

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18TH JULY 2017

THE RHONDDA CYNON TAF RESILIENT FAMILIES PROGRAMME: DELIVERING INTEGRATED FAMILY SUPPORT AND EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION SERVICES IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR C LEYSHON

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To brief Members on the work underway to establish and implement an Integrated Family Support Framework to co-ordinate effective specialist early intervention and prevention services and deliver integrated support for families across the County Borough; and
- 1.2 To seek approval for the creation of the Resilient Families Programme as the single approach in Rhondda Cynon Taf that aligns the work of the Council and its public, private and voluntary sector partners in order to secure improved outcomes for families.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Consider the findings of the Team Around the Family (TAF) Review alongside the findings of the Vulnerability Profiling and Children's Services Project as set out in sections 6 and 7 of this report.
- 2.2 Agree to the development of a Resilient Families Service in consultation with key partners to deliver an improved Team Around the Family (TAF) model that enables us to respond to the needs of families swiftly and effectively.
- 2.3 Receive a further report on the options considered and recommended model of delivery for the Resilient Families Service in September 2017.

- 2.4 Agree to the Resilient Families Programme being the prevailing arrangement that shapes how national policy related to supporting families is implemented in RCT.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 During the financial year 2015-2016, between our Children's Services and Education departments, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council spent a total of £82.1M meeting the needs of individual children. Trend data shows an increasing level of identified needs, with the number of children and young people requiring statutory intervention from at least one of these departments growing year on year. The expenditure required to meet this need is also growing despite the significant financial pressures faced by the Council.
- 3.2 Data analysis shows a significant cross over between the two cohorts of children receiving services from Children's Services and Education and as such the Council is in a position where a comparatively small percentage of families are utilising the majority of available resources because their needs have become so complex. When the expenditure of our public and third sector partner organisations is also accounted for, the spend becomes even more significant.
- 3.3 The increased emphasis on early intervention prevention within both the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has resulted in recognition of the need to focus our efforts on building the resilience of individuals, families and communities to deal with the challenges they face.
- 3.4 Following analysis of the findings of the Vulnerability Profiling and Children's Services project (set out in section 6) and the review of the Team Around the Family (TAF) arrangements in RCT (set out in section 7) the recommendation was made to establish an Integrated Family Support Framework to govern the delivery of appropriate, timely, practical and effective support services to families in RCT. This single framework will bring consistency to the approach taken to engaging families.
- 3.5 Approval for the establishment of an Integrated Family Support Framework was given by the Council's Senior Leadership Team in March 2017. Senior Leadership Team approval was given for:
- a long term commitment to the Framework in order for the benefits for families to be fully realised and the impact of this approach to be appropriately measured;

- the management of and accountability for the Framework to reside with Children's Services in order to ensure it enhances and does not compromise the Councils' legal and statutory duties in terms of child protection;
- all Council services and services commissioned by the Council to be directed to align to Integrated Family Support Framework in order to effectively contribute to the early intervention and prevention agenda;
- commissioning arrangements to be aligned to be responsive to families' needs as identified via a central assessment and brokerage mechanism that will underpin the Framework;
- the Framework to be supported by a single Management Information System to support direct work with families, enable performance management and facilitate impact measurement.

3.6 At the request of the Chief Executive and the Group Director for Children's and Community Services further work was undertaken to clarify how the Council's public, private and third sector partners could contribute to the aims of the Integrated Family Support Framework within a co-ordinated programme of work. This wider programme of work has been titled the RCT Resilient Families Programme and seeks to align the work of partners to the Framework in order to improve outcomes for families.

3.7 Therefore, this report provides Members with an overview of:

- The **Resilient Families Programme** that brings together a range of strategic work streams and priorities to provide a single focus for all partners to engage with and commit to the delivery of family-focused early intervention support services that make a difference to families in RCT.
- The **Integrated Family Support Framework** that organises the operational delivery of support services to families and identifies where different service provision fits within a continuum of family support.
- The **Resilient Families Service** will offer an improved Team Around the Family (TAF) delivery model that will enable us to respond to the needs of families swiftly and effectively.

4. CONTEXT

- 4.1 The proposal to establish the Integrated Family Support Framework is timely in terms of local arrangements, recent legislative changes and the emerging national policy context. Its development has taken into account key developments in operational delivery such as:
- The service changes and re-organisation of RCT Children's Services in line with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014
 - The Vulnerability Profiling and Children's Services Project
 - The review of Team Around the Family (TAF) arrangements
 - The implementation of the new Risk, Resilience and Resistance assessment framework for Children's Services
 - The outcomes of the Tackling Poverty Review in 2015, including the restructure of Communities First and the establishment of a central commissioning team.
- 4.2 The establishment of the Resilient Families Programme mainstreams the early intervention and prevention agenda; formalising a RCT multi-agency approach to the delivery of services. In aiming to prevent further escalation of need, this approach seeks to give people the tools with which they can make positive changes to their own situation. This approach is in line with the fundamental underpinnings of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 4.3 In October 2016, the Cabinet Secretary for Children and Communities shared his ambition for resilient communities and invited organisations to express an interest in developing Children's Zones in Wales. As a placed based approach, Children's Zones aim to listen to the needs of communities and bring together different organisations within locality areas to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- 4.4 In response to this challenge from Welsh Government, the Cwm Taf Public Services Board (PSB) took the opportunity to join this work with the proposed development of Neighbourhood Networks to support the delivery of information, advice and assistance and enable services to connect with the community. An expression of interest was submitted to Welsh Government that proposed an inclusive approach across Cwm Taf in the creation of pilot "Community Zones" in two recognisable communities in Cwm Taf. On 8th June 2017 the Minister announced that Cwm Taf has been selected as one of the five pioneer regions to deliver the newly titled 'Children's First' approach.

- 4.5 Ongoing dialogue with the Welsh Government in relation to the operational limitations imposed by rigid poverty grant criteria has resulted in RCT being approached as one of three local authorities in Wales to take part of a Funding Flexibilities Project. This project will explore how flexible grant funding may work and then pilot a more flexible approach from April 2018.
- 4.6 The proposal to establish the overarching RCT Resilient Families Programme gives the Council the opportunity to bring together a number of key strategic developments and work streams within the emerging national policy context under one umbrella to ensure synergy between agendas and coherent integrated delivery on the ground. It is proposed that the Resilient Families Programme will oversee the co-ordinated delivery of a range of priorities including:
- The new Regional Cwm Taf Statement of Intent for Children, Young People and Families
 - Joint outcomes supported by the Single Outcomes Framework
 - Families First Grant funded interventions that have been revised to meet the new funding priorities and criteria set out in Welsh Government guidance
 - The implementation of the new Risk, Resilience and Resistance assessment framework across partner organisations
 - The pilot Children's First approach (previously known as Children's Zones) in RCT
 - Universal access to service provision that has traditionally been limited to particular postcode areas e.g. parenting programmes as facilitated by funding flexibilities
 - The Chief Executive's challenge to all Council services to identify their contribution to the early intervention and prevention agenda and commit to making required changes to further the agenda.

5. CURRENT SITUATION

- 5.1 Currently there are a wide range of family support interventions delivered by both public and third sector services in RCT; however this provision is not co-ordinated or organised. The lack of a single recognised approach across RCT lends itself to at best a duplication of effort and resources and at worst no provision at all for families in need.
- 5.2 At present the main drivers for the delivery of family support are legislative frameworks, grant funding criteria, existing commissioning arrangements and the current skill base of providers as opposed to the needs of families across the County Borough. Commissioning arrangements need to be reconfigured in a way that enables swift

response to need to provide a suite of interventions that those directly working with families can build robust bespoke support plans upon.

- 5.3 Our current service delivery approach is for individual providers to address specific issues faced by individual members of the family rather than acknowledging the multiple issues that exist within the family and the impact this complexity has on family life. Focussing on the resolution of single issues in isolation from the rest of the family's needs is counterproductive and any positive change made is limited and short-lived. There are a number of families in RCT whose dependency on services is in its third generation signalling that a new approach is required to break the cycle.
- 5.4 Current referral processes and protocols also create barriers to engagement and the delivery of appropriate support services. Varying referral thresholds across different services also contribute to the ill-informed prioritisation of individual issues in isolation from the assessment of the situation for the whole family. The delivery of services without knowledge of the wider family circumstances, can have a detrimental effect on the family unit. It will be necessary to simplify and align referral routes to services in order to reduce the barriers to engagement and service delivery that currently exist.
- 5.5 The delivery of family support interventions is funded from a range of sources including Council budget, poverty grants and other external thematic grants, however just as provision isn't co-ordinated neither is the allocation of resources. A single approach would enable us to maximise current resources and also ensure that there is a mechanism in place to oversee the consistent use of evidence based approaches.
- 5.6 The proposals contained in this report offer a brand new approach to the organisation and delivery of services to families in RCT. It offers a tested model grounded in research and consultation with families that will address current shortfalls and has been shown to make a real difference to families.

6. KEY FINDINGS FROM THE RCT VULNERABILITY PROFILING AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES PROJECT

- 6.1 The RCT Vulnerability Profiling and Children's Services Project began in April 2015 as a joint developmental project between Education and Children's Services to strengthen our collaborative position in providing timely support to families in need. It seeks to better use the data we already hold to identify families who require support and pre-empt family breakdown.

- 6.2 The Project aimed to develop a pre-emptive model based upon Vulnerability Profiling to direct the targeting of early intervention and prevent needs escalating to statutory levels. In aiming to reduce the number of children entering the looked after system and reducing the number of children on the child protection register, this project did not seek to offer a quick fix, instead it sought to develop and test a long term approach, accepting that this may require significant change to deliver.
- 6.3 Devising a three-stage Vulnerability and Resilience service delivery model, the project's approach differed from what has been employed before because it does not wait for a family to become 'known' to a service. Instead the **identification stage** uses data from across a number of services to identify the level of potential risk of crisis occurring as a result of the issues faced by the family. Recognising that vulnerability and risk is only one side of the coin – many families cope well with the adversity they face, the **assessment stage** focuses on assessing the family's level of resilience to deal with the identified risk posed. The aim of the **intervention stage** is to increase the level of resilience within the family to reduce the risk.
- 6.4 In July 2016 the Vulnerability and Resilience Model was piloted with six families in the Rhondda Fach. Following the completion of a Resilience Assessment, each family received a 6 week intervention that sought to increase the resilience of the family to deal with adversity they faced as opposed to addressing individual vulnerabilities with a view of solving issues.
- 6.5 The pilot found that 80% of the families improved their levels of resilience within this 6 week period. The areas in which families reported improved their resilience levels included:
- Regular/consistent employment history
 - Level of support they felt they needed
 - Home is a safe and stable environment
 - Family feel safe in their community
 - Variety of community facilities available to and accessed by the family
 - Family engagement in leisure / sport / community activities
 - Need to access external services in order to address adversity
 - Impact of mental health issues or a disability
 - Communication as a family unit
 - Vulnerability in relation to their housing situation
 - Friends in the local neighbourhood
 - Positive experience of their local area

- 6.6 The impact of this 6 week pilot intervention was also evidenced in the analysis of the Education Vulnerability Profile status of the children within these five families. Since the pilot, 50% of the children decreased their level of risk of disengaging from learning showing that the improvements in the family environment as a result of parents' engagement in this project have reduced the barriers to learning faced by their children.
- 6.7 In testing the model, it was found that the model itself had been successful, however for a number of families, even though they had seen improvements in their resilience levels these were impeded by the practical barriers they faced which often dictated the level of engagement they were able to have with interventions. These barriers could be categorised in four key areas: education, health, housing and finance.
- 6.8 As well as identifying direct barriers faced by families, the pilot also identified organisational and procedural barriers that were further compounding the situations observed including:
- Timely access to specialist assessment for professional recommendations and/or diagnosis was key to early intervention as delays in key assessments contributed to issues escalating.
 - Individual service protocols were in conflict with one another resulting in them impeding positive progress in the removal of practical barriers.
 - The level of need of the families engaging on the pilot varied significantly. Although all the families that were identified met the criteria for the pilot, the considerable varying levels of need, indicates the need for a differentiated level of support to be made available within a common delivery framework.
- 6.9 The pilot also found that the impact on a child of living with a sibling with a disability or significant additional need has been significantly underestimated.
- 6.10 In light of these findings the Vulnerability and Resilience Model was revised to incorporate a fourth stage – the removal of practical barriers. The diagram below sets out the agreed final Vulnerability and Resilience Model for the delivery of early intervention and prevention family support in RCT.

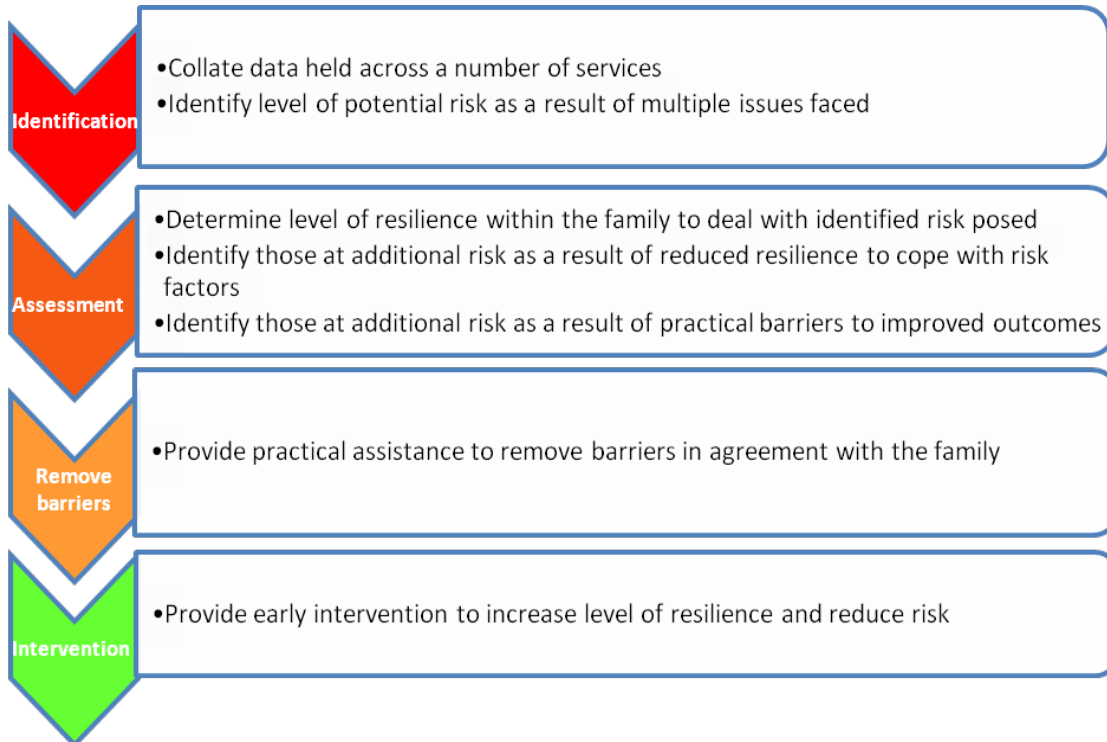


Figure 1: RCT Vulnerability and Resilience Model

6.11 The Integrated Family Support Framework has been developed to implement the Vulnerability and Resilience Model and the Resilient Families Service will employ the tools created by and learning from the pilot project to deliver the Framework.

7. REVIEW OF TEAM AROUND THE FAMILY ARRANGEMENTS IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

7.1 Team around the Family (TAF) was established in RCT in 2011, originally developed as an ‘everyone’s business’ model which later became a ‘lead professional’ model. The majority of current provision is delivered through three TAF Hubs that are commissioned through Service Level Agreements to deliver assessments of need, and coordinate support plans to those families requiring intervention. The SLA for the Rhondda Hub is held by the Council and the SLA’s for Cynon and Taf Ely held by Barnardos and Action for Children respectively.

7.2 A review of the delivery of TAF in RCT was undertaken in December 2016 in response to a number of legislative and policy changes and key local developments in operational delivery and strategic planning arrangements.

- 7.3 This review concluded that there were a number of strengths in relation to service delivery, in particular the skills and experience of staff and their commitment to working with children, young people and families. However, there were also significant gaps in the current systems, processes, governance and communication arrangements as a result of the shifting expectations of TAF in light of significant strategic and policy changes since its design in 2011.
- 7.4 The review identified the following key points as requiring attention in order to improve current service delivery:
- Inconsistency across the three hubs – three different ways of working; different understanding of what the contract expected of them; and different thresholds for delivery (from signposting to community based social work).
 - General confusion regarding the referral process into TAF and the interface with MASH referrals, and the step-up / step-down arrangements with statutory services.
 - Internal allocation of referrals isn't always based on matching the skill set of staff to the presenting needs of the family, more based on capacity.
 - Misunderstanding of the service delivered by TAF by a range of referrers leads to inappropriate referrals and contributes to drop out rates.
 - Identification of families is poor and referrals are often received too late for effective early intervention and prevention as the family is already at crisis point.
 - Dealing with increasingly complex cases is leaving a gap in service provision at the lower end of the spectrum of need.
 - No definitive model for the delivery of early intervention and prevention support for families lends itself to the notion of a two tiered workforce.
 - Family support services are constrained by what services currently exist as opposed to what the needs of the family are.
 - Significant gaps in the delivery of family support include: mental health (children, young people and parents), parenting, financial inclusion, domestic violence support and lower level emotional resilience work with children and young people.
- 7.5 Whilst the review did not give specific detailed focus to the Disability element of TAF, the effectiveness of service delivery appeared to be impeded by the issues identified for the wider delivery of TAF. It also concluded that whilst the current Disability TAF was commissioned to provide services for families with children with ADHD and ASD this focus precluded children with other forms of disability including visual or hearing impairment.

7.6 The review concluded with the following recommendations as opportunities to improve the current model of TAF service delivery as part of a continuum of family support:

- To establish a clear vision, ensuring consistent delivery of early intervention and prevention services across RCT
- To develop an effective identification process that would ensure the right families are offered support at the right time.
- To close the threshold gap between early intervention and prevention services and statutory services.
- To develop a single fit for purpose management information system that could provide accurate performance monitoring and impact measurement.
- To reduce workload by overhauling the existing TAF paperwork systems; making them easier to use and more 'family friendly'.
- To improve strategic, community and voluntary sector links, and engaging critical partners.
- To develop a robust communication strategy across the workforce.

7.7 The Welsh Government's Families First Programme Guidance published in April 2017 clearly sets out its expectations on Local Authorities to *'continually develop and improve their models and continue to engage local partners in the active delivery of the TAF to ensure they are involved in developing robust multi-agency packages of support which meet the identified needs of families'*.

7.8 The Welsh Government Guidance also states the expectation that TAF models will be sufficiently flexible to meet the needs of those who are referred into it by putting the needs of the whole family at the centre of any package of support.

7.9 The Integrated Family Support Framework addresses the current challenges to the delivery of TAF identified during the review and implements the recommendations. The new Resilient Families Service will deliver a more co-ordinated, consistent and effective TAF model that is supported by streamlined and simplified processes.

8. THE RESILIENT FAMILIES PROGRAMME

8.1 The Resilient Families Programme is the overarching multi-agency commitment to delivering family-focused early intervention support services that make a difference to families in RCT.

8.2 It is a programme of work that seeks to embed a set of principles across the Council and its public, private and third sector partner organisations, in order to develop a common understanding of the

need for and a collective approach to the delivery of effective early intervention and prevention services.

- 8.3 The aim of the Programme is to secure collective agreement to abide by these principles in the planning, delivery and commissioning of services in order to maximise resources and prevent the needs of families escalating to a point that require statutory Children's Services intervention.
- 8.4 The vision is: *'To have a multi-agency approach in place in Rhondda Cynon Taf that governs the integrated delivery of appropriate, timely, practical and effective support to families known to be facing multiple and/or complex issues in order to reduce the number of families requiring statutory intervention from Children's Services in the future'*.
- 8.5 The overarching aims of the Resilient Families Programme are to:
- Reduce the number of families requiring statutory intervention
 - Reduce the number of children on the CPR
 - Reduce the number of children looked after
- 8.6 In order to meet these aims the Resilient Families Programme will be required to establish an agreed collaborative approach that:
- Provides timely intervention that focuses on building resilience to prevent the multiple and/or complex needs of families escalating to crisis levels;
 - Recognises the needs of the whole family and does not support services to continue to seek to address individual issues in isolation;
 - Ensures the commissioning of services for children, young people and families is undertaken in response to the known needs of families in RCT not to fulfil stipulations of grant funding streams or accommodate the delivery limitations of existing providers;
 - Ensure that access to services is available across the whole of RCT and not just in geographical areas stipulated by grant funding or favoured by providers.
- 8.7 The RCT Shared Outcomes Framework will provide the means to measure the collective efforts and impact of a range of services providing family support and early intervention services as part of the RCT Resilient Families Programme.
- 8.8 The following governance arrangements have been established to oversee the implementation of the Resilient Families Programme, which includes the establishment of a Programme Board to ensure developments are tied into the work of statutory partnership Boards

and are subject to the Council's formal reporting and decision making arrangements and supported by the Scrutiny process:

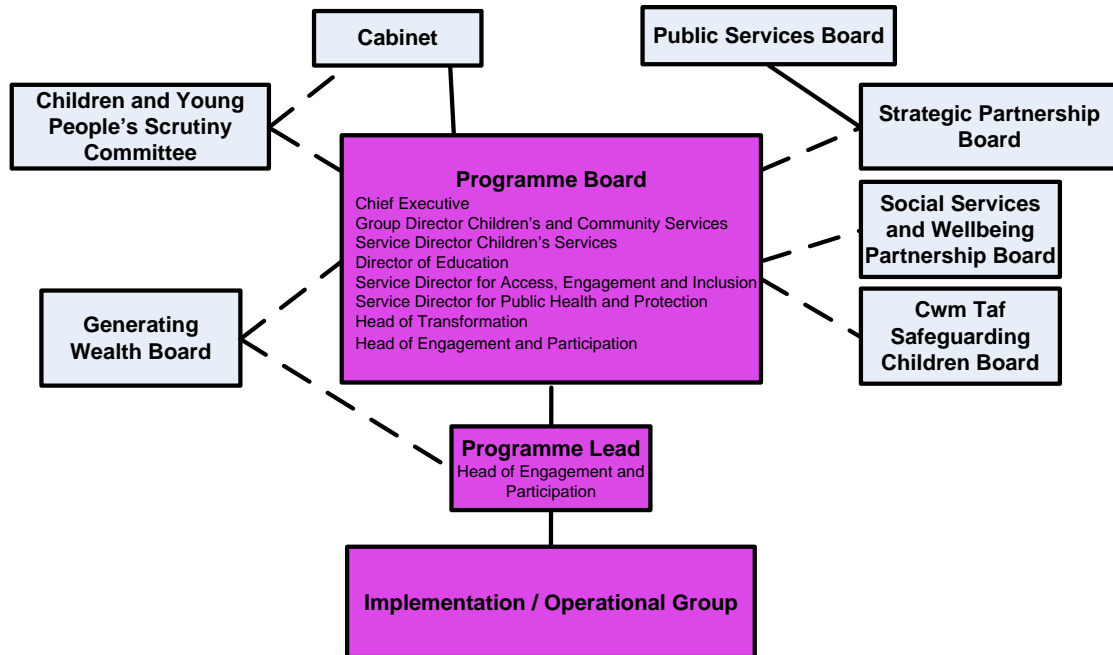


Figure 2: RCT Resilient Families Programme Governance Structure

8.9 A cross Directorate Implementation / Operational Group has been convened to develop and implement the Resilient Families Programme. This group includes colleagues from Health who were keen to ensure that planned developments in Cwm Taf Local Health Board are in line with our thinking.

9. THE INTEGRATED FAMILY SUPPORT FRAMEWORK

9.1 The Integrated Family Support Framework organises the operational delivery of support services to families and identifies where different service provision fits within a continuum of family support. It offers a baseline of service provision and the means to clearly organise the services that deliver this provision. Within this Framework, services can be realigned to more effectively address families' support needs and collectively build their resilience.

9.2 The development of the Framework offers the opportunity to address the shortcomings of current arrangements, implement the Vulnerability and Resilience Model and address the recommendations from the TAF Review simultaneously. This Framework will direct the operational

delivery of support to families in RCT including the multi-agency contributions of those agencies identified as Resilient Families Programme partners.

9.3 The Framework is diagrammatically depicted in Figure 3 below, which shows the different levels of need; referral routes to access support; the assessment and brokerage mechanism that directs this support; and the key underpinning principles that provide the foundations of the Framework. It also identifies early intervention and prevention services operating as part of a continuum of support as opposed to individual services that are governed by separate referral and assessment procedures.

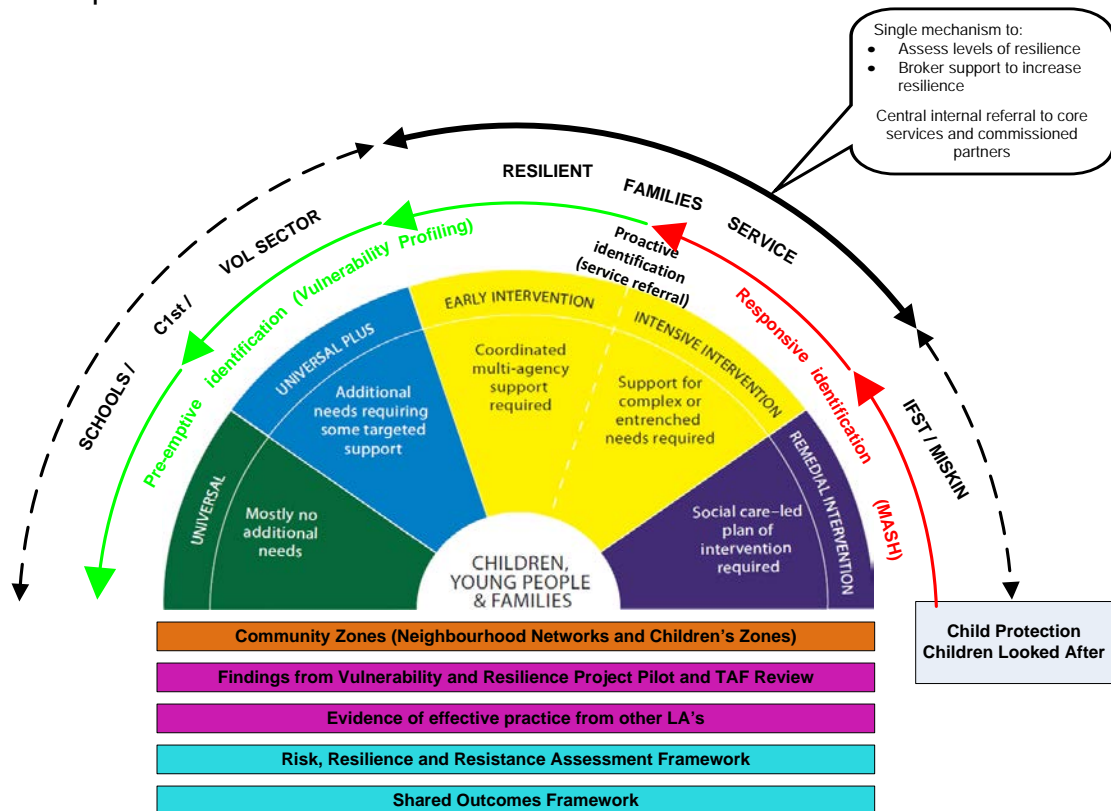


Figure 3: RCT Integrated Family Support Framework

9.4 As a tried and tested approach to better using data to pre-empt families reaching crisis point and focusing on the building of resilience, the Vulnerability and Resilience Model will be used as the delivery model for the Integrated Family Support Framework.

9.5 The development, implementation and monitoring of the Framework needs to be mindful of the underpinning principles identified in Figure 3 in order to ensure it can withstand future developments over the next five years. Anticipating that Children's First, Neighbourhood Networks, and poverty grant funding flexibilities will be rolled out over the coming

years, the Framework has been designed to not require significant change to accommodate these developments.

- 9.6 Whilst it is accepted that future legislative changes may have an impact on the delivery of the Framework, the Framework itself is robust enough to be able to shape how national policy is implemented in RCT. The research base upon which it has been designed alongside the learning taken from other local authorities who are now able to measure and evidence the positive impact integrating their family support services has had, provides the strong basis upon which a long term commitment to this Framework has been made.

10. RESILIENT FAMILIES SERVICE

- 10.1 The delivery of the early intervention and intensive intervention elements of the Integrated Family Support Framework and the revised Team Around the Family (TAF) model will be co-ordinated by the new Resilient Families Service.
- 10.2 The Service will be able to effectively identify families at risk of family breakdown before they get to crisis point as well as continuing support for families no longer requiring statutory intervention. Focusing on assessing and addressing the level of resilience families have to deal with the challenges they face, the key functions of the Resilient Families Service will be to undertake assessment, brokerage and review; family engagement; and plan co-ordination.
- 10.3 The creation of the Resilient Families Service will provide the opportunity to deliver swift, effective, consistent and bespoke support to families. The Service has been designed to identify the right families in need of support at the right time, to provide swift family-led assessment, to remove practical barriers to positive change and to provide timely, appropriate and effective interventions. The Service will deliver improved support to families in quicker response times; shorter and sharper diagnostic assessment; a trusted single point of contact and pro-active practical support to engage with interventions designed to increase resilience levels. It will also co-ordinate and manage interventions delivered by a range of services advocating the family's perspective, and ensuring all providers put the family at the centre of service delivery.

11. TIMESCALE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 11.1 The development and implementation of the Resilient Families Programme will take place in three phases to structure the process of service transformation whilst minimising the disruption of these

changes on direct service delivery. The phases and their associated timescales are set out in the table below:

	Start date	Completion date
Phase 1 - Establish core delivery of the Early Intervention and Intensive Intervention aspects of the Integrated Family Support Framework		
Re-organise existing key provision to establish the Resilient Families Service to deliver early intervention and intensive intervention services within the Framework and the revised TAF model	April 2017	Nov 2017
Phase 2 – Complete the implementation of the full Integrated Family Support Framework		
Realign wider Council services and other commissioned services as necessary to ensure that universal plus and remedial intervention services effectively link to the Resilient Families Service to provide a continuum of support	Oct 2017	March 2018
Phase 3 – Complete the implementation of the wider Resilient Families Programme		
Inclusion of external Council partners within the Programme	April 2018	Dec 2018

11.2 The implementation timescales above are based on the agreement that the TAF element of the Families First Grant Review is deferred until the end of the 2018-19 financial year and the current level of funding is maintained. This will allow the evidence gathered from the first fully operational year of the Integrated Family Support Framework to inform the decision making process.

11.3 The Implementation / Operational group is in the process of compiling a detailed delivery plan for Phase 1 and a Service Specification is currently being written to clearly state the expectations and the operational requirements of the Resilient Families Service.

12. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required at this time.

13. CONSULTATION

13.1 The Resilient Families Programme has been presented to both the Children’s Services Senior Management Team and the Education and

Lifelong Learning Senior Management Team and commitment given from both Directorates to support its development and implementation.

- 13.2 The Integrated Family Support Framework has been presented to Action for Children and Barnardos as the service providers currently commissioned to deliver Team Around the Family arrangements and formal consultation will be undertaken with them following the completion of a Service Specification which is due to be completed by mid July.
- 13.3 Consultation with Council staff and partners will, subject to Cabinet agreement, be undertaken as necessary in developing an options review of delivery models.

14. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 14.1 Team Around the Family arrangements in RCT are funded by the Welsh Government Families First grant. Therefore, the establishment of the Resilient Families Service to deliver of the key functions of the Integrated Family Support Framework will require the continued use of Families First funding at the current level.
- 14.2 Whilst there are inherent risks with the use of an external annual grant the delivery of Team Around the Family arrangements remains a priority for the Welsh Government.

15. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 15.1 There following legislation has been considered in relation to the development of the RCT Resilient Families Programme:

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

- Putting an individual and their needs, at the centre of their care, and giving them a voice in, and control over reaching the outcomes that help them achieve well-being
- Supporting people to achieve their own well-being and measuring the success of this care and support
- Increasing preventative services within the community to minimise the escalation of critical need
- Strong partnership working between all agencies and organisations.

The Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

- Fulfils the following wellbeing goals:

- A more equal Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- Demonstrates application of the sustainable development principle:
 - Long term
 - Prevention
 - Integration
 - Collaboration
 - Involvement

16. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ SIP.

16.1 The Resilient Families Programme will contribute directly to:

The **Council's Vision** of *'a County Borough that has high aspirations, is confident and promotes opportunity for all'*.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2016

- **PEOPLE** - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone;
 - Priority 2 - Redesigned local services - integrated and efficient
 - Priority 3 - Rhondda Cynon Taf's children and young people will receive a great start in life

17. CONCLUSION

17.1 This report has outlined the opportunity to create the Resilient Families Programme as a single overarching approach that governs the delivery of services and is able to shape how national policy related to supporting families is implemented in RCT.

17.2 This report has also provided details of the work underway to establish and implement an Integrated Family Support Framework to co-ordinate effective specialist early intervention and prevention services and deliver integrated support for families across the County Borough.

17.3 The RCT Resilient Families Programme will also serve to facilitate a common understanding between a range of public, private and voluntary sector partners of where their contribution sits in the wider context and the creation of a shared approach to delivering outcomes for families.

- 17.4 Supporting a wide range of partners to work together to co-ordinate the delivery of timely and effective services to families, the RCT Resilient Families Programme will enable the Council to maximise outcomes for families as well as demonstrate its commitment to the wider early intervention and prevention agenda embedded in the principles of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S
SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO
HOLDER, CLLR LEYSHON**

Background Papers:

None.

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