**Notes and Actions from the Children First Pioneer Areas Meeting**

**Millbrook Primary School, Bettws, Newport**

**11 June 2018**

**Present:**

**Children First Pioneer Areas/Partner Organisations**

Lindsey Watkins (LW), Newport

Mandy Shide (MS), Newport

Mark Price (MP), Millbrook Chair of Governors

Dr JoAnne Ferrara (JF), Manhattenville College, NY

Sarah Mutch (SM), Caerphilly

Emma Saunders (ES), Caerphilly

Claire Hutcheon (CH), Cwm Taf

Angharad Stephens (AS), Cwm Taf

Diane Jones (DJ), Cwm Taf

Laura Morris (LM), Ysgol Nantgwyn

Catrin Thomas (CT), Gwynedd

Caryl Lewis (CL), Gwynedd

Carl Griffiths (GC), Deputy head, Glancegin school

Caryl Alban (CA), Carmarthenshire

Joe Cudd (JC), Carmarthenshire

Liz Baker (LB), Barnardo’s

Marisa Moon, Barnardo’s

Alyson Francis (AF), ACE Support Hub for Wales

Mike Richards (MR), Police Transformation Fund

Rhian Bowen Davies (RBD), Police Transformation Fund

**Welsh Government**

Sarah Melkevik (SMe)

Wayne Warner (WW)

Hayley Collicott (HC)

Lucie Griffiths (LG)

**Apologies:**

Kath Bevan (KB), Education Achievement Service (South East Wales)

1. **Welcome and introductions**

WW welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

1. **Welsh Government Update**

WW highlighted a change in the Children and Families Division staff with SMe joining the team to lead on Children First.

WW informed the group that he was still awaiting a response from the Minister as to whether he approved a grant of £20k per Children First area as seed money to help to accelerate progress and the development of Children First areas. **POSTSCRIPT** WW confirmed the Minister had agreed £20k seed funding and Welsh Government will be in touch in due course to progress funding requests.

Whilst this funding will not support the delivery of services, the Minister will be expecting a 6 month update on how the funding is supporting progress of the approach Children First areas.

**Action:** WW or SMe towrite out to the Pioneer areas to confirmthe availability of the grant funding and what CF Pioneers will need to do to be able to access the funding.

Specifically on Children First:

* Ministers express a keen interest in the work of Children’s First Pioneers;
* The Minister is due to make a oral statement to plenary on his vision for the early years and how the various programmes come together;
* The next Children’s First Pioneer meeting will take place on 21 September in Builth Wells, there will be a session on the Wallsend Children’s Community by Save the Children;
* We are also working to link up learning to the non-pioneer areas and representatives from these areas will be join us for the afternoon at the 21 September meeting.

On the Theory of Change workshops:

* The theory of change workshop with RCT was well received;
* Another workshop is planned with Millbrook School in July;
* Workshops with Caerphilly and Gwynedd are pending;
* Next steps are for Welsh Government to develop its own Theory of Change model.
1. **Update from Children First Pioneer Areas**

**Newport (LW)**

* They have been working with Barnardo’s and are becoming aware of the need for resources for next steps, Barnardo’s are producing a toolkit for use in other communities that should be available by the end of next year;
* Due to a gift in will donation, Barnardo’s are planning to fund a post to support the Children First work;
* Marisa is taking over from Liz at Barnardo’s;
* Newport Children First have a strong steering group with a separate delivery team;
* Children from Millbrook and Pillgwenlly Primary School have joined together to create their own community consultation, half of the children undertook a paper based questionnaire, half did a survey online;
* The Theory of Change workshop will involve older students and the School Action Team for Success;
* Millbrook has been finding that the community is coming to them to discuss their issues directly with the school rather than contacting the local authority, the group can then work together to solve these problems;
* Gwent Police will have a semi-base in site at the school with one of the PCSOs;
* Millbrook are working with other schools in the cluster and each cluster has an ACE lead;
* Millbrook is holding two screenings of the *Resilience* documentary later that day;
* Four representatives from Millbrook and the school clusters will be attending the forthcoming ACE conference in Glasgow;
* Millbrook are looking at the national and international community to inform their trauma aware work;
* Millbrook has created opportunities for staff and students to link with a school in Spain to look at Wellbeing of Future Generations Act objectives;
* The school has a community block with a dedicated training room which all of the partners can utilise.

**Caerphilly (SM and ES)**

* St James and other local school are making connections with Millbrook;
* Caerphilly are focussing on summer holiday activities, SHEP (School Holiday Enrichment **Programme)** etc. targeting 8 – 11 year olds for a morning session;
* The Children First team have been working with parents to gain play work qualifications, now that the qualifications have been gained, next steps will be to run the activities they want, these are diversionary activities that focus on family outcomes rather than educational outcomes;
* Caerphilly are looking at a joint funded community post to develop resilience work;
* Caerphilly plan to open to the ICC (currently not used) in the summer, they will have a community artist based in the ICC;
* Next meeting with the community will focus on concerns around housing;
* The SHEP programme has made links to the childcare offer, with St Helen’s providing day-care throughout the summer;
* Caerphilly have also been looking at summer holiday provision on and off the school site;
* They will run family fun days aimed at pre primary and primary aged children and their families;
* Learning from last year found young people not joining in with the play provision, but hanging around so there is an opportunity to engage with them through youth services;
* The two communities in Caerphilly have very different cultures, they are looking to draw the two communities together and share the learning.

**Cwm Taf (CH, AS and DJ)**

* They had a Children’s First Community Zone Implementation Group workshop on the Theory of Change, which was facilitated by LG and HC, and which was well attended by partner organisations, the Cwm Taf Theory of Change has been signed off by the implementation group;
* Cwm Taf Children First has developed a five year business plan which has been shared with the Public Service Board, they are also developing delivery plans for the two areas;
* Cwm Taf are currently reviewing their governance arrangements,
* RCT had also held a Theory of Change workshop, led by third sector partners, which built on a mapping exercise of strengths of the community, employment, youth provision, early years, 50 plus;
* Merthyr Tydfil is using Communities First legacy funding to support a community hub, Merthyr Valley Housing have moved into the building;
* The building will also include a youth provision, 3G and two floors being kept for the community;
* Their challenge is to staff a single point of contact without any financial resources to do so;
* Merthyr Tydfil are waiting for the strategic/regional priorities to be set, once this happens a Community Network Group will be set up;
* Merthyr Tydfil also plan to develop a delivery plan, next steps will then be to engage with the community on the plan and approaches and get their buy in;
* Merthyr Tydfil aim to have a co-produced solution in the next year;
* There has been some interest from a local AM, Dawn Bowden, on the progress of Children First on the Gurnos Estate. A meeting is arranged for 18 June 2018, which will be attended by representatives from Children First and the Welsh Government and it will be important to set out that Children First is not a Government funded programme, rather it encourages the redirection of existing funding streams like Flying Start, Families First the CF Legacy Fund.

**Carmarthenshire (NT and JC)**

* Carmarthenshire are currently going through a consultation process;
* They have undertaken a family train the trainer day;
* Their Children First work has involved working in schools and a digital consultation exercise and the DVD is nearing completion;
* Their next steering group will consider planning the way forward.
* Similar to Caerphilly they are linking in with the SHEP scheme and summer holiday activities;
* Lots of activity is going on, but they are waiting for agreements on funding arrangements;
* Carmarthenshire are making the links with regeneration issues, but there has been no further progress to date;

**Gwynedd (CT and CL)**

* Gwynedd are currently at the needs assessment phase, they are mapping data and anecdotal data, though are having difficulties in bringing that data down to a community level. They are also mapping community resources;
* Gwynedd have been working with schools and youth clubs around the good and bad of communities including what is important to them;
* Gwynedd have undertaken a front line staff workshop;
* Gwynedd are linking with Bangor University regarding the evidence base about prevention and intervention;
* A workshop is planned for 11 July 2018 looking at the picture so far and building on the strengths, they will link in to community funding (through Flying Start) and talk to the community about issues and solutions;
* Gwynedd hope to have their plan in place by Sept/Oct.

WW agreed that lots of activities are taking place with respective Children First Pioneer areas, but care needs to be taken that they link this all back to a strategic objective.

**Police Transformation Fund (PTF) update (MR)**

MR explained there were four PTF areas:

* North Wales – Helen Douglas;
* South Wales – Chris Truscott;
* Gwent – Mike Richards;
* Dyfed Powys – Richard Yelland.

Each area has a thematic approach, for Gwent the theme is education with a focus on better relationships between school and the police.

**Action:** Children First Pioneer areas to make sure they have made contact with the respect PTF regional leads.

The PTF made an all-Wales collaborative bid for £6.8m to tackle and prevent ACES, building on the work undertaken in the Bridgend area. There are four national objectives that are interpreted on a local area basis.

Each regional lead has a small budget where money could be used for proactive intervention work.

PTF activity will include:

* ACE awareness training to all front line police staff;
* A focus on Step up and Step down activity;
* Gwent are trialling an initiative to have a PCSO presence on site at 2 or 3 schools, in order to create a more embedded school/community response to vulnerabilities;
* There is a separate PTF Board and a delivery plan is being finalised;
* They are also working around some issues about PTF being able to deliver against PSB objectives on ACES.

RBD asked about when there might be a decision on the **Early Intervention Prevention Support (EIPS) grant** as it links to sustainability of current projects.

**Action:** WW to speak to the relevant colleagues and come back to the group.

**ACE hub update**

* AF talked about a school summer project she had seen at an event in Glasgow. The school had evaluated their approach;
* The Hub’s website will be launched in the summer, until then Facebook and Twitter are being used;
* The Hub will be hosting a series of Strategic Sector System events in July, starting with PSBs;
* The Hub has launched a Facebook Forum, it is a closed forum so people have to register. There are 2 main reasons why people have registered, those who have experienced ACES and welcome an opportunity to raise issues 2. professionals who want to share work;
* The Hub is preparing a ‘Prospectus of learning’ around ACEs, which includes ACE awareness, learning for leaders, and generic ACE learning. Generic e-learning will be available in the autumn;
* A Knowledge and Skills Framework will be launched in the autumn. This has been developed with a wide range of stakeholders and is based on a Scottish Trauma Framework;
* The Hub is holding its third and final ACEs in practice event in Aberystwyth on 11 July 2018;
* The Hub is holding a webinar, Small steps, big changes on 12 June 2018 at lunchtime.

**Action:** AF to send through Glasgow evaluation.

1. **Tour of the School**

LW gave a tour of the school, which has a Newport team around the cluster which included:

* On site Prevent social workers;
* Space earmarked for Gwent police;
* An onsite Flying Start and language and play team;
* Play facilities and a crèche;
* Links to health visitors with a central base in the community;
* Nursery provision designed to be calm, nurturing and focussed on building communication skills foremost;
* A Confucius classroom where children were learning Mandarin.

There was also some discussion about the role of joint working and use of soft and hard data.

1. **Presentation from children involved in Newport Children First work**

Children from Millbrook and Pillgwenlly Primary Schools presented to the meeting, including children involved in the Heddlu Bach initiative.

Their work around Children First has focussed on needs from the ‘cradle to the career.’ Their work has included:

* Needs and wants;
* Desert Island wish list;
* Community walks to identify their ‘hot spots’ and ‘grot spots’;
* An online and paper based consultation exercise to gain feedback from other children in the schools;
* Next phase will be a consultation exercise with adults.
1. **Presentation from Professor JoAnne Ferrara of Manhattanville College New York**

JF spoke about her work around community focused schools and in particular her long standing relationship with a school situated in a high poverty area (although surrounded by affluent areas) in the suburbs of New York, integral to this is the element of partnership working, for example Social Services are located on campus.

Research shows that 64% of children had been exposed to ACES. This trauma informed approach includes:

* Helping teachers to understand the impact of trauma;
* Teaching co-regulation skills;
* Helping children to get to higher order thinking skills by addressing the survival and emotional needs first.

In a community school approach, trauma sensitive classrooms are:

* Safe and supportive environments;
* Encourage a secure attachment to a nurturing adult;
* Create opportunities to strengthen non-cognitive skills.

The trauma informed community creates secure, reasonably healthy adults:

* With good emotional management skills;
* Intellectual and emotional intelligence;
* Actively teaching and role modelling;
* With consistent, empathetic and patient responses;
* Who are able to endure intense emotional labour;
* Are self-disciplined, self-controlled and never abuse power.

The approach has created a ‘whole child, whole school’ focus by expanding the visions of student success and making the school accountable; their gaols are to:

* Build teacher capacity;
* Build partner capacity;
* Strengthen the school;
* Strengthen the community.

They have a one stop centre for family resources which include:

* Therapeutic interventions;
* Healthcare;
* Parent and community education.

Their one stop centre for students programmes and services include:

* Extended play and summer programmes;
* Academic intervention enrichment services;
* Professional development.

These community schools are:

* Strengths based;
* Culturally relevant;
* Data driven;
* Trauma informed,; and:
* Collaborative.

In setting up these community schools it is important to look at non-educational targets, these could include suspension rates, attendance or growth over time.

1. **AOB and Finish**

None

**Dates for next meeting: 21 September 2018 at Builth Wells**

WW asked if any of the Children First Pioneer areas would like to host a future meeting.