



Neath Port Talbot

# Think Family Partnership Newsletter

## Welcome to this newsletter

**Welcome to the first edition of the new Think Family Partnership Newsletter for staff working in the organisations that make up the partnership.**

Through this newsletter, we will aim to keep you informed about the partnership, its goals and progress.



We look forward to sharing news of our plans and achievements with you and hope that this newsletter will be a place where you can share some of your stories about your work with the partnership with us and each other.

If you have any comments about this newsletter, suggestions for articles or questions you would like to see included in the FAQ section, please email [candypp@npt.gov.uk](mailto:candypp@npt.gov.uk)

### In this edition:

- NPT Think Family Partnership **P1**
- New Team Around the Family Model **P1**
- Weekly Awareness Raising Sessions **P2**
- The Family Information Service of NPT **P2**
- Frequently Asked Questions **P3**

## NPT Think Family Partnership

Neath Port Talbot has a new Think Family Partnership and the Board met for the first time in September.

The Think Family Partnership replaces the Children and Young Peoples Partnership and our purpose is to radically improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.



We will aim to achieve this through joining up the work of agencies and professionals across the sector.

Membership includes representatives from NPTCBC, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMU), Public Health, South Wales Police, Probation Service, NPTCVS, LLAN (Primary Sector Headteacher Group), NAASH (Secondary Sector Headteacher Group), Careers Wales, Job Centre Plus, NPT College, NPT Homes and VOICE.

You might be wondering why all this is happening or have some questions about the partnership and Team Around the Family. If so, please see our list of frequently asked questions on page 3.

## New Team Around the Family (TAF) Model

Taking early action to support children, young people and their families by addressing issues at the earliest opportunity and before they get worse, can help to strengthen families and avoid them breaking down.

Effective **Early Intervention and Prevention (EiP)** services are key to achieving this.

This tried and tested approach focuses on partnership working to deal with the cause of problems rather than the symptoms and address them before they become critical. It can help to break longer term cycles of poor outcomes which can span several generations of a family. (cont. on page 2)

# New Team Around the Family (TAF) Model (cont...)

As part of our commitment to achieving the best outcomes for children, young people and their families in Neath Port Talbot, we have been looking at other local authorities where the EiP approach has really made an impact to see what we can learn from them.

Earlier this year, officers visited the London Borough of Barnet to hear how they have made EiP work. This has included joining up support from all partners, helping parents maximise their skills to give their children the best start, supporting families affected by domestic abuse and aiming to ensure that children and young people receive the right support at the right time, so that problems are addressed well before reaching 'crisis point'.

As a result we have decided to adopt the approach in Neath Port Talbot and a new model for Team Around the Family (TAF) has been developed. By investing in early intervention we are aiming to give children and young people the best start in life and reduce the demand on specialist services later on,



thereby making savings in the longer term.

The new model will redirect existing spend to target the areas that have been proven to prevent the escalation of need. It will be implemented in phases. Phase 1 is the initial roll out of the service and will be completed by March 2014. This phase will focus on targeting existing clients, new clients who meet the criteria and those in the Children's Services System who might not be receiving the most appropriate services for them.

During this phase, we will also gather more intelligence on the needs and drivers of needs of children and families in the county borough, as well as gaining a better understanding of which prevention services can best contribute to reducing high threshold cases in children's social care.

All this will act as a pathfinder for further strengthening our work to safeguard children and young people.

## Team Around the Family (TAF) Approach - Weekly Awareness Raising Sessions

The Think Family Partnership is establishing a weekly awareness raising session focussing on the TAF Approach generally and Phase 1 of the TAF model. They are starting this month until March 2014 (dates opposite). The sessions will consist of a short presentation and Q&As.

If you are interested in attending, please reserve your place by e-mailing Helen Bailey at the Partnership Office [h.bailey@npt.gov.uk](mailto:h.bailey@npt.gov.uk).

We would like to offer this workshop session in partner premises in the New Year – if you are interested in offering this facility, please contact Helen at the above email address.

Date	Venue	Time
Wed 13 Nov	Ffrwdwyllt House	1.30pm -2.30pm
Wed 20 Nov	Ffrwdwyllt House	1.30pm -2.30pm
Tues 26 Nov	Ffrwdwyllt House	3.30pm -4.30pm
Thurs 5 Dec	Ffrwdwyllt House	1.30pm -2.30pm
Wed 11 Dec	Ffrwdwyllt House	11.00am-12.00pm
Wed 18 Dec	Ffrwdwyllt House	1.00pm -2.00pm



## The Family Information Service (FIS) of Neath Port Talbot

You might have seen recent publicity about the launch of the new FIS website [www.nptfamily.com](http://www.nptfamily.com). The FIS provides free information and signposting for all the family including children under 11, young people 11 – 25 and professionals who work with families.

You can find all the latest, up to date information, news, publications and services (including childcare, youth services, play, sports, finance, health and wellbeing, education, family learning, staying safe and much more by visiting their website [www.nptfamily.com](http://www.nptfamily.com). You can also email the team at [fis@npt.gov.uk](mailto:fis@npt.gov.uk), follow them on [twitter](https://twitter.com/nptfamily) and [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nptfamily) or ring 01639 873018.

## NPT Think Family & TAF Service – Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: I do prevention work within my current work - how will the new TAF Service and the work of the Think Family Partnership Board impact that?**

**A:** The Think Family Partnership Board will be provided with a complete view of all prevention activity undertaken in NPT. The TAF Service is an important part of the prevention offer but it is one part of a whole system approach – in the coming months we will be drawing together all strands to develop a coherent menu of services to afford a single view of prevention services.

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**Q: How will we know if progress is being made on this work?**

**A:** We will publish our achievements through this Think Family Partnership Newsletter. We have also setup a robust project management system that supports the TFPB Groups. The Think family Partnership Board's Executive Group has been setup with the specific purpose of checking overall progress from ALL the TFPB sub groups.

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**Q: How do I find out more about being becoming a Family Worker?**

**A:** We will be offering secondment opportunities internally within the Council for three Family Workers in November - look out for the advertisements on the Intranet.

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**Q: How will the Family Worker work with families?**

**A:** Family Workers will have a dedicated caseload and will work through a cluster of schools and will only start work with a family when a completed referral has been received by the TAF Office and meets the criteria for the TAF Service. The Family Worker will have a suite of tools (see Training) that enable them to take an outcomes approach with that family. The Family Worker will engage with other agencies. On average the case will be worked from 16 to 24 weeks and in exceptional cases longer. All cases will have a managed exit plan.

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**Q: As a partner how will I gain a greater understanding of my role in this work?**

**A:** We propose to offer Think Family Partnership Workshops to partners in November 2013. Our Training and Development Group will be developing a Training Programme in more detail over the next month. We have identified spend to purchase assistance from likely training providers who have expertise in this area.

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**Q: What will the training content focus on?**

**A:** Our priority is to do 2 things: 1) Ready partners for the new TAF Service roll out and be explicit about what their contribution will be and 2) Delivery Training i.e. what tools etc. will the Family Worker, or Prevention Partner Worker with partner organisations, require to work with TAF families. For instance this could include specialist skills in working with families where there is Domestic Violence; Substance Abuse etc.

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**Q: How do we know what type of training Family Workers will need?**

**A:** We have looked at good practice elsewhere and we have considerable local research in terms of the likely needs our families will present. We have developed a robust way of capturing that need through a series of Think Family Indicators and we will equip the Family Workers with a series of tools. By the end of Phase 1 we will have developed a clear understanding of what will become a Core Training Programme which we will roll out from April 2014.

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**Q: How will I get a copy of the TAF Service Referral Criteria?**

**A:** We plan to include a briefing on this in the workshop.

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**Q: If I want to find out more about the work of the Think Family Partnership Board or the TAF Service who should I contact?**

**A:** If you contact the Think Family Partnership Office in the first instance (Tel: 01639 873024 or email: [candypp@npt.gov.uk](mailto:candypp@npt.gov.uk)) we can direct your enquiry appropriately.

If your enquiry is about services that can be offered to families in NPT we recommend you contact the Family Information Service in the first instance (via their website - [www.nptfamily.com](http://www.nptfamily.com); e-mail – [fis@npt.gov.uk](mailto:fis@npt.gov.uk) or Tel No: 01639 873018).

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