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

**Welsh Government Pavilion, Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd**

**25 April 2018**

**Present:**

**Children First Pioneer Areas**

Sarah Mutch (SM), Caerphilly

Emma Saunders (ES), Caerphilly

Noeline Thomas (NT), Carmarthenshire

Joe Cudd (JC), Carmarthenshire

Claire Hutcheon (CH), Cwm Taf

Angharad Stephens (AS), Cwm Taf

Lindsey Watkins (LW), Newport

Jo Ramessur-Williams (JRW), Police Transformation Fund

Alyson Francis (AF), ACE Support Hub for Wales

**Welsh Government**

Lucie Griffiths (LG)

Colin Healy (CHe)

Hayley Collicott (HC)

Wayne Warner (WW)

John Hicks (JH)

**Apologies:**

Sian Lloyd Roberts, Gwynedd

Catrin Thomas, Gwynedd

Anna Bird, Hywel Dda LHB

Gareth Morgans, Carmarthenshire

Paul Mee, Cwm Taf

1. **Welcome and introductions**

WW welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

1. **Welsh Government Update**

WW drew colleagues’ attention to some staff changes in the Children and Families Team: Sarah Canning had moved and is now working on the proposed legislation to remove the defence of reasonable punishment; Karen Cornish was covering for Sarah until her replacement is in post; and a new member of staff had been appointed to work on Children First.

LW had kindly agreed to host the next Children First Pioneer Areas meeting at Millbrook School in Newport. The meeting would coincide with the visit of Prof Joanne Ferrara, an expert in the area of community schools and school partnerships, who had kindly agreed to speak to the group on the subject.

WW said that he was concerned that Children First was not progressing as quickly as had been anticipated but that he recognised that a significant factor in this was resources. He realised that most colleagues were trying to take forward Children First as an addition to their existing roles and explained that he was proposing to seek Ministerial approval for some ‘seed’ funding which could help areas to accelerate their progress. WW outlined how he thought the funding might be used and asked whether colleagues thought it would assist them or whether there would be any issues if the funding was made available. No issues were identified and there was a general welcome for any funding which could support the development of Children First locally.

**Action:** WW to put advice to the Minister and come back to colleagues once a decision has been taken.

**Action**: CHe to book dates up until March 2019 for the Children First meetings.

1. **Update from Children First Pioneer Areas**

**Newport (LW)**

* Staff had undertaken more training on restorative practices.
* The Heddlu Bach (Little Police) programme had been helpful in breaking down barriers and opening a dialogue between the police and the community.
* LW had attended the ACE conference in Newport and found it very powerful.
* LW planned to show the resilience film in Millbrook school (21 June 2018).

**Caerphilly (SM)**

* SM had revisited the mapping of provision.
* A common language was being developed to ensure there was clarity on targeted outcomes, e.g. outcome level 1 at for all nursery learners.
* Both areas were developing more cohesive family support and now have a family support worker providing a connection across agencies.
* The approach in Fochriw was very much ‘bottom up’ with the community essentially helping itself and focussing on improving standards. The approach in St James’ was very different and there is more work to be done in terms of building the community and a defined community identity. It was suggested that Fochriw might act as a peer mentor with St James’, but SM was of the opinion that there were ‘tribal’ tensions which would preventing the two areas working together at this time.
* LW suggested that using the children from the communities, rather than the adults, might be a powerful and more sustainable way to bridge the divide and bring the two communities together.
* St James will be piloting the Heddlu Bach Scheme
* Parents in Frochriw want to get involved in task groups to look at housing, even with private landlords.

**Cwm Taf (AS)**

* Work was progressing on the Gurnos Estate and agreement with partners had been reached to utilise the 3G centre as the Children First hub in the community.The Cabinet had approved the use of the primary school in Ferndale as the community hub for Children First in the community.
* AS had been conducting a mapping exercise of services and provision.
* WW mentioned that the Minister for Children and Social Care had been contacted by the local Assembly Member for Merthyr Tydfil requesting a meeting with the community to discuss Children First, but that it wasn’t clear what the issues actually were. The Minister has asked WW to organise a meeting with the AM and community to discuss. WW had been in touch with Paul Mee and agreed that he and representatives from Merthyr Tydfil would be invited along to any meeting. WW had been in touch with the AM’s office and was awaiting suggested dates for the meeting.

**Carmarthenshire (NT)**

* NT had been working on producing a DVD called ‘What matters to us’, the aim of which was to capture the views of young people about the area in which they live. There were concerns that the final draft edit had been ‘sanitised’ and did not truly reflect what the children had said, so the producers have been asked to look at this again and provide a more accurate reflection of the children’s comments, no matter how negatively these might be perceived.
* The Tackling Poverty Group had established a task and finish group around the Tyisha ward of Llanelli (rebuilding of the train station and a new wellness centre)
* The housing consultation had been broadened to allow facilitation from across sectors, facilitators going to be trained (Planning for Real). The training for the facilitators will be in May 2018.
* There had been further developments around early years, youth support services and employability and NT had been considering what would be on offer in Children First areas on these three areas.
* The resilience film had been shown at an ACE event.
* JC stated that there was a drug rehabilitation centre situated opposite the Penrhos school. This is the type of challenge that the community is dealing with.
1. **Theory of Change workshop (LG and HC)**

Colleagues were asked to establish a clear idea of what the programme was aiming to deliver, while acknowledging the difference between each area. In order to do so, colleagues were asked to identify the aims, outcomes and delivery mechanisms of the Programme.

**Action:** LG and HC to draw up the flipcharts from the session and develop a draft logic to be shared with colleagues (attached).

Any areas wishing to arrange their own Theory of Change workshops with Lucie and to contact them to make the necessary arrangements.

1. **ACE Support Hub (AF)**

AF provided an outline of the work of the ACE Support Hub, its activities to date and its key priorities.

The Hub was established with the help of funding from the Welsh Government and has five main goals:

* Sharing information on ACEs.
* Sharing evidence of what works in preventing ACEs.
* Developing knowledge and skills of professionals. This includes training and learning on ACEs; developing materials for schools and the housing sector; and development of the youth work force. There had been a lot of demand for ACE awareness training.
* Sharing good practice.
* Enabling local and national system change.

AF informed colleagues that the Hub would be running its third ACE awareness event in Aberystwyth in July. It was expected that the event would have a child environment focus.

1. **Police Transformation Fund (JRW)**

JRW presented on the Police Transformation Fund (PTF), outlining the four key objectives of the PTF, which are underpinned by a focus on early intervention as a means to prevent crime. The objectives are:

* to produce a confident and competent workforce
* to increase capacity and capability
* to facilitate the delivery of a 24/7 single integrated ‘front door’ service
* to produce a whole system response

The establishment of pathfinder areas which build on the relationships which already exist is a key feature of the PTF in Wales and JWR was keen to ensure that the PTF locally engages with the Children First Pioneer areas which could become pathfinder areas.

**Action:** WW to share contact details.

JRW to provide a copy of the slides from her presentation for sharing.

1. **Dates for next meetings**

WW suggested that the next meeting should take place on 11 June 2018 and be held at Millbrook Primary School, Bettws, Newport. (Confirmed)

**Action:** WW to confirm the date, venue and time of the next meeting ASAP and look for dates for futures meetings in late September and early/mid December 2018 and late March 2019.

1. **AOB**

None.