

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol at y Cyfarfod Llawn Information Further to Plenary

Cyhoeddir ymatebion yn yr iaith y'u darparwyd, gyda chyfieithiad Saesneg o ymatebion yn y Gymraeg.

Responses are published in the language in which they are provided, with a translation into English of responses provided in Welsh.

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at y Datganiad a Chyhoeddiad Busnes a gyhoeddwyd gan Gwenda Thomas, y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, ar 14 Chwefror 2012

Information further to the Business Statement and Announcement issued by Gwenda Thomas, the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services, on 14 February 2012

At/To Rebecca Evans:

Integrated Family Support Services (IFSS)

Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Finance and Leader of the House, has asked me to respond to you to clarify the expansion of IFSS to support parents with learning disabilities and mental health issues.

As Jane explained in the Chamber we have a clear expansion plan for IFSS, which is a key feature in our Sustainable Social Services for Wales to better support vulnerable children and families.

IFSS is multi-dimensional and requires a managed approach to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to effect and sustain the rollout of the programme. Key to this is that practitioners are trained, and highly skilled in the necessary intervention techniques, that promote behavioural change in families. The technique of Motivational Interviewing has been found to be particularly effective in addressing parental substance misuse. You will appreciate that it will take time to build sufficient capacity in the service teams in order that we can extend this to other parental issues.

I do, however, recognise the importance of supporting families with Learning Disabilities. To inform the evidence base for the rollout of IFSS to Learning Disabilities we undertook a study to identify the support needs of parents with Learning Disabilities. Information on this research, *Being a Family: Parents with Learning Disabilities in Wales*, can be found at the following link, along with a letter that I wrote to all local authorities:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/family/?lang=en>

To further support this development we are continuing to work with Learning Disabilities Wales by holding two workshops this month to help inform draft Good Practice Guidance for Local Authorities and their partners, to issue later this year.

Thank you for your interest in this important programme. I will continue to update you and other Members on our progress by implementing the IFSS programme as further developmental milestones are reached.