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**FAMILIES FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW 2015 – 2016**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an opportunity to review and comment on the Families First Annual Review 2015/16 (copy attached at **Appendix A**). Also attending will be representatives of the Youth Council who will present a compilation of findings from the inspection reports.
2. The Annual Report sets out some headline facts about each programme together with some case studies to highlight how each programme is making a difference.

**Background**

3. Families First is a Welsh Government programme to fund the development and promotion of effective multi-agency systems and support for children, young people and families, particularly those living in poverty. The programme is funded by a £29m grant allocation from the Welsh Government to Cardiff, which supports the delivery up to 2017. It is designed to recognise the specific needs of different families and the common requirement for multiple agencies to provide holistic and integrated packages of support.
4. One of the main aims of Families First is to provide timely help for families when they start to experience difficulty, to prevent problems from escalating. It also aims to work with families who need extra support to increase their confidence to return to work and improve their family income.
5. The Families First programme sits alongside Communities First and Flying Start as key elements in the Welsh Government's strategy for tackling

poverty. In Cardiff, these programmes are brought together to make the most effective use of funding to meet local needs. They form an important element in the work of Neighbourhood Partnerships.

6. Families First is about working *with* families who say they need a bit of extra help or services, rather than doing things *to* or *for* them. Involvement in the programme is entirely voluntary. Families First has also been designed to recognise the specific needs of different families and the requirement for multiple agencies to provide joined-up packages of support by becoming a 'Team Around the Family' where this is needed.
7. The services provided by the Families First programme are therefore designed to be:
  - **FAMILY-FOCUSED:** taking a whole family approach to improving outcomes.
  - **BESPOKE:** tailoring help to individual family circumstances.
  - **INTEGRATED:** with effective coordination of planning and service provision across organisations, ensuring that needs assessment and delivery are jointly managed and that there is seamless progression for families between different interventions and programmes.
  - **PRO-ACTIVE:** seeking early identification and appropriate intervention for families.
  - **INTENSIVE:** with a vigorous approach and relentless focus, adapting to families' changing circumstances.
  - **LOCAL:** identifying the needs of local communities and developing appropriate service delivery to fit those needs, with particular regard for the opportunities to link with the Flying Start, Integrated Family Support Services (IFSS) and Communities First programmes.
8. The Families First programme comprises six 'packages' that provide coordinated services on a particular theme. Each involves a consortium of different providers who work with a Lead Provider:

- a. **Early Years** – provides a range of support for families with babies or young children (under the age of eight) and for pregnant women. This package is led by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
  - b. **Child & Youth Engagement (Connect 8-25)** – makes sure that children and young people do well in school, college or work and get the support they need from their families. This package is led by the City of Cardiff Council’s Education Service.
  - c. **Sustainable Employment** – provides help for adults in families who want to get back into work or into better paid jobs. This package is led by the local third sector organisation SOVA.
  - d. **Healthy Lifestyles** – helps families to deal with areas like diet, exercise, smoking and sexual health and to live healthy lives. This package is led by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.
  - e. **Emotional & Mental Health and Wellbeing (Cadarn)** – supports children and young people who are anxious or unhappy. This package is led by Barnardo’s.
  - f. **Disability Focus** – provides extra help for families who have a disabled child. This can provide key working as part of the Team Around The Family approach. This package is led by Action for Children.
9. The six packages are monitored through a contact management process using regular “results based” monitoring reports. These are based around three main criteria:
- a. How much did we do?
  - b. How well did we do it?
  - c. Is anyone better off as a result?

### **Scope of the Scrutiny**

10. The Report will provide the Members with the opportunity to review the progress made in the management, monitoring and the achievement of agreed outcomes of the Welsh Government funded programme. Members may wish to evaluate the following aspects of the whole report:
- a. What are the key outputs and outcomes

- b. How well have the lead providers progressed against the targets
- c. What has changed as a result of the packages and how do we know
- d. What are the plans for the future
- e. Young inspectors to present a compilation of findings from the inspection reports

### **Way Forward**

11. Angela Bourge and Ceri George will present the Annual Review together with some young inspectors to present a compilation of findings from the inspection reports, following which they will all be available to answer questions Members may have.
12. Members may wish to review the Families First Annual Review 2015/16 together with any additional information provided at the meeting and provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Council's Chief Executive and Partnership Board.

### **Legal Implications**

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the

Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Financial Implications**

14. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. These financial implications will need to be considered before any changes are implemented. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members review the information contained in **Appendix A** together with any additional information provided at the meeting and submit any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Council's Chief Executive and the Cardiff Partnership Board.

**DAVINA FIORE**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**12 October 2016**