

COUNCIL: 21 OCTOBER 2021

CHILDREN & FAMILIES STATEMENT

Family Drug and Alcohol Court Pilot

I am pleased to provide an update on progress towards the implementation of the Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC). Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan have been selected as the pilot site for the first FDAC in Wales. This is an alternative family court for care proceedings that is designed to provide a more sensitive approach to working with parents who struggle with drug and alcohol misuse. Preparation for the pilot is going well and it is on target to implement the approach by December 2021. This is a very exciting pilot, as the evidence suggests that this model delivers significant benefits for parents and children, as well as cost benefits for public services.

National Launch of Foster Wales

The new all-Wales branding for Local Authority fostering, 'Foster Wales', has recently been launched. The purpose of Foster Wales is to support the recruitment and retention of more foster carers across all 22 Local Authorities in Wales with the ethos of working as a team with foster carers to build better futures for local children. The Council wants to help children to stay in their local area when it is right for them, keeping them connected to their community and building stability and confidence. By working together, Local Authorities can create a significant national impact across Wales to raise awareness that fostering is an option, and that fostering with your Local Authority is the best option, whilst maintaining the advantages of our specific local expertise and community roles. Consequently, the Fostering Service in Cardiff has been re-branded as Foster Wales Cardiff.

Respite Funding for Unpaid Carers

The Welsh Government has awarded grant funding of £195,726 to the Council in 2021/22 for the provision of flexible support to unpaid carers of all ages. The funding will assist our response to the anticipated spike in demand for respite services in the city caused by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the mental and physical health of unpaid carers. The funding will make an important contribution to our support for young carers in particular by enabling them to access more respite opportunities, including a host of activities, as well as ensuring that they can take a well-earned short break from their caring responsibilities.

**Councillor Graham Hinchey
Cabinet Member for Children & Families
14 October 2021**