



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Good Practice Forum for Residential Provision for Children with Complex Needs

1st meeting - 5 March 2024

Progress to date

At end of 2023 across Wales, there were 36 residential provisions supporting 76 children with complex needs.

Diverse provision on offer:

- Residential care with therapeutic service for short term placements
- Residential solo placements
- Emergency accommodation
- Psychological assessment and intervention
- Supported lodgings for young people
- Short-breaks service
- Child and family In-house residential

Residential provisions on the horizon:

- 11 new provisions are expected to complete works by the end of March 2024, this will provide 42 beds
- 9 new provisions starting work in 2024/25, providing 35 beds
- 24 new schemes in design or planning stage, with an estimate of 86 beds

But it is simplistic to look at this work just through numbers.

Definition of Residential Provision for Children with Complex Needs

- **Complex needs** is defined as severe emotional, behavioural and mental health needs requiring specialist, multiagency care and support in a home setting which is jointly commissioned by the Regional Partnership Board statutory partners.
- Residential provision is a **step-down provision** intended to prevent escalation to and facilitate de-escalation from secure welfare and tier 4 mental health inpatient provision; it can also help with avoiding placements out of county or out of Wales due to lack of provision locally.

Discussion points:

1. How do practitioners in the field define complex needs?
2. Is having an agreed definition helpful for this group?
3. Is the definition clear and comprehensive – anything needs clarifying or is missing?
4. Does the definition restrict the development of the provision?

Good Practice Forum – Proposed aims

For people involved in developing residential provision for children and young people with complex needs, aiming to:

- Contribute to a **good practice toolkit** for the development of residential provision for children with complex needs.
- Promote productive discussion and encourage **collaborative solutions** in for example project and programme management.
- **Showcase achievements**, share lessons learnt/pitfalls across projects and how to overcome common challenges.
- Understand the **circumstances** that allow for **good practice to flourish**.
- Identify **barriers** that exist to adoption of innovative ways of working and support, including local service integration for example with education and health.

Good Practice Forum – Discussion in Breakout Rooms

Discuss and take notes for feedback to the wider group:

1. Try to define the stages that projects of this type typically go through.
2. What resources would make the development effort more effective?
3. Are there some aspects of developing this type of provision that are the biggest barriers to the effective and swift completion of projects? How would you prioritise those?
4. What gaps in skills or knowledge are there in your experience to take the development forward?
5. What type of projects do you want to see showcased as part of this group?
6. What are the ideal circumstances that allow a project to run smoothly and effectively, and what are the enabling factors that support that?
7. How do you measure success in a project of this type?

Good Practice Forum Discussion

Feedback

Top 3-4 topics discussed in your groups

Key themes in discussions

Areas suggested for deep dives

Showcase of projects

Other topics outside the suggested questions



Thank you

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