

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**CABINET EXECUTIVE**

**11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** County Councillor Rachel Powell  
Portfolio Holder for Young People and Culture

**REPORT TITLE:** Children First Project in Newtown (Newtown Together)

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**REPORT FOR:** Information

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**1. Purpose**

To update Cabinet regarding the Children First Project in Newtown, called Newtown Together, funded through the Integrated Care Fund (ICF).

**2. Background**

'Newtown Together', is the Children First Project in Newtown and is based on a Welsh Government initiative to improve opportunities and reduce disadvantage for Children, Young people and families, through working with communities in identified localities. The identified locality is the Flying Start footprint in Newtown, this area was identified due to the high levels of Poverty Index and the number of complex needs in this particular area. This model of work is community based and is focused upon 'working with' communities rather than 'doing to' to empower and to involve children, young people and families in the decisions that are made about them. The Project is funded through the Integrated Care Fund (ICF)

The project began in January 2018, where consultation and research was undertaken with children, young people and families through a number of events and activities taking place across Newtown. The research identified that the 5 top areas of concern for children, young people and families in Newtown were:

- Litter,
- Anti-Social Behaviour,
- Dog Fouling,
- Smell of drugs/drug use and
- Not enough for young people to do.
- 48% of Residents reported feeling either satisfied or totally satisfied with where they lived, identifying friendly people, green spaces and location as the reason for what they valued most about where they lived.
- We then established a stakeholder group, made up of different organisations and services in Newtown. We also have a small community group, who have met on 2 occasions but are generally contacted by e-mail for input into decisions around projects and events held.

The Newtown Together currently has the following projects:

**Raising Aspirations:** A project working with three primary schools in Newtown, in response to community feedback regarding futures for young people in Newtown. Monthly sessions take place where inspirational local people present their experience of their work to Yr. six pupils.

**Little Voices** Working with Bangor University and two primary schools in Newtown to understand more about their community and undertake a piece of research. The young people identified 'lack of jobs' as a concern that they researched and then presented findings to the local mayor, local services and members of the town council

**Kindness Project:** The kindness project involves different events where kind actions and activities are promoted. This started at The Police Open Day this year, with kind cards being created by children who were then encouraged to give these out. Since this time the Youth Group have developed a 'kind culture' and other events are taking place to promote kindness in Newtown.

Kindness and relationships are the most powerful forms of human therapy and can have a healing effect upon people, especially those who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) This is about encouraging the community to be kind to one another, creating a culture of kindness which is positive for everyone.

**Reach Out** – A Social Isolation Project called 'Hidden Young Lives' working with young people and Young carers in Newtown to produce Artwork that will be exhibited in the Oriel Gallery and will represent young people's lives as they see them.

**Street Games:** Working with Young people in Newtown through partnership to provide a joined-up programme of activities/sports and engagement to prevent young people from entering the criminal justice system.

**Events:** We hold events in school holidays to engage with children and families to provide opportunities for social interaction as well as arts, crafts and a range of activities, in partnership with other organisations in Newtown. The events are well attended, and we consult with those attending in order to improve and provide sessions.

**Trehafren Project:** This project is working with young people and families on the Trehafren Estate in Newtown. We held a community session following feedback from the community for additional support and opportunities to be provided on the estate. We are working with the local community and the Town council to develop a work plan. We will be applying for some additional funding to provide a post to engage with the community.

Additional funding has been secured from the North Powys Wellbeing Programme to develop a Children First project in Welshpool. This post has now been advertised and the post should start in March 2020 and will be for a 1-year period.

UNCRC Rights/Voice of the Child is a key theme of the project and are promoted with all children and young people as part of this work.

### **3. Advice**

This report is for information only.

### **4. Resource Implications**

This project is fully funded through the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) Integrated Care Fund (ICF) until end of March 2021. The Project receives £52K per year to cover staffing and project costs, there are currently no baseline revenue implications. Alternative funding will be sought to mainstream the project, e.g. RPB Transformational Funding. If alternative funding is not found, the projects will be incorporated into existing services and organisations, within existing revenue financial envelope or will cease.

There are no implications for Workforce Organisation Development, Digital services or Property arising from this programme.

### **5. Legal Implications**

Legal Services acknowledge this information report and the direction of travel of the Childrens First Project.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has noted the report and has nothing further to add to the report.

### **6. Data Protection**

Where personal data of those involved in, or providing feedback on the projects or consultations, is being processed then data protection legislation must be complied with, including necessary notices or information being supplied to those individuals.

### **7. Comment from local member(s)**

Scrutiny: To be considered by H&SC scrutiny 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020

### **8. Integrated Impact Assessment**



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### **9. Recommendation**

For information only.

To ensure Cabinet are fully sighted on work to date.

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**CABINET REPORT NEW TEMPLATE VERSION 2**