



HELPING FAMILIES TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

REPORT TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE

5TH October 2016

FAMILIES TOGETHER REPORT

Purpose of the Report: To inform the VSJLC of Atal y Fro's success in a joint bid with Family Action (England) to the Social Services & Well Being Division (Welsh Government).

About the grant

The Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant replaces the four Welsh Government social services grants previously available to the third sector. The grants which have been replaced are:

- the Children and Families Organisations Grant (CFOG);
- Section 64 programme grants;
- the Older Person Grant; and
- the Family Fund Trust

The purpose of the Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant is to support Welsh Ministers' priorities of a new and equal relationship between people and practitioners; early intervention and prevention; and transforming the way people's needs for care and support are met. This was first set out in *Sustainable Social Services – a Framework for Action* and has been placed on a statutory footing by the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 which will be brought into force in April 2016.

An invitation to third sector partners to submit expressions of interest was issued in December 2014. That invitation set out the criteria for the grant and this note further develops that for the full application process:

- The grant scheme **does** provide funding to projects which meet certain criteria.

- The funding could be used for support costs associated with delivery of projects but the scheme **does not** provide core funding.
- The grant scheme **does not** fund any project that is in receipt of any other Welsh Government funding.
- Applications from organisations who collaborated and working in partnership were particularly welcome
- To reduce potential duplication and to encourage a more collaborative approach between organisations, there will be a minimum grant award of no less than £50,000.

The partnership secured 3 year funding of £1.2m –the original bid was £2.3m so we have had to make some adjustments to the programme but additional funds are being sought to plug the gap.

THE PARTNERSHIP

Following a number of discussions between Atal y Fro and Family Action, this fund provided the opportunity we were looking for to collaborate on developing domestic violence services even further by addressing the issues at the earliest stage.

The Team at Atal Y Fro includes the following staff who provide a diverse range of services;

- **EPIC -Early Intervention Programme (individual /familial support /couples work/Journey Beyond Abuse/counselling/ Men’s Groups/CYPP) –all co-gender delivered
- Education & Prevention
- CBA (Court Based Advocacy specialising in Family or other associated courts)
- IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate)
- ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advocate)
- CYPP –Children & Young People’s Programmes
- TSS –Tenant Support Service
- *** CIT (Community Intervention Team) that includes Refuge & Second stage accommodation /Dispersed Housing Pilot as well as Intake & Assessment plus tenant support workers
- Drop-In Information /Support

Family Action currently helps 45,000 families each year across 147 local services. Their vision is that everyone who comes to the charity will receive the help they need to tackle their problems, whether they are experiencing poverty, disadvantage or social isolation. This is their first foray into Wales.

FAMILIES TOGETHER -Project Summary

The project aims to provide a **fully integrated and holistic family support service for families and children facing multiple and complex needs** including those living with mental ill health and/or experiencing domestic abuse, with a particular focus on supporting families in the perinatal period.

The overall aim of the project is to support families to overcome the challenges they face through tailored support for all family members, increasing their confidence, wellbeing and resilience, ensuring the safety of all family members and developing their capacity to plan for the future.

The Families Together project will be delivered by a Pan Wales Team managed by a Project Board made up of representatives of Atal y Fro and Family Action.

Our model will complement existing services provided to families in Wales including the Integrated Family Support Services model. In particular we will enhance and support this provision by delivering **prevention and early intervention focused approach**. We will work with local partners to identify issues around mental health, domestic abuse and family conflict early and deliver tailored support to prevent issues escalating to the point of statutory intervention.

The Project is now underway with referrals being made by a variety of organisations. The official launch will take place in South Wales -28th September and in the North - 29th September.

A new accredited male perpetrator's programme will be introduced along with three new courses aimed at supporting women.

Over the life of the project, we will support 500 families, working with all family members.

Kay Quinn

Director

September 2016