



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

NOVEMBER 2021

REPORT OF DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

MISKIN AND THE THERAPEUTIC FAMILIES TEAM ANNUAL REPORTS

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Corporate Parenting Board members on the work of the Miskin Teams and Therapeutic Families Team set out in the services' annual reports for 2020-2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the information contained within the report.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 This is an information report.

4. BACKGROUND

MISKIN

Miskin delivers intensive family focused evidence-based interventions which aim to improve parenting capacity to enable families to care for their children with the minimum statutory intervention. Services are delivered through individual, family, group work and holiday programmes.

In addition, the 'Positive Future Programme', which is an integral element of the service provides children with the skills needed for learning and future employment through the medium of outdoor adventurous activities.

Miskin comprises of four multi-disciplinary teams that cover specific geographical areas within RCT, and are age related i.e., supporting families with children either under or over 11 years of age, and consist of staff with skills and training to deliver the prescribed interventions and practical support relative to the age group they support.

Service focus includes:

- High level of need, and if intensive supports are not provided the child/children are at risk of being accommodated.
- Family need an intensive period of support for child/children to return to their care.
- High level of assessed need for a child looked after, risk of placement breakdown without intensive support
- Child looked after requires support to return from an out of county placement to either home or a more local placement

Anonymised case examples are included within the annual report.

Headline outcomes 2020-21

91% of children remained at home living with either parents or extended family members at the end of the Miskin Intervention where the aim was to prevent children from coming into care.

75% of children 11-17 years of age remained living in the same foster care or residential children's home placement at the end of the Miskin Intervention where the aim was to prevent the placement from breaking down.

Additional Service activity

Includes:

- RCT Corporate Apprentice Scheme: Miskin were again successful in their bid through the councils Corporate Apprenticeship Scheme in 2020 for two apprentices for a two-year duration.
- Social Care Ambassadors: Several Miskin staff members have volunteered to be involved in different campaigns as Social Care Ambassadors for Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

- **Social Care Heroes:** One of our Senior Practitioners was celebrated during the pandemic as a Social Care Hero for the innovative and creativity shown in their work throughout the pandemic. The article showcasing the work of the senior practitioner was shown in Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's press releases on social media platforms.
- **Partnership Working with Cultural Services:** on a range of activities, including artists from Craft of Hearts to jointly facilitate arts and crafts sessions (that offer therapeutic value) to Miskin Girls, Boys and Parents Group at their Glyncornel Centre base. The partnership continued this year in a different way due to the covid-19 pandemic through delivering of art and well-being packs directly to children at home.

Demand

The demand for Miskin interventions and support has never been higher, the service is consistently working to full capacity and working creatively to enhance that capacity whenever possible. Referrals are prioritised within regular meetings with Intensive Intervention to ensure best use of resources available as demand exceeds capacity. However, the service continues to be effective with a high percentage of those children, young people, and families that it does support.

THERAPEUTIC FAMILIES TEAM

The Therapeutic Families Team (TFT) is a multidisciplinary team, created to offer consultation, therapeutic assessments and interventions to children and families in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

This is the second annual report for the TFT, provides a brief overview of Systemic Family Therapy and Educational Psychology and outlines how TFT is making a real difference, to children, families, social workers, and the wider professional system. The report also offers performance data on the work of the team.

The TFT consists of two Systemic Family Therapists and two Educational Psychologists. The team is managed by a Social Work Team Development & Performance Manager and works with:

- 1) Families assessed as high need where support from the Families Therapeutic Team would add value to the Resilient Families Service intervention.
- 2) Family receiving a service from statutory Children's Services and child/ren assessed as being at risk of becoming Children Looked After (CLA).

- 3) Children Looked After whose placement has been assessed as being at risk of breakdown where therapeutic support could promote placement stability.
- 4) Children Looked After who require therapeutic support to assist in a return home to live with parents/family/friends or live independently.
- 5) Children Looked After placed out of county who require therapeutic support to assist in moving to local placements.
- 6) Families assessed as high need where support from the Families Therapeutic Team would add value to the statutory Children's Services intervention.

TFT offer a range of services to individuals, families, and professionals, which includes psychological assessments, individual therapy, family therapy, group work and consultation.

In addition, TFT work with RCT Children's Homes to promote placement stability for children looked after; particularly supporting the use of the Trauma Recovery Model. This is an intervention model for working with children who have experienced developmental trauma, which is used within the RCT Children's' Homes.

The performance data evidences a busy second year for TFT, having received 173 referrals, undertaken 103 Initial assessments, and delivered 99 interventions. 53% of those referrals are closed to children services at the time of the report.

Despite it being a year spanning the Covid-19 pandemic the report show that the TFT has continued to develop since its inaugural year, increasing the number of children and families they support through creative ways of working remotely when appropriate and safe to do so.

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This is an information report.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 This is an information report.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

7.1 There are no direct financial implications aligned to this report.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 The legal requirements for children and young people are set down within the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Children Act 1989.

9 **LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**

9.1 This consultation links to the corporate priority of promoting independence and positive lives for everyone by ensuring that the Council listens to the people it provides for.

9.2 It also contributes to the following well-being goals:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales.
- A healthier Wales.
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A globally responsible Wales

10 **CONCLUSION**

Miskin and TFT Annual reports demonstrate the strong commitment within RCT Children's Services to achieve positive outcomes for children and families delivered by these Teams through creative innovative practice and evidence-based interventions.

The future development of both Miskin and the Therapeutic Families Team is being informed by the outcomes and recommendations of the work commissioned from Institute of Public Care (IPC) Oxford Brookes University Evaluation of the Children Looked After Strategy.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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Background Papers

none

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