

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23.12.21

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES : EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SERVICES

Purpose: To provide the Scrutiny Committee with an overview of how the Education and Children Services Department is delivering preventative support for families across our County.

To consider and comment on the following issues:

To consider the findings of the report and to challenge and support the strategic direction of the department in moving forwards.

Reasons:

To inform the scrutiny committee of the challenges facing the preventative services and to share how these are being addressed.

To inform the scrutiny committee of the emerging needs of families, demands on the services from a family support/preventative service perspective so that the council may respond in a supportive manner to the broad context that impacts the wellbeing of children and families within Carmarthenshire.

To be referred to the Cabinet / Council for decision: **NO**

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Glynog Davies - Education and Children

Directorate Education & Children Name of Head of Service: Stefan Smith Report Author: Noeline Thomas Janine Patrick	Designations: Head of Children Services Early Years and Prevention Manager Children and Communities Grant Commissioning manager	Tel Nos. SJSmith@carmarthenshire.gov.uk nothomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk JPatrick@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
23.12.21

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES : EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SERVICES

Purpose: To provide the Scrutiny Committee with an overview of how the Education and Children Services Department is delivering preventative support for families across our County.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

An overview of the range of Family Support Services provided for families within Carmarthenshire is set out in the Family Support Strategy (2018-2023) which provides the context, overall strategic direction and vision of the service.

The report focuses on how the main preventative programmes of Families First, Flying Start and the Early Years Integration Programmes continue to support families in Carmarthenshire throughout the pandemic.

The service has met many challenges to delivery over the lock down periods of the pandemic. The trends in demand will be explored together with the emerging early impact on children and families and how we aim to meet this demand will be considered.

The report will contain an account of the additional WG funding to mitigate the impact of COVID on children, young people and families and also cover the associated challenges and innovations experienced.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **Stefan Smith** **Head of Children's Services**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE

Finance

Additional Funding has been provided by WG to mitigate the effect of COVID on children, young people and families.

We ensure that this funding is utilised in line with the Ts&Cs of this funding.

Staffing Implications

Workforce matters in terms of recruitment and availability of staff with the relevant experience and skills has been and continues to be challenging.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: **Stefan Smith** **Head of Children's Services**

1. Local Member(s) N/A

2. Community / Town Council N/A

3. Relevant Partners N/A

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations N/A

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S)
AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES – briefing arranged for 22/12/21

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THERE ARE NONE