

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

& 2021/22 PRIORITIES



Gyda'n gilydd gallwn ni i gyd helpu i gadw **Sir y Fflint** yn ddiogel
Together we can all help to keep **Flintshire** safe



Quality Standard 6

Working with and supporting people to achieve greater economic well-being, have a social life and live in suitable accommodation that meets their needs.

January 2020 saw the introduction of a new Policy for 'Adaptations to Foster Carers' Homes'. Flintshire is supporting foster carers in making necessary adaptations to their home to provide adequate space for children and young people to live and thrive in their care. The grant funding will complement the existing range of support provided to foster carers,

and this funding is another step forward in securing local and stable placements for children.

This supports foster carers to enable siblings to be placed together, to meet the needs of children with multiple disabilities, secure extra capacity for current or potential fostering placements and to meet health and safety requirements which would otherwise result in a child being moved.

Applications for granting funding will be considered up to a maximum of £36,000, with a £20,000 maximum grant for the relocation to a more suitable property. In order to access the grant, the carers and social worker must first exhaust all other options and resources to increase capacity at the placement.

The grant is not only available to approved foster carers, but also to also available to others including existing or prospective adoptive families, Family and friends / carers of children who are under a Special Guardianship Order and carers who are committed to their caring role for the long term, or at least until the child reaches 18.

Tŷ Treffynnon Residential Care Home has been opened urgently by Flintshire Social

Services to support our local NHS hospitals during the Covid-19 pandemic. This care home has been designed to ensure people, who can safely be discharged from hospital, can receive the care and support they need before they return home, ensuring only patients in need of specialist care remain in hospital. As a result our local hospitals will have more capacity to deal with those who are acutely ill, including patients suffering from Covid-19.

The planning for Tŷ Treffynnon began at the beginning of April 2020 and in just two months, the building has been extensively refurbished and is now open and providing essential support for residents of Flintshire and Wrexham. Flintshire County Council, Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board and Wrexham County Council have pooled resources and worked closely together to fund and support the development of Tŷ Treffynnon.





Getting the Home up and running in such a short space of time is a demonstration of the passion and commitment that exists within our organisations and the community, to work together to respond to this pandemic and mitigate its impact.

Tŷ Treffynnon will be in place for a temporary period during the pandemic and Flintshire Council will be reviewing the need for this additional residential provision regularly, to adjust to the changing landscape of the pandemic.

Theatr Clwyd and Flintshire County Council together with members of the local community put out a public call for donations of shoe boxes full of fun, colourful treats to make the world a brighter place for a young person in Flintshire.

The appeal saw the public donate over 300 shoeboxes over 2 days which have now been distributed by Flintshire County Council to the most vulnerable young people in the county.

Embracing innovative new ways of keeping our people safe, construction firm Willmott Dixon and Flintshire County Council are on schedule to complete the major expansion of the Marleyfield House Care Home in Buckley.

The £8.4 million redevelopment project will double the number of beds at Marleyfield House from 32 to 64 and increase communal outdoor spaces and accessibility to support residents' well-being, reaffirming the Council's commitment to quality services, investing money in critical services.

Each room will have personal outdoor space either through a balcony on the first floor or a patio on the ground, while the extension will also see the creation of new communal areas, medical facilities, offices and store-rooms, extended car parking facilities and extensive sensitive landscaping.

An example of the local authority's pro-active approach to addressing the current significant pressures and fragility in the care sector across the country, the project is set to complete in summer 2021, with work having continued amid the challenges of the global pandemic.

During Covid-19, the home entered into lockdown and Willmott Dixon adjusted its construction practices to make sure the site was separated from the home at all times. This included a dedicated site access, the construction of additional parking bays for the home and coordinated deliveries.

Children's Services continue to work with Housing through the Integrated Young Person's Service (IYPS) for young people aged 16+, and two officers have been employed to support young people presenting as homeless, or families requiring

additional support. An additional officer works within housing to support young people ages 18+.

Families will be supported to keep the young person at home or having a planned or managed move involving other agencies, such as Supported Living, hostels and the Quay project.

The IYPS service can provide emotional support through this time, to ensure young people are safe and their well-being is improved. Funding needs to be secured to support sustainability of this service.

A Children's Residential Assessment Centre provides short term (up to 20 week) residential assessment and support provision for children and young people up to the age of 18 years. The purpose is to undertake intensive assessment and support to meet the needs of young people whilst seeking family reunification, or a longer term local fostering/residential placement.

The Centre will be able to accommodate up to 8 children or young people at any one time across all 3 buildings, including emergency placements.

The Centre will include a Registered Manager and a number of residential care staff, who will be trained in the Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) approach to supporting the children / young people. As mentioned earlier MST is an intensive family and community based clinical intervention for children and young people aged 11-17, where young people are at risk of out of home placement in either care or custody. MST teams focus on the whole world of the young person - their homes and families, schools and teachers, neighbourhoods and friends. MST staff go to where families live and work with them intensively for three to five months, including being on call to families 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Flintshire County Council will take ownership of the building by the end of March 2021 and will then be going out to tender to appoint a contractor to undertake the refurbishment work. It is envisaged that the refurbishment of three properties should be fully complete by Autumn 2022.



Priorities

Our priorities for 2021/22 will be to:

Completion of the Extra Care Programme

Progress in-house residential care expansion schemes

Launch a short term residential service to inform the most appropriate move-on placement and support package for young people?