knowing where to go if they had a problem

MVW 2 schools were supported :

- 24 young people engaged
- 24 rated the project as good or excellent and 24 reported to know where to go to if they had a problem.

This is all we could gather from the MVW and MVE schools getting feedback from the schools was more difficult this year, which is understandable as we have had to end our interventions with them.

- 41 sessions were delivered in these areas before the sessions came to an end

CB 1 school was supported:

- 36 children engaged
- 36 rated the sessions as good or excellent
- 35 know where to go if they have a problem in school
- 21 improved in academic performance with an additional 7 showing improvements in other areas.
- 46 sessions have been delivered this year

URV 2 schools were supported:

- 55 children engaged
- 52 rated the sessions as good or excellent
- 35 know where to go if they have a problem in school (the team were only able to ask 35 of the children this question)
- 23 improved in academic performance. (Academic performance was not reported by one of the school's)
- 96 sessions have been delivered this year

Total Sessions: 183

Total Engaged:130

Total with a beneficial outcome:106 = 81%

Sessions were tailor made for the groups and focused on enabling them to become more engaged in the learning environment. The project was a great success with all school reporting improved results over the years we worked with them and all schools requesting that the supported remained, obviously this was not possible and therefore schools in key areas were offered the option to continue with the service until December 2017, with others being informed that the sessions could not continue due to reduced levels of staffing. Currently only 3 schools remain, 2 primaries (1 Rhymney 1 Lansbury Park) and 1 Comprehensive (Bedwas)

Bedwas Comprehensive

- 34 young people have received 1:1 support for personal and social issues
- 74 sessions have been delivered

Learning Pathway Centres

Work at the centres is going really well and since December the LPC staff have been funded via education, although they have still provided some evening session support in order to transition our groups. During the year young people have been involved in various accreditations along with work around personal and social development and wellbeing e.g Princes Trust, Careers Sessions, BTec Sweet, Managing Feelings, Money Management, Digital Competence, NICAS Award, Fitness sessions, Agored sessions, Relationships work, along with many others. The LPC staff have also engaged with various different partners to enhance the experiences of the young people. For example, Military Preparation College, South Wales Ambulance Service, School Governors, Coleg Y Cymoedd. They have also ensured that multi agency working has taken place in order to ensure young people are referred on to any specialist support that they require.

- 84 individual young people have accessed support from the LPC's this year.
- 1998 sessions have been delivered this year (which includes 1:1's, whole day activities and 45 minute lesson sessions)
- 76/84 rated the sessions as good or excellent = 90%
- 50/59 have improved in academic performance = 84% (some information was not provided by Bedwas as their LPC came to end early)
- 80/84 stated that they know where to go if they have a problem in their educational placement = 95%

OPTIONAL If you would like to share a recent participant case study please do so here.



Planning for the Future

2016-2019

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1. Introduction

The past twelve months have seen some major changes to the supporting people programme with the introduction of new legislation and a move towards greater integration of the Welsh Government anti poverty programmes. Some of the most relevant new legislation is listed below.

- Housing Act 2014
- Future Generations Act 2015
- Social Services and Well Being Act 2014
- Violence against Women, domestic abuse and sexual violence Act 2015
- National Pathway for Homeless services to children and young people and adults in the secure estate

We have also been fortunate in the protection of the Caerphilly supporting people budget of £6,232,790, We have achieved major improvements in terms of reducing our reliance on bed and breakfast and proactively preventing the number of people approaching our homeless department, we are increasing the funding for mental health services and ensuring that our services are being directed to those in greatest need of housing support. We have co-located a number of support workers from different specialisms within our housing advice centre.

We continue to maximise benefits and reduce people's debt, whilst working with agencies that increase people's skills and offer opportunities for employment.

New initiatives are being introduced that seek to explore the option of shared living, improving the lives of rough sleepers and working with Families First in targeting young people in early teens with regard to advice and assistance around potential homelessness.

We have also supported the LEAP project whereby a mental health support worker is attached to 5 GP practices in the north of the valley and are looking at. Options regarding working closer with neighbourhood care networks.

We are proceeding with co-locating support workers with housing staff in Holly Road, Risca and on two of our largest and most deprived housing estates at Lansbury Park and Graig y Rhacca.



2. Working in Partnership

Increasingly from Welsh Government there is a message emphasising the need to work in partnership and align programmes of work to achieve economies of scale and lessen the disruption caused to our vulnerable clients in terms of producing seamless services to assist the citizen.

The Caerphilly Supporting People Team is working both locally and regionally to achieve the above outcomes and the following are some examples of how that work is progressing:-

Locally

Anti Poverty alignment – Caerphilly is seeking to ensure that services that seek to raise people out of poverty are better coordinated and this includes bi monthly meetings of anti poverty programme leads, establishment of an Anti Poverty Board, stream lining referral and assessment process and jointly commissioning contracts where appropriate. Most supporting people providers attended CCBC Anti Poverty Collaboration Group information event on 17th November, 2015 at Llancaiach Fawr Manor House.

Homeless Prevention – Support workers from a number of specialist disciplines are being collated with the local authority's homelessness service, increasingly the emphasis is on preventing homeless occurring and offering timely support to avoid crisis's occurring.

Regionally

Regional domestic abuse

Gwent are a pilot area for the tackling Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence. A Gwent Board is being established upon which will sit supporting people representatives, information bulletins are being distributed regularly and Caerphilly will be hosting a specialist 8 bed refuge in Risca.

Regional Substance Abuse

One of the Key Actions in the draft 2016-18 substance misuse delivery plan is to: 'Prevent homelessness by helping people with substance misuse problems sustain tenancies'. Close links have been established with the Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Boards to maintain strong links to ensure joined up services. The Caerphilly supporting people team works closely with Gwent Drug & Alcohol Service and Drugaid to improve services.

Regional Collaborative Committee

The Supporting People Regional Collaborative Committee continues to meet bi-monthly, scrutinise the activities of the Gwent Supporting People teams and lead on ensuring the direction and quality of housing support services in Gwent.

3. Need, Supply and Service Gaps

Caerphilly Supporting People constantly monitor the level of need exhibited by people who live within the county; this is collected through Needs Mapping forms and events, liaison with statutory services and discussions with the voluntary sector.

The level of demand for our services, waiting lists and observed gaps in services all help to inform our commissioning strategy, build a picture of demand and ensure that the services we offer meet the current and developing needs of the county's population.



As an example 2015/16 – 1634 referrals for floating support were received, this is 1515 more than 2014-15. Much of our developmental programme is being driven by changes to the legislative structure, with introduction of Housing Act, Social Services and Well Being Act and Future Generations.

It is always important to monitor the changing demographics and ensure that services are prepared for change and to adopt best practice to deliver the outcomes we want for our clients.

A number of measures have been instituted to identify need and identify service gaps, some examples are shown below.

Caerphilly SIP/ Anti Poverty Board

An Anti Poverty Board has been established with Caerphilly County Borough Council to oversee the implementation and manage the changes for the alignment of the Welsh Government anti poverty programmes of communities first, families first, flying start and supporting people, this process ensure collaboration between the programmes in terms of identifying need and commissioning and also feeds into the Single Integrated Plan

Debt/Financial inclusion services

We are continuing to monitor the impact of the welfare reform changes and their implications for the most vulnerable within our valley communities. Debt is becoming a major issue in terms of the affordability of accommodation for people within the county. These complex benefit changes are having a disproportionate impact on valley communities.

Bed and Breakfast and Young People

Concerns have been expressed about the usage of bed and breakfast within the county with particular reference to the placement of young people, Welsh Government consultant Anna Whelan conducted a workshop – March 2016 developing a 'Positive Pathway' approach to Housing Options and Support for Young People in Caerphilly. The assistance offered has greatly supported the authority in tackling this problem and the usage of bed and breakfast is greatly reduced.

Reports and Best Practice

We continue to monitor the various reports that are being produced regarding the effects of legislation and how examples of best practice can assist our providers in delivering quality support services.

Financial inclusion

- Citizens Advice Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent Annual Report 2014/15
- Advice trends in Wales 2014-2015 – CAB
- The impact of the UK Government's welfare, personal tax and minimum wage reforms in Wales – Welsh Government
- Disability and poverty – New Policy Institute
- Evaluation Feasibility study of the prospect of developing a viable housing model for those entitled only to access the shared accommodation rate – Cambridge Centre housing and planning research
- Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy: Final Report – Department of work and pensions
- The Impact of Proposed Tax, Benefit and Minimum Wage Reforms on Household Incomes and Work incentives – Institute for Fiscal Studies
- Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan: 2016-19 – Welsh Government
- Adverse Childhood Experiences – Public Health Wales
- Mitigating the Effects of the Welfare Reforms in Gwent – Money Advice Project

Health

- Public Health Wales Observatory Overview
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Common data set Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Making a Difference: Investing in Sustainable Health and Well-being for the People of Wales – Public Health Wales

Ex Offenders

- National Pathway for Homelessness Services to Children, Young People and Adults in the Secure Estate – Welsh Government

Homelessness

- National rough sleeper count, November 2015 – Experimental statistics – Welsh Government
- Guidance for Local Authorities on the Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness – Welsh Government
- A brand new start: homelessness and the Housing (Wales) Act
- The Well Being value of tackling homelessness – HACT
- Policy briefing: Key trends from six months of Welsh homelessness data - Shelter

Older People

- Supporting People: Older People's Services - Welsh Government
- Health, work and health related worklessness – LGA and Public Health England
- Provision for Young Care Leavers at Risk of Homelessness – Public Policy Institute of Wales

Young People

- Young and Homeless 2015 – Homeless Link

Domestic Abuse

- Annual Plan - National Adviser for tackling Violence against Women, other forms of Gender based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

4. Consultation evidence

Listening is a core principle of commissioning services; we try to ensure that we are seen as a commissioning service that listens to the views of providers, planners and most importantly service users.

We also speak to advocacy services to determine the views of their members; recently we met with Caerphilly Peoples First services to ask about the accommodation needs and preferences of people who have a learning disability.

We also consult with the local community regarding any concerns they may express to ensure that they are aware of our services and the outcomes we are seeking to achieve and to assist in community integration.

We continue to listen to the opinions of the users of the services we commission; integral to our monitoring process is the requirement to listen directly to the views of service users, looking for examples of good practice and areas where perhaps we can improve.

Some of the comments about our services from service users

- “I have been in Parkview for nearly two years and am currently going through the Move On process. Before I came to Park View I didn’t know that places like this existed. They are very supportive and provide good house activities that promote health and wellbeing”.
- “My support agency have helped me with absolutely everything – I have completed Courses through for my Mental Health i.e. Mental Health First Aid, Confidence Building etc. They have helped me gain control of my finances; they assisted me with the paperwork for Benefit Claims, Appeals / Tribunals. I will be looking to downsize my current tenancy though UWHA however I’m not ready at present; however my support agency will help me achieve this when I’m ready. They advise you to take baby steps and all of a sudden you feel ready to carryout tasks independently. I am now able to contact benefit agencies independently and I would never have been able to do before”.



- “My support agency has been able to advise and explain my entitlement to welfare benefits and thereafter to give me support in completing forms/advising on deadlines to submit forms, which I would have found daunting to undertake myself and would most probably have given up; with the consequence that I would still be struggling to live financially from day to day.

Support in liaising/communicating with other professional parties as I feel frustrated and anxious when I have to speak upon the telephone with the Department of Works and Pension and any other professional authorities. My support worker is very proactive in chasing up any outstanding matters. I, along with many other members of the public do not like to admit we are struggling to cope with our finances and what, if any, benefits we are entitled too whilst in employment or during periods of unemployment. To have access to this support has completely changed my life for the better. I am in gainful employment working twelve hours a week, but because of my disabilities was unaware of my entitlement/eligibility to any benefits”.

- After leaving the forces I resided in North Wales, unfortunately I went through a relationship breakdown and had to stay at my Sister’s in the Caerphilly area. When I became homeless I presented to Housing Advice and they advised me that I had a place at Maes Y Dderwen. I can’t fault the staff here; they go out of their way to help you. They have helped me with the following;
 - Finances – I had a large Overdraft which was incurring massive amount of charges – Staff helped me to resolve this.
 - Helped me to claim my benefits.

5. Commissioning priorities

Alignment of Anti Poverty Programmes

We continue to work towards greater alignment of our commissioning and delivery of services with the other anti poverty programmes, of particular concern is the effect of the remodelling of the Communities First programme and the various employability services that were often accessed by supporting people providers.



Reduce Homelessness and use of Bed and Breakfast

We continue to assist in meeting the requirements of the Housing Act, particularly in relation to homelessness and the reduction of the use of placements into bed and breakfast, this as included the integration of support workers into Homelessness and Housing Options.

Social Services and Well Being and Future Generations Act

Ensuring that the services we commissioning can contribute to the outcomes of the above acts, particularly in respect of preventative services, working better together and focusing on future delivery of the services to the community.

Our commissioning priorities for future years is shown in Table A below, whilst our proposed expenditure in 2016/17 is shown in Table B.



6. Efficiencies and Savings at local level

We continue to look at the options for achieving efficiencies in our services, both in the manner in which we commission them and the how the services are delivered, the following are some examples of how efficiencies are being achieved.

Move to individual assessments in Learning disability services

We are working closely with our colleagues in social services to ensure that the supporting people funding is targeted at the housing support needs of learning disability clients, we hope that any savings achieved can be reinvested in assisting social services to deliver on the requirements of the Social Services and Well Being Act.

Move from Hardwire to dispersed alarm units

Caerphilly Homes and RSL's are cooperating in replacing the former expensive hard wired alarm systems and replacing them (where appropriate) with dispersed alarm units, this has resulted in a significant reduction in the funding of the monitoring of alarms.

Locality Commissioning

A number of pilot projects have been established whereby a dedicated support worker is assigned to a particular locality, to date we have established three such projects on estates where there is a high level of deprivation.

Real Cost Recovery

We are concerned that the funding provided by supporting people accurately reflects the actual costs incurred by providers, increasingly, we utilise the real cost recovery model to evidence that the funding we allocate is reflective of the actual cost incurred by support provider agencies.



7. Commissioning Programme 2016-19

Model of service provision	Number of Units	User group whose needs are being met	Timescale 2016/17	Timescale 2017/18	Timescale 2018/19	Estimated Funding Per Annum	Comments
Supported Housing – Ty Shorte, Bargoed	8	Mental Health		2016/17		70k	Planned to open in February 2017. Staffed extended hours but not 24 hour, out of hours CCTV linked to core scheme at Ty Osborne.
CAB – Confident with Cash -Commenced in April 2015	TBA	All Groups	April 2015	Retendering April 2017		40k	Pilot of CAB floating support officer visiting clients with support worker – Project will be subject to tender process in partnership with Caerphilly Families First
Supported Houses (To supplement refuge provision)	TBA	Domestic Abuse	Ongoing			TBA	As per recommendations in modernisation of domestic abuse services – Gwent Pilot First 4 bed property opened in April 2014. Continuing discussion with social landlords to identify properties suitable for DA Families
Refuge – Complex Needs	8	Domestic Abuse		Planning Application Early 2017	2018	TBA	Regional Project – Possible site identified in Risca – Initial meeting with support providers regarding design specification – Planning in January 2017
Young Single person supported housing – Maes y Derwen	18	Young People	New Client Group October 2016			140k	Opened 2014, originally used as generic homeless hostel, young people to be moved from Countryman in October 2016
SAFE Project, Risca	6	Young People	November 2016				Charter property being refurbished – Reopened in October 2016
Countryman Project, Blackwood	13	Young People	October 2016			0k	Project to be decommissioned in October 2016
Llys Tabernacle, Rhymney – Supported housing	13	Generic Homeless	To open October 2016			130k	Converted block of flats in Rhymney into 24 hour supported housing, utilising staff from decommissioned Countryman scheme
Bargoed Probation project – Supported housing	7	Young People		To Open 2017/18		TBA	2 bed unit for leaving care and 5 bed unit to replace decommissioned YP project in Cardiff Rd, Bargoed
Rough Sleepers Service	50	Generic Homeless	To be tendered in 2016			70k	Pilot Project proved successful supporting night shelters and rough sleepers and non-priority single people 1st December contract will commence.
Patch based support workers		Generic	Holly Rd 2015, LP & GYR 2016			45k	Pilot - Support workers to be co-located with Housing teams at Holly Road, Risca and Lansbury Park and Graig y Rhacca
Emphasis worker		Young People	Commenced 2016			25k	Post funded by Families First – Works with YP below 16 and youth services
Phoenix project		Rough Sleepers	Commenced 2016			23k	Pilot - Phoenix centre in Caerphilly, Drop in for rough sleepers, contribution to support worker

Model of service provision	Number of Units	User group whose needs are being met	Timescale 2016/17	Timescale 2017/18	Timescale 2018/19	Estimated Funding Per Annum	Comments
LEAP worker, Rhymney		Mental Health	Commenced 2016			25k	Pilot - Mental Health support worker collocated with LEAP team, serving 5 GP practices in Rhymney area.
Learning Disability Supported Living		TBA Learning Disabilities	Commenced September 2016/17	To continue 2017/18		TBA	Need to ascertain correct funding level for housing related support in learning disability schemes – Two banding system introduced to be followed with commencement of assessment of those with High/Low Housing needs.
Floating Support for Ashfield Road, Newbridge		LD		2017		30K	Dedicated floating support worker possibly from existing service to support the 8 individuals within this scheme.
Floating Support		Older People, mental health, Sub Misuse Single people Vulnerable families				TBA	Option of utilising existing cost/volume contracts to cater for slippage or 'Tendering Framework' for spot purchasing.
Joint tendering option appraisal			From April 2016			TBA	Working with Families First and Homelessness to consider options for joint funding, utilising FF grant and transitional funding.
Shared Lives (Former Adult placement scheme, now regional service				To commence April 2017		30K	Cover Gwent as regional project – funded one members of staff – Subject to report to Social Services
Transitional funding Posts				To commence April 2017		TBA	Options being considered for existing housing support posts within homeless unit currently funded by transitional funding to be transferred to supporting people funding
Low level mental health floating support				To commence April 2017		25k	Retendering of low level mental health floating support service
Specialist financial inclusion project				To commence April 2017		60k	Retendering of specialist financial inclusion service including ESA/ PIP appeals
BAWSO				To commence April 2017		25k	Exploring option of existing spot contract service to be incorporated into Regional contract

Caerphilly Supporting People Spendplan - 2016/17 - Total £6,232,790,000

Client Spend Category (The category to which the service is primarily focused)	Service Type												
	Fixed Site (Accommodation Based)						Floating (Community Based)						
	Client Units	Less than 6 Months	Client Units	6 to 24 Months	Client Units	24 Months plus	Client Units	Less than 6 Months	Client Units	6 to 24 Months	Client Units	24 Months plus	
	Numbers	£	Numbers	£	Numbers	£	Numbers	£	Numbers	£	Numbers	£	
Women experiencing Domestic Abuse.	16	312,692					29	125,000					437692
Men experiencing Domestic Abuse.													
People with Learning Disabilities.					143	1,161,754					37	80,000	1241754
People with Mental Health Issues.					27	350,000			155	370,000			720000
People with Alcohol Issues.													
People with Substance Misuse Issues.					8	165,000			30	114,000			279000
People with Criminal Offending History.									17	36,132			36132
People with Refugee Status.													
People with Physical and/or Sensory Disabilities.											28	80,000	80,000
People with Developmental Disorders (i.e. Autism).													
People with Chronic Illnesses (including HIV, Aids).													
Young People who are Care Leavers.													
Young People with Support Needs (16 to 24).					36	647,369			52	167,218			814587
Single Parent Families with Support Needs.					2	15,000							15000
Families with Support Needs.	13	250,000							59	215,000			465000
Single People with Support Needs not listed above (25 to 54).	28	330,000			51	198,536							528536
People over 55 years of age with Support Needs (this category must be exclusive of alarm services).					956	270,738			181	434,000			764738
Generic/Floating Support/Peripatetic (tenancy support services which cover a range of user needs)							25	60,000	484	774,379			834379
Alarm Services (including in sheltered/extra care).					923	75,972							75972
Expenditure which does not directly link to the spend plan categories above.													
TOTALS	57	892,692			2,146	2,884,367	54	185,000	958	2,110,731	65	160,000	6,232,790

