

SUBJECT:	FAMILIES FIRST PROGRAMME DELIVERY in MONMOUTHSHIRE
MEETING:	CYP Select Committee
DATE:	19th May 2016
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1** To provide an overview of Families First provision in Monmouthshire and relevant performance outcomes.
- 1.2** To focus on partnership working to support families in poverty to address their needs.
- 1.3** Families First is one of the key Welsh Government anti-poverty programmes, linked closely to the Flying Start and Supporting People programmes. Its focus is on early intervention and relies on effective partnership working to engage with families to prevent escalation into crisis or need for social services intervention. In Monmouthshire, we have Team around the Family (TAF) and a range of commissioned projects which work together to provide an appropriate mix of provision to support families to address their needs.

Team around the Family (TAF) is a Wales wide approach delivered through Welsh Government's Families First programme. TAF aims to support families early to identify needs and provide support to prevent escalation into crisis. TAF aims to support families in Monmouthshire to reduce the level of need they may be experiencing; this is done by tailoring support with a team of professionals who can provide services to support a family. The TAF process enables families and professionals to work together to deliver services built around the needs of a family, and TAF aims to work with families to identify the right support from the right people at the right time.

Families First Outcomes as set by WG for 2015/16:

- People in low income families gain, and progress within employment
- Children, young people and families achieve their potential
- Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy wellbeing
- Families are confident, nurturing, resilient and safe

(See: Appendix 1)

Families First projects contribute to Monmouthshire Single integrated Plan:

- Theme 2: People are Confident, Capable and Involved
- Outcome 5: Families are Supported.
- Families First also contributes significantly to tackling poverty in Monmouthshire.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 The Committee review the Families First commissioned projects and understand their function.
- 2.2 The Committee review the TAF model and understand how this contributes to early intervention and support for families.
- 2.3 The Committee be aware of the funding end date of 31st March 2017; and the implication for tackling poverty and preventative family support services in Monmouthshire should there be no continuation funding post March 2017.

3. REASONS:

3.1 Overview of Families First Programmes

- 3.2 In December 2015 Welsh Government provided notification that our indicative budget for Families First funding in 2016-17 is £651,179, which is a £86,081 reduction from 2015-16. This includes a ring-fenced sum of £50,937 for disability support.

In order to manage the reduction in budget a review of our Families First Programmes and the TAF model was undertaken in January 2016. As a result of the review we identified a need to increase the number of TAF cases in Monmouthshire. The new Social Services and Wellbeing Act could potentially increase in the number of '*Children in Need*' which could be referred to Families First and TAF. In this context, we faced the challenge of managing the £86,081 reduction in Families First budget whilst finding additional savings to fund additional TAF worker resource

- 3.3 Families First Projects and funding allocation are as follows:

Team Around The Family (TAF)

2016-17 Funding: £138,390

With an increased TAF budget for 2016-17, there will be increased capacity within the current TAF team consisting of a TAF Co-ordinator and 3 x TAF Project Officers. To date TAF has relied on a 'volunteer' lead worker model to co-ordinate TAF support for families in Monmouthshire. However, busy professionals, whilst being committed to the multi-agency approach, don't always have the time to pick up lead worker caseloads to the extent which is required. Consequently, the number of families supported by TAF have been relatively low and additional TAF Project Officers will address this issue. The additional TAF Project Officers will also enable us to provide enhanced support to volunteer lead workers whilst increasing our capacity to take on more TAF cases. It will also allow the TAF Co-ordinator to focus on the TAF priorities 2016-17, and increase the number of families supported under the TAF model.

Acorn

2016-17 Funding: £239,786

The Acorns projects consists of multi-agency teams delivering parenting support, adult learning and advice, early years support (language and play and speech therapy), health and well-being services. It is co-ordinated from Acorn Centre (Integrated Children's Centre) in Abergavenny, and also delivered in other cluster locations across Monmouthshire.

Inclusive Acorn**2016-17 Funding: £30,900**

Inclusive Acorn supports children with disabilities to access the Acorn Project including working with portage workers, paediatricians, parenting programmes and visiting parents at home to assess children, they also provide childcare to enable parents of children with disabilities to access programmes.

Face 2 Face Counselling**2016-17 Funding: £76,560**

Provides community based counselling for young people, therapeutic play for children and family system therapy for whole family groups.

Inclusive Play and Leisure**2016-17 Funding: £20,037**

Access to local authority summer play provision for children with support needs.

Watch, Wait and Wonder**2016-17 Funding: £17,000**

Is an infant Mental Health project focussing on the quality of the relationship between parents and babies. Clinics are held in the north and south of the county and on-going training in infant observation for 0-3yr olds and their parents.

Young Carers Project**2016-17 Funding: £50,486**

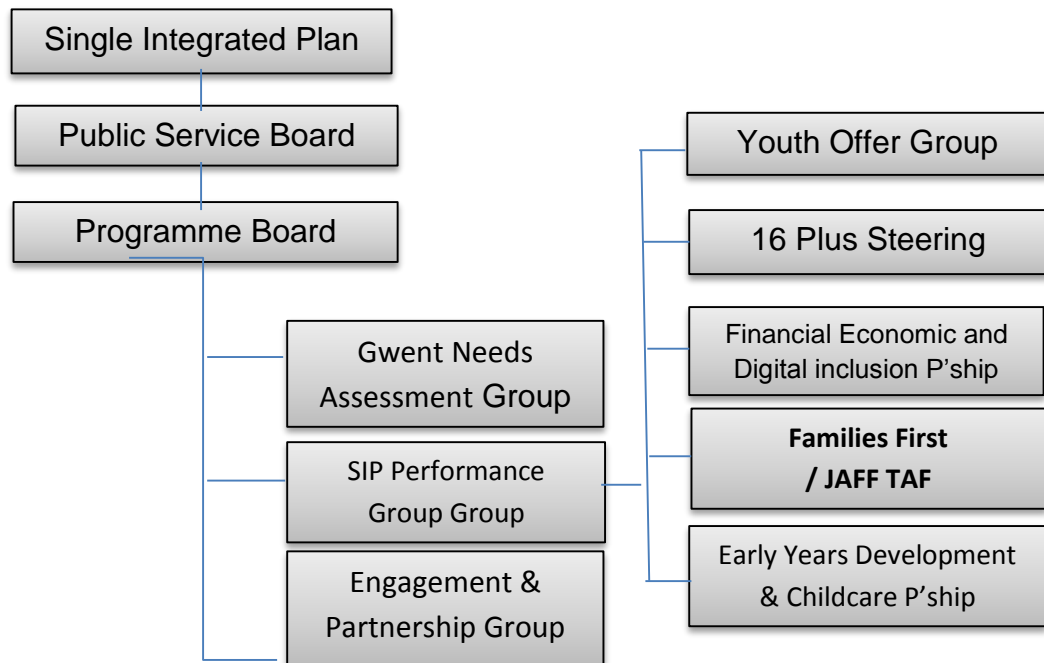
Young Carers are supported through targeted intervention (advocacy and support) to reduce gaps between themselves and universal cohorts of young people / and are supported to engage in education, employment or training.

Home Start**2016-17 Funding: £31,000**

Works to alleviate the pressures faced by families with low incomes and children under five by placing volunteers who are usually parents themselves to support them.

- 3.4** Families First embraces multi-agency working; it works collaboratively with Social Services, Education, the Youth Service as well as health, housing, the police and range of third sector partners. The Families First Manager and TAF Co-ordinator link with a wide range of PSB partnership groups to ensure a joined-up approach, whilst the Families First / TAF Management Group has representation from a wide range of partner organisations. Partnership working forms a key part of tackling poverty and supporting families across the county, and it is important that Select Committees have a strong oversight of this work and the actions that are being taken.

- 3.5 The current structure within Monmouthshire is depicted in the diagram below indicating the governance of Families First. It sits alongside the Integrated Youth Offer Group, the 16 Plus Steering Group, the Financial Economic and Digital Inclusion Partnership the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and others. For the full diagram please refer to Appendix 2: PSB Partnership Landscape



(Appendix 2: Diagram PSB Landscape)

4. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

Welsh Government Families First Grant of £651,179 for financial year: 2016-17

5. **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:**

It should be noted that this is the final year of Families First funding. The programme runs until March 2017 and there is no indication at the time of writing this report that funding will be available past this date.

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

- Appendix 1: Families First Outcomes 2015-16
- Appendix 2: PSB Landscape

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Appendix 1: Families First Outcomes 2015-16

Outcome 1	Number of participants whose financial situation has stabilised or improved	8
Outcome 1	Number of participant adults (25 years and over) attaining a nationally recognised qualification or accreditation	7
Outcome 1	Number of participant adults (25 years and over) entering employment	14
Outcome 1	Number of participants that have entered further learning or training.	7
Outcome 2	Number of primary school children who have improved their school attendance	3
Outcome 2	Number of secondary school children (up to the age of 16 years at the point of entry) who have improved their school attendance	47
Outcome 2	Number of children who improve their basic skills	20
Outcome 2	Number of young people (aged 16-24 years) who improve their basic skills	3
Outcome 2	Number of participant parents with improved ability to support their child's learning and development needs.	200
Outcome 3	Number of participants with improved emotional/mental wellbeing	374
Outcome 3	Number of families of a disabled child accessing formal and informal respite	92
Outcome 3	Number of families affected by disability that report an improvement in family resilience	20
Outcome 3	Number of families that report they feel they can contribute to changes to their lifestyle/behaviours	64
Outcome 4	Number of individuals that report improved family dynamics	278
Outcome 4	Number of participant parents completing an evidence-based parenting programme	126
Outcome 4	Number of parents benefitting from a parenting intervention	224
Outcome 4	Number of domestic violence referrals	11

Appendix 2: PSB Landscape

