

COUNCIL: 24 OCTOBER 2019

CHILDREN & FAMILIES STATEMENT

Integrated Care Fund Investment

Cardiff has secured additional resource from the Welsh Government Integrated Care Fund for 2 years to develop and transform services that support children and young people at the edge of care. Some of this resource is supporting an enhanced offer from the existing service, as well as expansion of the service model into the Vale of Glamorgan. This will deliver additional support to young people in Cardiff through a range of intervention offers and access to therapeutic support, in addition to developing a broader offer of short breaks and activities to support parents and carers. The additional resources will see the development of the following:

- Regional Family Group Conferencing Services and a development officer in Cardiff to drive forward practice development within the workforce alongside this new service.
- Development of new teams that support the reunification of children with their families where this is safe to do so.
- Implementation of a reunification framework that will support children who become looked after to return to live with their families.

The project is currently in the start-up phase with the recruitment of additional support staff and an additional regional social work practitioner. The working group overseeing this development will be exploring the range of therapeutic options for children in partnership with our Cardiff & Vale University Health Board partners.

Refresh of Member Safeguarding Protocol

The Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Well-being and I have written to Members regarding the review and refresh of the Council's protocol on 'The Role of Elected Members in Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults', which was approved in 2016. We have engaged Mr Phil Hodgson, former Director of Social Services at Blaenau Gwent and Swansea Councils, to review and refresh the protocol with a view to presenting it to Full Council for consideration early in 2020. He will be seeking to engage extensively with Cardiff Councillors through a combination of personal meetings, attending political group and Whips meetings and focus groups. We recognise how important it is for the revised protocol to be co-produced with Councillors, as well as being fully compliant with all relevant legislation.

The Parent You Could Be

As part of this year's National Adoption Week from 14th to 20th October 2019, the National Adoption Service (NAS) in Wales launched a new recruitment campaign, entitled 'The Parent You Could Be'. The campaign features real adopters who have volunteered to be involved and sets out to encourage people from all walks of life

to consider becoming a parent through adoption. During the launch week, a different region was featured each day, providing an opportunity to showcase their service combined with additional localised advertising on that day. The campaign is more high profile than anything that the NAS has done before and includes adverts on TV, buses and in supermarkets, alongside a consistent web and social media presence.

Councillor Graham Hinchey
Cabinet Member for Children & Families
18 October 2019