

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING CABINET COMMITTEE

26 JULY 2011

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN

**SAFEGUARDING AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE 2010/11
INTERIM HEAD OF SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT**

1. Purpose of Report

To present to the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee, prior to its submission to CSSIW, the Annual Report of the Head of Service – Safeguarding and Family Support submitted for and within the Annual Council Reporting Framework. This is the second Annual Report of the Head of Service – Safeguarding and Family Support following the new arrangements for evaluating Social Services in Wales. The new process centres on self-evaluation, involves consultation with Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW) and will continue to be the major source for CSSIW’s inspection programme.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 The work of the Cabinet Committee is linked to the “Young Voices” theme.

3. Background

3.1 In 2010 CSSIW introduced a new “Annual Reporting Framework” requiring all authorities in Wales to produce an Annual Report on the Effectiveness of their Social Care Services. The Annual Reports deliver the council's own assessment of performance in respect of their social services responsibilities and focus on strategic objectives and improvement priorities across the department. This new approach to reporting is intended to:

- see performance management accountability transfer from the national centre back to council members, chief executives, directors, managers and officers
- present a recognisable picture to those delivering and served by their social services locally
- generate the core set of information needed by CSSIW to deliver their annual performance
- provide assurance function

- link much more immediately to business planning for priority improvement

3.2 One of the longer term aims for the Annual Reporting Framework is that it will serve to address a number of reporting obligations in respect of social care and reduce the necessity for duplication of reporting effort. Work to develop this framework for annual reporting came from a commitment shared by the WLGA and ADSS Cymru to report openly and promptly on the effectiveness of each authority in meeting both needs and statutory obligations in social services, and also to link that report urgently to planned and continuous improvement. The Welsh Assembly Government then reflected the duty on the Director of Social Services to report annually in its new Statutory Guidance on the Director's Role, and CSSIW has made it a cornerstone of its modernised approach to regulation and inspection. It represents a move towards a new, mature, relationship between local government and the Inspectorate, which recognises authorities' prime and sovereign responsibilities under law. The Annual Council Reporting Framework places social services firmly at the heart of corporate and democratic local government.

3.3 Abigail Harris, Statutory Director for Social Services in Bridgend has completed her Director's Annual Overview Report which has been informed by the annual reports of the Heads of Service for both the Safeguarding and Family Support Service and Wellbeing.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

4.1 The attached report will be submitted as a supplementary report to that of BCBC's statutory Director of Social Services' overview report. It reports on a range of issues related to how the authority has discharged its responsibilities to safeguard and protect children and sights the fundamental role that the Corporate Parenting Committee plays by having the same aspirations for Bridgend's Looked After Children as parents would for their own children.

4.2 Key issues note in the attached report include;

- An overview of the primary aims of the Safeguarding and Family Support Service.
- An overview of the range of service provided by the service.
- An overview of performance
- An overview of significant strategic and operational developments throughout 2010/11

4.3 Whilst the report does not only consider provision and outcomes for looked after children and young people, these are major strands of work for the service. Our engagement with children in need and in child protection include the aim of keeping children safe and well, without the need of them becoming looked after.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 None.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 This has been considered but there are no new or changed services/ policy/ functions and it is therefore not applicable

7. Financial Implications

7.1 None.

8. Recommendations

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee

considers the attached Annual Report and provides any observations and comments to the Head of Service – Safeguarding and Family Support.

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Background Documents

None.