



Our ref: WQ 81458

Bethan Sayed MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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CF99 1SN

22 March 2021

Dear Bethan,

I am writing in response to coronavirus-related Written Questions, which you submitted and have not yet received an answer to. Please accept my apologies for the time it has taken to respond to this question.

You asked - **WQ 81458**: "Further to the written statement on 29 October 2020 on support for families and vulnerable children, will the Minister provide details of how the £800,000 to promote family stability and relationship quality, providing support to families experiencing difficulties, helping to resolve conflict and reducing family stress, will be spent?"

This £800,000 non-recurrent Covid 19 funding was made available to local authorities in Wales for the purpose of working with families who require additional help and support to reduce conflict in the home because of Covid 19, either as a result of job losses, financial hardship and/or health. This will help to equip the family and parenting workforce to support parents with difficulties they are experiencing in their relationships, helping them to resolve conflict, reduce the stress on the family and provide a service for families to access help and support outside the court system.

Local authorities were asked to provide proposals on how they would use the funding within the following parameters:

- To increase the skills, knowledge and resources of the parenting and wider workforce with methods and techniques to manage inter-parental conflict, particularly in the event of family stresses and pressures resulting from Covid 19, such as job losses and/or income loss;
- To support innovative community based provision, such as parenting groups or peer support groups within the context of Covid restrictions;
- To develop innovative parenting support packages to be delivered to families virtually; and/or
- To complement the Working Together for Children (WT4C) programme, Parenting Together online tool and the Parenting Plan, by developing a new training tool and/or

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

any other resource. The resource will provide information and signposting to support options for families (including children).

- Consideration was also given to:
 - early intervention in tackling couple conflict and improving the quality of parental relationships and those involved in a child's upbringing, with support, tools and techniques available both to parents still living together and those who have separated, to allow the family to function in a more positive way; and
 - the needs and requirements of the child (particularly older children) ensuring they can access help and support for their development, wellbeing and mental health.

Each local authority has taken up their allocation and examples of what the funding has been used for include:

- commissioning virtual training with training providers specialising in relationship support; domestic abuse; and overcoming ACE's;
- development of information packs, resources, online information and animations to be used with and offered to families in conflict;
- family support toolkits and development of advice lines;
- mediation and counselling
- piloting peer support groups and;
- bespoke 1:1 personalised remote delivery and range of support.

More specifically, in South Wales West area, as well as access to appropriate training to upskill the workforce, the funding has also been used for group programmes working with fathers; virtual training for upskilling practitioners in using Non Violent Resistance (NVR); development of online training resources; training to support online delivery and converting current materials into a digital format.

Some of the funding was used by Welsh Government for licences for three parenting interventions, as well as train the trainer training for two parenting practitioners in each of the local authorities.

Yours sincerely,



Julie Morgan AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services