



# Children's Services Strategy 2023-26 CYP



Gweithio dros Gaerdydd, gweithio gyda'n gilydd  
Working for Cardiff, working together



# Vision

Children in Cardiff are provided with the right support, from the right person at the right time, in the right place and at the lowest safe level of intervention, enabling them to remain with their family where it is safe for them to do so and achieve their full potential.

#KeepingFamiliesTogether



# Achievements

## During course of previous strategy

- Maintained service provision throughout the pandemic.
- Improvements to Youth Justice Service.
- Safeguarding Adolescents From Exploitation (SAFE) model.
- Increasing number of children who returned or remained home and are cared for within their families.
- Quality Assurance Framework and practice development journey.
- Mind of My Own app.
- Family Drug and Alcohol Court pilot.
- Reviewing Hub.
- Interventions Hub.
- Stability of Children's Services Management Team and commitment to ongoing improvement.
- Ongoing commitment of staff in the face of increasing pressures.



# Challenges

To be addressed by new strategy

- Budget pressures.
- Increasing demand and complexity.
- Sufficiency of placements for children.
- Recruitment and retention of experienced social workers.
- Increasing numbers of children experiencing exploitation which is exposing them to violent behaviour and is drawing a small minority of children into violent criminal behaviour.
- Increasing numbers of children with a range of needs including neuro-diversity / learning disability / mental health / behaviours that challenge and shortage of appropriate services.
- Recent high profile cases in the media having an impact on practice and the negative representation of the social work profession.



# Shifting the Balance

- **Place**

Ensuring that children remain at home with their family where it is safe and appropriate to do so.

- **People**

Recruiting a permanent workforce and reducing our reliance on agency social workers.

- **Practice**

Developing our practice to ensure it is strength based, trauma informed, restorative, research led and family focused.



# Workforce Strategy

- Sets out our principles:
  - Children's Rights
  - Home First
  - What Matters
  - Sustainable Resources
- Detail of implementation will be set out in Workforce Action Plan



# Commissioning Strategy

- Sets out how we will work with our partners to build, reshape, and expand our current provision.
- Takes account of the Welsh Government's "Programme for Government" for 2022-2027.



# Accommodation Strategy

- Sets out the accommodation provision that we need to achieve the aims of our strategy.
- Covers 3 workstreams:
  - Children's Residential Provision:
    - Utilisation of current assets to maximise their usage to meet needs - 5 homes providing 13 beds.
    - Purchase and develop additional properties to meet demand - 10 new homes providing 33 new beds.
    - Parent and baby assessment centre for up to 4 placements in Cardiff.
  - Specialist Mental Health and Step-Down From Hospital
    - 1 large property to accommodate up to 2 young people at any one time
  - Children With Disabilities
    - Redesign of Ty Storrie plus additional lower level short break provision.
- Closely linked with implementation of The Right Place model.





# Accommodation Strategy

- Recognises and responds to previous feedback from Committee.
- Brings numerous workstreams together.
- Achievements to date are summarised below.



# Accommodation Strategy

## General Children's Residential Provision

- **Baden Powell** - Design brief agreed including addition of pod extension - will be installed February half term to avoid disruption. Aim for works to be completed April 2023. Ward Member consultation in progress.
- **Oakway** – Refurbishment works complete.
- **Crosslands** – Meeting to discuss upgrades planned for 19<sup>th</sup> January.
- **Bronwydd** – Installation of sprinkler system being costed and planned.
  
- **New 7 x 3 beds** – property market search continues - number of potential properties identified and viewings booked in January.
  - Pentwyn – formal offer accepted on property and councillor consultation complete.
  - Llandaff Road – property previously used by Adult Services; now vacant. Initial drawings created to allow high level costings.
  - Meeting with Estates to review current properties available. Review of caretaker properties being undertaken.
  
- **New 3 x 4 Beds** – Discussions re: new build schemes ongoing.  
Scoping meeting taking place with North Yorkshire to look at ideal designs of the Right Place Hub.



# Accommodation Strategy

## Children with Disabilities

- Re-design of Ty Storrie - Stage 1 Design Principles signed off for progress to Stage 2
- Search for a suitable property continues for additional lower level short break provision

## Specialist Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

- Visited 8 properties in Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan
- Suitable property identified - visited by Children's Services and Regeneration Managers and staff. Property shared with Multi-Agency Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing project group with agreement and Home Buyers Survey completed. Ward Consultation currently underway.

## Floor Plan



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