

**Vale of Glamorgan
Bro Morgannwg**

**Cardiff
Caerdydd**

Ref:

Date: 19 December 2024

REDACTEDS40

Health, Social Care and Early Years Group
Welsh Government

Dear **REDACTEDS40**

Reflect Programme

Further to **REDACTEDS40** letter received on 11 December requesting confirmation of our arrangements to provide a Reflect Service or equivalent, we are able to confirm the following.

The Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan regional contract with Barnardo's for provision of a Reflect Service has expired, and as per Councils' procurement and financial governance process, all options have to be explored. In this context, both local authorities have been considering their options, either to externally re-tender in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations, or to move to an in-house model of delivery.

Following careful consideration and in the context of developments in our Early Help and Prevention Services in recent years, and close working relationships with Health, Housing and specialist Domestic Abuse services, we have decided to move to an alternative model of service delivery, developing a local offer in each local authority area.

These offers won't be provided as a standalone service, but from a range of services across each local authority area. We are committed to identifying services that are responsive to need. Key features of our local offers are likely to include:

In Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan

- Access to peer-to-peer support groups currently being developed in both local authority areas. These are parental advocacy models and there is increasing evidence of their success. These services empower parents to progress from those who are in need of support, to become those who mentor others and play a role in shaping future services.
- Access to support workers based in Early Help services, outside of statutory services.
- Access to wider community-based services, including tenancy support and domestic abuse support.

- Referral to Health services, such as those for mental and emotional health, substance abuse, and contraception and sexual health advice.
- Identifying where joint working opportunities with Barnardo's may arise.

We have given 3 months' notice to Barnardo's and are currently working with them to understand the needs of parents who are at this time receiving a service from Reflect, and those on the waiting list, so that tailored intervention and support can be provided to each individual. We understand the majority of the individuals currently receiving support from Reflect are nearing the end of their planned intervention and will end before the service is due to close, leaving a very small number of people who will experience a change. We hope the intended response will enable those on the waiting list to receive a more timely response, and enable us to help larger numbers of individuals.

We are wholeheartedly committed to fulfilling the moral, financial, and community benefits of a local offer, as well as reducing the risk for future children to be looked after. We hope in the same way that individuals in our areas have benefited from the Reflect service, future individuals who need such support will equally benefit from the arrangements we put in place as an alternative.

We hope this information is helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us in the event of further queries.

Yours sincerely

REDACTEDS40

Director of Children's Services

Cardiff

REDACTEDS40

Head of Children and Young People Services

Vale of Glamorgan