

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 April 2015

INTREGATED FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2014 – 2015

Background

1. The Integrated Family Support Team (IFST) has its origins in the Wales Assembly Government (WAG)'s Vulnerable Children Strategy. The legislative framework is the Children and Families (Wales) Measure, which was introduced in the Welsh Assembly on 2 March 2009. It was underpinned by regulations, which came into effect in early 2010 on the basis of new powers devolved to WAG. The IFST is a partnership between Cardiff Council, Vale of Glamorgan Council and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.
2. The IFST Board operates according to statutory guidance and meets on a quarterly basis (once per school term). It employs a collaborative approach, taking its membership from key statutory and non-statutory services operating across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, with the focus on promoting the "Think Family" agenda, and facilitating effective integrated working.
3. The vision of the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Council IFST is to deliver a high quality service that will intervene with families where there is serious child protection concern relating to parental substance misuse. The IFST provides intensive support to families to reduce risk and need, whilst ensuring positive outcomes for children and creating opportunities for positive change wherever possible.

4. The IFST embraces the following service values:

- To provide a holistic, evidence based family centred approach to service delivery
- To ensure the needs of children are met
- To work in partnership with parents and families to meet their own identified needs where this is commensurate with the needs of children
- To provide impartial and objective consultation and advice to the wider workforce as and when required
- To provide a non-judgemental approach to service delivery
- To provide a welcoming, accessible and timely service
- To adhere to the principles of information sharing
- To offer a flexible service offering choice of approaches to potential service users
- The service shall be provided in a non discriminatory, anti-oppressive and professional manner and in a way that demonstrates courtesy and respect for service users and is sensitive to personal situation and experiences
- The service will respond positively to cultural, religious, language, gender, sexuality, disability, age and communication needs
- The views of service users will be sought to ensure that services are appropriate and responsive to changing patterns of need
- Participation of all families is voluntary
- To ensure dissemination of contemporary research and best practice concerning evidence based interventions with families
- To influence wider systems to ensure more joined up service delivery to families
- To ensure all local and national requirements regarding service evaluation and monitoring are undertaken

- To strengthen partnership working between Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority Adult and Children's Services and University Health Board
5. The IFST Management Board is chaired by Phillip Evans, Director of Social Services at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, and consists of representatives of the main partner agencies.

Purpose of the Report

6. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an opportunity to comment on a copy of the Integrated Family Support Team's third annual report (copy attached at **Appendix A**). The report sets out the key achievements and outcomes, challenges and issues facing the Team, as well as the priorities for the next 12 months.
7. Jane Hoey (OM Intake and Assessment) and Cheryl Chapman (Family Intervention Support Service /CAMHS) will present the Annual Report and be available to answer questions Members may have.

Way Forward

8. Members may wish to note and provide any comments to the Council's Chief Executive and IFST Board on the Annual Report.

Legal Implications

9. 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

10. 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 note the information contained in **Appendix A** and submit any comments or recommendations to the Council's Chief Executive and the Integrated Family Support Team Board.

Marie Rosenthal
County Clerk and Monitoring Officer
30 March 2015