

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING CABINET COMMITTEE

26 MAY, 2009

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - CHILDREN

PLANNING THE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

1. Purpose of Report.

* For the Committee to consider, amend and approve the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee's Forward Work Programme 2009/10 (attached as an Appendix)

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority.

The report links to the following corporate priority:

- Children Today, Adults Tomorrow

3. Background.

Given the pro-active approach of Committee members and their wish to be involved in all aspects of the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities, Cabinet has agreed to delegate its functions and extend the remit of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee. Its revised terms of reference now include to:

- ensure that looked after children are seen as a priority by the whole of the Authority and by the Children and Young People's Partnership;
- seek the views of children and young people in shaping and influencing the parenting they receive;
- ensure that appropriate policies, opportunities and procedures are in place;
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Authority in its role as corporate parent against Welsh Assembly guidance;
- approve individual Statements of Purpose for the service areas of Fostering, Adoption and Children's Homes;
- receive information specifically relating to Looked After Children and the Authority's Corporate Parenting role;
- approve the Placement Strategy;
- approve support plans and recruitment campaigns for Foster Parents;
- approve schemes in relation to work experience, training and apprenticeships for Looked After Children and former Looked After Children;
- approve increases in allowances which can be funded within existing budgets and amendments to the method of assessing financial support relating to Looked After Children; and
- approve residential reviews relating to Looked After Children.

4. Current situation / proposal.

In the context of the revised terms of reference, the aim is for the Committee's Forward Work Programme to reflect priorities for 2009. The focus for this year is on:

- finalising the draft policy statement – “Corporate Parenting” currently out for consultation until mid-May;
- articulating the roles of officers, members and partners in relation to corporate parenting;
- presenting to Council the remit of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee and the responsibilities of Members;
- the development of work experience placements for care leavers, to include a meeting with those members and officers in Rhondda Cynon Taff who have established an award-winning scheme in relation to work experience, training and employment for care leavers.

The Forward Work Programme also includes scrutiny of the performance of the Children's Directorate in relation to the well-being and progress of looked after children and young people. Members are invited to consider the programme in the Appendix and add any other topics which they would wish to explore.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

None.

6. Legal Implications.

None.

7. Financial Implications.

None.

8. Recommendation.

That Committee considers, amends as necessary and approves its Forward Work Programme for 2009/10.

Hilary Anthony
Corporate Director - Children
28th April, 2009

Contact Officer: Lindsay Harper,
Head of Safeguarding and Family Support

Telephone: (01656) 642314

E-mail: lindsay.harper@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Children's Directorate,
Sunnyside,
Bridgend
CF31 4AR