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ECAY6004: Relationships, Communication and Families in Contemporary Society

Families – A Welsh Perspective

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives

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Learning Review

What did we look at in our last session?

Support for Families in Wales
Group Activity

- What do you already know?
- What support is there available for families?
- Any examples from practice?
- Any policies or initiatives that could address any of the issues highlighted?
- Government proposals?

Support for Families in Wales

- Broadly speaking Welsh policy for supporting families can be seen as having two main foci
- Flying Start
- Families First
- In this Theme we will take a little time to look at these two areas of policy

Support for Families in Wales

- Researching Welsh policy: A current Issue
- We have already had cause to discuss this issues regarding finding resources on the Welsh Government website.
- This issue applies here……

- Flying Start https://gov.wales/get-help-flying-start
- Families First https://gov.wales/families-first

Support for Families in Wales

- Researching Welsh policy: A current Issue
- So, as directed we can go to the relevant section of a local authority website, e.g.
- Carmarthenshire Families First
  - https://fis.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/families-first/
- We will return to look at local authorities later in the module

Support for Families in Wales

- Researching Welsh policy: A current Issue
- However, the Guidance does exist on the Welsh Government website

Flying Start

Families First

Welsh Government's Flying Start programme

- What is Flying Start?

'Flying Start is the Welsh Government's flagship Early Years programme for families with children who are under 4 years of age and is targeted in some of our most deprived areas in Wales. It is a vital tool in delivering the 7 Core Aims for children and young people'.

(Welsh Government, 2012, p.3)

Seven Core Aims

- What are the 7 Core Aims?
  - ‘The Welsh Assembly Governments seven core aims for children and young people summarise the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)’.
  - ‘They form the basis for decisions on priorities and objectives nationally’.
  - ‘They should also form the basis for decisions on strategy and service provision locally’.

(WJEC, No Date)

Seven Core Aims

- The 7 Core Aims have been part of Welsh Government policy since the publication of Children and Young People: Rights to Action in 2004
- However, for a more recent and comprehensive guide to how the Welsh Government intends to meet the 7 Core Aims see Programme for Children and Young People

(Welsh Government, 2015)

Welsh Government's Families First programme

- What is Families First?
- Families First is designed to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.
- It places an emphasis on early intervention, prevention, and providing support for whole families, rather than individuals.
- The programme promotes greater multi-agency working to ensure families receive joined-up support when they need it.
- The intention of the programme is to provide early support for families with the aim of preventing problems escalating.

(Welsh Government, 2017, p.3)

Welsh Government's Families First programme

- Families First is a key response to the Welsh Government's Child Poverty Strategy.
- The strategy has three strategic objectives, and Families First is an important driver to achieving these objectives:
- The three objectives are..

Welsh Government's Child Poverty Strategy

- reducing the numbers of families living in workless households;
- improving the skills of parents/carers and young people living in low income households, so they can secure well-paid employment; and
- reducing inequalities that exist in health, education and economic outcomes for children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest – with a focus on supporting families to achieve better outcomes for children.

Welsh Government's Families First programme

- Families First must demonstrate that it can improve population outcomes in relation to tackling child poverty; as a result five national programme population outcomes have been identified:

Welsh Government's Families First programme

- 1. low income and disadvantaged families have the support they need to progress towards, and to secure, employment and progression within employment;
- 2. children from low income/workless households reach health, social and cognitive development milestones;
- 3. children, young people and families are healthy and have good levels of well-being;

Welsh Government's Families First programme

- 4. the impact of poverty on aspiration and educational attainment is reduced and children from low income/workless households reach their full potential; and

- 5. disadvantaged young people from low income households have the support they need to stay on in education or training or to secure employment.

Welsh Government's Families First programme

- Welsh Government's Families First programme outlines clear systems for multi-agency support,
- with an emphasis on prevention and early intervention are put in place.
- This includes the concept of the Team Around the Family (TAF)

Welsh Government's Families First programme

- The 'Team Around the Family' (TAF) is a process for delivering integrated services for children, young people and their families.
- The best way of supporting children, particularly those living in poverty, is by working with the whole family.
- Families need different levels of support depending on their circumstances.
- Complicated problems will need more intensive support. However, some families may need help to overcome smaller problems to avoid them becoming complicated

Policy Direction and links to other Modules

- Why is there an emphasis on joined-up working?
- Any ideas?
- Which other Modules have we discussed this in?

Families First

- Each local authority has to consider the ways in which they can deliver Families First and provide evidence of a contribution to achieving the five national programme outcomes.
- At the delivery level providers will need to establish a process for identifying the ways in which local programme outcomes contribute to the national programme outcomes.

Parenting: Give It Time

- One other aspect of Welsh Government policy on Families is the Parenting: Give It Time programme

Discussion Point: Are you aware of this programme?

- Let's take a look at the website

Guided Study
Individual Task

- Undertake some small scale desk top research into your local area or an area of interest to you to find out what initiatives and work is happening under the Flying Start, Families First or Parenting: Give It Time programmes.
- Share your findings/examples of good practice next week.
- Bullet points will be sufficient.
- This is good preparation for you to consider what practitioners do in response to these issues.

Guided Study: Local Initiatives

References

Welsh Government (No Date) *Parenting: Give it Time* Cardiff: Welsh Government Available at: https://gov.wales/parenting-give-it-time [Accessed 09/02/2020]

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