

RCT Children's Services

SERVICE UPDATE, OCTOBER 2022

Well-being

Nobody Should Sit & Struggle, we're here to support you.

- **Schwartz Rounds:** We are currently receiving training in readiness to implement Schwartz rounds in the New Year. For information about Schwartz Rounds, please click [here](#).
- **Care First:** Care first is our new **confidential** support intervention, open for all RCT staff. They offer a 24-hour helpline, where you can speak to a counsellor for any work or personal issues. The website also offers a wide range of online support. Please click [here](#) for further details.
- **Therapeutic Supervision:**
- **RCT have created an Occupational Health Wellbeing and support booklet which you can view [here](#)**
- **RCT have created a cost-of-living advice booklet which you can view [here](#).**



Children's Services Workforce Strategy

As part of the Workforce Strategy, we are currently working on a medium term response to the challenges in recruitment and retention of social workers in Children's Services, which are placing the service under considerable and sustained pressure.

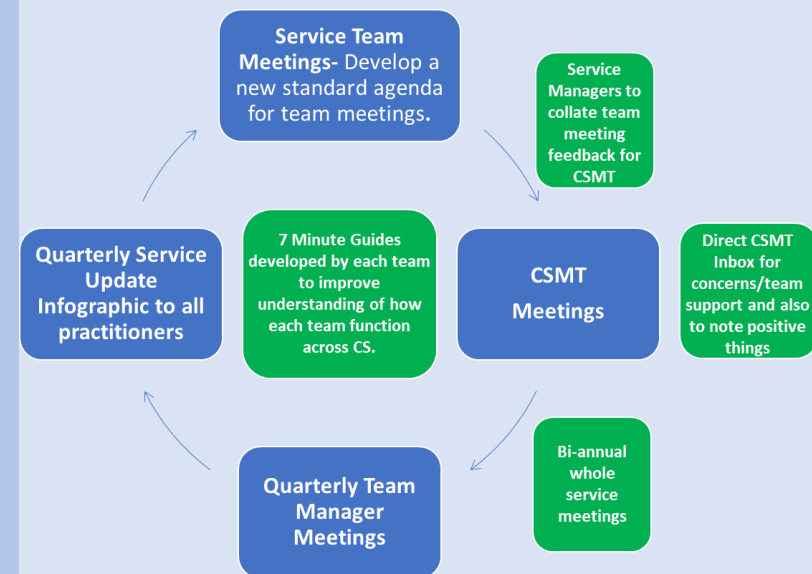
The principles applied to the medium term plan are:

- The approaches to supporting children, young people and families are alternatives to the usual practice in RCT to enable a safe and effective service to be provided.
- Teams are supported and structure and services match the optimum model for delivery of best possible outcomes during a period of higher vacancy.

We intend to share the proposed plan with you in November 2022.

YOU SAY ↔ WE LISTEN

We know that we need to improve our communication across Children's Services. To work on this, we have created a Children's Services Communication Cycle, which will include quarterly service update infographics. (Please see cycle below).



Participation Event 1/9/22

A Children's Services Participation event was held on the 1st of September at Pontypridd Museum. The event gave care experienced children and young people the opportunity to discuss what helps them to grow (the positives), what could be better and to discuss the UNCRC Article 12– 'You have the right to be listened to and taken seriously.' Nine children and young people attended the participation event, two– aged 10 and under and seven– 11-18 year olds. Further information about the event can be viewed [here](#).

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All Wales Protocol – Reducing the Criminalisation of care experienced children and young adults'

The Welsh Government have produced Youth Friendly and [Easy Read information](#) about the protocol. They have also developed a short animation [video](#) about the advice in the protocol. Please help them to get the word out by sharing the video and information with care experienced children and young adults.



Willowford House

A new Residential Children's home, Willowford House, is in the process of being refurbished, ready for a planned opening in early 2023. The home will provide positive care and support for up to three children and young people who require same day placements. Set within its own grounds, the home will provide an opportunity for children and young people to gain support in their recovery from crisis situations, and underlying trauma.



7 Minute Briefing

[Working Together to Safeguard People Volume 7: Safeguarding Children from Sexual Exploitation.](#)

Social Work Workforce plan 22/25

Social Care Wales have worked in collaboration with the sector to co-produce a Social Work Workforce Plan 2022-2025. The plan can be accessed via the following link: [Social work workforce plan: 2022 to 2025 | Social Care Wales](#)

Practitioner Forum

At the first Practitioners Forum in July, practitioners discussed the priorities and the logistics of the forum. It was decided that the forum will meet on a quarterly basis over TEAMS. The summary of the forum's priorities can be viewed [here](#).

The next practitioner forum is scheduled to take place on the 8th of November, 9:15-10:15. If you would like to join the forum, please email: Catherine.E.Tyler@rctcbc.gov.uk

Residential Recruitment Campaign

We have recently launched a recruitment campaign for our Children's Residential service. This has included advertising on the local radio station & across social media, a virtual recruitment event and the creation of residential webpages. We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone involved, especially to the practitioners who featured in our promotional content and attended the event to talk about their experiences of working in RCT. The recruitment videos can be viewed via the following links:

Amy Cope 'Day in the life' videos:
Part1-<https://youtu.be/cRC49o3SZPo>
PART2-<https://youtu.be/1PS978tJXdA>
PART3- <https://youtu.be/-sMRQ0BoAMk>
Charlotte: <https://youtu.be/R-kbQa2n8K>
Gareth: <https://youtu.be/YK6bOrWIT64>

