
FAMILIES FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW 2017 – 2018 and FUTURE
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an opportunity to review and note the Families First Annual Review 2017/18 (copy attached at **Appendix A**).
2. The Director of Social Services will also brief the Committee on the future development proposals for Families First.

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. 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. 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.

6. The main challenge for 2017-18 is to manage a smooth transition to new programme arrangements. Recommissioning of Families First presents significant opportunities but this will also require changes in the way we do things.

Families First in Cardiff

7. 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:

- Early Years
- Child & Youth Engagement (Connect 8-25).
- Sustainable Employment.
- Healthy Lifestyles.
- Emotional & Mental Health and Wellbeing (Cadarn).
- Disability Focus.

8. Tros Gynnal Plant provides two services that are central to the overall Families First programme in Cardiff. Team around the Family and Freephone service provides a range of support for families who are experiencing difficulties to help resolve their problems and prevent escalation and the families First Freephone service acts as a central access point to the programme.

Future Family First Proposals

9. The Director of Social Services will also verbally brief the Committee on the future plans and direction of Families First in Cardiff.

Scope of the Scrutiny

10. The report will provide Members with the opportunity to note the progress made in the management, monitoring and achievement of agreed outcomes of the Welsh Government funded programme for 2017/18. Members may also wish to reflect on the proposed future development of Families First evaluate the proposals effectiveness in:
 - a. addressing the challenges facing Cardiff
 - b. clear outcome measures and
 - c. management and monitoring arrangements:

Way Forward

11. Sarah McGill, Corporate Director People and Communities, Claire Marchant, Director of Social Services and Angela Bourge, Operational Manager, Strategy Performance and Resources, will present the Annual Review and explain future Families First proposals, following which they will all be available to answer questions Members may have.
12. Members may wish to reflect on the Families First Annual Review 2017/18 together with any additional information provided at the meeting and provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member, Council Officers and 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 Cabinet Member, Council Officers and the Council's Chief Executive and the Cardiff Partnership Board.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance and Legal Services

2 October 2018