
SOCIAL SERVICES STATEMENT

ADULT SERVICES

Independent Living Service Roadshows

The Independent Living Service Roadshow began their program of events on 6 July 2023 at Rhydypennau Hub and North Cardiff Medical Centre. Every fortnight, the Independent Living Services will be at different locations across the city to provide information and on the wide range of help that is available to support people to retain their independence.

These events are being promoted across Cardiff, through our partners and on social media to encourage individuals, families, and carers to come along and see how the Independent Living Service can help them, but also how people can help themselves to improve their independence and wellbeing and to live healthier, happier, and more connected lives.

A full schedule of events has been arranged until the end of August and can be found on the Council's Facebook page and Twitter feed.

Supporting Choice in Care through Microenterprises

We are committed to giving people more control over their own care, and one way to achieve this is through direct payments. This allows the service user to commission their own care, rather than using the Council's commissioned care providers. Direct Payments can be particularly helpful for those individuals with specific language or cultural needs. Unfortunately, the use of Direct Payments to employ a personal assistant can be quite daunting to some service users as they need to take on the role of employer. There is also a shortage of personal assistants which can result in delays in putting the care in place.

To address these issues, we have teamed up with Community Catalysts, a community interest company, to support the development of new microenterprises to provide care and support services. Microenterprises are very small businesses, often sole traders. By using a microenterprise, the individual has all the flexibility and choice that direct payments can offer, while taking on less responsibility. The scheme will also support people into employment, providing more flexibility in working arrangements. A new Community Catalyst Project Manager will support the microenterprises, ensuring they know how to run a business and that they understand the required quality standards. I am very pleased to say that our first microenterprise has registered with the scheme, and I am sure that this will be the first of many.

Hospital Discharge

We are constantly working in partnership with colleagues in the University Health Board to improve the pathways out of hospital. One new pathway is known as Discharge to Recover and Assess (D2RA); this is a rapid domiciliary care service that allows a person who requires home care to be discharged from hospital quickly and for their needs to be assessed in the more appropriate setting of own home. This complements our CRT Homecare service which focuses on providing reablement support for those who need a short period of care at home. Both these services prevent long stays in hospital, which can result in poor outcome for patients.

I am pleased to say that since January of this year, 1,118 discharges with care have been facilitated by the Cardiff Hospital team, 651 through our CRT homecare service and 200 through the rapid D2RA pathway. We will continue to work with our health colleagues to build on this work and support appropriate, safe, and timely hospital discharges.

Playlist for Life

Playlist for Life is a charity that was founded in 2013 with a simple mission: to help people living with dementia through the power of meaningful music. Ten years on, the charity has helped thousands of families, carers, and health and social care professionals create and benefit from personalised playlists. Personalised music playlists can help to reduce anxiety, improve mood, make difficult tasks more manageable and evoke memories that can help families and carers to connect.

Last month, the organisation celebrated its 10th birthday with a face-to-face event in Glasgow and an online conference. Last year I attended a launch and saw the Playlist for life in action at Ty Enfys and Shire Hall Care Homes. It was so fantastic to see the positive effect that music can have on people living with dementia.

I am pleased to say that Cardiff Hubs and Libraries and Care Hubs have recently signed up as Playlist for Life Help Points, enabling them to use and distribute the wide range of resources available, including conversation starter and song books. Staff at these locations also have access to Playlist for Life e-learning which will help them to better support those with dementia and their carers in the community. If anyone wants to use a playlist or share the power of music in their community, they can visit www.playlistforlife.org.uk or pick up a leaflet from a local community Hub.

The Pound, Llandaff

I would like to send my warm congratulations to the Innovative Centre for Older People at the Pound in Llandaff on their first Anniversary. It is hard to believe that it has been a year since I attended the launch of this exciting project on 23 June 2022. Llandaff 50+ was first formed in 2008 and has gone from strength to strength over the following 15 years. The group worked in collaboration with the Council to convert a derelict toilet block, next to the medieval castle, in the heart of Llandaff village. I know that a lot of work went into fundraising and planning and, of course, the Covid-19 pandemic had an effect on the building schedule; however, it opened with a fanfare last year. The building is run by older people for older people who visit the centre to participate in activities such as Tai Chi, Talks and Art.

I was very sorry not to be able to attend the first anniversary event at The Pound that was held in late June, but I am looking forward to seeing what will be achieved at the centre, this is an excellent example of older people staying active, getting support from each other, and staying connected to their local community. Further information about this innovative project can be obtained by emailing: info@llandaff50plus.com

Ty Canna Photography Exhibition

Ty Canna will be launching their latest photography exhibition on 18 July 2023 at Llanover Hall. The title of this year's exhibition is "Taith – Journey", which depicts the journey of people with mental health through recovery. To some, it is the journey back to their true self; to others, it is a slow process of adaptation. This exhibition is another example of the great partnership working between Ty Canna and Llanover Hall, which is making full use of local resources. Service users and volunteers are very excited and are currently working on preparations for the launch event. The exhibition will be showing from 18 July to 15 September 2023.

The Prince's Trust Cymru

On 7 July, I joined my Cabinet colleague, Councillor Lister, in visiting The Prince's Trust Cymru's Cardiff Centre and attending a celebration event that was held at the end of their 'Get Started with Digital Skills' programme. We were both pleased to meet the young people involved in the programme and hear about their experiences. After the event, we also met with Prince's Trust Cymru senior staff to discuss their programmes, organisational priorities and overall strategy.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

My Things Matter

I am very pleased to confirm that Cardiff Council has pledged support for the 'My Things Matter' campaign, an initiative that helps to make sure that children and young people in care are treated with respect and dignity when they move home. The campaign, run by the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS), pushes to ensure that when children in care move home, they have an appropriate means of transporting their belongings (e.g. use of a holdall, rather than a bin bag). We have also pledged to provide written guidance for children and anyone helping them to move, to never move or throw away their belongings without their consent, to support them to make a complaint if any of their belongings have been lost or damaged during their move, and to communicate with them about their move and ask how the move went.

Fostering Update

Members of the Foster Wales Cardiff team attended Cardiff Pride last month to raise awareness of Fostering for Cardiff in the LGBTQ+ community. The team was joined by one of their supported lodgings providers and a regional representative from Foster Wales. The event always provides an excellent opportunity to engage with the community and promote our in-house fostering services, and to welcome and encourage questions and applications from the community. Every year, the team is engaged in conversations with attendees and, this year, there were a number of people interested in moving on to the next stage of the assessment process.

Teen Scheme

One of the young people involved in an in-house Teen Scheme in Cardiff, which provides short-term foster care placements for young people aged 12-16 years, has won an award for the most improved pupil in the whole of his secondary school (800+ pupils). He was presented with the award at a ceremony that was held on 5 July 2023 at Leckwith Athletics Stadium, and I would like to congratulate him on such a wonderful achievement.

Royal College of Nursing Wales Nurse of the Year Awards 2023

I am delighted to announce that Cardiff Flying Start Early Years Bladder and Bowel Assistant Practitioner, Heather Fleming was a winner at this year's Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Wales Nurse of the Year Awards. A member of Early Help's Flying Start Health team based at Glan Yr Afon Primary School in Llanrumney, Heather won the Health Care Support Worker Award at the annual awards ceremony, which was held at City Hall on 29 June 2023. The awards recognise innovation and excellence in practice, and acknowledge the outstanding efforts, commitment and achievements made by the whole of the nursing community across Wales. Nominated nurses, midwives, nursing students and health care support workers have demonstrated a passion for their profession and exemplify distinction in care, leadership, service and innovation. It is amazing to see Heather's hard work and dedication being recognised and would like to congratulate them on their award.

Cardiff Family Advice & Support Referral Form and Webchat

I am pleased to say that Early Help's new online referral form is now live on their website and the team has been busy promoting this and the new webchat function across all social media platforms. The aim is to make the service more accessible by providing an alternative method to request support, enabling the team to reduce their processing times and providing a service that is easy to use.

Disability Index Registration Process

The Disability Index is Cardiff's voluntary register for children and young people with disabilities or additional needs. It ensures families are kept up-to-date with information that is both relevant and beneficial to them. On 10 July 2023, a revised registration process for the Disability Index was launched. The process has been simplified and digitalised and takes account of changes following the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act Wales (ALNET).

The revised registration process is now being promoted to families and professionals, and there is also a focus on contacting the families already registered to review the information held and to ensure that they wish to continue with their registration. The team is also working closely with health colleagues to see if there could be automatic registration of children and young people who are on the Neurodevelopmental pathway.

Hafan Supported Housing for Lone Parents

As members will know, the pressures on homelessness services are high at present with a large number of homeless families living in temporary and supported accommodation and it is very important that these families have the support and advice they need. I am pleased to say that the Flying Start Parenting team has increased engagement at Hafan supported housing for lone parents on Cowbridge Road West. The team hopes to work closely with mothers and their babies, offering support to promote the parent-infant relationship, supporting bonding and attachment with the aim of promoting wellbeing of parent and baby. Support can be offered via one-to-one support or group sessions to help parents in their role in supporting their baby's development. Further work will be undertaken to establish the needs of the families on site and tailor the programme to their needs.

Cardiff Parenting – Money Advice Workshops

Parents attending parenting groups have highlighted financial issues as one of the main contributing factors to stress within the family home. As a result, the Cardiff Parenting team is planning to offer money advice workshops during the summer holidays and is joining up with the Council's Money Advice team to do this. This will be just one part of a series of other events planned for Flying Start families this summer.

Childcare Offer

To date, 1,246 applications have been received via the Digital Service for the Childcare Offer, with 1,040 applications, relating to 1,054 children, now approved. These families are eligible to receive funded childcare for up to 17.5 hours per week during term time for their 3- to 4-year-old children, complementing the 12.5 hours of funded early education provided by the Council, and up to 30 hours of funded childcare in 9 of the 12 school holiday weeks. Altogether, the total number of approved children is now at 2,293, which is 6.7% above the previous highest number of beneficiaries that was achieved previously in July 2022.

Birth Registrations

Information about Cardiff Family Advice & Support (CFAS) and Cardiff Parenting services is now going to be included in birth registration packs provided by the Council's Registration Service. This will help ensure that families receive information about the Council's early intervention and prevention services. Pens and keyrings with contact details for these services will also be available at the Cardiff Register Office at City Hall. This is part of the work being undertaken to promote more widely the services and assistance that is available to families in Cardiff.

British & Irish Council Visit

I had the pleasure of meeting representatives from the British and Irish Council, together with Welsh Government officials, when they visited Bryn Celyn Primary School and the on-site Flying Start childcare setting recently. The visit was arranged for delegates to look at the work that Cardiff's Flying Start team is doing to support children's speech, language and communication skills in Wales. Delegates were able to see the child's speech, language, and communication journey through one of Cardiff's Flying Start settings, and how this supports the child's transition into school. The visit was a success with many delegates commenting on the excellent work that is being done by the team.

Councillors Norma Mackie & Ash Lister
Cabinet Members for Social Services (Job Share)
14 July 2023