

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE CORPORATE PARENTING CABINET COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 3RD MARCH, 2009

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - CHILDREN

**STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE
FOSTERING, ADOPTION AND CHILDREN'S HOMES**

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval of the revised Statements of Purpose for the service areas specified below in line with regulatory requirements.
- 1.2 Within the Children's Homes Regulations (Wales) 2002, the Fostering Services Regulations (Wales) 2003, and the Local Authority Adoption Service (Wales) Regulations 2005, there is a requirement that each of the children's homes and service areas have a 'Statement of Purpose'.
- 1.3 The content is prescribed by the regulations and each 'Statement of Purpose' produced is shaped by those requirements and provide relevant information on the aims and objectives of each service area and the services and facilities provided by the individual children's home or fostering and adoption service. 'Statements of Purpose' are required for:
 - Cartrefle Children's Home
 - Maesteg Community Home
 - Pant Morfa Children's Home
 - Baker's Way Short Break Service
 - Adoption Services
 - Fostering Services

2.0 Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan/Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 The report links to the following corporate priority:
 - Children Today, Adults Tomorrow

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Children's Homes (Wales) Regulations 2002 (Regulations 4 and 5), the Fostering Services (Wales) Regulations 2003 (Reg 3 and 4) and the Local Authority Adoption Service (Wales) Regulations (2005) and

Local Authority Adoption Service and Miscellaneous Amendments (Wales) Regulations 2003 (Reg 3 and 5) require that all 'Statements of Purpose' are approved and subsequently kept under review by the Registered Provider. This is done on an annual basis. Best practice indicates that this should be the elected members as part of the corporate parenting function. In addition, the CSSIW Inspection reports in relation to the regulated services reiterate this action must be completed.

- 3.2 The 'Statement of Purpose' is a summarising document that describes the range of services and information about the particular service. It is a publicly available document but is specifically for use by anyone involved in the service area to which it applies, for example, children, parents, foster carers, adoptive parents, practitioners and managers. A copy is also made available to the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales. Along with the 'Statement of Purpose', the service provider must also produce a written guide to the service it is engaged in delivering and this is referred to as the 'Children's Guide'. This summarises the 'Statement of Purpose' in a format that is easily understood by any age of child.
- 3.3 Bridgend County Borough Council, in fulfilling its duties and obligations to looked after children, has established a Corporate Parenting Committee which will continue to develop a corporate parenting approach to ensure the needs of children and their families are met in the most effective and appropriate way. The 'Statements of Purpose' provide elected members with detailed information about the nature and management of key services for looked after children.

4.0 Current Situation

- 4.1 Each 'Statement of Purpose' includes an outline of the nature and scope of the service provided and gives detail about the processes adopted in order to carry out its functions.
- 4.2 The main areas covered in the 'Statement of Purpose' include access to services, information relating to the staff engaged in the service provision, the management structure, policies and procedures in relation to a range of service provision, and complaints.
- * 4.3 Copies of each 'Statement of Purpose' are attached as appendices for nominated representatives on the Committee and members of the Corporate Management Board only. Additional copies are placed in the Members' room and are available electronically on Bridgend County Borough Council's website.
- 4.4 Baker's Way Statement of Purpose has had minor amendments. These have consisted chiefly of rephrasing of certain sections, particularly the Aims and Objectives section. The Facilities and Services section has

been re-structured and Section 5 on staffing has been updated The amendments made to each of the other 5 Statements of Purpose relate to updates in respect of staffing and the recent change to the Directorate structure. None of the changes have significantly affected the role and function of any of the services provided.

5.0 Effect on Policy and procedure Rules

5.1 None.

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 There is a statutory requirement that the National Assembly is to be notified of any revision to a statement of purpose within 28 days.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 None.

8.0 Recommendation

8.1 That Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee approve the revised individual 'Statement of Purpose' for the named service areas referred to.

9.0 Contact Officers

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10.0 Background Papers:

Statements of Purpose

- Adoption Services
- Fostering Services
- Baker's Way Short Breaks Home
- Cartrefle Children's Home
- Pant Morfa Children's Home
- Maesteg Community Home

