

**CYPE(6)-04-22- Papur i'w nodi 9**

**Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg**

**Cais am wybodaeth am weithio gyda'r trydydd sector i ddarparu gwasanaethau cymorth iechyd meddwl i blant a phobl ifanc**

**Ymateb gan Fwrdd Partneriaeth Rhanbarthol Gwent**



Your ref/Eich cyf:

Our ref/Ein cyf: Third Sector\_MH\_RPB

Date/Dyddiad: 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

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Jayne Bryant MS  
Chair, Children Young People and Education Committee  
Senydd Cymru,

Dear Jane,

### **Working with the third sector to provide mental health support services for children and young people**

Thank you for your letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and the opportunity to set out how the Gwent Regional Partnership Board are working with third sector partners to provide emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people.

In relation to the points raised in your letter, I have set out the partnership arrangements we have established with third sector partners and examples of some of the services we have developed. This is not an extensive list and I would be more than happy to provide further details if required. In relation to providing mental health support to children and young people:

- **how we work alongside the third sector to plan and deliver support services**

The RPB includes membership from both third sector umbrella organisations in the region – Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) and Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA) – who are able to contribute to partnership working at a strategic level and ensure the views of third sector partners are considered alongside statutory services. The Lead Officers for both GAVO and TVA also attend the regional Leadership Group that underpins the RPB to ensure third sector partners are involved in planning and delivering services. In the Gwent region we have established a Children and Family board and this group has also established a specific third sector network for providers working with children and families. The network is used to promote collaboration opportunities and to strengthen and identify new working relationships on an ongoing basis to address our strategic priorities. The network has been instrumental in shaping the use of Integrated Care Funding and Transformation Funding and well attended by 20-30 partners per meeting.

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English.

Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and will not lead to delay.

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.*

*Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd yn arwain at oedi.*

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- **Active projects/initiatives currently undertaking alongside the third sector**

Below are some of the projects/initiatives established across the region but not an extensive list.

Family Intervention Team with Action for Children: The service provides early intervention for families where there is complexity of needs and where a family-based, community-delivered approach is indicated. The service provides a time-limited home and school visiting service. Families receive a holistic assessment at home or in a community venue of their choice, children are observed in the school setting and a discussion is held with key school staff, and a programme of intervention informed by a psychological formulation is devised collaboratively between worker, Clinical Psychologist/Team Lead and the family. The aim of the *Family Intervention Team (FIT)* is to provide an equitable service across the Gwent region to children and young people from 3-16 years old experiencing emotional, behavioural and emerging mental health difficulties.

Short Term Intensive Support Team for children with autism and learning disabilities during Covid-19: The service was set up at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to support children with autism and learning disabilities. It was aimed at children with the most complex needs who were already receiving support from the Child and Adolescent Learning Disability Service (CALDS) to prevent/postpone placement breakdown. The team was set up in collaboration with Sparkle and Gofal in Newport. The team have also been working alongside community psychology services to deliver Circle of Security groups for parents. These groups essentially support parents to understand and interpret their children's attachment needs with the aim of supporting children's attachment security, which we know is linked to better outcomes for children and young people in terms of the emotional and mental health.

MyST (My Support Team): is an innovative Mental Health care model which offers an alternative to placing children and young people with complex Mental Health needs in out of county residential care. It is a targeted service for children looked after, who are at risk or have been placed in residential provisions due to their complex Mental Health needs. Through its community-based placements, it provides bespoke and complex Mental Health interventions across the whole support network of the child, as intensively as needed, with a model of intervention that aims to focus on impacting on a child's development and resilience. MyST works with the

- whole support network around the child,
- provides expertise in psychological interventions and strategies underpinned by theory;
- embedded support and reflective practice structures;
- collaborative, pro-active and inclusive approach to working with children, young people and their families and
- 24 hour on-call support for foster cares, birth families and young people.

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This whole system approach includes wider working with third sector partners, especially NYAS and advocacy services as well as providing advice and training to partners.

Skills for Living Project with Action for Children: Skills for Living is an innovative project to improve the emotional wellbeing of young people leaving care across Gwent and is delivered by a specialist mental health team within Action for Children. The service is offered to young people who were in the care system on their 16th birthday, especially targeting those who have experienced significant emotional distress and have developed self-destructive behaviours. The project further supports the Workforce within these sectors, providing training to develop the skills to support care leavers in a consistent manner. The success of the project relies on the integration of these organisations to support the delivery of a consistent and equitably high-quality service to care leavers across Gwent.

Platform 4 YP: Platform work with young people on an individual and group-based level to develop skills and find ways that work for them to manage their wellbeing so that they can live healthier, happier, and more fulfilled lives. Platform provide opportunities for young people to train as peer mentors and pass on the knowledge they have learned. Platform 4YP's overall aim is to provide early access to support, improve young people's overall wellbeing, create a sense of connection/reduce isolation and to create a network of peer support across Gwent. *Platform 4YP* has supported young people to explore their wellbeing, access new peer groups and learn new skills and strategies that they can use to manage daily. The team report they have seen an improvement in the wellbeing of young people and an increase in the use of wellbeing strategies. The team have observed the benefit of peer support and the connections created through shared experiences and shared learning.

- **where partnership working has worked well, and where you have learnt lessons for how to improve it in the future; and**

Partnership working has worked well through the development of our 'single point of access' panel that has needed collaboration and commitment from agencies to create a single front door. Equally, through the Iceberg transformation programme, we have worked as a partnership to deliver a suite of services for children, young people and families in Gwent. This reflects through our SPACE-Wellbeing panels which was recognised by the Children's Commissioner for Wales in the 'No Wrong Doors' report.

*'We are particularly encouraged by the Gwent region's SPACE-Wellbeing early help panels that are the most advanced example we have found of a timely, 'no wrong door' approach to supporting families where children are experiencing mental or emotional health issues or behavioural difficulties. There are also other good examples across Wales where regions are starting to pull services together to help children with complex needs. Regions need to do more to learn from each other where good practice examples exist, and to be more ambitious in aiming for a 'no wrong door' experience right across their regions.'*

We have good links with some third sector partners but recognise that we need to ensure the attendance of third sector is consistent at all local panels in the area, and to widen the offer for our communities. We are currently exploring how peer mentoring might have a further part to play when young people are discharged from Mental Health Services.

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- **any future plans you have for partnership working with the third sector, what you hope to achieve with those plans, and how they will be monitored and evaluated.**

We are continuing to foster our relationships with current third sector agencies, and how their input aligns with the new Welsh Government's NEST framework. We have recently setup an implementation group for NEST within a partnership space so we can explore opportunities for synergy and development. The plans are still in development whilst we take a more collaborative approach towards the next stage, but the meeting will provide us with regular review points to work and link with third sector partners. The development and implementation of the NEST framework across all organisations in the region is a key priority for the Children and Family Board and will be monitored with progress updates to the RPB.

I hope you find the information useful and assists the Committee with prioritising key programmes in this very important area of national and regional emotional wellbeing and mental health support to children and young people with our third sector partners. If you require further details or would welcome a follow up discussion, please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely

Cllr Paul Cockeram  
Gwent Regional Partnership Board Chair  
Cabinet Member Social Services, Newport City Council

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