

From: REDACTEDS40 <REDACTEDS40@swansea.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 December 2024 11:48
To: REDACTEDS40 (HSCEY - Social Serv & Chief Social Care Officer - Enabling Division) <REDACTEDS40@gov.wales>
Cc: REDACTEDS40 (Head of Child & Family Services) <REDACTEDS40@swansea.gov.uk>; REDACTEDS40<REDACTEDS40@swansea.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Request to cascade letter - REDACTEDS40- Reflect service - Heads of Children's Services

SENT ON BEHALF OF REDACTEDS40, HEAD OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Good morning

Swansea Local Authority use RSG funding for Reflect programme itself, however we enhance this significantly with alternative approaches, using additional grant funding to support.

The Funding table below for 24/25 demonstrates our commitment to the approach

Service	Funding stream	Allocation amount
JIGSO LA	WG CCG (Grant)	£398,800
JIGSO Health	WG CCG (Grant)	£1,950,577
PAC	WG Eliminate (Grant)	£162,000
Reflect	RSG Funding (Core)	£154,800
	Total	£2,666,177

We are still very committed to the Reflect service in Swansea and we currently have Four full time reflect workers at a cost of £154,800 per year. What is being evidenced from this work is that we are seeing a reduction in repeat pregnancies and subsequent removals, this work is playing a huge part in the reduction in the number of babies being removed at birth in Swansea.

Since 2018 when Reflect Swansea started we have supported 123 parents who have had 224 children removed from their care, I have attached a report that was up to July of 2024, but since this report we have supported another 19 parents we have had a further 18 children removed. Since 2018 only 10 parents have had 11 subsequent pregnancies with 3 children remaining with their parents. This is evidence that the Reflect work in Swansea is having an impact on reducing the number of children being taken into care, reducing further heartache and trauma for the families, but also reducing the need for more costly intervention after birth, with the average cost of a baby being taken into care as over £50,000.

Research shows that almost half (47%) of newborns who are subject to care proceedings were born to mothers who previously went through care proceedings. Because of this research we aligned our Reflect team to our Jig-so and PAC teams in Swansea and it is part of our born into care work, supporting the most vulnerable parents in the first 1001 days of their children's lives. These are aligned so that there is a seamless transition between the teams, to offer the right support at the right time to some of the most complex and vulnerable parents in Swansea.

Reflect Swansea has excellent links with a wide range of services in Swansea that help us offer the right support to parents when they need it, we link in with the sexual health team in

Swansea to support our parents to access contraception, we link in with our partner drug agencies and housing officers, in order to meet the often complex needs of the birth parents. We also link in with western bay adoption services, a high number of the Reflect parents engage in letter box contact and more and more of our birth parents are having the opportunity to meet the adoptive families for their children.

In 2018 when we first started the Reflect Service we were supporting older parents who had a higher number of children removed from their care, what we are evidencing now is that the average age of the parents has reduced, plus the number of removals each of them has had has also reduced. This is evidence that we are targeting the right families with the right support and reducing the number of repeat removals.

Our plans for 2025 include reestablishing our monthly Reflect group, so the parents can access peer support from other birth parents who have a shared experience, and also developing our support offer to the dad's, we now have a dad's worker available to support this work.

Over the past three years since we started to implement our born into care work there has been a 46% reduction in babies removed at birth, in 2022 there were 33 babies removed at birth, 20 in 2023 and 18 in 2024. Over 50% of these removals were because of substance use, specifically crack cocaine, so we are developing work with the drug agencies in Swansea to try and reduce this number even further. As you can see from the figures above our Reflect service plays a huge part in preventing parents having repeat removals, with 92% of parents not having repeat pregnancies, this is a huge cost saving to the authority.

Kind Regards
REDACTEDS40

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Ysgrifenyddes i'r Pennaeth Gwasanaeth Plant a Theuluoedd
Cyfarwyddiaeth Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Secretary to the Head of Child and Family Services
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