

Regional Integration Fund - Two-page profile

Supporting families to Stay Together (PR001)

This profile shows the high-level details relates to the annual proposal, monitoring and evaluation, including indicators, performance measures, expenditure and the impact for service users.

Overview/summary of the programme

CTM region is implementing a comprehensive strategy to support families and prevent children from entering care through targeted initiatives and workforce development. Key initiatives include a dedicated MAPPS therapy service for children looked after and a range of pre-birth support programs, aiming to empower vulnerable parents, increase parental resilience, reduce the risk of parent/child separation, encourage positive parent and child relationships, bonding and attachment and prevent infants from entering care.

Concurrently, the region is advancing a Systemic Change Model of Practice in social work, emphasising strengths-based approaches and collaborative partnerships across statutory and voluntary sectors. Led by a Practice/Systemic Practitioner, this initiative aims to improve intervention effectiveness, staff morale, and retention while reducing the revolving door scenario of families re-entering services. A dedicated Outreach Worker focusing on fathers to enhance engagement and reduce risks within family units also provides a vital service focusing on dads engagement in family life.

Overall, CTM's approach seeks to address root causes early, promote family stability, improve long-term outcomes for children and families across the region with the primary aim of preventing children entering care.

RIF deliverables:

Primary model of care:

Families to stay together

Enablers:

Integrated planning and commissioning

Workforce development and integration

Priority population group/s:

Children and young people

Regional approach:

The programme is delivered by multiple partners from the statutory and voluntary sector and is available across the whole region.

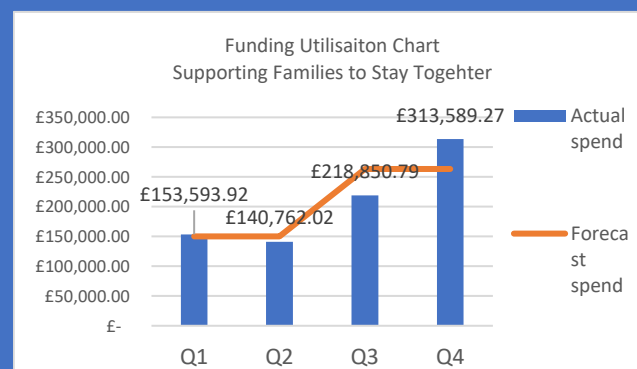
Priority (Linked to Area Plan)

Behaviour support for children, young people and their families.

Deliver an improved whole system approach for providing mental health support to children and young people across the region.

Families will have access to the information and support they before, during and after diagnoses.

Project expenditure – £129,767 (2023/24 FY)



Projects/partners supporting delivery:

CTM UHB

RCT CBC

MT CBC

BCBC

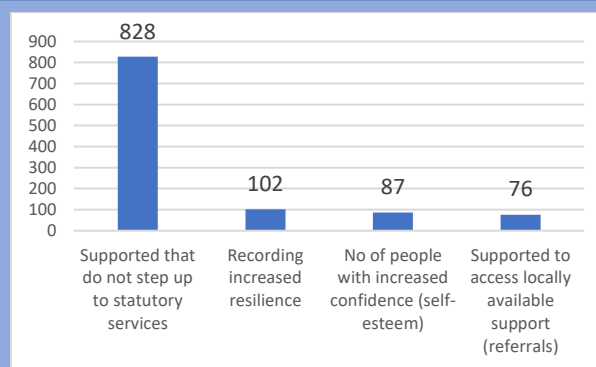
Summary of expenditure:

The funding received from RIF is a contribution towards the delivery of a larger range of early years support services operating across the whole region. The funding provided during 2023/24 was fully utilised during the year.

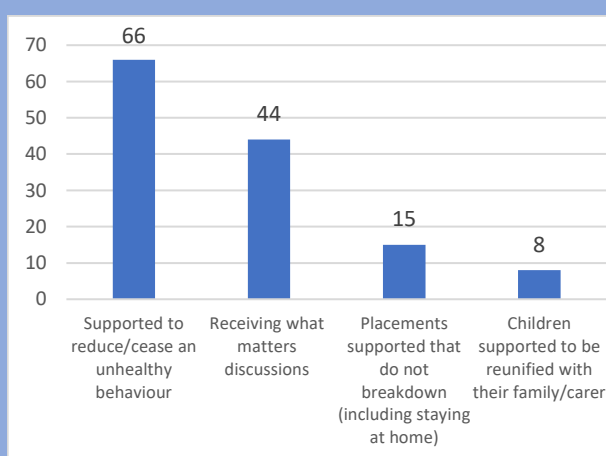
Programme outputs (annual figures):
(includes additional outcome measures)

No of assessments undertaken (all about me)	2753
No of people supported (total per quarter)	1996
No of referrals received	727
No of parents who actively engage in long-term contraception	317
No of fathers supported	165
No of post birth plans developed	99
No of families competing grow brain	99
No of systemic consultations complete	45

Programme outcomes: (primary measures)
(Numbers)



Programme outcomes: (primary measures)



Performance overview: (summary)

The MAPSS and Pre-Birth Services in CTM have demonstrated positive performance in providing crucial therapeutic and preventative support. MAPSS has successfully aided 393 care-experienced children with tailored interventions, contributing to stability and well-being improvements. Stakeholder feedback has been consistently positive, highlighting benefits such as reduced child-to-parent violence and enhanced educational integration. Collaborative partnerships and MOUs have streamlined service delivery across 3 LAs, ensuring efficient allocation of therapy units. Expansion of pre-birth services through regional funding has bolstered support for at-risk families, albeit with dependency concerns on external funding. Challenges include initial referral delays and high complexity of cases.

Impact of the programme (qualitative):

The MAPSS and Pre-Birth Services in Cwm Taf Morgannwg have had a significant qualitative impact on care-experienced children and their families. MAPSS has improved placement stability, reduced child-to-parent violence, and facilitated better educational integration. Feedback from social workers, carers, and young people has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting enhanced ability to manage difficulties and improved emotional regulation among children.

Pre-birth services have successfully built trust and support networks for care-experienced parents, leading to over 80% of babies referred to the Baby in Mind service remaining with their parents. The introduction of the Magu service has begun to address preventive support needs, although its long-term impact still needs to be assessed.

This programme has fostered collaborative relationships between local authorities and healthcare providers, creating a collaborative approach to early intervention. However, challenges such as initial referral delays, high caseload complexity, and reliance on external funding remain. Overall, the programme has taken significant steps in providing essential support and improving outcomes for vulnerable children and families, demonstrating the value of a coordinated, multi-agency approach.

Recommendations:

Continue funding for the Programme.

The programme has shown significant positive impacts on children, parents, and carers, including improved placement stability, reduced violence, better emotional regulation, and enhanced parental confidence. Feedback from social workers, carers, and service users consistently highlights the benefits and effectiveness of the support provided. The programme addresses complex needs that mainstream services often cannot meet. The holistic and specialised support is crucial for the targeted population. The services provided also fill critical gaps in existing support structures, particularly for care-experienced children and vulnerable parents.

Additional considerations:

Secure sustainable funding: Identify long-term funding stability beyond RIF to maintain and expand services.

Enhance integration and collaboration: Further develop an integrated approach across the regional area.

Targeted training Provide specialised training and ongoing support for foster carers and adoptive parents to manage trauma and behavioural issues effectively.

Peer support networks: Establish support groups for carers to share experiences, reducing isolation and stress.