

# Families First: Cabinet Report in relation to recommissioning

Report to Scrutiny  
19<sup>th</sup> July 2017



Ariennir gan  
Llywodraeth Cymru  
Funded by  
Welsh Government

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# Reasons for the report

- To secure Cabinet approval for proposed plans to recommission Cardiff's Families First Programme - one of the Welsh Government's main programmes for families
- Plans include proposals to
  - Deliver new Parenting and Youth Support services in house
  - Proceed to tender for other complementary services
  - Make arrangements to enter into joint commissioning arrangements for some elements
- Supported by Options Appraisal and Equalities Impact Assessment



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# Current position

- Cabinet Secretary has confirmed commitment to new programme for this Assembly term - new guidance was published April 2017
- WG funding for Cardiff Families First **£5,072,763** in 2017-18 but WG only able to confirm funding levels annually
- Contracts for current programme run until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 – Cabinet approved an extension of the first programme in December 2016 to allow a managed transition to new arrangements



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# New Guidance

**New Guidance requires four main elements:**

- Continuation of **Team Around the Family**
- Continuation of **Disability Focus**
- Greater focus on support for **parenting**
- Greater focus on support for **young people**

Will no longer fund elements funded by other programmes, e.g. debt/welfare advice, employability projects and childcare



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# Review

- Analysis of current services and arrangements against new Guidance
- Possible contribution to strategic priorities (e.g. Early Help Strategy, implementation of Social Services and Wellbeing Act, 20:20 Vision and Cardiff Commitment)
- Population Needs Assessment
- Stakeholder engagement with practitioners and families (including Young Inspectors, Family Takeover event and Schools' Working Group)
  - What do we do well?
  - What do we need to do differently?
- Commissioning approach taken to Improving Services for Children Board – Partnership Governance



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# Lessons Learned

- We have delivered good **services**, but these haven't been underpinned by systems to make sure families receive the right ones – we need better (shared) systems.
- Families and practitioners are confused about the range of services available – we need to improve **communication** with a clear Early Help point of contact. This could also help to deliver effective arrangements for Information, Advice and Assistance.
- Current arrangements are complex and require two levels of **programme management**. Delivery is spread across different packages and different providers without effective coordination – we need a more coherent service offer and arrangements.
- There are great opportunities to make more effective use of resources through service **alignment and joint commissioning**.



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# Team Around the Family

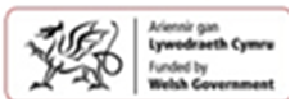
- The TAF team (delivered by Tros Gynnal Plant) support Team Around the Family working across the Families First Programme and provide a Freephone service
- Transition arrangements are being made to extend this service to provide an Early Help Front Door, which will deliver Information, Advice and Assistance
- Pilot just being put into place – needs to be properly evaluated to inform future delivery arrangements
- Proposed to extend current pilot arrangements until end March 2019 and then to bring forward plans to re-provide in line with recommendations from evaluation



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# Disability Focus

- Disability Focus package has delivered important services for families with needs related to a child's disability but who don't meet the criteria for Children's Services
- Guidance requires support to continue (with ring-fenced funding) but not necessarily the same services
- Services need to take account of the Disability Futures programme which is bringing forward proposals for more effective provision across Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan
- Opportunities for greater alignment and for joint commissioning
- Still in development so interim arrangements to be based on current provision (but addressing some duplication)



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# Parenting Services

- Range of Parenting services delivered across different packages and by different providers – good services but lack of clarity
- Review suggests a single main service would provide greater coherence and more effective pathways for families
- Opportunity to align to Flying Start delivery – benefits from shared management structure and consistent approach and agreement with Health
- Also opportunity to incorporate workforce development for shared ethos and approach across children and families workforce
- However, will also tender for small number of complementary services, including Family Wellbeing Service, and joint commissioning for Domestic Abuse



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# Youth Support Services

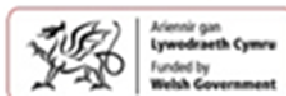
- Different services delivered across different packages and by different providers – again, good services but lack of clarity, especially for schools
- Many services already delivered within Education Services but monitored and managed via different routes – complex!
- Review suggests a single main service would provide greater coherence and more effective pathways for young people
- Opportunity to work with schools to develop a ‘graduated response’ that will help to identify young people and families needing help at an earlier stage (and so reduce contacts to MASH)
- Also opportunity to align to work to reduce risky behaviours (will contribute to reduce Child Sexual Exploitation and entry to YOS)
- Will also tender for small number of complementary services, and opportunity for joint commissioning with Supporting People



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# Draft Timetable

<b>Governance Arrangements</b>	<b>Commencement Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
Cabinet decision to proceed with proposed commissioning arrangements	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
Communication with the market about the outcome of Cabinet decision	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	End August 2017
Finalisation of specifications, Officer Decision Report and call in period	July 2016	End August 2017
Agreement of SLAs and delivery against specifications with internal service areas and C&VUHB	July 2016	End December 2017
Commissioning and Procurement Process	September 2017	January 2018
Award of contracts		January 2018
Mobilisation Period and exit arrangements for decommissioned services	January 2018	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2018
New Contract/SLA Start Date		1 <sup>st</sup> April 2018



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