



## **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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