

Dad's Support Worker Project in Blaenau Gwent

Housing

- Tai Calon
- Pobl
- Platform
- Housing Options

Reducing Interparental Conflict

- Both Parents Matter
- How to argue better
- Advocacy support

Socialising

- Swimming Groups
- Walk and Talk
- Coffee Mornings
- Gardening Project
- Creative Music Group with PIMHS

Parenting

- Circle of Security
- GroBrain
- Nurture Programme
- Bespoke Workshops & intervention
- Antenatal support



Finances

- C.A.B
- Smart Money Cymru
- Support with benefits applications

Speech, Language & Communication

- Look, Say, Sing, Play
- Links to Speech Language Therapy
- Books / Reading
- Signalong

Health & Wellbeing

- Mental Health Pathway
- GP & Primary mental health Support
- MIND / GDAS
- ACES

Employment

- Communities for Work
- Bridges into Work
- Business Support

Promoting the Service

Support for Dads



What can we help with?

- Children's Health & Wellbeing
- Increasing your 'Dads skills'
- Support with mental health
- Household & finance matters
- Maintaining positive relationships
- Signposting to support agencies
- Separation and family relationships
- Contact arrangement issues
- Family activities to join
- Dads groups

Who can we Support?

If you are a Dad to be, Dad Stepfather, Grandparent, Foster Carer or male care giver in Blaenau Gwent with a child aged 0 - 18 you are able to access our support service.

How can we help?

Free information, advice and support available now. Fathers play an important role in a child's life, we aim to support all dads in their fatherhood journey. Our role is to be flexible according to your needs, we will work with you to identify what matters to you and your family and support you in a way that is comfortable for you. Our goal is to help empower you and support you to become more resilient in your role as a father.

Areas of Delivery

As long as your permanent residence is in the borough of Blaenau Gwent we are able to support you and your family.

We support families across all of Blaenau Gwent and have access to the Flying Start hubs, where we can arrange to meet you at your convenience. We can also visit your home.

You can self-refer for support by contacting Tania Hayward and requesting a referral form. Please email tania.hayward@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk or contact the Family Information Service on 08000 32 33 39 or email fis@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Our Dads Support Team



Our team consists of three full time men. Who work from 9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday.

The following is just some of the feedback we've had from participants engaging with the service:

"Having a Dads Support Worker has helped me in many ways, for one just having someone to talk to when feeling low, always friendly, always wanting to help even when you might be afraid to ask."

"It's brilliant, just being made aware of the support that is out there and what it has done for my relationship with my partner, I came here with problems and not being turned away and having the support is helping."

"I felt a lot different in myself, stronger and a little bit happier. The support from you has been really great, you have helped so much, given me some good pointers and good advice. I really can't fault the help and support."

Overall what you do is outstanding, if it wasn't in place I think I'd be in a really dark place or even worse."

Contact Information

Steve Lewis

Steve has several years experience as a Teacher in further education and construction, helping individuals to identify and achieve desired outcomes. Steve is a both a father and more recently a grandfather.

T: 07814 284048

E: steve.lewis@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Gareth Rossiter

Gareth is an experienced Support Worker with a background in education, social housing and benefits. Gareth has a wealth of experience with services in Blaenau Gwent and is also a father.

T: 07580 858535

E: gareth.rossiter@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Matthew Harvey-Knowles

Matthew is a foster carer and has fostered many children. He has experience working with children with additional needs and has many years working in the care industry.

T: 07815 487662

E: matthew.harvey-knowles@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk



Referrals received

- Family Support Workers
- Health Visitors
- Phoenix Domestic Abuse Service
- Families First
- Social Services (across different local authorities)
- 14 + Team
- Social Services Disabilities Team
- Housing Associations
- Communities for Work / Business Support
- Self- Referral

(161 Referrals to date – 70 live cases)

Outcomes Achieved (Term 1 2022)

- 161 Fathers have been referred into the project and engaged with support
- 9 Families no longer require social service intervention (12%)
- 42 Dads have been supported to access training (33%)
- 19 Dads have gone back into work (15%)
- 20 Dads have been supported with financial debt (16%)
- 13 Dads have been supported to re-unite with their children (10%)
- 7 Dads have been prevented from becoming homeless (6%)
- 80% of Dads have reported a positive improvement in mental health
- 100% of Dads have an increased awareness of ACES
- 435 one to one home visits complete
- 181 community interventions

Groups – Swimming Group

DAD'S/ MALE CARER
SWIM GROUP
ABERTILLERY

Creative Music Group



Groups – Coffee Mornings



Groups – Walk & Talk

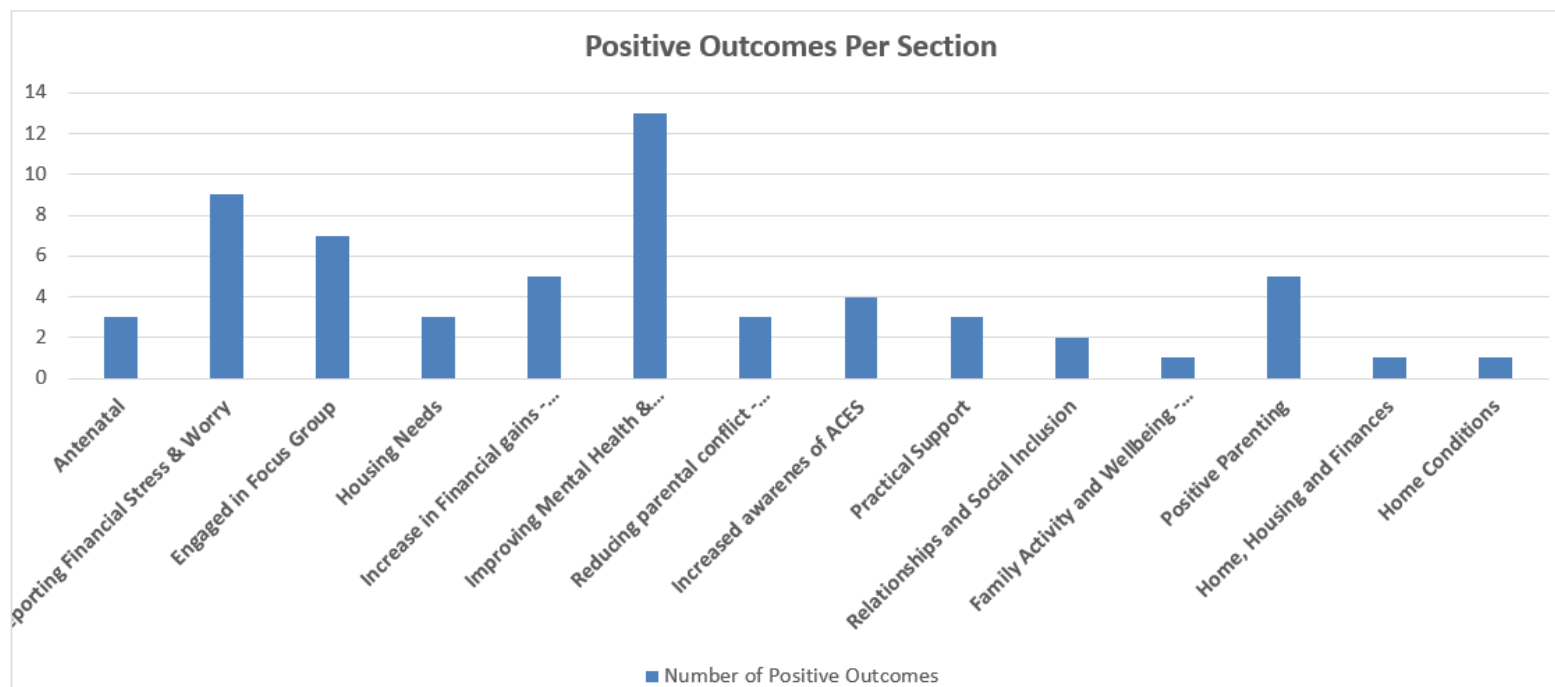


Measuring Outcomes

Blaenau Gwent Flying Start Report Term 1 Report (1st Apr- 31st Aug 2022)

Below highlights the total number of parenting and language programmes / sessions complete within the term (figure 23-28)

Figure 30



Baseline Assessment Tool

Measuring Outcomes – Baseline Assessment Tool



Reducing parental conflict – Interparental Relationships

To empower families to enhance interparental relationships and improve outcomes for children.



	Before Score	Date	After Score	Date
I feel that my partner and I have a good quality relationship.	8	2/2/2022	10	8/8/2022
I feel that I have a good co-parenting relationship with my ex-partner.	7	2/2/2022	10	8/8/2022
I feel my partner and I have good communication between us.	8	2/2/2022	10	8/8/2022
I have a good relationship with my partner's family.	9	2/2/2022	9	8/8/2022
I feel that my partner and I have a respectful relationship.	10	2/2/2022	10	8/8/2022
I feel supported in my relationship.	7	2/2/2022	10	8/8/2022
My partner and I are able to healthily resolve conflict in our relationship.	10	2/2/2022	10	8/8/2022

Comments:

There was just this one issue that kept coming up in regards to me worrying about my daughter, now I am working through this I feel that we are spending less time discussing my worries and more time just being parents.

Feedback

“Just wanted to thank you for the support you have and continue to offer to Dad. Historically, he has struggled to maintain home conditions and to parent the children effectively, however, with input from yourselves he has made significant progress during the PLO process. This positive change has been evidenced in the children’s behaviours, home conditions and his engagement with other professionals. Dad will continue to benefit from the on-going support you are able to offer, which will be instrumental when we consider how he will be supported in the future, as the children develop and their needs change. Dad himself, speaks highly of you, a massive well done!”- (Social Worker)

“I felt listened to and supported whilst going through a dark place in my life with the situation I was in. They have been a great help whilst my partner has been in hospital. The Dads Support Workers have helped dramatically. I have had some great advice when it comes to my son. I feel better about myself and my abilities as a parent after the intervention.” – (Dad)

“You have been such a massive help working with Dad and his Son. You have been proactive with practical and emotional support to them both, particularly his Son who has complex needs. You have provided the family with advice, guidance and reassurance through a really tough time, this has included parenting advice, housing support and hands on help where needed. This has been essential to get the family to their outcomes. You have been praised by the Dad constantly over the last few months. Without this relationship the family would not be where they are today. This support has shaped how we work with the family going forward” – (Disability Team)

Future Plans

- Establishing the service throughout Wales, working in collaboration with Torfaen, Bridgend, Newport, Cardiff etc. and sharing our best practice
- Secure funding and streamline the project
- Linking with PIMHS, Primary Mental Health, GP's for early intervention as oppose to crisis management
- Continuing to advocate for fathers and male role models to ensure an inclusive service and equality for fathers as parents throughout Blaenau Gwent and Wales.

Feedback





Thank you for listening

Any questions?