

Date/Dyddiad: 14 November 2023
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Jane Bryant MS
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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seneddchildren@senedd.cymru

Dear Jane,

WELSH GOVERNMENT (WG) FUNDING OF THE FAMILY DRUG AND ALCOHOL COURT (FDAC) PILOT

Thank you for your correspondence in relation to the above.

The Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Family Drug and Alcohol Court pilot was funded by Welsh Government for a period of 2 years which concludes at the end of November 2023. As the programme for parents can last for approximately 20 weeks, it was necessary to ensure that all parents had the opportunity to complete the full programme within the timescales of the pilot and so the project stopped taking new referrals in June /July of this year.

Welsh Government also funded CASCADE to undertake a research evaluation of the pilot and the outcomes of that evaluation will be available in early 2024.

It is anticipated that the outcomes of the evaluation will help shape and inform the future planning of drug and alcohol services for parents going through the family courts within Wales.

Some confusion may have arisen regarding your impression that the funding of the pilot was withdrawn. Due to the time discrepancies between the end of the pilot and completion date of the CASCADE Evaluation report, Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan local authorities requested that Welsh Government consider extending the FDAC pilot funding for a period of 1 year. This was to allow sufficient time to circulate, review and

consider any learning from the Evaluation report prior to the cessation of the pilot and the disbanding of the team.

As this hadn't been factored into WG budget planning it was decided by WG that any extension to the pilot was not feasible within their current budget constraints and that any decisions regarding the future of FDACs in Wales should be informed by the evaluation.

Although no new referrals were accepted into the FDAC pilot from July 2023 (to ensure that all families were timetabled to conclude within the FDAC pilot timeframe) a small number of families may require an extension to the 'Trial for Change' stage of the programme and if this is agreed this date would surpass the pilot end date.

For these families a community intervention plan will be recommended with FDAC trained staff from the regional Integrated Family Support team continuing to support the family through the FDAC process.

I hope this clarifies the position in relation to the temporary nature of the funding of the FDAC pilot by WG, the necessity to conclude the programme in a safe way for families and the intention that any future plans in relation to FDACs in Wales will be informed by the research that has been commissioned by WG.

Yours Sincerely



Robert Thomas
CHIEF EXECUTIVE