

**COUNCIL: 25 JANUARY 2018**

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**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES STATEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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**Adolescent Resource Centre (ARC)**

The Adolescent Resource Centre (ARC) is an Edge of Care provision, which provides intensive support to families using the Signs of Safety strengths-based model. As part of our preventative work with families, the ARC team offers support to families at times when other services might not be available. The service includes flexible outreach work, 1-2-1 (minimum of 2-3 times per week); counselling; therapy; overnight respite; and sessions for families based at a centre or in their own homes (including weekends and evenings). Cases are assessed at the outset to ensure the criteria for support is clear and that support is focused on keeping children at home. Follow up reviews, attended by the young person, family members and multi-agency professionals, are held at least every four weeks to ensure the risks are being managed and the plan is being followed.

Since the service went live in April 2017, the ARC has worked with 44 children and young people and the length of time involved has ranged from one week to 32 weeks. Of those 44 children and young people, 4 were fostered and 3 were accommodated in residential homes during this period. This equates to 16% being accommodated and 84% remaining at home.

**Support4Families**

The Early Help front door, now known as “Support4Families”, was launched on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017. This is effectively a “one stop shop” for professionals and families requiring information, advice and assistance prior to matters escalating to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The multi-disciplinary team is made up of Family Support workers and supported by Children’s Services Social Workers.

“Support4Families” provides early intervention for families, including referral into a wide range of Families First services such as parenting support or support for young people. The service also offers signposting and general advice over the telephone to families and professionals dependent on individual need. The service can visit families who require additional support in order to prevent issues escalating, ensuring that families are empowered to make changes or access support at an earlier stage. The rate of calls coming through the divert route and the impact on MASH contacts is being closely monitored. Early indications are that “Support4Families” has been effective in reducing the number of contacts and has resulted in an increase in the number of families receiving early help.

### **John Kane Centre**

In December 2017, I had the pleasure of visiting the John Kane Centre, accompanied by Councillor Lister and Councillor Bridgeman. The centre has undergone a complete refurbishment and is the new location of the Youth Offending Service. The Operational Manager, Dan Jones, introduced us to the new premises and we met staff who were very happy to have relocated to the centre. One staff member stated: *“The building is clean and bright compared to Penhill and creates a more sociable environment for colleagues with the open plan arrangement”*. The team continues to work passionately with our most complex children who commit offences and the new building is a much more positive environment from which to do this.

### **Young Commissioners**

On 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018, I was very pleased to meet our Young Commissioners and Parent Commissioners at an event organised by Flying Start, the Youth Service and Families First. Individuals that have completed this process will be taking part in future commissioning for the Families First programme to ensure that service users voices are heard in service planning and design of services.

**Councillor Graham Hinchey**  
**Cabinet Member for Children & Families**  
**24 January 2018**