

# 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

