

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COPORATE PARENTING BOARD

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014 – 2015

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

18th JULY 2014

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR
OF COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**

Agenda Item No: 4

**Rapid Intervention Response Service
Annual Report 2013-2014**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide the Lead Member for Children and Young People and the Corporate Parenting Board, with information about the first year activity of the Rapid Intervention Response Service.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members note the contents of the attached report

3. BACKGROUND

The Rapid Intervention Response Services has been up and running since the 1st April 2013. It was developed as part of the strategic priorities concerning children and young people who become looked after, through the LAC Action Plan.

The remit of the service was to provide an urgent intense family focused service to both children/young people on the cusp of becoming looked after and children who are in the LAC system that need to be returned home quickly. The triggers for the service are:

- High level of need and without intensive support the child/children are at risk of being accommodated.

- Crisis within family that was not predicted that requires immediate support for child/children to remain in their care.
- Family need an intensive period of support for child/children to return to their care.

4. CURRENT SITUATION / CONCLUSION

The service although only being in existence for a year has established itself as a service that can enhance the support provided to children young people and their families. This is achieved by using a whole family approach to evidence based interventions. The development of constructive relationships with similar service providers within Children Services as also resulted in pathways being developed that ensures there is no duplication of effort and that children and young people are receiving services most appropriate to their needs.

The achievements of the service within the first year are:

- The identification of the service users who can most benefit from this model of working.
- All staff being able to provided intensive consistent and ongoing support which is evidence based.
- Developed a whole team approach to individual family service delivery that maximises skills and roles within the team. .
- The development of a performance and quality assurance system that can provide outcome data for all parts of the service delivery model.
- The development of a cost benefit tool that can cost each individual completed intervention, calculate actual savings and cost avoidance.
- Developed a positive relationship with front line social workers and other professionals that allows for services to work together to provide quality interventions to the most vulnerable children and young people.

Rhondda Cynon Taf Children's Services



RAPID INTERVENTION RESPONSE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

INTRODUCTION:

The development of the Rapid Intervention Response Service originated within the LAC Action Planning. The remit of the service was to provide an urgent intense family focused service to both children/young people on the cusp of becoming looked after and children who are in the LAC system who need to be returned home quickly. The triggers for the service being:

- High level of need, and if intensive supports are not provided the child/children are at risk of being accommodated.
- Crisis within family that was not predicted that requires immediate support for child/children to remain in their care.
- Family need an intensive period of support for child/children to return to their care.

The service is expected to contribute towards the following performance measures identified in the LAC Action Plan;

1. Number of children on the CPR who become LAC
2. Number of children that return home within 12 weeks of admission
3. Number of requests for admission
4. Number of 16+ entering the care system

The service sits within the remit of the Head of Prevention. The service became fully functional on the 1st April 2013 with recruitment and training commencing in January 2013.

The purpose of this report is to report on the progress this service has made during the 2013-2014 financial year.

CONTEXT:

The Rapid Intervention Response model of working is based on the model developed within Integrated Family Support Team (IFST) of delivering intensive evidence based interventions over a period of 12 weeks. The model was developed to deliver quality services based on robust evidence of effectiveness and best practice, through a sustained and system-wide focus.

The aim is to help parents to achieve the necessary behavioural changes that would improve their parenting capacity and enable them to care for their children with the minimum statutory interventions.

The objectives are to:

- Deliver a borough wide targeted and intensive family and parent support service that could respond to crises within 24hours.
- Deliver a service that addresses the needs of all family members.
- Act as a catalyst for change within families by providing a service model that delivers both intensive evidence based interventions and practical support.
- Ensure that interventions are part of a coherent and consistent service delivery plan.

This is delivered through:

- Individual work directly with children/young people and their parents
- Activities both within and outside the home, including, where appropriate, within a residential setting.
- Practical support
- Parenting programme
- Working with the extended family

STRUCTURE OF THE SERVICE AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS:

The Rapid Intervention Response Service comprises of three teams, one each in Rhondda Cynon and Taf. Each team is made up of staff that can deliver the prescribed interventions and staff who can provide the practical support. Each team is made up of:

- 1x Consultant Social Worker
- 1x Social Worker
- 2x Rapid Response Intervention Workers
- 2x Rapid Response Support Worker

The overall day to day management of the service is undertaken by the Service Manager responsible for the Miskin Service, which allows for both services to be aligned. The responsibility of the Service Manager is to provide support by managing the operational activities of the Teams in accordance with the team's objectives, aims, key tasks and performance measures.

An Operational Group was also formed (See terms of reference ,Appendix 1) that meets on a quarterly basis to provide operational and development direction to the delivery of the Rapid Intervention Response Service and to ensure learning is shared with mainstream services. This group reports back to the LAC Action Planning Group through the LAC Action Plan Performance Framework.

ACHIVEMENTS:

The achievements of the service within the first year are:

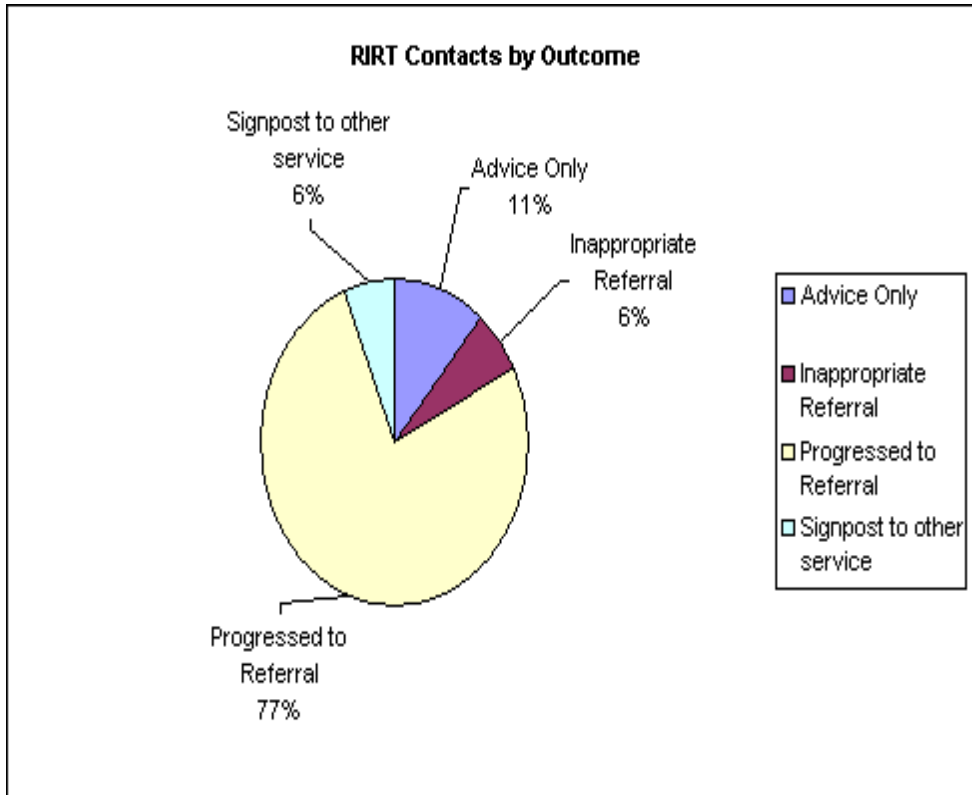
- The identification of the service users who can most benefit from this model of working.
- All staff being able to provided intensive consistent and ongoing support which is evidence based.
- Developed a whole team approach to individual family service delivery that maximises skills and roles within the team. .
- The development of a performance and quality assurance system that can provide outcome data for all parts of the service delivery model.
- The development of a cost benefit tool that can cost each individual completed intervention, calculate actual savings and cost avoidance.
- Developed a positive relationship with front line social workers and other professionals that allows for services to work together to provide quality interventions to the most vulnerable children and young people.

ACTIVITY:

The RIRT have worked in the last year with **155** children:

1. Contacts received by area and outcome:

Outcome of Contact	Rhondda Team	Cynon Team	Taff Team	Total
Advice Only	10	2	21	33
Inappropriate Referral	15	0	2	17
Progressed to Referral	59	111	50	220
Signpost to other service	9	0	9	18
Total	93	113	82	288

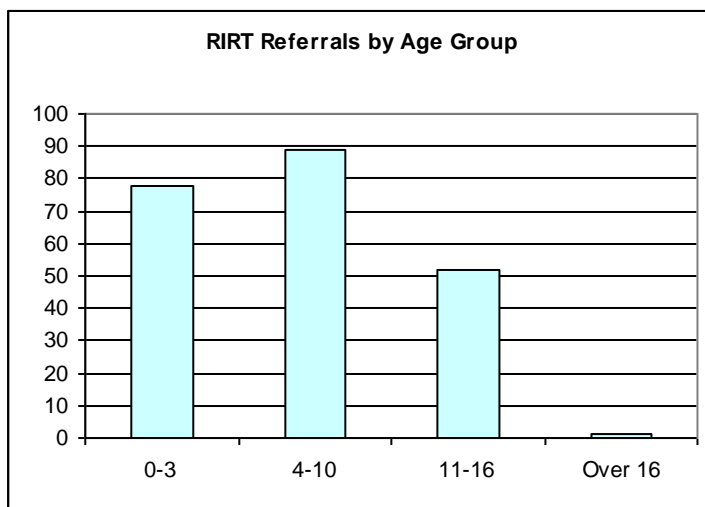


77% of contacts to RIRT progressed to a referral

2. Referrals by Age Group:

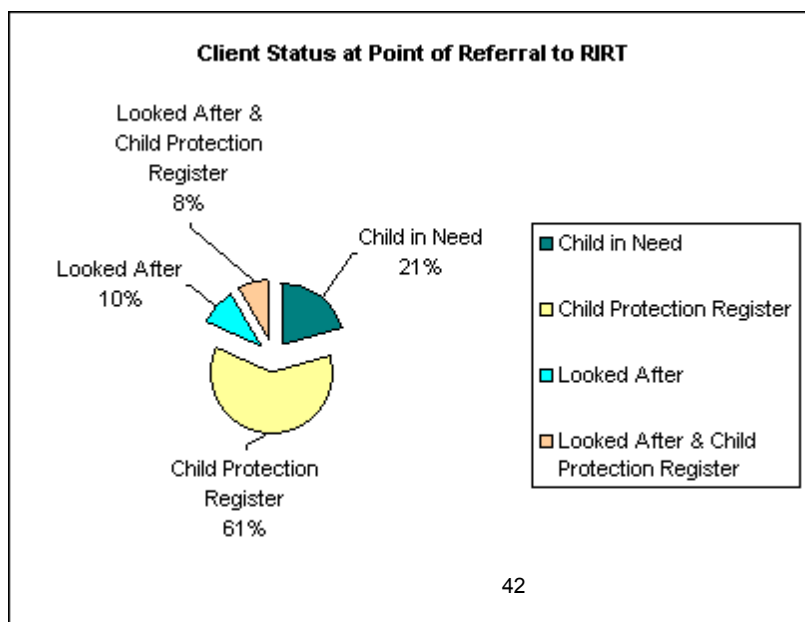
Age Group	RIRT Rhondda	RIRT Cynon	RIRT Taff	Total
0-3	29	37	12	78
4-10	20	39	30	89
11-16	10	34	8	52
Over 16	0	1	0	1
Total	59	111	50	220

40% of referrals to RIRT were for children aged between 4-10 years



3. Status of children at point of Referral:

Client Status	Referrals	% of Referrals
Child in Need	47	21.36%
Child Protection Register	132	60.00%
Looked After	23	10.50%
Looked After & Child Protection Register	18	8.20%
Total	220	100%



61% of the children referred to RIRT were on the Child Protection Register at the time they were referred

**155 children received an intervention from RIRT during the period April 13-March 14
The average length of time taken to complete these interventions was 12 weeks**

COST OF THE SERVICE:

The Rapid Intervention Response Service from its inception used a framework that allowed a cost-benefit analysis to be applied to all interventions undertaken. This enabled the savings/costs accrued from a Rapid Intervention Response Team intervention to be set against the potential cost for accommodation had the intervention not taken place.

The purpose of this was to try and establish:

- The cost of interventions undertaken
- The actual savings to the authority
- The cost avoidance to the authority.

It is also used to establish:

- Can cost-benefit analysis help in decision-making?
- Can a consistent framework help to facilitate comparisons in interventions and ensure more cost effective practice is used?

The actual interventions started and finished in the 2013-2014 year was **70**, which involved working with **138** children. For these

The average cost of each intervention (staff time spent specifically on the intervention) was **£2390**.

The actual cost savings for the year where children were returned home from care placements were **£147,617**. If the children stay out of care for the whole year the actual cost savings would be equivalent to **£355,928**.

The cost avoidance of the children not coming into care and having to be placed in a fostering or residential placement whilst interventions work was carried out was **£762,940**.

CONCLUSION:

It is essential that the significant progress already made within the Rapid Intervention Response Service is built on over the next twelve months. The Service has established a sound base in terms of staff, expertise and organisational skills on which to develop. There have been a number of challenges in its development, not least gaining acceptance from the wider work force, which has now been overcome.

The cost savings and cost avoidance evidenced produced in the first year must be looked at cautiously. Further ongoing analysis is needed to validate the figures arrived at and this will be vigorously undertaken during the coming year.

In addition it is our aspiration to continue to monitor practice and provide interventions which are appropriate and effective and will ensure the best use of the service. Further work will be undertaken on evidencing outcome both from an individual service user perspective and organisational perspective. This will help create an environment where the service delivered is able to evidence its worth in the present environment of financial austerity.

Ann Batley, Head of Prevention Services

Matthew Free, Service Manager.

June 2014

APPENDIX 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE

RAPID INTERVENTION RESPONSE TEAM OPERATIONAL PLANNING GROUP

Purpose

To provide operational and developmental direction to the delivery of the Rapid Intervention Response Team (RIRT). To be accountable to the LAC Action planning group

Functions

- To provide overall direction, management and scrutiny to the RIRTS
- To quality assure the work of the RIRT and its effectiveness
- To ensure the learning from RIRT is disseminated to the wider workforce
- To advise and make recommendations to the LAC Action Planning Group regarding programme development
- To facilitate and encourage priority access for RIRT clients to link services, including TAF and other prevention services.
- To oversee RIRT budget
- To develop a outcomes and cost effectiveness tool for the service
- To support and progress workforce development within RIRT
- Act as the RIRT interface with the existing children and adult service and wider services
- Agree the thresholds used by RIRT based upon local needs and circumstances.
- Manage any complaints/disputes about the exercise of functions by the RIRT;

Agenda

The Operational Planning Group will identify risks and issues and where these cannot be resolved refer up to LAC Action Planning Group. They will review progress of the Service to ensure effective delivery and development.

The agenda will have the following fixed items:

- Service progress report
- Reviewing Risks and Issues to delivery
- Future Planning
- Budget

Membership

Membership will be: -

- Ann Batley Head of Prevention
- Julie Clark Head of Assessment Care Planning
- Tracy Prosser Service Manager Rhondda
- Denise Evans Service Manager Taff Ely
- Jayne Preston Service manager Cynon
- Neil Griffiths Head of Finance
- Matthew Free Service Manager RIRT/Miskin
- Julie Kennedy Consultant Social Worker RIRT
- Phil Dawes Consultant Social Worker RIRT
- Jon Meldrum Consultant Social Worker RIRT
- Nicola Free Performance Manager

Frequency of Meetings:

Meetings will be held at least three monthly. However meetings will vary depending on issues arising and progress made. Operational Planning Group members may be required to participate in additional meetings to progress work streams as required.