



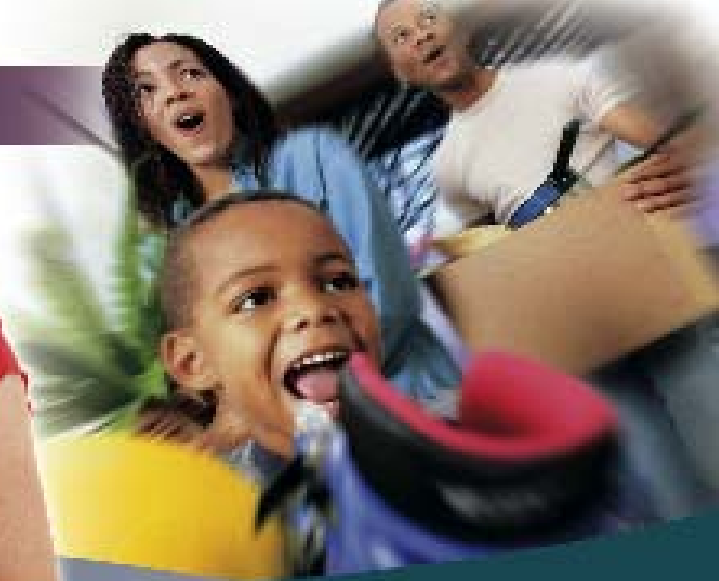
Children in Wales  
Plant yng Nghymru

# Angela Bourge Cardiff Council Children's Services

Supported by:



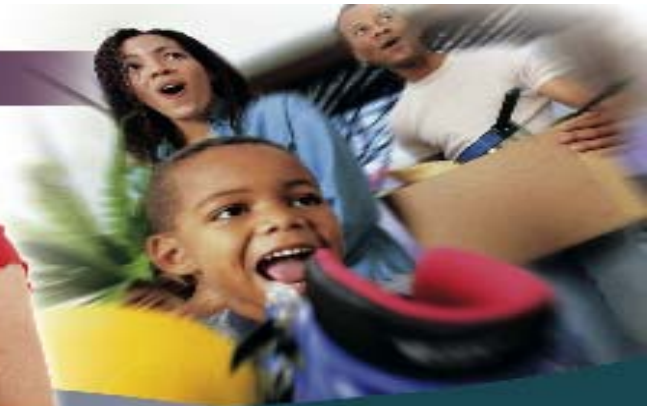
Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government



# Supporting Families In Cardiff



- *2004 small working group set up to scope the strategy*
- *Children and Young People's Partnership priority area.*
- *Chief Children's Services Officer appointed as lead.*
- *2006 multi-agency task group established*
- *Clear lines of accountability*
- *Small Commissioning Budget*



## *Aim*

- To promote the well-being, health and overall safety of children as they grow up.*
- To develop positive self-esteem of their parents.*

## *How?*

*By commissioning and developing a range of family support services and coordinated interventions for children and their families in Cardiff.*



## ***Project One***

*The development of appropriate activity to consult and engage parents on the delivery and development of services for their children.*

- Parent Network Coordinator***
- Network Project Assistant***







## ***Project Three***

***To support the development of evidenced based parenting programmes across Cardiff – ensuring programmes are accessible to a range of parents identified as priority groups within the Strategy.***

***Parent Programme Coordinator***



## *Project Four*

*Targeted support for homeless families with children under four years of age, living in temporary homeless accommodation in Cardiff.*

*Aims to have a positive impact on child and family health, child development, parent and child relationships, child and parent self-esteem, children's access to nursery education and support the transition from homeless accommodation to permanent housing.*



- *What is the picture of need in Cardiff?*
- *How can we address the need?*

# Need in Cardiff - Demography

- *72100 children and young people 0-18*
- *Increasing population (students, economic migrants, asylum seekers)*
- *Very diverse*
- *Tale of two cities:*

## *Higher than Welsh average wages but :*

- 75% of households on means tested benefits in some areas*
- Tenfold difference in unemployment*
- 10 years in life expectancy*
- 38.5 % of children in Southern Arc live in relative poverty*
- *Higher than Welsh average overcrowded housing*
- *Higher than Welsh average proportion of lone parent households*

# Need in Cardiff – Analysis for Family Support Strategy

- *Survey of existing services*
- *Children and young people's views*
- *Parents and carers views*
- *Views of people working with children and families/managing services*
- *Matching Needs and Services audit of need*

# What did children and young people tell us?

*Young people who have experience of family interventions look to their families for support but value:*


- *People who listen*
- *People who help families sort out their own problems/reduce conflict*
- *Families staying together*
- *If they can't stay together, keeping siblings in touch*
- *Activities and helping families to have fun together*

*Young carers want:*

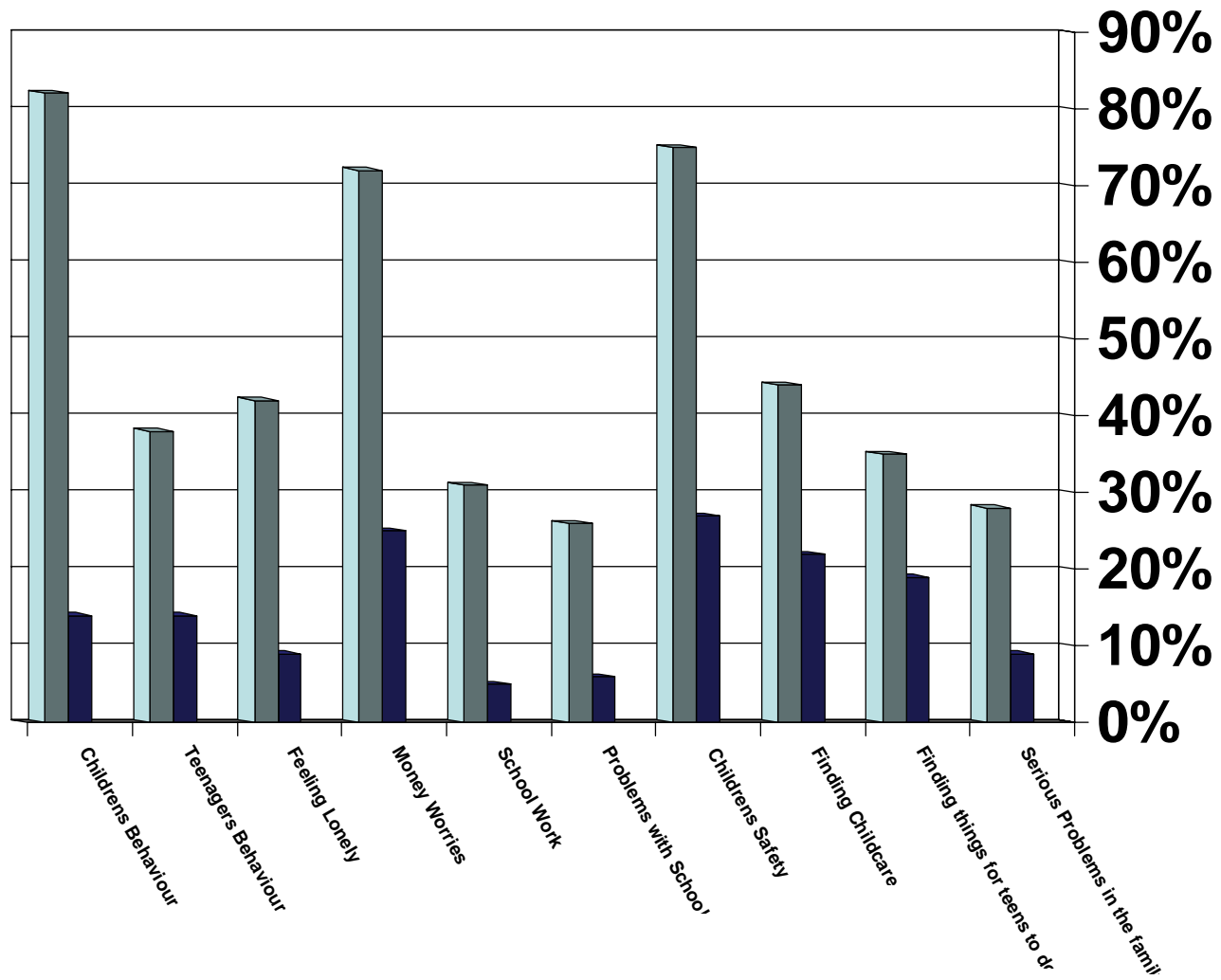
*understanding and support, especially at school. Activities.*

*Young parents want:*

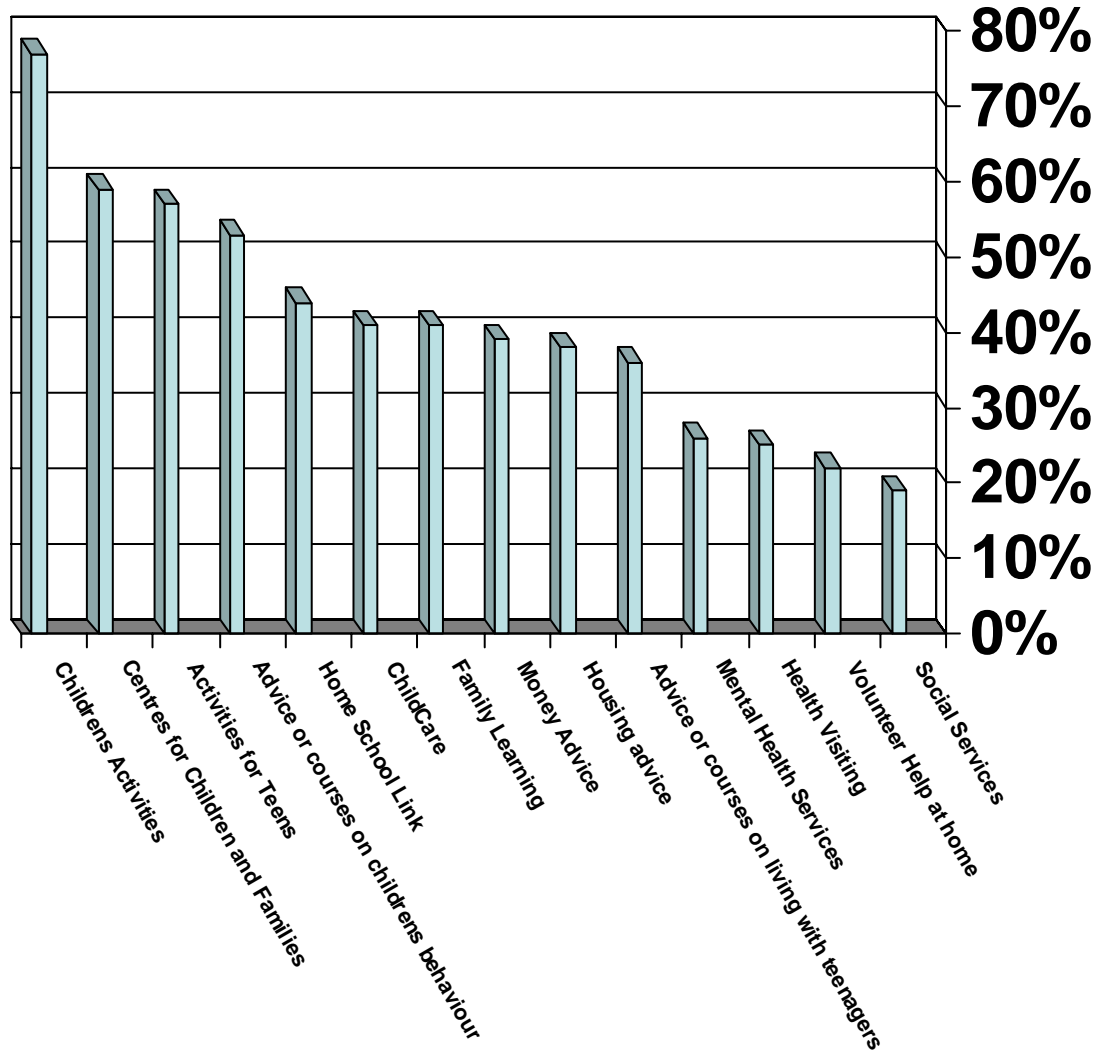
*separate antenatal care and groups*

- 
- *" Its important to have parents on board how else will you know what is missing and what would be helpful"*
  - *"As a parent I have experience of services and I know some things need to be done differently - being part of the strategy and parent representative on task group gives me a way of trying to make changes for the better "*

# What did parents/carers tell us? Worries.



# Would like more (parent survey)



# Would like more ( focus groups)

- » Information, information, information!
- » Support at transitions, especially early years e.g Parent/toddler groups, Buddy schemes
- » Money and housing advice
- » Parenting courses and advice
- » Practical support for lone parents, including more help in school holidays
- » Good relationships with school
- » Better transport
- » Affordable activities
- » More services for disabled children and short breaks
- » Language and cultural/religious needs met
- » Safety for children and young people (from traffic, paedophiles, drugs and alcohol, bullying, crime)
- » Services wherever you live in Cardiff

# What did professionals and volunteers tell us?

## **Common issues:**

- **Geographical inequalities**
- **Groups of children for whom services haven't kept pace with increasing diagnosis (disability, autistic spectrum disorders, ADHD) – some desperate families**
- **Capacity and funding issues**
- **Not enough multi-agency funding, planning and delivery**
- **Language needs**
- **Difficult to get services before problems are entrenched and damaging**
  
- **Need for more:**
- **parenting programmes/prevention/early intervention**
- **practical services**
- **longer term support**
- **CAMHs**
- **Services for adults e.g. mental health, drug programmes**

# Matching Needs and Services

- *124 cases from a range of agencies*

## The Children

- *61% boys*
- *58% White British; 42% other ethnic groups*
- *Behaviour problems at home 38%*
- *At school 23%*
- *Poor attendance 22%*
- *Low self esteem 20%*

## The Parents

- *40% lone parents*
- *Domestic abuse 31%*
- *Parental mental health problems 41%*
- *Parental drug-alcohol misuse 38%*

# Matching Needs and Services- issues

- **47% having all or some needs met**
- **19% still being assessed**
- **33% judged as not having needs met**
- **All agencies dealing with moderate to severe needs, some very complex**
- **Some would have benefited from social worker input but didn't meet criteria**
- **Reasons give for not meeting need:**
- **Lack of multi-agency plan**
- **Agency roles not clear**
- **Lack of ability to sustain services long term**
- **Lack of therapies**
- **Adult needs not met**
  
- **Most serious needs and least successful outcomes**
- **Need for much improved care at home**
- **Domestic abuse**
- **Need to overcome effects of trauma**
- **Adult relationship difficulties**

# How can we meet the needs?

Level 4 – Children/Young people with highest level of need, requiring intensive specialist support

Specialist Fostering And Multi Systemic Therapy

Level 3 – Serious and complex needs which impact on safety/welfare /development if not addressed.

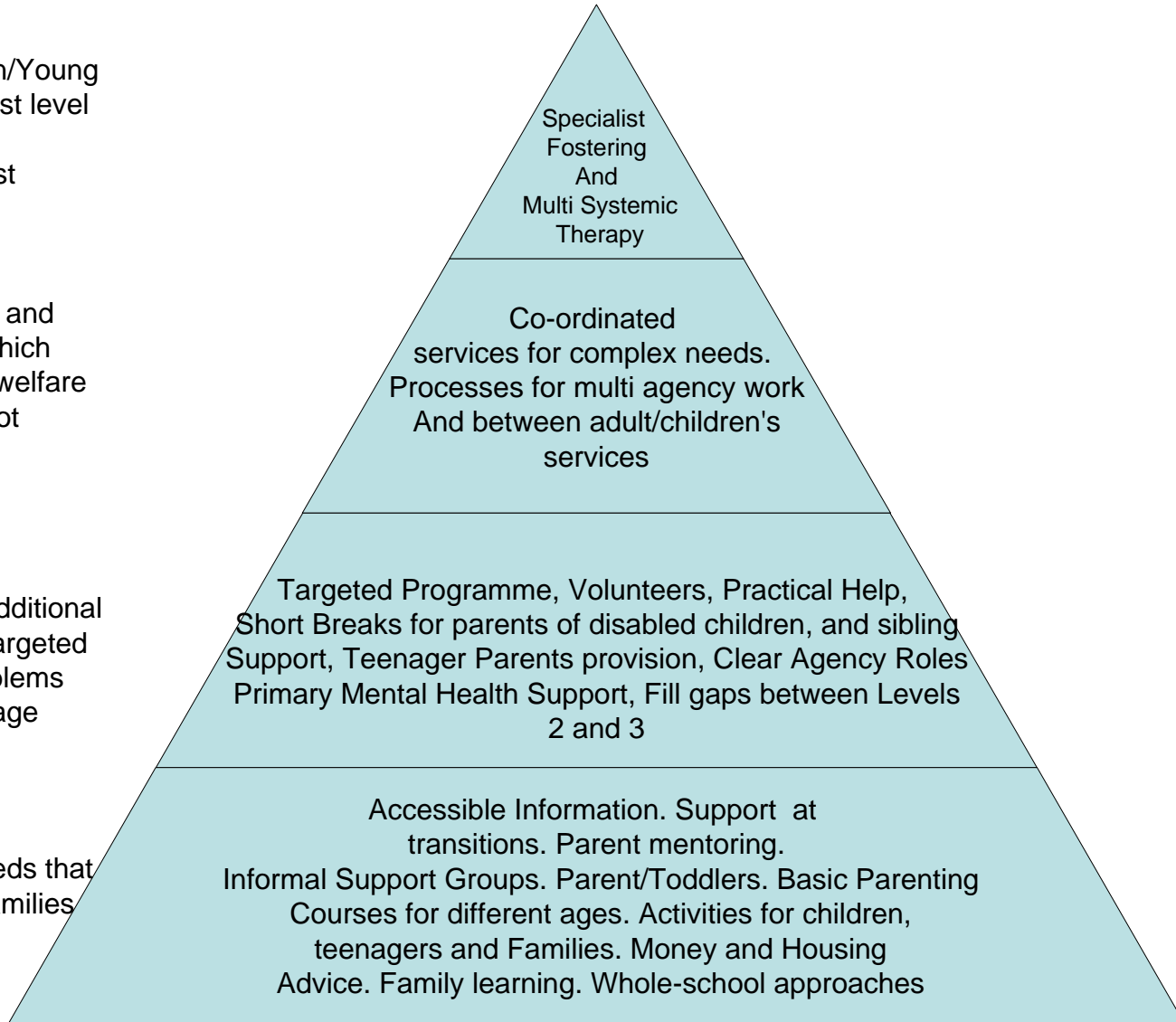
Co-ordinated services for complex needs. Processes for multi agency work And between adult/children's services

Level 2 – some additional needs requiring targeted support. Any problems are at an early stage

Targeted Programme, Volunteers, Practical Help, Short Breaks for parents of disabled children, and sibling Support, Teenager Parents provision, Clear Agency Roles Primary Mental Health Support, Fill gaps between Levels 2 and 3

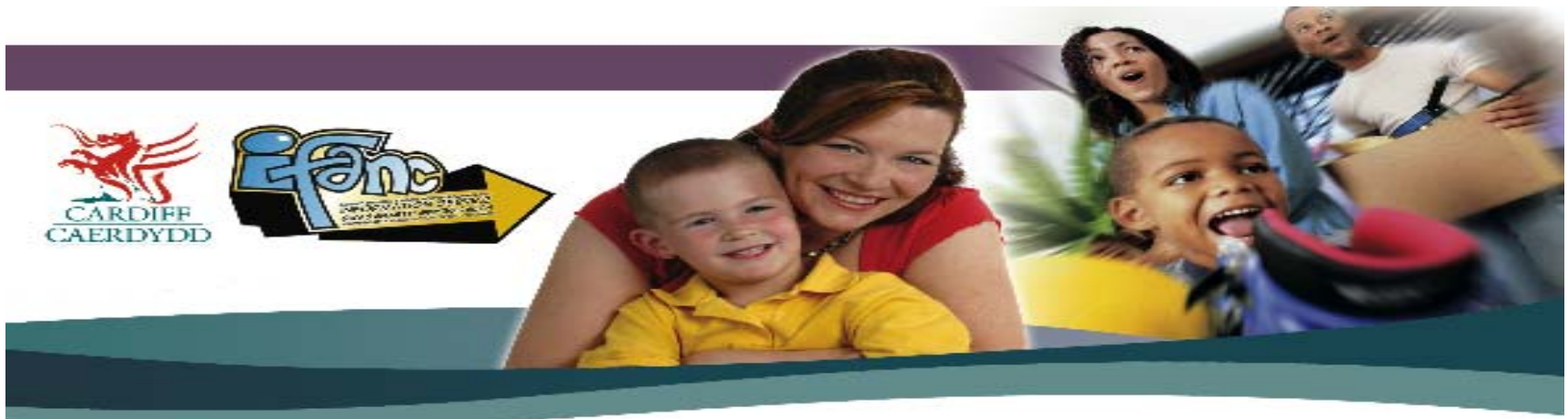
Level 1 – The needs that all children and families have

Accessible Information. Support at transitions. Parent mentoring. Informal Support Groups. Parent/Toddlers. Basic Parenting Courses for different ages. Activities for children, teenagers and Families. Money and Housing Advice. Family learning. Whole-school approaches



# How will the Family Support Strategy make a difference?

- *Practical services that meet parent's self-defined needs*
- *Accessible services*
- *Improved range of service*
- *Information about services*
- *Services that allow parents to feel in control*



- ***Strategy Document Agreed by Children and Young People's Partnership Board following comprehensive consultation.***
- ***Launch – February 13<sup>th</sup> 2008***
- ***Implementation Plan***

## *Expected Impact*

- All providers of family support services will sign up to the strategy and adhere to its values and principles.
- All services to operate within a framework of well-evaluated practice.
- Realignment of some services in order to address gaps and duplication in current provision.
- Assurance from the Children and Young People's Partnership that any applications for grant funding for family support services will be considered in light of this Strategy.

