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## **CHILDREN & FAMILIES STATEMENT**

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### **Cardiff Family Advice and Support**

Last month, three Primary Mental Health Workers joined the Cardiff Family Advice and Support (CFAS) team to support the work of the Early Help Practitioners. They will also have a key role in being trusted referrers into health services, such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and the Neurodevelopment team, for children and young people requiring a specialist medicalised assessment. They have completed a comprehensive induction programme and finalised referral pathways within Early Help so that they can begin supporting families and practitioners. Work is also underway to develop a core data set, which will include both quantitative and qualitative data based on the work that they undertake. Further discussions are ongoing with the wider emotional and mental health care group within Cardiff & Vale University Health Board in order to ensure that wider referral pathways are defined and communicated to Early Help staff.

### **Cardiff Parenting**

Cardiff Parenting continues to utilise virtual and digital media while home visits and groups are suspended. 1,839 contacts with parents and carers were made last month via telephone and video calls in order to deliver both formal and informal parenting programmes. They are also continuing to deliver activity packs to families. Preparations, including training, are being made for staff to increase “live” group delivery online, taking into account data protection and safeguarding guidance.

Formal parenting programmes of GroBrain, Parent Nurturing Programme and Talking Teens are being offered online, with some additional informal Flying Start digital groups, including Little Cooks @ Home, Rhyme Time and Story Time. Staff have also been contributing to Family Links’ promotional video and supporting the creator of GroBrain with the development of a standardised evaluation protocol, which teams will be able to use going forwards.

### **The Childcare Offer**

Applications for the Childcare Offer, from parents with children eligible to access the offer in the autumn term, opened on 1 September 2020. By the end of last month, a total of 1,034 Cardiff children were benefitting. A further five childcare settings have now signed up to provide the childcare offer, bringing the total to 362. Since April 2020, £2,327,655 has been spent providing funded childcare for eligible working parents in Cardiff.

## **Coronavirus – Childcare Assistance Scheme**

The Childcare Assistance Scheme is providing funding for pre-school childcare for key workers and vulnerable children during the Covid-19 pandemic. Between April and August 2020, £1,621,949 was used to support 484 families, with up to 456 children of key workers and 20 vulnerable children supported per week.

## **Childcare Provider Grant**

Since the launch of the Childcare Provider Grant by Welsh Government in August 2020, three childcare providers, two childminders and one playgroup in Cardiff have received grant funding, and a further two settings have submitted applications which are currently being assessed. Childcare settings are reminded that the grant will close on 31 October 2020. Further information is available on the Welsh Government website at: <https://gov.wales/apply-childcare-providers-grant-coronavirus> or can be obtained by contacting the Childcare Business Support Team by email: [childcarebusinesssupport@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:childcarebusinesssupport@cardiff.gov.uk)

## **Cardiff International White Water – Free Sessions for Children Looked After**

Over the weekend of 10-11 October 2020, Cardiff International White Water (CIWW) offered a range of free activities for Children Looked After, and their families from across Cardiff. A range of activities, including white water rafting, tubing and the Air Trail high ropes, were offered for children aged 6-12 and 12+ for either 1.5 or 2 hour sessions. All the activities took into consideration height restrictions and current Covid-19 precautions. It provided a great opportunity for Children Looked After to experience different outdoor activities, and we look forward to hearing back from those who were involved about their experiences. My thanks go to Ben Longhurst and his team at CIWW for their continued support and the training opportunities provided to our care experienced young people.

## **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Update**

I am pleased to report that Cardiff's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is now fully staffed and no longer reliant on agency staff.

## **Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) – New Approach to Social Services Inspections**

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) have made a decision to amend their operating model for the inspection of social services in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic. They are in the process of visiting all 22 local authorities in Wales and will be using a virtual approach. CIW will be looking for evidence of local authorities and partners having learnt lessons from their recent experiences of Covid-19 and their plans for service developments. They will consider how well local authority social services continue to help adults, children and carers at this difficult time, including their plans to sustain services into the future. Cardiff's review is planned for November 2020.

**Councillor Graham Hinchey**  
**Cabinet Member for Children & Families**  
**15 October 2020**