

## **FOUNDATION PHASE PROFILE**

### Context/Background

The Foundation Phase Profile (FPP) assessment measures children's skills and enables planning and targeting of childcare support at an individual level and the future curriculum development on a setting basis and wider across the sector.

Good use of outcomes data to measure children's progress and development in line with the aim for all children in Flying Start to achieve Outcome Level 1 in all areas of the Foundation Phase Compact. This is quality assured through joint moderation with schools and shared through transition systems and processes.

The outcomes are captured centrally through a shared management information system with education to support schools in meeting future education needs.

Parents are involved in children's target setting, and reviews, and parent and children together (PACT) sessions in order that they can better understand and support their child's development and learning

### Long Term

Prior to the introduction of the FPP assessment, Flying Start recognised the importance of using data effectively to ensure children start school ready to learn which is why this was embedded in the strategy in 2015. This continues to be a driving focus and the introduction of the FPP potentially allows for future benchmarking across Wales

Education and Early Years are currently implementing a joint approach to the strategic use of the Council's Capita One system to improve long term tracking of the impact of Flying Start through to age seven and potentially up to age 16.

### Prevention

Identifying children's skills levels and putting strategies in place to support children's learning is preventing children starting school with a developmental delay and provides a solid foundation for future learning. The early identification of children needs is enabling more timely and appropriate referrals to other services. However, the data also identifies areas of the curriculum which require attention through children not meeting expected levels e.g. speech and language or numeracy.

FPP data is being used to differentiate between types of learners to ensure needs of all learners are being met, these include children with English as an Additional Language, boys and girls. Differentiation of delivery for EAL/boys/girls.

### Integration

Cwm Taf Wellbeing Strategy prioritises the first 1000 days which includes ensuring children's development enables them to have a great start in life working across partners including childcare and with parents. (Regional)

The approach dovetails with the Council's 'Focus on the Future' and is central to achieving the priorities with the Best Start to life area, and in raising children's attainment at all ages throughout their learning.

An Early Years strategy has been in place and agreed by elected members since 2015. The Strategy rolled over for a year and is currently being reviewed and updated. This is a multi-agency strategy with key partners including Health and Public Health, Education, Social Services etc.

## Collaboration

A programme of joint moderation has been piloted using both the previous CDP and now the FPP with nursery class teachers and childcare providers across the borough. This approach will continue to be embedded to ensure consistent assessment and the validity of the judgements made.

All Flying Start childcare settings have a link Health Visitor which assists with information sharing and early identification of children with ALN and through a redesign in services can call on professional expertise through roles such as Speech and Language Therapists and Education Psychologists.

A shared approach to the use of Capita One (MIS) system has been implemented to ensure outcomes for children are captured at source and shared to enable future analysis of the impact of Flying Start and a number of other interventions with families. A Capita One development team is shared across programmes to develop the system.

## Involvement

**Childcare Providers:** Prior to the introduction of the FPP the three registered education providers (also FS provider) came forward to work with the local authority and therefore Welsh Government (WG) to test the draft framework and to provide feedback on its strengths and weaknesses. This shaped the final guidance for other childcare providers not only across the County Borough but also influenced the final framework produced by WG.

Childcare providers after the initial pilot felt that they needed more detailed guidance than the framework provided and worked with the LA to establish a Guidance Booklet that is now in operation across the local authority Flying Start providers. In addition, this booklet is now also being used by some other local authorities (Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend)

**Parents:** Parents are involved in their child's learning and development through termly reviews with childcare practitioners to look at their child's next steps,

Family sessions were reviewed in light of feedback and evaluations with families and led to a reshaped service which now offers transition sessions for new parents whose child is entering childcare, parent and child together sessions during term time within the childcare setting, and a smaller number of traditional family sessions during school holidays

Transition information is shared and agreed with parents, prior to school entry and are encouraged to share this, however settings once consent has been agreed also share this with schools to improve information sharing on children schools are receiving

## Parenting Support

### **Background/ context**

Parenting Support is a core component of the Flying Start offer to all parents. Support is offered through a range of evidence based programmes and 1:1 interventions and is driven by the needs of families. This includes the targeted approach taken towards engaging fathers in parenting interventions in response to an identified low take up

In 2018, Wavehill carried out an independent review of Parenting Support, in response to the findings additional investment was enabled through the refocusing of services. A multi-agency Parenting Strategy is under development and takes into account the findings of the Review and has included the delivering of the 'Be Positive not Perfect' parenting marketing campaign in partnership with children, young people, and parents across the community.

### Long Term

Piloting of a bespoke and localised ante natal parenting programme with a view to supporting parents earlier in their journey as a parent and provide a pathway of support through the various stages of parenting. A second pilot is currently underway however this approach has enabled skills to be developed across a wider range of partners to deliver the 'welcome to the world' programme which is evidenced based. Investment has also previously been made in a resource for parents that is web based and independently accessible in community locations to support parents and they're ongoing needs.

Recognition of the need to link Parenting Support to children outcomes, has been agreed by the Multi-Agency Tackling Poverty Group and this will be developed using the Capita One system in partnership with Education and the Capita One development team. The importance of the approach is reflected in the additional investment made by the poverty agenda in order to assist parents in creating appropriate home environments that protect children from aces and foster learning and children's development. This also reflects why all partners were trained in the grow brain model and provided with key messages to share with parents on the importance of learning through play and the strategy to develop a graduated response and pathway for parenting support.

### Prevention

Flying Start Parenting Support is a universal offer to all Flying Start parents, which avoids just focussing on those families already facing difficulties. Through analysis of data and the review, the model of interventions has been enhanced to include additional 1:1 approaches in the home to support parents to engage in more formalised groups through increased confidence and resilience.

Parenting support is also available to non-Flying Start families using funding from Families First, this allows for group provision to be more sustainable and brings an integrated approach to service delivery

In assessing the impact of Parenting Support a distance travelled tool (TOPSE) has been implemented for a number of years and analyses the progress made by parents. The need to join this up to hard data on children's outcomes will provide a sound evidence base for the effectiveness of these prevention interventions. In addition, and more recently in response to parents needs within the review, a peer support approach has been introduced to enable parents to access support outside of formal group work programmes on an ongoing basis for as long as they require it.

### Integration

One of the key components of the Best Start to Life priority in the Corporate Plan is that 'children live in a nurturing and stimulating home environment', the intention to link parenting to outcomes for children reinforces how this agenda assists the councils objective of improving attendance and attainment and preventing families requiring statutory services.

Parenting Support links with the Cwm Taf Wellbeing plan in supporting the development of Thriving Communities and the key messages within the first 1000 days theme.

Parenting has previously been a key component of the Early Years Strategy for the local authority with a focus on involving parents in their children's learning and development, however this will transition into an area based strategy for parenting in the near future with the aim being to also focus on improving families resilience.

Joint commissioning approach across the authority between Families First and Flying Start and a range of departments including Education and Social Services enables the Parenting Strategy to be a local authority approach to parenting rather than a team based approach.

## Collaboration

The Parenting Review and Strategy has brought together key partners across agencies to identify learning from the review and to plan future services and strategy.

Parenting programmes are co-facilitated by a number of professionals including Health and Barnardo's bringing different skillsets and shared learning to both partners and parents.

Parenting teams are co-located with health, family support and early language professionals in the community hubs within the north and south of the Borough, developing integration and information sharing.

Parenting are utilising Capita One database which is a shared information system with education and other Flying Start services, which will lead to longer term tracking of outcomes and their impacts.

The Parenting Team also delivers key worker support for families whose main presenting need is parenting and this is commissioned through Families First enabling the service to coordinate interventions around the family's needs.

Shared approach for parenting support for families of children with ASD between Education and Parenting to ensure consistent messages across key groups e.g. early bird programme or work directly with identified schools (Goetre)

Parenting website developed in collaboration with Health and access points in identified venues.

In developing a graduated response to parenting the Parent Network has been commissioned in order to establish peer support groups in the community as the review identified some parents were accessing programmes multiple times as they needed a light touch of ongoing support.

## Involvement

The parenting marketing campaign was developed in partnership with children, young people parents and professionals.

The Parenting Review involved families and their views and this has led to both further investment and to reshaping of services including the development of the parenting network and the piloting of antenatal programmes.

Parents are involved in reviewing the progress that they make through the TOPSE tool or through progress against a Family Action Plan. This information is utilised in order to consider future delivery or shaping of programmes.

It is clear from some reviews that parents struggle with large group interventions and this led to more 1:1 services being available and a more focused engagement strategy so that parents are clear on how the support will be delivered.