



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

#### **MAGU SERVICE**

**2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR G CAPLE**

**Author: Julie Evans**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of the report is to provide Corporate Parenting Board members with information about the progress of the Magu service since its implementation in May 2023.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board:

- 2.1 Note the information.

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Children's Services are providing information to Corporate Parenting Board about progress of Magu.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Magu Project delivers an integrated support pathway for pregnant women and fathers to be across early intervention and edge of care services, focused on building skills and resilience and reducing risk. This early intervention approach will deliver targeted support for families to prevent escalation of statutory involvement ultimately reducing the number of children entering care at birth or in their first year.
- 4.2 The Magu Project has been developed in line with the Welsh Government Strategy of Keeping Families Together and reducing the number of Children Looked After in Wales. The term "Magu" translates from Welsh as "to bring up, rear, nurture, raise, gain" and it promotes

the ongoing long-term nature of the support required to deliver better outcomes for children and their families.

4.3 The Magu Team works with families from 10 weeks of pregnancy remaining involved, if required, until the child turns one. We provide bespoke support and skill building to enable children to safely remain in the care of their parents. The aim is to provide high levels of intervention in the early stages reducing in intensity to ultimately empower families to be making positive use of community-based resources. If purposeful the Magu team can continue to support the family even if the outcome of assessments and work is that their child can no longer remain in their care.

4.4 Whilst all referrals are given consideration there is particular emphasis on prioritising support for care experienced parents and parents who have previously been permanently separated from their children as a result of care proceedings.

4.5 Magu Aims to:

- Reduce the number of children under 1 becoming looked after.
- Reduce the number of parent child separations and reduce the length of time of any necessary separation.
- Increase the numbers of children under 1 successfully reunified with parents
- Reduce the number of care experienced parents having children removed from their care
- Reduce the number of families entering repeat care proceedings.
- Increase the involvement of fathers with intervention.
- Increase the resilience of parents involved with the service to reduce future statutory intervention.

4.6 Progress to date

- Team have completed their training and are now fully operational.
- Service is integrating well alongside established Intensive Intervention Teams and wider Children's Services teams.
- Partner agency links are forming positively.
- 51 referrals May - September
- Work consists of care experienced parents, cases noted to be high risk of child protection and PLO, parents whose children have been subject to previous care proceedings, very young unsupported parents.
- Highest number of referrals relates to those involved in previous care proceedings followed by care experienced parents.

- Feedback so far from service users, case responsible social workers and other agencies is proving to be positive.
- Too early to provide any comparative data but this is anticipated to be available early 2024.
- Developing a new pathway to support care experienced parents where risk is not evident but unmet need is identified.
- Joint work with 16+ Service on Parents in Care and Leaving Care Charter
- Development of service user feedback process to inform and shape the service is almost complete. This will involve direct representation from those who have used the service in addition to the more traditional written evaluation and feedback.

## **5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out in relation to this specific report,

## **6 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Likewise, a Welsh Language Impact Assessment has not been carried out in relation to this specific report.

## **7 CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 7.1 Staff, partner agencies and parents have been involved in consultation, feedback is being used to continue to shape this Newly developing service.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 8.1 The work outlined in this report is delivered within children's services budgeted resources.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## **10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.**

- 10.1 The Magu Project has been developed in line with the Welsh Government Strategy of Keeping Families Together and reducing the number of Looked After Children in Wales

- 10.2 Addressing the significant number of children removed from parents care at birth, is a clear priority in RCT. The creation of the Magu Project provides the opportunity to provide a continuum of support for pregnant women and their families from the earliest opportunity to prevent the need for statutory intervention. Investing additional resources now alongside existing efforts to ensure children and families receive the right support at the right time, will deliver cost saving longer term benefits to the Council.
- 10.3 The service delivery pathway the Magu Project offers will improve both the quality and timeliness of decisions that need to be made for those children most at risk. Tailored and intensive support throughout pregnancy and beyond offers the means to enhance parenting confidence and capability in the longer term, securing positive outcomes for children and families.
- 10.4 It will also help the Council to meet three of the seven wellbeing goals that The Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015' puts in place as follows:
- A more equal Wales
  - A healthier Wales
  - A Wales of cohesive communities
- 10.5 The proposed changes are also consistent with the sustainable approach promoted by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act through the five ways of working:
- Long-term – the proposals seek to make a long-term difference to people's lives, the way we work with families and the Council's resources.
  - Prevention – the proposal is fundamentally focused upon strengthening our prevention offer.
  - Integration – Partner organisations have been invited to join the steering group and will continue to be involved. Particularly important in terms of integrating a seamless offer to vulnerable families with the Resilient Families Service, and Midwifery
  - Collaboration – Families, and staff have been involved in the evaluation and proposal.
  - Involvement – Families, and staff have been involved in the evaluation and proposal.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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