

APPENDIX D – SERVICE COMPARISON

We looked at Newport’s model for the Families First and IFSS project. IFSS is an integrated project between the Local Authority and Barnados. It is funded through Families First, the Local Authority and Barnados and provides one strand of family support across different levels of the Continuum. The IFSS does not however represent the full offer to vulnerable children and families in Newport but it provides the key family support elements including: the Integrated Family Support Team (IFST), Family Assessment and Support Services (FASS), Family Support Team (FST), Family Contact Service (FCS); the Preventions Core Team and the Children with Additional Needs Service (CANS).

The recommendations from the external review on the IFSS are outlined below:

“The IFSS is clearly very effective but the following development areas also arise from IPC’s overall evaluation..

1. Whether to further develop the ‘preventative offer’ overall in relation to pre-school aged children who are arguably over-represented in the Child Protection and Looked After cohorts and under-represented in the work of the Preventions Service (we haven’t looked more broadly at other preventative offers locally).
Swansea – already developed and developing further in partnership with Health in Swansea.
2. Whether to further strengthen the Prevention Service offer by encouraging workers to encourage a full Team around the Family approach in a greater proportion of cases and to support other agency workers to deliver a preventative, whole family including Team around the Family approach with families with some additional needs at level 2-3¹.**Swansea – the footnote in the Report cites Swansea’s practice as a model for Newport to consider.**
3. Consideration of how to ensure that some families with complex and chronic needs don’t ‘fall through the gap’ between Preventions and FASS / FST.
Swansea – established interface between TAF and the IAA to manage this through agreed protocols and processes such as mapping.
4. Whether to strengthen the overall offer of support to families ‘in need’ by further blending the FASS and FST offers².**Swansea – Option to consider transfer of family support to early intervention.**
5. Whether to continue to develop and emphasise the FASS offer relating to domestic abuse, to reflect the very high proportion (77%) of families with these needs. **Swansea – different model via the Domestic Abuse Hub.**
6. How to support further improvements to social worker decision making including the timing and nature of referrals to FASS, particularly for families with a Child in Need Plan who are not ready / motivated to engage with an intensive service or who have already had a FASS intervention, or for children and families with a

¹ Some other local areas such as Swansea have been able to develop this successfully

² There are potential significant advantages but also some risks as outlined in Section 11 of this report

plan for rehabilitation home³. Swansea – identified in the review and to be addressed through the re-structure in Child and Family.

7. How to continue to improve FASS ability to effectively engage on a consistent basis with adolescent children and families with chronic needs who are on the edge of care but who have limited motivation to change⁴. Swansea - Out of scope in the Under 11s.
8. How to continue effectively to cross-fertilise key skills and training of relevance to all aspects of the IFSS, particularly in relation to work with highly resistant families. There have been some very good ideas put forward already by managers and social workers and outlined in this report. Swansea – Option to consider workforce development in the Review.
9. How to continue to develop the Partnership in an innovative but sustainable way including with reference to pay and conditions across the Partnership as well as promoting ‘the right help at the right time’. Swansea – these issues have not been problematic within Early Intervention despite the multi-agency and multi-disciplinary integrated models in Swansea’s co-located EISs.
10. How to share the important learning about ‘what works’ with the rest of Wales and the United Kingdom. “ Swansea – presentations at conferences nationally and invites to international conferences have been received as a result of the sector leading practice. The practice being highlighted to other Local authorities in Wales and England and many visits being hosted as a result. Staff have also worked with Welsh Government to develop national information packs on working with Dads and attachment.

³ Note: the NSPCC has recently published a new Practice Framework to support effective decision making including effective timings for rehabilitations home

⁴ For example, there may be some learning here from approaches such as ‘Multi-Systemic Therapy’ or ‘Functional Family Therapy’