

## Social and Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday, 20 January 2022
<b>Report Subject</b>	Children's Transformation Project
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Social Services
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Social Services)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

North Wales has secured £3.8m grant funding for a regional Transformation Programme for Children and Young People. In the East Area a strategic partnership of Flintshire and Wrexham Councils with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) has been developed to deliver Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) and establish in-house registered Children's Residential Care.

Members have previously received a report on 'phase 1' of the Transformation programme which saw the establishment of a MST Team and the procurement of the Ty Nyth residential care site in Mold.

This report is provided as an information item to appraise Members of the plans for 'phase 2' of the Transformation programme which will be delivered in 2022. The key deliverables will incorporate:

- An independent Evaluation of our existing MST Team
- The opening of a joint Flintshire/Wrexham Registered Residential Assessment Centre 'Ty Nyth'
- A joint Flintshire/Wrexham crisis flat providing registered emergency accommodation and support in emergencies
- A second MST Team providing assessment and therapy to build resilience and support family reunification and 'move on' from Ty Nyth
- A registered Children's Home providing long term placements for up to 4 Flintshire Children in a settled, homely environment

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Members note progress and associated delivery plans for the Transformation Fund.
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## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE CHILDRENS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT</b>
1.01	Flintshire Council is committed to working with partners to ensure safe, high quality support for children on the edge of care and those who are looked after. The ambition is for local young people to develop the skills and resilience to lead fulfilled lives without the need for high levels of on-going support from social care. The main aim is to support families to care for their own children, and to prevent them, if safe to do so, from becoming looked after. This is what the majority of families want and where most children will best achieve their potential. During 2022 we will deliver the second phase of our transformation project to realise our ambition. The cornerstones of our phase 2 project are set out in below.
1.02	<b>Independent Evaluation of MST Team</b>
1.03	The Multisystemic Therapy (MST) team provides intensive assessment and therapeutic support for young people who don't meet the thresholds for CAMHS, but are displaying significant needs, often with high levels of dysregulated behaviour, and patterns of school exclusion / risk of exclusion. The MST Team became operational in May 2020 during the COVID lockdown, and comprises of a Supervisor, four Therapists and an Administrator.
1.04	The MST operate the Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) UK model under strict licencing requirement including competency to practice through intensive training. The Team provides direct support to build the resilience of families for between 3 and 5 months. The focus is preventing family breakdown and reducing the need for children to unnecessarily enter the care system. The Team works with some of the most complex cases and have capacity to support up to 20 families across the East Area at any one time.
1.05	Oxford Brookes University have been commissioned to evaluate the MST project and at the final stage of their final evaluation which includes qualitative work to assess the impact of the intervention through discussions with the young people and families who have been supported to date. The learning from the evaluation will help inform our approach to establishing a second MST Team aligned to our residential provision.
1.06	<b>Ty Nyth: Setting up a local children's residential assessment centre</b>
1.07	In March 2021 Ty Nyth, Mold was acquired by Flintshire Council from Clwyd Alyn Housing to provide a short term (up to 16 weeks) residential assessment centre for both Flintshire and Wrexham children. The Centre, a joint Wrexham and Flintshire service, will meet the needs of young

	<p>people whilst seeking family reunification, or a longer term local fostering / residential placement. The refurbishment is delivered by Reads Construction, who have worked with us to develop a modern, energy efficient building that provides a homely setting. Planning permission and required permits and licences have all been obtained with work commencing on the site in December 2021. The refurbishment has a projected end date of July 2022.</p>
1.08	<p>Once complete Ty Nyth will provide four residential assessment beds. The residential team will include the Manager, Deputy Manager and 8 care staff who will work on a rota basis. The Residential Manager has been appointed and will be responsible for preparing the setting for CIW registration, along with recruiting the rest of the residential team. Subject to Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) registration requirements, the intention is that Ty Nyth will be operational and taking placements in Autumn 2022.</p>
1.09	<p><b>Registered Crisis Provision</b></p>
1.10	<p>At the rear of Ty Nyth there will be a separate registered crisis flat, with its own parking and entrance. The provision will be used in emergencies to provide appropriate accommodation and support. Staff from Ty Nyth will provide support at the provision which will be designed for short term use.</p>
1.11	<p><b>MST Family Intervention Transition (FIT) support model</b></p>
1.12	<p>Building on the success of our community based MST Team we will develop a second MST Team to support children at Ty Nyth. A specific model of MST for residential care, known as MST FIT, will be established. The MST FIT model works for 3 to 4 months with young people aged 12-17 years and their parents/carers to identify the issues which may present difficulties in order to plan a successful return home. Once the young person has returned home, work continues with the family/carers for up to a further four months and with other key agencies to support the resettlement.</p>
1.13	<p>The MST FIT team will include a Supervisor, four therapists and business support, whilst supported by a Psychiatrist on a part-time basis. The Supervisor has been recruited and will be employed by BCUHB. They take up post in February 2022. Their first role will be to recruit the full Team. In the first instance the Team will operate alongside the existing MST team and transition into the residential setting once the refurbishment has been completed. This will provide additional therapeutic capacity in the community to meet the current demand. Once opened the MST FIT will be located at Ty Nyth.</p>
1.14	<p><b>A registered Children's Home providing long term placements for Flintshire children</b></p>
1.15	<p>Alongside Ty Nyth there will be a separate registered Children's Home providing 4 placements for Flintshire children. This provision will consist of 2 semi-detached houses that are being developed into a single development to offer long term, local placements for our children. The Home will be registered to support children between the aged of 8-18. There will be a separate residential manager and we are currently in a</p>

	recruitment campaign for this post. We anticipate to open this provision in Autumn of 2022 subject to CIW registration.
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	All of the capital costs for the refurbishment will be covered by Intermediate Care Fund (ICF), already secured through Flintshire and Wrexham Councils.
2.02	The establishment and initial salary costs are covered as part of the transformation project funding for 2021/22. The costs associated with Ty Nyth, the crisis provision and the two MST Teams total £1.4m and are built into the funding proposals for the new Regional Integrated Care Fund. There will be a requirement for an initial 10% match funding for the first 2 years followed by 30% match funding. This be established through existing resources allocated to the project by both Flintshire and Wrexham Councils. A comprehensive legal agreement has been developed that will need to be agreed between the two Councils which covers financial responsibility for capital and revenue costs and arrangements for continued commitment and well as processes for exiting the agreement if deemed necessary.
2.03	Revenue costs for the Flintshire residential provision have been built into the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	Risk registers have been developed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for the project identifying the key areas of risk which need to be managed from an operational perspective; and</li> <li>• Reads Construction have also developed a risk register for the refurbishment of the properties.</li> </ul>
3.02	The delivery will support improvements in delivery of care for services for children. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the overall programme, which is the responsibility of the Regional Partnership Board.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	Information sharing has taken place with the Ward Councillors and those residents who are closest to the properties. A letter explaining what was planned with contact details of officers should they have any questions, was delivered as part of a door-knocking exercise in August 2021. The majority of the residents were happy that the properties were being brought back into use, as they were attracting anti-social behaviour while they were empty.

4.02	A letter from Reads was sent to neighbouring residents in December 2021 explaining the work that would be carried out along with the site manager calling in on properties to meet neighbours and explain the plans.
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<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	None

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>contact Officer:</b> Craig Macleod, Senior Manager: Children's <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 701313 <b>E-mail:</b> craig.macleod@flintshire.gov.uk

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
	None