

# Agenda



## Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

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Date: Wednesday, 23 March 2022

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting

To: Councillors J Clarke (Chair), Hussain, M Linton, S Marshall, R Mogford, M Spencer, T Suller and K Whitehead

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Item	Wards Affected
1	<u>Apologies</u>
2	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>
3	<u>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 February 2022</u> (Pages 3 - 16)
4	<u>Newport Barnardo's Strategic Partnership</u> (Pages 17 - 42)
5	<u>Conclusions of Committee Reports</u> Following the completion of the Committee reports, the Committee will be asked to formalise its conclusions, recommendations and comments on previous items for actioning.
6	<u>Scrutiny Adviser Reports</u> (Pages 43 - 48) a) Actions Plan ( <b>Appendix 1</b> )

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Date of Issue: Wednesday, 16 March 2022

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# Minutes



## Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

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Date: 2 February 2022

Time: 5.00 pm

Present: Councillors M Linton, S Marshall, R Mogford, T Suller and K Whitehead

In Attendance: Councillor Jane Mudd – (Leader of Newport City Council - Chair of One Newport), Rhys Cornwall (Strategic Director - Transformation and Corporate Centre), William Beer (NHS Public Health Team Consultant), Craig Lane (Citizens Advice), Steve Morgan (Natural Resources Wales), Harriet Bleach (Natural Resources Wales), Steve Tiley (Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO)), Tracy McKim (Partnership Policy & Involvement Manager), Nicola Dance (Senior Policy & Partnership Officer), Geraint Willington (Director - EAS), Ed Pryce (Assistant Director - EAS), Sarah Davies (Principal Challenge Advisor - EAS), Sarah Morgan (Chief Education Officer), Andrew Powles (Deputy Chief Education Officer), Neil Barnett (Scrutiny Adviser) and Felicity Collins

Apologies: Councillors J Clarke, F Hussain and M Spencer

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### 1 Declarations of Interest

None.

### 2 One Newport Wellbeing Plan 2021-22 Q2 Performance

Invitees:

- Councillor Jane Mudd - Leader of Newport City Council - Chair of One Newport Public Service Board (PSB) and Intervention Lead for the Newport Offer
- Bev Owen - Chief Executive of Newport City Council
- Rhys Cornwall – Strategic Director
- Nicola Dance – Senior Partnership Officer
- Tracy McKim – Policy, Partnership and Involvement Manager
- Will Beer - Intervention Lead for Strong Resilient Communities (NHS Public Health Team Consultant)
- Craig Lane Intervention Lead for Sustainable Travel (Newport Third Sector)
- Steve Morgan Intervention Lead for Green and Safe Spaces (Natural Resources Wales)
- Stephen Tiley Intervention Lead for Right Skills (Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO))

The Intervention Lead for Strong and Resilient Communities informed the Committee that they will update them on the progress made against the key steps of the five objectives set out in the well-being plan as agreed by the partners. It reflects the work they are currently doing in the partnership rather than in their own constituencies; and the focus is all about the collaborative work

The Committee was advised that the Leader of the Council was unable to attend for the update and had asked that her apologies were offered at the Meeting. Members were advised that the Senior Partnership Officer and Strategic Director will cover the Newport Offer section.

### **Newport Offer**

The Senior Partnership Officer gave a brief overview of the Newport Offer Intervention and how Newport Now has brought a local business perspective into the board and the Leads are keen to involve the Newport Youth Council as it has a long term focus for young people to also make the decisions. She referred to its aspiration to change perceptions and raise the profile of the city.

She pointed out the key re-generation projects such as shared ownership homes and green infrastructure works and the work for the city centre that has brought the Council together with Coleg Gwent and Newport Live. Also noted the collaboration with the Police and Newport Now on the application to retain the Purple Flag Status as it could provide stimulus for long term investment potential. Partners have been working hard to build it back up to how it was before with the tourism economy which has been hit very hard by the pandemic. Lots of investment via Transporter Bridge and partners putting on events such as the marathon and the Mercure hotel development in the City Centre. Survey work will also be done to establish performance measures in helping improve people's perceptions about the City.

Members asked the following:

- Members noted the need for Newport to have a diverse economy and asked if businesses have approached the PSB wanting to come into Newport.

The Senior Partnership Officer clarified that there are enquiries which come into the council for investment and work through the Newport Offer, Newport Now and Newport Economic Network. But in terms of direct enquiries, they do not get them through to the board itself but they are responded to by the team at the council.

- A Member commented that there seems to be two polarised perceptions of the City Centre. Looking at social media, some well-known traders will state the bad rather than the good through their experiences. Although there is activity for development within the city; there lies the issue that Newport has the most empty retail units in Great Britain. Despite there is ongoing work for development, it has to be acknowledged that people have a dark view of the City Centre and queried how the partners are managing that and bringing people into that conversation.

The Senior Partnership Officer responded that the main aim of the Newport Offer is about changing the perceptions of the City Centre and to promote the good news stories about Newport, and that these come from the works of individual partners, partnerships and the communities.

- Members asked if the partners work smoothly without much risk of overlapping in the work. If an overlap would occur, is it a challenge for the partners and are they dealt with well?

The Senior Partnership Officer confirmed it has not been a particular challenge but recognised as one as there are so many organisations working in the city centre. The Offer has an action to look at the different groups working which is a benefit.

- Members acknowledged the impact of online shopping on the City Centre and queried if partners have looked at other activities to encourage people into Newport, such as through a mix of the arts and culture as they note they have the bowling alley there but have lost the cinema in the city centre.

The Senior Partnership Officer stated that the board has considered that with the initiatives that are tourism focused through the Newport Offer; the officer offered to pass on more information on that after the meeting.

- Members noted recognition of the work going on such as the bridge and market arcade developments as well as the green areas in town which helps with people's perceptions. Building on perceptions, the Member asked if anything was linked from the City Centre PSPO and from the Newport Offer stage.

Members were advised that it was more part of Safer Newport work, which has been part of the Newport Offer Board to inform partners. Members then asked if there has been any changes or amendments to the Board as a result of that. The Senior Partnership Officer confirmed not through the Newport Offer Board but potentially through other partnership boards.

The Strategic Director added that the PSPO work goes through the partnership structures around Safer Newport which is a safety partnership, which is separate but is linked in through the statutory partnership, part of Crime and Disorder Act Legislation. It is primarily led by the police and local authorities. Does not necessarily go through the Newport Offer but assured Members they are cognisant of what happens with the PSPO work.

### **Strong Resilient Communities**

The Intervention Lead for Strong Resilient Communities gave a brief overview of the collaborative work and funding streams. £415,000.00 has been granted for community based projects to improve people's well-being and to help those in the community who have been hit hardest during the pandemic as they move into the recovery phase. They want to ensure they have the information they need to support them to improve their mental well-being and to build up resilient and cohesive communities. The Participatory Budgeting has been a way to empower residents in making decisions to stimulate community projects.

Steering group oversees these projects, such as Newport Access Group, Ethnic Minorities Youth Support team, these programmes have been successful so far. They speak to a local need and the Partner noted the Partnership Officer from Newport City Council, Huw Williams has been instrumental in driving the work.

The play based approaches were discussed in bringing agencies together with two well-being collaborative, one in Ringland and one in Pill. The Lead referred to the future plans for the next quarter which are set out in the highlight report provided and that they are looking at the representation and fairness commission to measure the impact that the programme has had.

Members asked the following:

- Are any other initiatives in other areas in Newport?

The Lead highlighted that the Well-being plan was never going to capture the full locality of the work happening, Ringland and Pill were to test out proof of concept on a small scale to bring partners together to give them a blueprint to extend to other areas. The next step for them would be to see how much they have achieved in those areas, then bring it to Bettws and other areas to see if they can make sure it has the right impact on other areas of Newport.

- Members commended the Early Years Work in Bettws. Normally the hubs are the main drivers with the work, and asked if normal members of the public come forward to have an input on the work going on, just like how Communities First started off originally.

The Intervention Lead stated they need the bottom to top approach which is critical to the Well-being Plan. Trying to test out these methods to engage with the communities, such as the participatory budgeting which is allowing the communities to have their say and lead over the statutory services.

- The Member went on to ask if the team have had a good response from the communities involved.

The Lead confirmed they have had community conversations with different approaches in other areas, such as one project in Caerphilly which is postcards for the future. The residents would send in what they want to see for their future and the team responds by asking what they think they need to do to achieve that which has had a good response from to help and found it made people feel empowered to take action.

- Discussion ensued about the wider community and how sport plays a major role in children and young adult's lives as it would change attitudes so stated that everyone should encourage people to participate in sports.

The Lead recognised that anti-social behaviour can be linked to youths because they have been bored without anywhere to go. It is important as it encourages discipline and comradery. The midnight basketball idea was referred to which was based in New York. They introduced installing basketball courts in the area of anti-social behaviour reports. This example showed how community voices are important to be included in the decision making process.

- Members praised how the partners work together and that Newport is very multi-cultural. They fully appreciate that all people from walks of life are involved and asked if the partners are bringing everyone together and making sure they are able to take part.

The Intervention Lead confirmed that arts and cultural activities are a way to bring people together, important in creating more cohesive communities for the future. Those values are at the heart of the plan and they agree with the Member that it's important to include as many people in the community.

- Members noted the issue mentioned with working from home isolation, many lack social interaction and asked if the partners have worked together in relation to that.

The Lead confirmed they have struggled throughout the waves of the pandemic in looking across the board on how to open the community hubs back again safely, still quite a challenge with the current surge of omicron cases. There are issues for example such as volunteers who may be unable to go as they are shielding/anxious to venture back out however when they move toward Spring/Summer things may be better. They are looking at ways on how to address this social anxiety and to get people out again. It was recognised that interactions are less due to working from home and the partners are looking at what they need to do in the recovery phase.

- The Member went on to explain how some colleagues from his workplace meet weekly to go for a walk and a chat which has been hugely beneficial. Grassroots

ideas like that should be encouraged and asked if partners are trying to reach to organisations to promote things like that further.

The Lead stated that there is a strong overlap between strong communities with safe and green spaces which will be clear later on in the meeting. The Lead referred to previous work on a community centre which was placed but not open too much, so they are looking to open safe and accessible spaces where the community can have more ownership over those.

There will be discussion on sustainable travel to help get people out of their cars such as a safe route to schools etc. to help others connect in ways they may not have done beforehand.

- Have the partners linked in and engaged with young people on strategies?

The Lead confirmed the steering group, with young people are the people they wish to meet and want the young people on the steering group. It was acknowledged that it is difficult to identify people who represent the whole of the young people as it is a very diverse community but the partners are trying to do it and know that they can do better. The Lead noted they are working with the well-being of the future generations act in mind so assured the Committee they are trying to be representative of the people in Newport.

- The Member went on to ask the Lead to confirm the lead partners in their area.

Craig Lane works for Citizens Advice Bureau and chairs the Newport Third Sector Partnership – a range of voluntary organisations represented by that partnership and they also work quite closely with GAVO, Newport City Homes. They work quite close with NCH with their masterplans and built in environments and with developers of Ringland hubs alongside officers within the council in a range of service areas such as Chris Humphreys, Sally Ann Jenkins and then the other area in Regeneration with Bev Owen. Some of those partners it is about stimulating grass roots activities, some to change the environment for communities, improving infrastructure/hubs. All partners have an important role to play.

- How the partners communicate with elderly residents who are not easy to contact/on social media technology?

The Lead confirmed he has spoken with Senior Citizens Forum in Newport who are active and noted there has been disadvantages of the digital transformation as well as the advantages. The network of Well-being Champions work, there has been to get word of mouth out to residents. When community hubs are open again, they will look to put up information on noticeboards and speak with the hub managers. It was recognised that there are elderly people who are digitally excluded so their approach will be nuanced with that as they cannot fully rely on technology for everything.

- Discussion ensued on how the pandemic has exposed how isolated the elderly can be from day to day social interactions and leaflet campaigns could work to help combat that. Members then asked how often partners refer to the councillors/community councillors and how the organisations out-reach to the members.

It was noted that members are involved in the participatory budgeting programme and the team has met with them occasionally in asset mapping. It is something they could strengthen to have a two way conversation with the Members to collectively know together. This could be facilitated through Democratic Services.

- Members expressed concern on the lack of changing facilities for sporting teams, such as for the Ringland area. Members then wished to commend the results with NCH and future developments going on for the area.

The Lead was involved in the development of the masterplan with NCH and they spent a lot of time looking at the hub and the mention was the changing facilities. It was used as a flexible space to encourage more in the community then the idea developed for the playing fields plus the well-being centre. If and when that goes ahead, they will be using that space flexibly as well. It was advised that could be a discussion with the hub manager. As it will be a well-being area, not sure it would be appropriate for the area but will look into it if area can be moved around a bit.

- The Committee thanked the Lead, acknowledged that the teams may not afford it starting up with expenses of the ongoing funds and asked if the Lead could consider the above suggestion for the Partners to consider that for the whole of Newport including Ringland for facilities usage. And asked if the Leader could come back to the Committee on the next meeting on that.

The Lead agreed he would take that to the partners to consider and discuss.

### **Right Skills**

The Right Skills Intervention Lead introduced the Intervention to the Committee and gave a brief overview of the well-being dashboard and advised the Committee that similarly to comments made in the earlier Progress Updates by other Leads, assured Members that positive strides were being made but highlighted the impact of the pandemic on the work, which has brought challenges. Members were informed of the key achievements and successes from the quarter in steps, mentioning the development on the Virtual Careers Week for students in Year 9 and above in Newport schools focused on the health, social care and childcare sectors and also workshops to address longer term skill needs. Adult Learner Week is to be promoted by the team developing online content and the Lead noted that the One Newport Board has agreed to establish a group to support the promotion of Welsh language skills in the workplace.

The Lead noted that £800,000 grant funding has been secured from the Community Renewal Fund for “Foot in the Door” project to be delivered by Ffilm Cymru. The Newport project will develop skills required by the screen sector, create training and employment opportunities for young people in the city, and support strong working links between the screen sector and education providers locally.

The Lead explained the key measure performance indicators with the committee and covered the plans for the next quarter and for the future, such as delivering an online careers event for schools focused on the health and social sector which is scheduled for November 2022.

Members asked the following:

- Members recognised that online engagement is a challenge and acknowledged that the area comes with a number of challenges and asked if the numbers spiked of younger adults in NEAT (Not in Education And Training) as a result of the pandemic.

The Lead advised he would need to look at the numbers as the pandemic will skew those numbers as WG gives them a percentage that would go into that but they need more information on that, will be by June but cannot comment as it's difficult to comment on whether it's the right amount. It could be a case going back a few years ago who might have ended up going into helping those not wanting to go into

educational employment. The Lead explained that by addressing it and looking at it how they are now as a board, and trying to ensure there are pathways in support for people going down that route; it might help the situation moving forward. Would like to see how pandemic has affected that and will analyse the data to see how to mitigate that.

- Members asked if numbers get better or stay the same. – Can bring something back to you from Report in June to send more information across when it's in.

The Strategic Director added that in his experience 12 years ago, they had 10% of school leavers not becoming in NEAT. It has been brought right down since then and it would be interesting to see the impact of the pandemic on that. As it is too early to know from that but all partners involved, voluntary sector and careers wales, training providers have worked hard to ensure these individuals have opportunities. Each person not in education or training is a lost opportunity.

- Is the grant a long term agreement?

The Lead confirmed unfortunately it is only until June but they will monitor that to give more opportunities for people to get involved in different sectors from the legacy of it. Tight timescale but a lot of work has gone into putting into the bids, so the team is focused on how the money is going to be spent; as the ball is rolling on how to use the grant efficiently.

- In regards to apprenticeships; if firms are willing to take on people who do not serve a five year term and commented that the terms seem to be shortening.

The Intervention Lead agreed with the comment as the apprenticeships are getting fewer and far between unfortunately but there are lots of organisations open with opportunities for the team to work with. The public sector partners try to support that and promote those as well. The Members were informed that they work with University South Wales and the colleagues are tied into those so are trying to link the individuals within the education area.

- Is there any linking in with other partners to work together to hold apprenticeships with the new partnerships on board?

The Intervention Lead confirmed that apprenticeships has been discussed but is something on their radar. It is something they would need to re-visit and partners would have apprenticeships they would bring on. There are a few trying to advertise the opportunities via local authorities which are linked into the right skills. As they progress forward it is something they can look into.

- Members mentioned with regard to Covid recovery; empowerment of volunteers that stepped up during the pandemic. The Member asked if there has been consideration for them to be accredited through the work they have done with qualifications to allow them to prove the skills they have.

The Lead confirmed that volunteering is one of their key aims and they have a volunteering centre. There has been huge support from the partners for the volunteers and commended the work from the volunteers. Volunteering can be treated as a stepping stone to a career and builds on people's ability to work with people as qualifications can be a grey area as with qualifications sometimes they require actual work experience but ways of volunteering could link to that. The ideal is for volunteers to be recognised in the schemes for the work they have done.

## **Green and Safe Spaces**

The Intervention Lead provided the Committee with a brief overview of the intervention dashboard to the Committee to show how the team is delivering against the well-being objectives. The Lead noted a key achievement so far as the Network Workshop (September 2021) created further partnership work with opportunities to collaborate and saw the network membership expand from that. He also referred to the new Community Green Flag Award achieved for the Laundry at Tredegar House and 5 other Green Flags retained for another year.

Members were informed that they have successfully secured funding for a City Centre Green Infrastructure (GI) feasibility study by March 2022 to identify opportunities for GI, engage with partners and businesses with the intention that the GI is part of the future plans. The Newport City Council Climate Change Plan draft incorporates the aspects of this intervention with a tree planting target and advised the Members that the draft will go out for comment.

The Lead also went into detail with the future plans for the quarter such as applying support the woodland wellbeing sessions in Bettws and continue to strengthen links and opportunities with Housing Associations and will look to promote volunteering opportunities via Newsletter.

Members asked the following:

- A Committee Member confirmed with the partners that the 'road to nowhere' area would be turned into a nature reserve and asked if they will be liaising with the Welsh Government to get the nearby Lake turned into a part of the reserve.

The Intervention Lead was not aware of that engagement but agreed to take that on board as a great idea. The partner fully understood the issue as it was an eye sore with the issue of fly-tipping and the result is well overdue. The Lead agreed to take on board that idea suggested.

- A Member asked if ash trees are being felled in the woods by Morgraig Avenue in Duffryn.

The Lead clarified that unfortunately the rate of felling is high at the moment as there are a lot of tree diseases and also new tree diseases in Wales. The trees mentioned are being felled for ash die back disease, there is a lot of larch disease. There is a lot of health issues with ash. Despite this, there are a lot of initiatives for tree planting. The Welsh Government have a national forest objective and working with a number of partners to see what they can do. Also it was explained that the partners are discussing initiatives with the private/public sectors on how to maximise lands for the future with tree planting.

- Members commented on the small green spaces in England that he has seen when driving past with wildflowers and asked if the team has considered for the same to go into the areas of Newport. Members also went on to raise the issue that is with every local authority of antisocial behaviour in the form of off-road bikers and quad bikes in green spaces and therefore asked if there is an opportunity for the partners to engage with those and find an area of land to help mitigate the behaviour.

In response, the intervention lead noted that they are planning on planting specific colourful species around the City as it was noted that they need to use particular species in certain areas. The Lead referred to the November's e-Newsletter which listed specific examples of plants and wildflowers they have used in Newport and will focus on those in the next update for the q3. It was stated that Members could see

some of the work done so far along the riverfront from interventions and partnerships but agreed it is good to see and replicate ideas around the area.

On the second point, the Lead was mindful that this was not relevant to the partnership but it is something they do consider as they partner with other organisations outside of the interventions, such as with the police.

The partner recognised that anti-social behaviour such as wild-fires and quad biking for example can be issues and have found from initiatives such as the idea of providing a space for quad-bikers to go to; found that they do not want to be contained within a space and wish to explore and develop their own tracks. Members were informed that the partners are considering it a lot for safer green spaces to tackle the issue but ensure that people can enjoy their time outdoors but also not damage the environment.

### **Sustainable Travel**

The Intervention Lead introduced the Sustainable Travel Intervention to the Committee and referred to the aim of reducing carbon emissions through encouraging active transport and public transport to mitigate climate change and to promote the health benefits from that. Initiatives were mentioned, three primary schools are involved at the moment to discourage the use of vehicles to create safer sustainable spaces around schools. Active Travel Network Map will be used to plan active travel development plans for the future. It was noted the partners are keen to take advantage of the behaviour change encouraged by pandemic in reduced private car use and encourage active travel, a stakeholder workshop has been done to see how to make that permanent.

Committee were informed of the public awareness campaign with a video shared on social media, and provided an update on the Devon Bridge project progression, and implemented lighting on shared routes with low level lighting in order to not cause light pollution. The Lead stressed that the partners are mindful that some people are unable to take part in active travel so are being realistic with their work. The partners are in the process of getting funding for bike hire within Newport, as Newport is hilly, it was noted they need electrical bikes included so further funding has been applied for.

Members asked the following:

- Members raised the issue of the Fflecsi service not being able to reach all areas of Newport so stressed that it is difficult for residents to partake in active travel initiatives.

The Policy, Partnership and Involvement Manager added that the Intervention Lead is a partner where they are reviewing the partnership progress for the well-being plan. Partners recognise that within the wellbeing plan this is a challenge and noted that it is important that this has been recognised as a challenge and there are a number of partners working together to resolve the issue of active travel.

- A Committee Member referred to the mention of the electric car charging points and wished to suggest other local areas away from main roads and within wards. The Member asked how they would go about requesting the points to go within the wards.

The Intervention Lead responded, stating that as it is early days, they recognise that accessibility and affordability of the vehicles is an issue and not everyone has off street parking for the points. The charging points will be key to ensure low emission vehicles are being used sustainably and advised they are at the mapping stage to sort this. It was agreed that they need to be creative in place them for communities to use accessibly and the Lead noted that they would take this back to the partners to look into.

The Committee thanked all of the officers and partners for their comprehensive presentations and for their time in answering the questions. They praised the teams on the work they have done so far.

### **Conclusions:**

1. The Committee **noted** the performance within the One Newport Well-being Plan 2021-22 Quarter 2 Performance Appendices 1 to 5.
2. The Committee **made** the following comments to the Public Services Board:

The Committee Members thanked the Intervention Leads for attending and praised the commitment and work of the partners, the Members recognised that there is a strong working partnership taking place. Members also noted some parts of the interventions cross over as they fit in naturally without duplication, much like the Green Safe Spaces and Newport Offer.

#### **The Newport Offer**

Members requested if further details could be given on tourism related initiatives currently running, and planned within Newport.

#### **Strong, Resilient Communities**

The Committee asked for the Strong and Resilient Communities Intervention Lead to look into the start-up fees for clubs, new developments on hubs within Ringland and if other areas of Newport have similar plans of work to use our facilities and buildings for different purposes to engage more people in the community.

#### **Right Skills**

The Committee wished to note their support for the hard working team of volunteers behind the projects and would like their work would be recognised.

#### **Green and Safe Spaces**

The Committee asked if partners could liaise with the Welsh Government to turn the 'Road to Nowhere' into a nature reserve.

#### **Sustainable Travel**

The Committee spoke of the importance of having more charging points throughout the city for electric vehicles, and understand that they would need to be creatively and evenly placed in communities where they can be used excessively.

### **3 Education Achievement Services (EAS) Business Plan 2022-25**

Invitees:

- Sarah Morgan - Chief Education Officer/Head of Education (NCC)
- Geraint Willington – Director – EAS
- Ed Pryce – Assistant Director – EAS
- Sarah Davies – Principal Challenge Advisor (EAS)

The Chief Education Officer introduced the EAS team and their report and introduced the Assistant Director of EAS to cover the key lines of the business plan. The Assistant Director provided the Committee with a brief overview of how the EAS team and partners have reviewed how they wrote the business plan and stressed that the fundamentals such as Local Authority Strategic plans would not change and that the initial feedback from other stakeholders and what the EAS will change in the final version.

Members were informed of the 5 key priorities for the group after the feedback from the Directors and School Improvement Lead session and referred to these within the report. The Assistant Director explained the EAS Vision for 2025 and covered what the EAS will do to achieve the vision, such as ensuring that all schools are able to access a universal offer and professional teaching, a set number of days to work with a school improvement partner. It was noted that bespoke support would be developed for schools who require more intensive work. Members were informed that the EAS will report on the progress it is making towards the impact statements within the business plan.

Members asked the following:

- The Committee thanked the officers for their comprehensive presentation and praised them on the work they have been doing.
- Members referred to page 31 with regard to encouraging youth/learner voices and asked if any changes have been made to how the partnership works because of that learner voice being included.

The EAS Assistant Director confirmed that a colleague of his, Cath Bevan; Assistant Director, looks after their well-being strategies, has liaised with numerous school councils offering the vision for feedback and has undertaken an exercise. Members were advised that the partner has not seen the feedback as of yet but assured the Committee that it will be incorporated into the final version and published as one of the appendices, as EAS do for standard procedure.

- Members asked in relation to the challenge of staffing numbers mentioned; how the EAS team have experienced putting the plan into motion during a reduction of staff, or if they have adapted it with the new way of working.

It was clarified that the EAS had a minor restructure last year and that they take advantage of opportunities where they help with staffing. The Member was directed to 3.4 of the report where it also states they have always passed on efficiency savings to the local authority. It was explained that they may be at a point where any further efficiency savings at the core would become more challenging in future years.

The Committee was assured that they are committed to the model of the partnership with the school improvement partners who are the best of the professionals and leading network schools. The EAS monitor that and broker their support to them in line with the objectives set. It is similar in the governance team as they have a much smaller team managing the centre and have a flexible pool of casual clerks.

The EAS felt that model is effective as it offers efficiency savings into the system as well, both for schools and local authorities.

- Members highlighted the challenges of the situation from the pandemic with free school meals and asked the partners what they have been looking at to work with that challenge with other local authorities.

It was advised the Members would expect it to be heavily embedded in the well-being area with free school meals, but it is embedded in all areas but with particular groups of learners with free school meals might have socio-economic disadvantage. They will be the priority of the plan and in the reporting metrics. It was acknowledged that the pandemic has had the

greatest impact on the most socio-economically disadvantaged therefore all of their strategies have elements ensuring that the teachers focus on those learners. They have found that as by-product, other learners have benefited from that too.

- Members mentioned the recent education law changes in Wales relating to those with disabilities/additional learning needs and asked the if that has had any bearing on the way the partners have worked in the partnership and if so, how.

The Chief Education Officer confirmed that it is a partnership approach so the local authorities lead on the transportation and there has been a team that would lead schools. However the EAS partners dovetail into that strategy. For instance, they look at the good quality teachers included for the quality, and what they should do is look at the differentiation and setting appropriate challenges for pupils. So the partners support the council with that aspect as an example.

- Members asked if there had been any challenges in the last 12 months while coming into the recovery phase from the pandemic whilst going into the business plan. And asked if the partners foresaw the challenges.

The EAS Partner confirmed that one of their greatest challenges was last autumn where with some of the waves of COVID, they had assumptions that they were ready to drive forward with the school improvement agenda. But it was advised that they did that at a stage where schools were not ready at those stages as they were facing challenges of staffing in schools. From that, they have gained a stronger insight with stronger avenues to be able to listen to the head teachers in virtual meetings too and stated they felt that the partnership became much stronger.

The Chief Education Officer added that during the pandemic, the EAS and Local Authority maximised the work with schools where possible. An example was mentioned where the EAS put on professional learning led by the speaker who was approved specifically for leadership changes and adapting in challenging circumstances. They will retain and build on the successes and asses what they will leave behind some things they did before the pandemic. Therefore it was stated that in itself it has provided a good springboard for the partners to take those successes with them and helped them provide good self-evaluation and for the co-operation from the schools.

The Committee thanked the officers for attending.

### **Conclusions:**

3. The Committee **noted** the Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan 2022-2025

4. The Committee **made** the following comments to the EAS and Cabinet:

- The Committee thanked the officers for attending and complimented the Business Plan as very clear in their goals with a good understanding. Members were pleased to see that the partnership is still healthy. Members were also happy with the information

contained within the report, and wished to feedback that the Business Plan read a lot better to previous reports.

- The Committee wished to request for the partners to keep them apprised of any key changes.
- Members were pleased to hear that the partnership have been liaising with school councils offering the vision feedback for learner voices and that it will be incorporated into the final report.

#### 4 **Scrutiny Adviser Reports**

Invitee:

Neil Barnett – Scrutiny Adviser

##### **a) Actions Plan (Appendix 1)**

The Scrutiny Adviser advised the Members that the comments and recommendations were sent over for the Gwent Well-being Assessment and the Regional Population Needs from the meeting on 20 January.

Members were informed that the officer is waiting on confirmation from the Leader on the Dementia Awareness online training session taking place in February. Once the adviser knows further, it was agreed he would send this out to the Members so they can take part.

The meeting terminated at 20:12

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# Scrutiny Report

## Part 1

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

## Subject Newport Barnardo's Strategic Partnership

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Sally Jenkins	Strategic Director – Social Services
Dan Jones	Service Manager – Childrens Teams
Chris Cahill	Partnership Manager
Mark Carter	Assistant Director Barnardo's Cymru

## Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

### 1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked

1. Review the work of the Barnardo's Partnership in providing effective family support services for children and families in Newport.
2. Consider for proposals for continued work and developments in 2022/23

### 2 Context

#### Background

- 2.1 In 2011, Barnardo's partnered with Newport City Council to form the Newport Strategic Partnership. Initially this involved the development of a Family Support Service (FSS) and since the new contract was put in place in 2018, the Newport Partnership has undergone significant changes. This includes a new management structure, key performance indicators being introduced including robust reporting mechanisms along with a key focus on innovative developments to promote the Partnership response with the aim of safely reducing the need for children to come into care in Newport. This collective aim is borne out of the joint mission to promote better outcomes for children and their families, as well as helping to reduce the financial and emotional cost that children entering care poses to families, communities and the Local Authority.

- 2.2 The Newport Partnership delivers bespoke and specialist interventions to children and families where an identified need has been referred to the service by a case-holding social worker due to a significant Child Protection risk being posed to the child. The aim is to empower families to manage now and in the future, accessing the range of community support for parents and for children and young people. In doing so, families will in future be better able to draw on their own 'toolkits' developed through direct work, as well as being able to access the support of preventative community agencies. The Newport Partnership uses the 'case status' risk-assessed by the case-holding Social Worker, as a benchmark to gauge impact; always aiming to reduce the escalating risks faced by children on the edge of care.
- 2.3 In an increasing number of areas, the Partnership between Newport and Barnardo's is being viewed as best practice with interest from across the country. The unique relationship that exists between Newport and Barnardo's, based on trust and collaboration, has provided the platform for innovations that have been proven to change children's lives and improve outcomes for the families. This is particularly being seen in some specialist projects setup within the Newport Partnership including: Baby & Me which supports families pre-birth where there is a risk the baby will need to be placed into care when born, the Rapid Response service which immediately supports families of teenagers referred into the Safeguarding Hub to prevent family breakdown, and the Family Group Conference Service which provides families in the Child Protection system the opportunity to be empowered to develop their own plan and have their voices truly heard.
- 2.4 The Newport Partnership has been able to demonstrate a 95% success rate where children's 'case statuses' reduce risk and/or do not escalate further following our intervention where children are on the edge of care. Baby & Me have been able to support the Local Authority with reducing the number of babies being 'born into care' by 48% over the past 2 years, compared to the 2 years prior to the project being setup – equating to 20 more babies going and staying home with their parents. The Family Group Conference service has been able to support over 100 families during the past year, 100% of whom have had improved outcomes in terms of child 'case status' following the intervention. The Rapid Response team has also been able to work with the Safeguarding Hub by providing immediate support for families to ensure that 91% of the families worked with have resulted in the teenagers remaining with their family.

### **Previous Consideration of this item**

- 2.5 This will be the Committees first consideration of the Newport Strategic Partnership.

## **3 Information Submitted to the Committee**

- 3.1 The submission for the committee is comprised of two sections. The information report explores the Strategic Partnership between Newport City Council and Barnardo's Cymru in supporting families where children are on the edge of care. This section provides an overview of the Partnership, from inception to current-day, along with case studies, testimonials and evidence of its impact on children and families, and the Local Authority.
- 3.2 The information report contains the following sections:
- Introduction to the Newport Partnership
  - Overview of the specialist projects (including Impact)
  - Newport Partnership Preventions Services
  - Case studies and Feedback

## 4. Suggested Areas of Focus

### Role of the Committee

#### The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

Review and analyse the contents of the information report:

1. Review the work of the Barnardo's Partnership in providing effective family support services for children and families in Newport.
2. Consider for proposals for continued work and developments in 2022/23

Assess and make comment on:

- How effectively the service areas are performing against objectives;
- The extent to which any underperformance is being addressed and associated risks are being mitigated;
- The progress being made in terms of performance;
- The impact being made in supporting the Newport City Council to improve the outcomes of children and families.

Conclusions:

- What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the reports?
- Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the Newport Strategic Partnership?
- Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee?
- Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations?

### Suggested Lines of Enquiry

4.1 The Committee might wish to think about the following when devising questioning strategies;

- What are the main challenges that face the partnership in continuing to deliver effective family support to families where children are on the edge of care?
- Are there any mitigations in place in the event of the Newport Strategic Partnership encountering issues with its performance?
- How is overall performance managed, reported and escalated?
- How does the future look for the Newport Strategic Partnership in terms of development?

## Section B – Supporting Information

### 5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Summarise how this report aligns with Council priorities – in particular the Corporate Plan and wellbeing objectives:

<b>Well-being Objectives</b>	Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities	Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient	Build cohesive & sustainable communities
<b>Corporate Plan Commitments</b>	Thriving City	Aspirational People		Resilient Communities
<b>Supporting Function</b>	Modernised Council			

### 6 Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision, proposal or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality. A copy of the relevant Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment (FEIA) should be included or referenced here, which will have considered all relevant impacts. If an FEIA has not be included, there should be a rationale for why this is the case.

#### 6.1 Summary of impact – Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

FEIA not required as there are no decisions to be made, report is an update on implementation of the scheme.

#### 6.2 Summary of impact – Equality Act 2010

FEIA not required as there are no decisions to be made, report is an update on implementation of the scheme.

#### 6.3 Summary of impact – Socio-economic Duty

FEIA not required as there are no decisions to be made, report is an update on implementation of the scheme.

#### 6.4 Summary of impact – Welsh language

FEIA not required as there are no decisions to be made, report is an update on implementation of the scheme

## 7. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan](#)
- [Socio-economic Duty Guidance](#)
- [Public Sector Equality Duty](#)
- [Welsh Language Measure 2015](#)

Report Completed: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022



# Information

# Report

## Scrutiny

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Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

**Subject** Newport Strategic Partnership

**Purpose** To ensure Cabinet Members are briefed on the Newport Strategic Partnership between Newport City Council and Barnardo's Cymru

**Author** Chris Cahill & Mark Carter

**Ward** City wide

**Summary** This report provides information relating to the Newport Strategic Partnership between Newport City Council and Barnardo's Cymru

**Proposal** To ensure Members are fully appraised on the role that Newport Strategic Partnership has in supporting children on the edge of care in Newport.

**Action** by Chris Cahill & Mark Carter

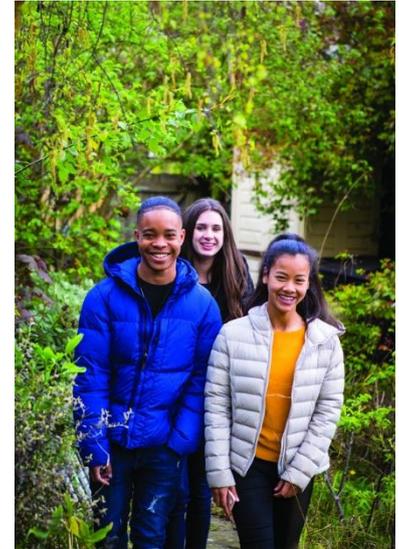
**Timetable** Immediate

# The Newport Partnership Information Report

## Section 1: Introduction

A strategic Partnership between Newport and Barnardos was established in 2011 which led to the development of Newport Family Support Service. One of the key benefits of Partnerships with public, private, and voluntary organisations mean we can provide innovative solutions and improve outcomes for children and young people. Both organisations financially contribute to the delivery of support services as well as collaboratively strive to build effective support for families. This Partnership enables the benefits that both a Local Authority and Third Sector brings in terms of opportunity as well as influence. The strategic Partnership has also afforded us the flexibility to work in partnership with key stake holders to identify and address unmet need within the community as well as enabling us to tailor our services to effectively target Newport's identified key priorities.

The primary focus of the service is to provide support to children on the 'edge of care' and their families by offering trauma informed and evidence-based services. This means where, without receiving specialist and intensive support, that there is a risk that the child or children could be placed into care due to the identified safeguarding concerns. We work with and alongside families and young people to reduce family breakdown and admissions into the care system. This is very much a partnership, working collaboratively and dynamically with the children's allocated social workers and management.



Over the past 12 months, despite the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, the Newport Partnership has continued to develop and embed a number of specialisms, including the development of a number of new working models and toolkits that will be discussed in more detail later in the report. Our specialist interventions include:

- **Family Group Conferences and Lifelong Links**
  - Family Group Conferences (FGC's) are voluntary decision-making meetings to help families find their own solutions to problems.
- **Working with Teenagers (including Exploitation and Keep Safe)**
  - The Wider Circles Model developed by the Newport Partnership, is an approach to working with adolescents and their families intrinsically linked with the concept of contextual safeguarding. Child exploitation is where a perpetrator uses a child or young person for profit, labour, sexual gratification, or some other personal or financial advantage.
- **Addressing Neglect**
  - The CHANGE Model also developed by the Newport Partnership, provides a focused and intensive intervention to families, involving an assessment of the care given to children in their families, with the aim of addressing neglect (where children's care needs are not being sufficiently met) and ensuring a clear and robust plan is developed to promote the possibility of long-term change.

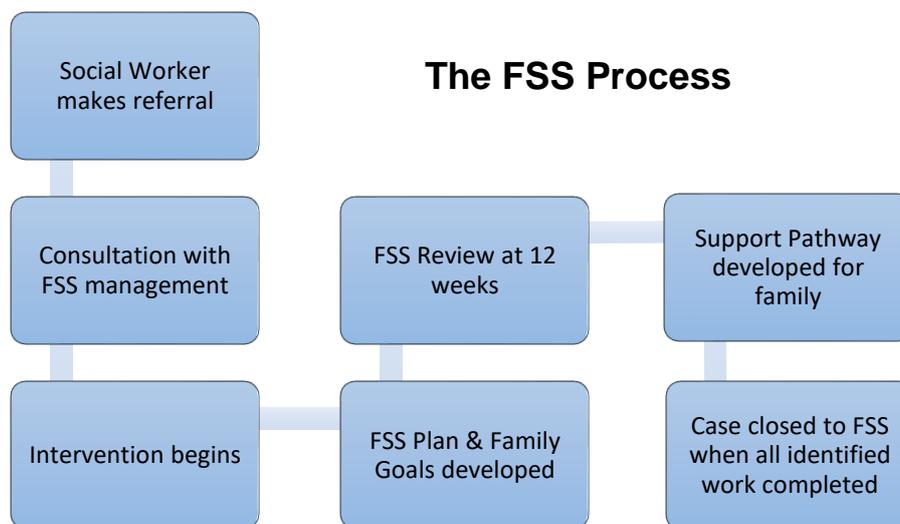
- **Baby & Me Pre-birth support and assessment**
  - The Baby & Me service provides tailored group work programme and bespoke intensive 1:1 support. We work with parents where there is a risk that the baby may be brought into care, creating a safe space for families to explore their identified issues and use a range of strategies and therapeutic approaches to work empathically with parents and empower them to reach their goals of keeping their family together.
  
- **SGO Carer Training**
  - A training programme for Special Guardianship Order carers aiming to stabilise placements and promote their ability to not only meet their children's needs, but also help them to recognise and respond to the traumatic journey likely experienced by the children.
  
- **Foster Placement Support**
  - Placement Support Workers are able to work with young people living with Newport City Council foster carers, working in conjunction with the Fostering and Pathways teams to promote the stability of these placements to prevent the trauma of repeated placement moves.
  
- **Rapid Response**
  - Working in partnership with the Safeguarding Hub, the aim of the service is to prevent breakdown and support the child to safely remain within the family home and was launched in September 2020
  
- **Research**
  - The Newport Partnership is now regularly undertaking research through consultation with Newport Children Services. The first research project undertaken by the service examined NCC's Children Protections process, which has stimulated wide-ranging changes in the systems, and process across the local authority. Further research has also investigated the impact of Covid-19 on young people and social work practice and future research is set to explore the step- up and step- down process between statutory and preventative services.
  
- **Consultation & Participation**
  - The Newport Partnership has developed a Youth Forum and a Parent Forum to provide a platform for the people who we support to have the opportunity to co-produce Partnership developments and to consult with the Local Authority.

## Section 2: Overview of the specialist projects and interventions

### Family Support Service (FSS)

This element of the service delivers focussed interventions, with plans and goals developed in collaboration with the children, families, and relevant agencies where children are on the 'edge of care' and have specific needs assessed by a case-holding Social Worker.

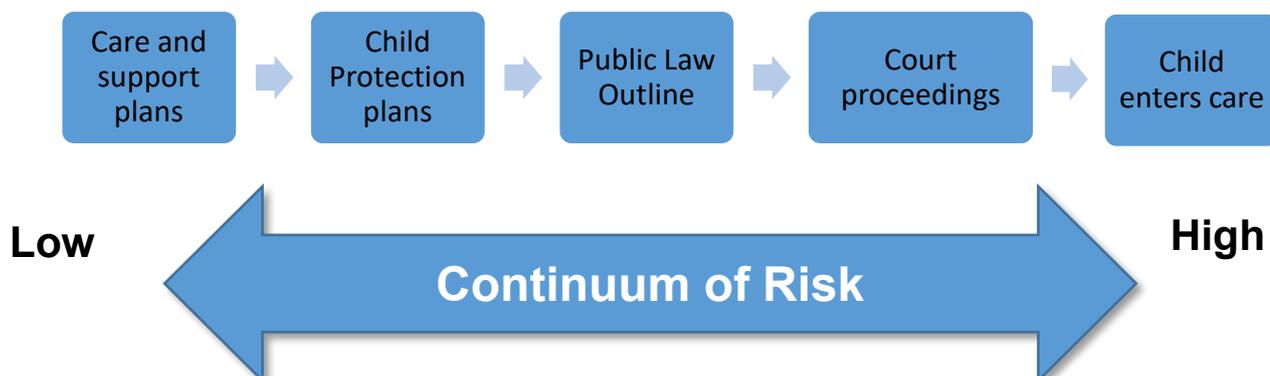
The Family Support Service management team undertake consultations with the case holding Social Worker on receipt of a referral, with a target case allocation of same day for urgent cases, and up to 5 working days for non-urgent cases (or sooner if possible). The aim of the service is to deliver interventions of 12 weeks, to review the involvement with all agencies at this point – with the potential to extend involvement for up to a further 12 weeks if appropriate and agreed by the Social Worker, family and management. A Support Pathway is developed for the family to promote their engagement with community and family support, empower them to identify and safely meet their own needs in future.



### FSS Performance

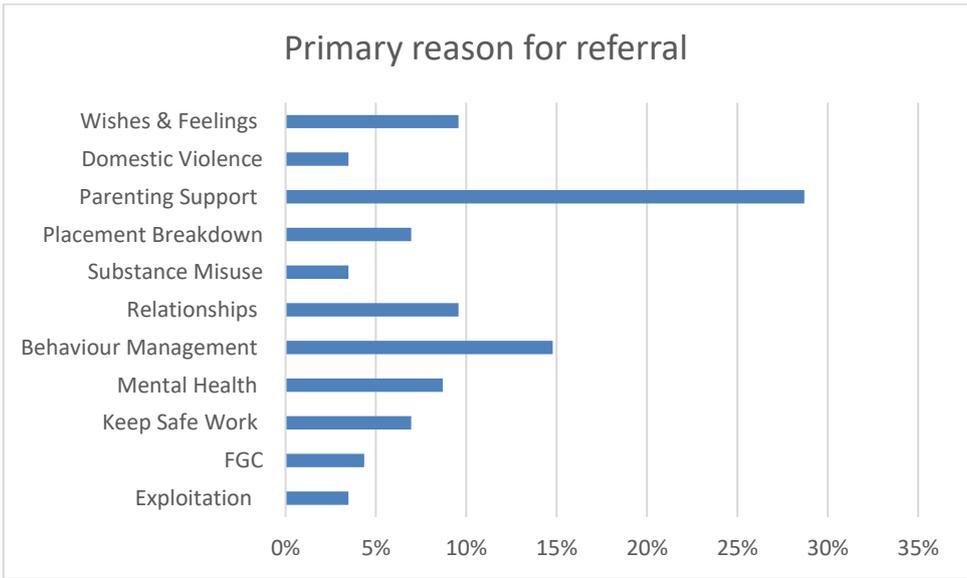
The FSS has supported **658 children** during the past 12 months (including FGC, Rapid Response and Baby & Me). This is an increase of 100 children compared to the previous year.

One of the main ways we measure our performance is by looking at changes in a young person's legal status during our involvement. When a family is open to Children Services, they can be on the following categories (legal status).



As such if a young person’s legal status was seen to stay the same (i.e. to not escalate), or there was a de-escalation in concerns, this would be viewed as a positive outcome from our intervention. With this in mind, below are the figures relating to each child’s ‘legal status’ from referral to closure over the past 12 months. These figures only include closed cases that have been open to FSS and **do not include** Rapid Response, FGC and Baby & Me, which will be outlined in detail later in the report.

- **320 out of 338** children’s cases closed during the year either did not escalate or reduced from their initial status
- Concerns did not increase in **94.7%** of closed FSS
- **41 (12%)** cases were closed to SSD at the time intervention ended.
- Concerns for the young person increased in only **18 cases**.
- **100%** would recommend FSS to other families experiencing similar difficulties.



Almost a third (**18%**) of secondary referrals from social workers detailed parental mental health as being a significant issue and **11%** of referrals identified relationship work as being required.

## **Family Group Conferences (FGC's)**

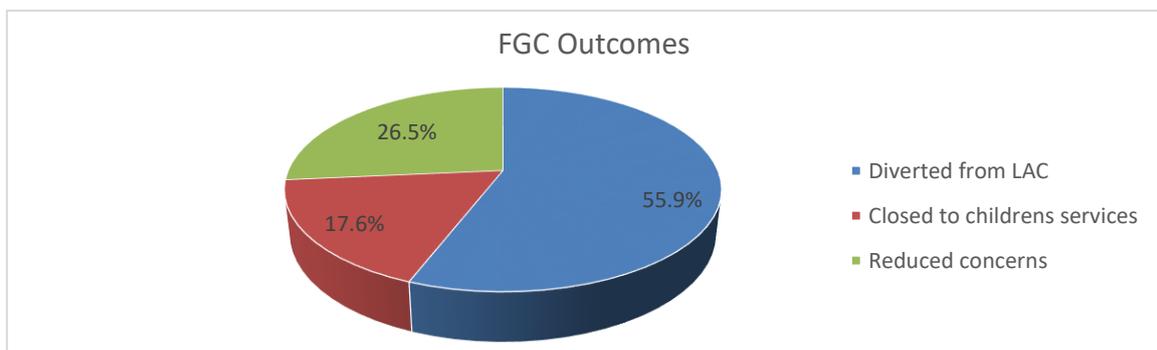
FGC's are voluntary decision-making meetings to help families find their own solutions to problems. Newport City Council and the Partnership has adopted the FGC process as a vehicle for empowering families to bring about positive changes to safeguard children. The FGC process empowers a family and their network to draw on their strengths and resources to make a safe plan for their children to overcome difficulties. These difficulties can include divorce/separation, mental illness, substance misuse, parenting, conflict, domestic abuse, education, poverty, physical illness or homelessness just to name a few. FGC's ensure the family network have a chance to hear and discuss the concerns. They also give an opportunity for everyone to be listened to, including the child and young person(s).

**A further exciting development in our FGC service is that we have been successful in obtaining a Welsh Government grant to develop a Lifelong Links offer to young people. Lifelong Links is a project developed by the Family Rights group to ensure a child has a positive support network around them to help them during their time in care and into adulthood. The Care Inquiry (2013) conducted in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, concluded that the greatest failing of the care system and associated child welfare procedures is that they too often break, rather than build, relationships for children in or on the edge of care. Children aged 10 to 17 years are the single biggest age group of looked after children. They are also the age group most likely to be subject to frequent placements moves. This instability has lifelong multiple impacts on young people. Lifelong Links is work dedicated to providing children and young people with the network to sustain them through childhood and into adulthood. Doing so prevents placement breakdown, enhances the quality of children's time in care and builds positive outcomes for the future.**

### **FGC outcomes**

*"When I first heard about the FGC I thought that this was going to be another meeting with social workers where I would feel left out, however it is nothing like that. It was very relaxed even though everyone was nervous, we were able to speak and explain how things have been for us and then make a plan that we can work with. all social work meetings with families should be set up this way" – Feedback from a parent*

We have received **109 FGC referrals** from children's social workers for an FGC over the past 12 months an increase of **51%** on the previous year. For cases where the outcome is known, **100%** saw their legal status improve or remain the same. In **56%** of these cases, a young person was diverted from being looked after (placed into Local Authority Care) following the completion of an FGC.



## **Lifelong Links outcomes**

***"A real transformation with the young person having no idea who his family really were and having limited contact with them for many years to establishing real connection and identity with them and himself. Real positive turn around in all aspects of his life since establishing a contact with Family" feedback from a professional***

We have received 14 referrals over the past 12 months, exceeding our target of 10. Lifelong Links has resulted in an increase in connections for all of young people referred to the project. Relationships have been rebuilt with family, including one where there had been no contact with the local authority for over 5/9 years 4 of the 14 referrals now have direct contact with family, friends, and other supportive adults (including former teachers and other professionals). The contact either did not take place before or was not formalised and is now part of the child and young person's care plan. 5 others are in the process of finding and formulating direct contact and one is awaiting allocation. Professionals and the young people's report that all of children and young people with a plan now have an increased sense of identity and belonging

## **Baby & Me**

The Baby & Me service provides a package of support which includes bespoke 1:1 support, a six week group antenatal parenting programme called "Baby Steps" and a FGC where appropriate. Baby & Me work with parents to create a safe space for families to explore their identified issues and use a range of strategies and therapeutic approaches to work empathically with parents and empower them to reach their goals of keeping their family together.

Baby & Me use a relationship-based approach, to work with families in a flexible, trauma informed approach. Baby & Me is a collaboration between Health (Midwifery, Mental Health services and Health Visiting teams) and social care. This promotes health messages with the purpose of improving health outcomes for both parents and babies. We recognise the pressures of parenting alongside Child Protection processes and facilitate engagement with wider services (E.g. Substance Misuse, Housing, Mental Health) to support parents to overcome barriers to successful parenting. We also provide practical support (E.g. Budgeting, Independent living skills) recognising the importance of building skills as early as possible on the transition to parenthood. The main criteria for this support is also around edge of care, where there is a significant likelihood that the baby would be removed for the family's care when born.



Clearly, a primary objective is to keep families together safely, and we have a number of other intended outcomes including:

- Develop positive and healthy attachments between parents and their babies;
- Develop parents' understanding of risk and ability to provide safety to their babies;
- Decrease parental anxiety, improve mood and increase self-esteem;
- Keep families together and reduce the number of babies becoming Looked After.



Over the past 12 months it has been further apparent that working in partnership with the multiple agencies involved in pre and post-natal is integral to safer outcomes for babies and mothers. The team have continued to forge positive relationships with health and mental health services so that families open to Baby and Me are better able to access the appropriate services. The Baby and Me Service team have now been trained in Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) and will be co delivering emotional regulation workshops with colleagues from mental health to families open to the Baby and

Promoting positive social networks is essential, with the use of FGC's and also by developing relationships with external agencies such as Happy Hands, with whom we will be piloting pre-birth and post-natal support groups to develop the parent's bond with their child both in the womb, and when born. These community services are integral to giving opportunities for the families to develop positive support networks of their own and to not rely on statutory services.

### **Baby and Me outcomes**

***"I actually feel like I've been seen for me as person and the person I am now, not everything that happened in the past. I don't feel like I've been judge by what's happened in the past"** parent feedback*

Over the past 12 months, Baby and Me have received 34 referrals. Out of the 34 referral, only one family did not engage with the service and 5 case were transferred to FSS. Of the babies born since the team began **61%** of Baby and Me families take their babies home at birth. A significant number considering **53%** of parents have had children previously removed and **34%** of our families are care experienced parents

Of all the families that we worked with:

- 46% of our families have domestic abuse as feature
- 49% have a diagnosed mental health issue
- 35% have substance misuse issues
- 56% have childhood trauma
- 66% of our recurrent care parents take their baby home at birth.
- 58% of our care experienced parents take their baby home at home.
- 16 of our families had an FGC. 14 of those families took their child home at birth – **88%**.
- Of the babies who have gone home, 100% had be deregistered from the CPR by 1 year.
- **Baby and Me families spend less time on the CPR in their first year of life than comparative babies.**
- Newport have had a 48% reduction in care proceedings issued at birth since Baby and Me started, equating to 20 less babies coming into care in Newport compared to the 2 years prior to the service's inception.

### **Rapid Response Team**

The Rapid Response service offers families at the risk of breakdown a trauma informed, six-week intensive intervention, with the aim of preventing unnecessary admissions into the care system.

The team consists of 3 intervention workers who work in close partnership with Child protection social workers.

In addition to this service, the Rapid Response team can also deliver specific Mediation Support when needed as all staff are trained in this approach.

## Rapid Response outcomes

***"I appreciate everything you have done for us, my home feels like a home again and that is all thanks to you, Honestly thank you so so much" – feedback from a young person***

The Rapid Response service has worked with **71** young people during the past 12 months, where the Safeguarding Hub had assessed their being an increased risk of family breakdown and the young person coming into Local Authority care. **91%** of these children remained at home or were returned home because of our intervention.

## Exploitation Team

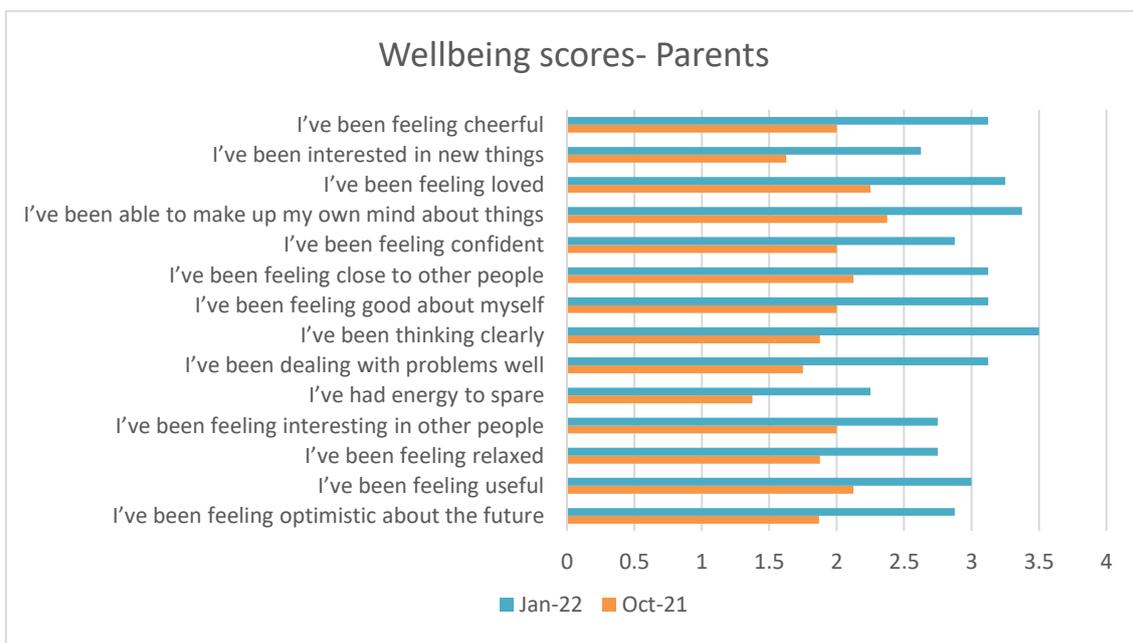
Working in line with Newport’s Child Exploitation Strategy 2022 and in conjunction with partners in Policing, Education, Youth Justice, Welsh government and community-based organisations, the Newport Partnership has developed a robust, whole family approach to tackling the exploitation of children across Newport.

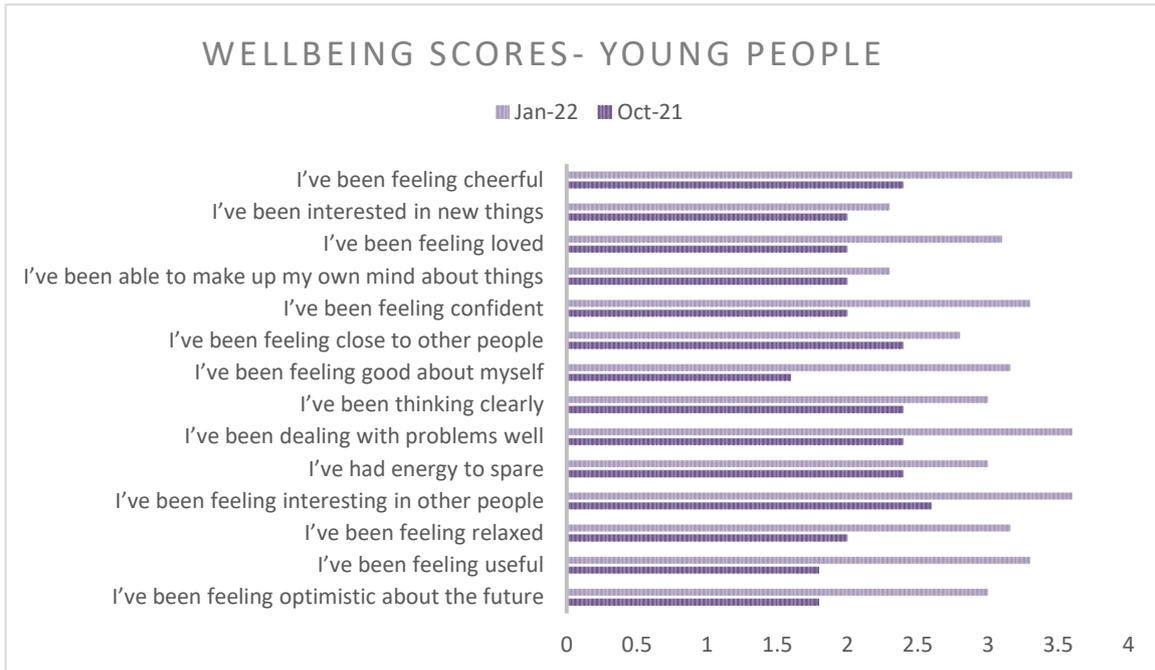
The Exploitation Team which, working closely with a Child Exploitation Social Worker based in Newport Children Services, consists of a Specialist Exploitation Worker and Parenting Worker. The ethos of this team is to adopt a trauma informed, strength-based approach to engaging young people and their families while recognising that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse, and we need to go to these places to disrupt and prevent this abuse. This is the notion of contextual safeguarding.

## Outcomes

***"I was putting myself at risk, making stupid decisions and doing stupid things, my worker has helped me sort my head out. They worked with my mum and our relationship has got so much better. I don't think I'm the person I was before now thanks to them. I feel safe and I feel happy"*** Feedback from a young person.

We have seen a reduction in the number of risk factors associated with exploitation in the young people open to the Exploitation Team over the past 12 months. Furthermore, we have recorded improvements in the wellbeing score of parents and young people during our interventions.

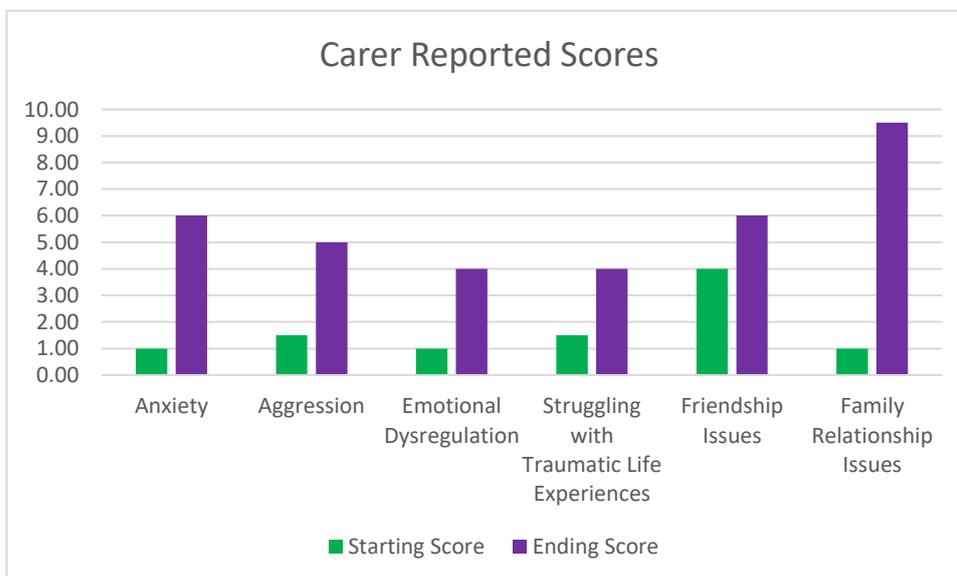




### **Play Therapy and Child Parenting Relationship Therapy**

Play Therapy is a form of counselling in which play is used as a means of helping children express or communicate their feelings and Child Parent Relationship Therapy (CPRT) is a group intervention which aims to equip parents/carers with basic Play Therapy skills, enabling them to deliver therapeutic play sessions with their child at home. The purpose of these sessions is to improve the relationships between the adults and their children, as well as to give the parents/carers practical tips that allow them to gain a deeper understanding of their children through better communication, leading to increased confidence in behaviour management. During the past 12 months we have begun play therapy sessions to a limited number of families

### **Play Therapy outcomes**



Of the **8** young people who have completed play therapy, carers have reported significant reduced levels of anxiety, less aggression, improved emotional dysregulation and more positive family relationships.



## Section 3: Newport Partnership Preventions

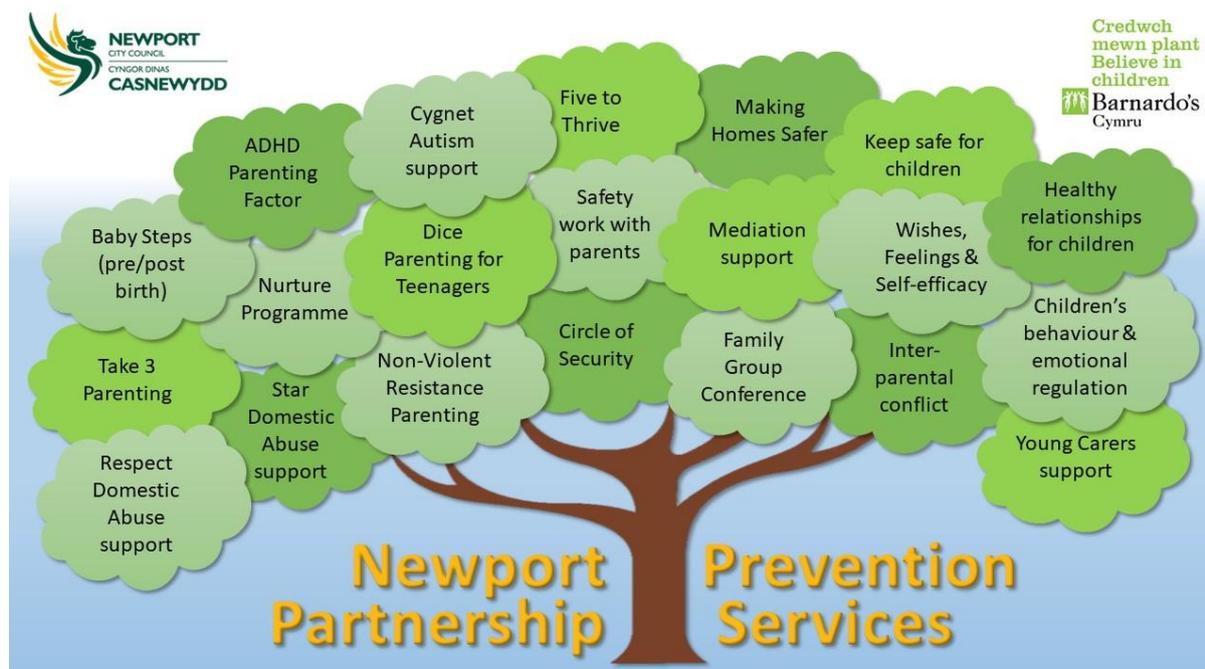
Newport City Council's Children & Family Services and Barnardo's Cymru Strategic Partnership has recently grown to include a range of different projects and preventative services for children, young people and families. Our services are voluntary for children, young people and families who would benefit from early intervention or support, where they do not meet the criteria for receiving statutory Social Services support.

The Newport Partnership Prevention Services include:

- Newport Young Carers
- Confident and Nurturing Families (CNF)
- Children with Additional Needs Service (CANS)

These services are Families First funded with some additional funding streams to complement the Newport Young Carers team.

Referrals for support for all of our Newport Partnership Prevention Services can be made via the Single Point of Access for Children's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health (SPACE-Wellbeing) panel, where each referral will be discussed and the most appropriate service identified to support the child, young person or family. The panel meets once per week and take referrals from multiple sources: GPs, schools, social services, but also parents and families. Attendees at the panel include representatives from a wide range of services including Health, Social Services, Education and Gwent Community Psychology.



## Children with Additional Needs Service (CANS)

Children with additional needs are one of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in society. Children with additional needs can often face exclusion and discrimination. Families of children with additional needs are more likely to experience poverty than their non-disabled peers and 3 to 4 times more likely to experience abuse.

The CANS team provides support for families whose child or children are aged 0-17 years and present with additional needs, which may be associated with a physical or cognitive impairment. These eligibility criteria extend to physical, learning difficulties, sensory impairment and complex health needs.

The project aims to:

- Undertake early intervention work with referrals through Families First. The Project works in partnership with the Disabled Children's Team to ensure appropriate and timely support.
- Deliver planned individual support to families in their homes or communities and specialist parenting group provision.
- Provide support to families with children with additional needs and/or disability.
- Aims to prevent their needs from escalating and to facilitate resilience.
- Work according to the principles that with the right support families can identify their strengths and achieve change.

Here is some feedback recently received about the CANS service:

**Feedback from a mother :** *"I wish we had come to you sooner to be honest; it has been good to see what's going on and have some solution of how to come about it. A gentle approach has been good for me, to give me subtle things to try. It has definitely supported me to meet my child's needs, it's kind of calmed me down, and calmed her down, the whole family feels calmer."*

**Feedback from an Occupational Therapist:** *"I did feel when I last saw mum she had more confidence with her child which was lovely to see and I do feel that confidence has come from Mum working with you."*

## Confident and Nurturing Families (CNF)

The basis for all Confident and Nurturing Families intervention is to provide timely and targeted support to meet the needs of families so that they can recognise and build upon strengths to be autonomous and service free. Plans and intervention are bespoke, and family led. Practitioners draw on the various tools and approaches they have access to, enabling families to achieve their goals.

CNF will provide interventions through a range of specialised group programmes for families who are eligible for the Families First Programme with the following aims:

- To reduce the numbers of children living in poverty by taking their families out of poverty.
- To provide seamless, holistic services on a continuum of need between universal and acute services.



- To reduce family dependency on specialist service interventions.
- To remove barriers that promote inequality.
- While the Services must be offered universally to all eligible families the interventions offered to individual Service Users should be appropriate to their level of need.

**Some recent family feedback for CNF: "CNF support has been life changing for me and my family. I have always had support services and for the first time I feel confident to make decisions and also give my children a choice in decisions made about them. Verity is doing so much better at school and there are no further aggressive outbursts at home since we started to use Circle of security strategies, I feel like I can take charge whilst filling my emotional cup which allows Verity to be a child and me to be the mum."**

### Newport Young Carers

Newport Young Carers support children and young people with a caring role at home – whether for a sibling or a parent or other family member. We provide regular one-to-one and group sessions, trips & activities as well as workshops. The aim is to decrease the impact of caring on their lives, improve confidence and self-esteem, give new experiences and opportunities, offer respite time away from caring role and reduce social isolation. Newport Young Carer’s support young people who help look after a member of the family who is sick, disabled, has mental health problems or is affected by substance misuse.



The service aims to:

- positively address the identified impact of caring upon the young person (e.g. social isolation, difficulties with education, self-esteem, information, emotional wellbeing).
- provide a tailored service according to the needs of each individual young person
- provide young carer’s with opportunities to participate in the development of the service and influencing in relation to their caring role.



We have recently developed the **Life Beyond Caring** programme which is a co-produced project for Young Adult Carers up to the age of 25, providing opportunities that work to mitigate the long-term and continued impact of caring and the disproportionate effects of Covid-19 on Young Adult Carers. This includes improving educational attainment and raising aspirations, deliver an age-appropriate service that is specific to their needs, providing bespoke social, emotional and respite support, ensuring they can recover and thrive from the impact of Covid 19, providing volunteering, training, employment opportunities.

Some comments from our Young Carers:

***"A lot of young carers don't get the time to go out and be themselves and this can be broadly applied to most young carers and this clearly will affect their social skills".***

***"I don't really have anyone to talk to and I never go anywhere"***

***"Young Carers t helps me to get everything I feel off my chest and I feel like I can focus more once I have support"***

***"Everyone in Young Carers treats me like a normal person and make me laugh"***

Here are some more pictures of our Young Carers in Newport including from our 2021 Summer Party, with some players from Newport County FC and our Life Beyond Caring team meeting Jayne Bryant MS and John Griffiths MS.



## Section 4: Cases Studies and Feedback

### Case Study - Tina (Rapid Response)

Tina was 17 years old when we started to provide support. Herself and her siblings had had contact with Social Services on and off throughout their childhood, predominantly due to domestic abuse within the home. Tina's Mum was now on her own caring for her 4 teenagers.

Social Services had a referral in from Tina's counsellor in college saying she had made an accusation against her older sister of physical abuse. When the Social Worker and police had arrived to investigate, Tina had become irate and had been throwing things and banging her head against the wall. Mum understood that her daughter needed help but was also furious that she had brought in Social Services in the first place. Her relationship with Tina was completely broken. There was an acute fear that Mum would feel unable to manage the situation in the home and there was nowhere else for Tina to go.

The Social Worker called Rapid Response to see if there was any chance of an intensive intervention to try to prevent a breakdown in the home and make sure Tina and the rest of the family had the support needed. We were initially met with shouting from all family members, each trying to express their own anger at the situation and the blame was predominantly pointed at Tina. We needed to gain each family member's perspective and then work on mediation between them all as my first goal.

When speaking to Tina it became obvious that she was desperate for someone to talk to and to get help for the way she was feeling. She said she was always anxious and felt as if everyone was against her. She felt they didn't understand why she acted the way she did. Her family felt as if Tina was always craving attention, and that her behaviour was unpredictable and she could 'kick off' without any warning which was intolerable to live with. The physical abuse was supposedly as a result of Tina never pulling her weight around the house and becoming aggressive when challenged about this.

We were able to get the whole family together to be able to explain to everyone how each other were feeling. Tina was able to apologise for the way she sometimes behaves but explained some of the reasoning behind this. Mum immediately softened and said she would do anything she could to support Tina. Her older sister was still cross with Tina and said she didn't want to talk to her. This was devastating for Tina but I was able to explain to Tina that this was quite a normal reaction and it might just take time. We discussed how to tolerate these difficult emotions and continue to be able to live together in the house despite these feelings.

Over the coming few weeks, we continued to help Mum and sister to understand what was underlying some of Tina's behaviour. Mum started to open up about how Tina had very much been the middle child and hadn't had as much attention growing up. We discussed ways Mum could go out of her way to show Tina how much she loved her and Mum began going out on trips with Tina. Tina's sister also began to relax and understood that there may be some mental health issues underlying Tina's behaviour. She began to interact more kindly with Tina and show her support rather than frustration.

Tina began to recognise that her family were not all against her and felt understood. She continued to have struggles with her anxiety and low self-esteem but I was able to link her up to a support worker within MIND who would meet up regularly with her and gave her the opportunity to feel listened to. At the same time Mum supported her to get help through the GP.

By the end of our involvement Mum reported that the house was transformed. It felt calm and everyone was getting along. Tina had managed to find a job and this was building her confidence every day. They were still awaiting support through Mental Health services but Mum felt better able to support Tina within the home.

## **Case Study - Abbie (Baby and Me)**

Abbie was 16 years old when she found out she was pregnant, it came as a shock to her and her 30 year old boyfriend who hadn't planned on having a baby or ever really talked about being parents.

Abbie had experienced domestic abuse between her parents since she was 6 years old; at times she saw her Mother get injured by her Father and got caught in the cross fire as she tried to intervene. As Abbie got older she started to skip school and go missing from home. Often, Abbie was travelling from Wales to England with adults males who had histories of criminal offences and would sexually exploit her in exchange for cocaine, MDMA and vodka.

When she was 15 years old, Abbie became involved with a Barnardos Child Sexual Exploitation worker Katie, they built up a strong and positive relationship where Abbie was supported to learn how to keep herself safe. Eventually this relationship between Abbie and Katie proved to truly safeguard Abbie. Abbie trusted Katie enough to disclose that her Father was threatening to send her to Turkey to marry a family member because of her behaviour at home.

A Forced Marriage Protection Order and Emergency Protection Order was granted by the court and Abbie went to live with foster carers to keep her safe. Sadly Abbie really struggled with this move and was regularly absconding from her foster home and gravitating back home to her Mother. After a significant amount of support and intervention, it was assessed as safe for Abbie to reside back at home with her Mother while criminal orders prevented her Father from coming to the home and seeing Abbie.

At 16 years old, Abbie settled into a new relationship with Adam, and despite him being 14 years older than her, Adam brought some stability and maturity to Abbie's lifestyle. Upon finding out they were expecting their first child, Abbie and Adam were referred to the Baby and Me Service to support them to transition to parenthood and safely care for their baby. Abbie and Adam attended the Baby Steps antenatal parenting programme where they learnt all about the importance of early years, babies brain development and how to read and respond to their babies emotional needs. They loved the group environment and showed real excitement and investment in becoming parents.

As Abbie became increasingly attached to her unborn baby, her risk taking behaviours lessened. She stopped taking hard drugs, got into healthy routines and always made sure she attended her midwifery appointments to know that baby was doing ok. The change in Abbie's lifestyle and attitudes meant that Social Workers felt confident that Abbie and Adam could care for their baby with a package of support in place from Baby and Me. So when Baby Mila was born in October 2021 Abbie and Adam were able to take her home.... a huge achievement they worked incredibly hard for.

The preparations made by Abbie and Adam meant they had a smooth birthing journey, and workers noted just how connected, attuned and sensitive they were as parents. Abbie has maintained breastfeeding Mila since birth and Adam is besotted by his little princess, using his familiar voice to sing and soothe her. Baby Mila is thriving, showing reassuring signs that her parents have made her the centre of their world and are laying the foundations for healthy physical, social, emotional and cognitive outcomes.

Abbie's story is so valuable because statistically the odds were stacked against her. Research has found that 1 in 4 babies adopted in Wales are born a mother who herself has grown up in care (Dr Louise Roberts, Cardiff University, 2021), meaning that as a care experienced young person Abbie was more likely to be at risk of having her baby removed and adopted. This story shows that with the right support, provided in a timely manner, care experienced young people can be fantastic parents, and deserve every opportunity to make this happen.

## Case Study – Charlie (Lifelong Links)

Charlie was 4 years old when he came into the care system. His siblings also came into care due to physical abuse within the home. Charlie's mother was given a custodial sentence due to the level of abuse that he suffered whilst in her care. This trauma had a significant impact on Charlie – he wasn't safe or protected in the one place he should have been by the care giver he relied on. Charlie went through several foster placements where he regularly run away and put himself in very dangerous situations. He had no sense of identity and felt as though he had no links in his life.

Charlie's relationship with his siblings and wider family also broke down due to different foster placements; he did remain close to one sister and this has been the only constant in his life.

Charlie is currently living in a shared residential setting. A referral was made for Lifelong links to look at positive family and professional links to provide a plan for Charlie whilst he is in care and to continue when he leaves the residential setting. Initially Charlie was distant and did not want to disclose too much to me; however, over time he has begun to trust and engage with me on a more open level.

These discussions have been around family, friends, life, what life looks like for him and his hopes for the future. As his trust has developed with his Lifelong Links co-ordinator, he has able to open up and talk about his experiences. Through the relationship building, Charlie began to open up more about his own research and he explained that he had contacted family members via social networking. He was afraid that all contact would be stopped by telling the coordinator this. Through supporting him to recognise that we were happy to check and ensure the people were safe, and if so include them in the plan, we have seen Charlie trust us more and we feel that us engaging with his family has given him an improved sense of identity and validation.

As time has progressed Charlie has now met with an additional 3 family members in a controlled and safe environment. He states that he now feels a sense of identity – he's beginning to understand that not all of his family were 'bad' or didn't want him. An example of this is his grandfather had kept his birth certificate which Charlie feels shows he was loved and thought about.

Charlie has made great links within the residential setting, and as a result of the work in Lifelong Links he has 3 professionals who are part of his lifelong plan. Since supporting him and looking into his needs, he is in education looking to attain his GCSE's. There is a plan for his future for him to move to independent living. Charlie feels much more positive about this knowing that he could have a stable adulthood with secure connections and positive family and professionals continuing to support him as and when he needs it.

We are currently looking to arrange a final FGC where all links will come together. Charlie stated that he's never had a birthday party and this feels as though it's going to be like one!

## Feedback from families and professionals

***"The work that has been carried out has been done with sensitivity and in a child focused way that has allowed the young person to be fully involved. He has felt valued and his wants and wishes respected allowing him to feel listened too. It has been amazing to be included in such a proactive project at an important stage in the young persons life that wouldn't have happened if not for the work carried out by Mari" – Professional feedback regarding Maria our lifelong links facilitator***

***Thank u so much for all the help I had of u all it means a lot as I got to show my self It was a new life there for me and I get to be the mum I always should have been thank u for give***

***your time for me to trust in some one like u again and I think u do a good job thank u so much – parent feedback for Alex Gidden (baby and me)***

***"I want to echo what Suze said in terms of our partnership, with Suze who is just as passionate and enthusiastic for this family as I am. There are a lot of challenges in working with this family and it is so positive to have someone like Suze to work with on the case who is able to see the positive changes (all be it, small at times) that this family are making and really route for them. Our positive working partnership is definitely one that works well for this family!" - Feedback received by Suze Lopez-Love (Intervention Worker) from a Social Worker:***

***"Natalie has been an amazing support for myself and Lily. Her knowledge and experience was invaluable and she was able to connect with Lily on her level which hasn't happened before with other professionals for one reason or another. I have learnt how to manage rather than react to Lily's challenging behaviour – we are in a more positive place which I hope continues. There are still up and downs but less frequent which is what I was hoping for when we started to work with Natalie. She has enabled my family to stay together"***  
Feedback received by Natalie Hardy (Intervention Worker) from a family



*Some of the members of our Newport Youth Forum*

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# Scrutiny Report

## Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships

### Part 1

Date: 23 March 2022

### Subject Scrutiny Adviser Report

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Role
Neil Barnett (Scrutiny Adviser)	Present the Committee with the Scrutiny Adviser Report for discussion and update the Committee on any changes.

## Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

### Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

1. **Action Plan**  
Consider the Actions from previous meetings (**Appendix 2**):
  - *Note the responses for the actions;*
  - *Determine if any further information / action is required;*
  - *Agree to receive an update on outstanding issues at the next meeting.*
2. **Information Reports**  
Note that no Information Reports have been circulated to the Committee

## 2 Context

### Background

- 2.1 The purpose of a forward work programme is to help ensure Councillors achieve organisation and focus in the undertaking of enquiries through the Overview and Scrutiny function. Effective work programming is essential to ensure that the work of Overview and Scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council’s delivery of services.

- 2.2 Further information about the work programming process, including the procedures for referring new business to the programme, can be found in our Scrutiny Handbook on the Council's Scrutiny webpages ([www.newport.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.newport.gov.uk/scrutiny)).
- 2.3 The Centre for Public Scrutiny's Good Scrutiny Guide recognises the importance of the forward work programme. In order to 'lead and own the process', it states that Councillors should have ownership of their Committee's work programme, and be involved in developing, monitoring and evaluating it. The Good Scrutiny Guide also states that, in order to make an impact, the scrutiny workload should be co-ordinated and integrated into corporate processes, to ensure that it contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.

### **Action Sheet from Previous Meetings**

- 2.6 Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Action Sheet from the Committee meetings. The updated completed actions are included in the table.
- 2.7 Any actions that do not have a response will be included on the Action Sheet at the next meeting to ensure that the Committee can keep track of outstanding actions.

### **3 Information Submitted to the Committee**

- 3.1 The following information is attached:

**Appendix 1:** Action Sheet from Previous Meetings.

### **4. Suggested Areas of Focus**

#### **Role of the Committee**

**The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:**

- **Action Sheet from Previous Meetings - Appendix 1**
  - Consider the responses to the actions from the meeting;
  - Are you satisfied that you have received the necessary information?
  - Are there any further issues arising from the responses that you would like to raise?
  - For the actions that do not have responses – these actions will be rolled over to the next meeting and reported back to the Committee.

## **Section B – Supporting Information**

### **5 Supporting Information**

- 5.1 The Corporate Assessment, and the subsequent [follow up assessment](#) provide background information on the importance of good work programming. Specific reference is made to the need to align the Cabinet and Scrutiny work programmes to ensure the value of the Scrutiny Function is maximised.

5.2 The latest Cabinet work programme was approved by the Cabinet on a monthly basis for the next 12 months and includes the list of reports scheduled for consideration. Effective forward planning by both Cabinet and Scrutiny needs to be coordinated and integrated in relation to certain reports to ensure proper consultation takes place before a decision is taken. A link to the Cabinet work programme is provided [here](#) to the Committee as part of this report, to enable the Committee to ensure that the work programmes continue to reflect key decisions being made by the Cabinet.

## 6. Links to Council Policies and Priorities

6.1 Having proper work programming procedures in place ensures that the work of Overview and Scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council’s delivery of services, contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and ensures that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.

6.2 This report relates to the Committee’s Work Programme, Actions from Committee’s and Information Reports that support the achievement of the Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with the Law and Regulation Service Plan, Objectives, Actions and Measures and the Wellbeing objectives:

<b>Well-being Objectives</b>	Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities	Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient	Build cohesive & sustainable communities
<b>Corporate Plan Commitments</b>	Thriving City	Aspirational People		Resilient Communities
<b>Supporting Function</b>	Modernised Council			

## 7 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

7.1 The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 which came into force in April 2016 sets the context for the move towards long term planning of services.

### 7.2 General questions

- How is this area / policy affected by the new legislation?
- How will this decision / policy / proposal impact upon future generations? What is the long term impact?
- What evidence is provided to demonstrate WFGA has been / is being considered?
- Evidence from Community Profiles / other data?
- Evidence of links to Wellbeing Assessment / Objectives / Plan?

### 7.3 Wellbeing Goals

- How are the Wellbeing goals reflected in the policy / proposal / action?
  - *A prosperous Wales*
  - *A resilient Wales*
  - *A healthier Wales*
  - *A more equal Wales*
  - *A Wales of cohesive communities*
  - *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
  - *A globally responsible Wales*

#### 7.4 Sustainable Development Principles

- Does the report / proposal demonstrate how as an authority we are working in accordance with the sustainable development principles from the act when planning services?
  - **Long Term**  
*The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs*
  - **Prevention**  
*How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives*
  - **Integration**  
*Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies*
  - **Collaboration**  
*Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives*
  - **Involvement**  
*The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.*

#### 8 Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2017 - 2022](#)
- The Corporate Assessment and [follow up assessment](#).

Report Completed: 23 March 2022

**Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships**

**ACTION SHEET – 2 February 2022**

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
1	<b>One Newport Wellbeing Plan 2021-22 Q2 Performance</b>	The Committee <b>noted</b> the recommendations in the report, <b>agreed</b> to forward the Minutes to the One Newport Partnership as a summary of the issues and made a number of comments to the Partnership.	<b>Scrutiny / Partnerships</b>	<b>Actioned – Comments from the Committee forwarded to officers on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022.</b>
2	<b>Education Achievement Services (EAS) Business Plan 2022-25</b>	The Committee concluded by making a number of comments to Cabinet upon the EAS Business Plan 2022 - 2025.	<b>Scrutiny / EAS</b>	<b>Actioned – Comments from the Committee forwarded to officers and partners on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022.</b>

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