

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 JULY 2015

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND TRANSFORMATION

CONNECTING FAMILIES EDGE OF CARE REPORT

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on progress with the Connecting Families Edge of Care work. A presentation will support this report on the day but it is attached for reference purposes.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 This report links to the following Corporate priorities:
- Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement.
 - Working with children and families to tackle problems early.
 - Working together to help vulnerable people to stay independent.
 - Working together to tackle health issues and encourage healthy lifestyles.

3. Background

- 3.1 In April 2014, Bridgend County Borough Council introduced the Connecting Families Edge of Care service to target those families with young people at risk of becoming Looked After. Utilising existing resources to focus on children on the cusp of the care system, the service aims to have a positive impact in relation to the Early Help and Looked After Children Placement and Permanency strategies.

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 The Connecting Families Edge of Care service became operational in April 2014. In 2014/15, 52 young people (30 families) have worked with the service. Early indications suggest that these young people and their families are making sustained positive change, reducing their level of need on services.
- 4.2 Impact on Looked After numbers, cost savings/avoidance and feedback from young people and their families will be presented to the Committee at the meeting.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

- 5.1 None.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no direct equality impact issues arising from this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 For 2014/15 the Connecting Families Edge of Care service was funded from the Change management programme, the ESF Connecting Families grant which ended in December 2014, and from an earmarked reserve. From April 2015 the service is now being delivered within existing Education and Transformation directorate budgets.

7.2 The service is estimated to have achieved net cost avoidance savings across the public sector of approximately £707k, of which £352k relates to the local authority. However for 2014/15, Looked After Children budgets were over spent by £567k.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Members are requested to note the report.

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