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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg.
Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich
dewis iaith.*

*We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please
let us know if your language choice is Welsh.*



Annwyl Cyngorydd,

Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 / 643147 / 643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Michael Pitman

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Dydd Mawrth, 25 Chwefror 2020

PWYLLGOR Y CABINET DROS FATERION RHIENI CORFFORAETHOL

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Pwyllgor Y Cabinet Dros Faterion Rhieni Corfforaethol yn Ystafelloedd Pwyllgor 2/3 - Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr CF31 4WB ar **Dydd Mercher, 4 Mawrth 2020 am 10:00.**

AGENDA

1. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb
Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan Aelodau.
2. Datganiadau o fuddiant
Derbyn datganiadau o ddiddordeb personol a rhagfarnol (os o gwbl) gan Aelodau / Swyddogion yn unol â darpariaethau'r Cod Ymddygiad Aelodau a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cyngor o 1 Medi 2008.
3. Cymeradwyaeth Cofnodion 3 - 8
I dderbyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cofnodion cyfarfod y 04/09/2019
4. Strategaeth Lleihau Plant y Gofelir Amdanynt a Help Cynnar a Strategaeth Bwrdd Diogelwch 9 - 24

Gwahoddedigion:

Laura Kinsey – Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol Plant
Iain McMillan – Rheolwr Grŵp - Rheoli Achos a Throsglwyddo
Mark Lewis – Rheolwr Grŵp Gwaith Integredig a Chymorth i Deuluoedd
Dave Wright – Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Cefnogi Teuluoedd

5. Materion Brys
I ystyried unrhyw eitemau o fusnes y, oherwydd amgylchiadau arbennig y cadeirydd o'r farn y dylid eu hystyried yn y cyfarfod fel mater o frys yn unol â Rhan 4 (pharagraff 4) o'r Rheolau Trefn y Cyngor yn y Cyfansoddiad.

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Yn ddiffuant

K Watson

Prif Swyddog – Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Rheoleiddio

Dosbarthiad:

Cynghowrwy

MC Clarke

N Clarke

HJ David

DK Edwards

J Gebbie

Cynghorwyr

T Giffard

CA Green

RM James

D Patel

CE Smith

Cynghorwyr

CA Webster

DBF White

PJ White

HM Williams

RE Young

Agenda Item 3

PWYLLGOR Y CABINET DROS FATERION RHIENI CORFFORAETHOL - DYDD MERCHER, 4 MEDI 2019

COFNODION CYFARFOD Y PWYLLGOR Y CABINET DROS FATERION RHIENI
CORFFORAETHOL A GYNHALIWDYD YN YSTAFELLOEDD PWYLLGOR 2/3 - SWYDDFEYDD
DINESIG, STRYD YR ANGEL, PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR CF31 4WB DYDD MERCHER, 4
MEDI 2019, AM 10:00

Presennol

Y Cyngorydd – Cadeirydd

HJ David
RM James
RE Young

J Gebbie
CE Smith

T Giffard
CA Webster

CA Green
HM Williams

Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb

MC Clarke, N Clarke, DK Edwards, D Patel a/ac PJ White

Swyddogion:

Nicola Echanis	Pennaeth Addysg a Chymorth Cynnar
Lindsay Harvey	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd
Laura Kinsey	Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol Plant
Iain McMillan	Group Manager - Case Management & Transition
Michael Pitman	Prentis Gweinyddu Busnes

201. ETHOL CADEIRYDD

PENDERFYNWYD: Yn absenoldeb y Cyngorydd P White, enwebodd y Pwyllgor y Cyngorydd Huw David fel Cadeirydd.

202. DATGAN BUDD

Dim

203. CYMERADWYO COFNODION

PENDERFYNWYD: Cymeradwyo cofnodion y cyfarfod ar 29/05/2019 fel cofnod manwl gywir.

204. AROLYGIAETH GOFAL CYMRU (AGC – AGGCC GYNT) – AROLYGU CARTREFI GOFAL

Cyflwynodd y Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Blant adroddiad yn amlinellu adroddiadau a chyhoeddiadau cysylltiedig am y Cynlluniau Gweithredu yn dilyn adroddiadau arolygu ynghylch Sunnybank (Rhagfyr 2018), Bakers Way (Ionawr 2019) a Harwood house (Chwefror 2019).

Rhoddodd gefndir AGC i'r pwyllgor a hefyd manylu ar y mathau o arolygiadau blynyddol mae'n eu cynnal ar Gartrefi Plant. Rhoddwyd cefndir pellach yn adran 3 yr adroddiad.

Darparodd y Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Blant grynodedb o'r canfyddiadau am bob un o'r 3 chartref plant a restrwyd yn flaenorol gan hefyd arddangos y meysydd gwelliant. Roedd manylion pellach yn adran 4 yr adroddiad a darparwyd yr adroddiadau llawn ar gyfer pob cartref gofal yn Atodiadau 1, 2 a 3.

Esboniodd y Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Blant bod meysydd gwelliant mawr i ddechrau ar gyfer Harwood house yn dilyn yr arolygiad fel y rhestrwyd yn 4.10 yr adroddiad. Fodd bynnag, ddiwedd mis Gorffennaf, cynhaliwyd arolygiad pellach yn Harwood house a chadarnhaodd bod y meysydd nad oeddent yn cydymffurfio wedi cael sylw. Esboniodd mai dim ond ychydig ddyddiau cyn y cyfarfod hwn oedd yr adroddiad drafft ar yr arolygiad hwn wedi'i dderbyn ac felly nid oedd modd ei ddarparu mewn pryd. Esboniodd y dylai'r adroddiad terfynol fod ar gael yn ystod yr wythnosau nesaf.

Dywedodd y Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Blant wrth yr Aelodau bod Karl Culpeck, rheolwr rhanbarthol cartref plant Sunny Bank, yn bresennol heddiw i ateb unrhyw gwestiynau sydd gan yr Aelodau.

Crybwyllodd yr Arweinydd ei fod wedi nodi dau gam gweithredu yn yr adroddiad oedd yn barhaus, y ddau ar gyfer Harwood House, a gofynnodd a oedd y materion hyn yn cael sylw. Esboniodd y Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Blant bod yr holl faterion a nodwyd wrthi'n cael sylw.

Crybwyllodd Aelod nad oedd cynlluniau personol y cartrefi plant wedi cael eu diweddarau'n rheolaidd ac roedd hon yn ymddangos fel thema gyson. Gofynnodd a oedd hyn wedi cael ei fwydo ymlaen i'r sefydliadau, i sicrhau eu bod yn cael eu diweddarau.

Esboniodd y Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Blant mai Maple Tree House oedd y sefydliad arall yn yr ardal a chadarnhaodd bod pethau yn eu lle i sicrhau bod rheolwyr y sefydliadau'n bodloni ac yn rhannu arferion gorau gyda'i gilydd. Mae hyn yn sicrhau eu bod yn gallu dysgu oddi wrth ei gilydd a gwella. Cadarnhaodd Mr Culpeck bod cyfarfodydd rheolwyr yn cael eu cynnal a'u bod bob amser yn ceisio dysgu oddi wrth ei gilydd. Gofynnodd Aelod am iaith arwyddion - a oedd hyfforddiant yn cael ei ddarparu ar Signalong yn ogystal â Pecs fel dull cyfathrebu.

Cadarnhaodd Mr Culpeck bod Signalong yn ddull cyfathrebu yr oedd hyfforddiant yn cael ei ddarparu ar ei gyfer. Mae'r hyfforddiant cychwynnol yn darparu gwybodaeth sylfaen am lawer o ddulliau cyfathrebu, i sicrhau bod gan bawb rywfaint o wybodaeth o'r dechrau.

Esboniodd y Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Blant bod pryderon cychwynnol tra oedd newidiadau'n cael eu gwneud mewn perthynas â staff, deddfwriaeth newydd, newidiadau mewn cofrestru ac arolygiadau a newidiadau mewn arolygwyr lleol. Fodd bynnag, roeddent yn teimlo bod y rhain wedi'u rhoi mewn trefn yn awr.

Gofynnodd yr Arweinydd a allai'r Pwyllgor dderbyn diweddariad mewn 6 i 12 mis am y ddau gam gweithredu parhaus hyn oedd wedi'u nodi'n flaenorol.

Cytunodd y Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Blant i ddarparu diweddariad mewn cyfarfod yn y dyfodol o'r Pwyllgor Rhianta Corfforaethol.

Canmolodd yr Aelodau y cynllun gweithredu a'r gwaith caled parhaus sy'n cael ei wneud gan y tîm ac roeddent yn falch o glywed bod y cyswllt â'r staff yn y cartrefi gofal wedi bod yn bositif.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod Pwyllgor y Cabinet yn:

1. Cymeradwyo'r Cynllun Gweithredu wedi'i ddiweddarau;
2. Gofyn am ddiweddariad mewn 6 i 12 mis ar y ddau gam gweithredu parhaus oedd wedi'u nodi yn yr adroddiad.

205. ADBORTH AR YMADAWYR GOFAL SY'N MYND I BRIFYSGOL

Gofynnodd yr Arweinydd am gyflwyno'r eitem hon yn gyntaf gan fod tri ymadawr gofal wedi'u gwahodd i siarad gyda'r pwyllgor. Cytunodd y pwyllgor i symud yr eitem ymlaen ar yr agenda.

Cyflwynodd y Rheolwr Grŵp – Rheoli Achosion a Phontio adroddiad a oedd yn cyflwyno trosolwg i'r pwyllgor mewn perthynas ag ymadawyr gofal sy'n mynychu prifysgol ar hyn o bryd neu a oedd yn bwriadu mynychu prifysgol, eu profiadau a'r gefnogaeth a roddwyd gan yr awdurdod lleol. Hefyd dywedodd wrth yr Aelodau bod tri ymadawr gofal yn bresennol i gyflwyno eu profiadau o fynychu prifysgol a'u huchelgeisiau ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Esboniodd y Rheolwr Grŵp – Rheoli Achosion a Phontio bod y Pwyllgor Rhianta Corfforaethol wedi derbyn adroddiad ar y 6^{ed} Mawrth 2019 ynghylch y polisi ar Becynnau Cefnogaeth Prifysgol ar gyfer Ymadawyr Gofal, a dderbyniodd gymeradwyaeth y Cabinet wedyn ar 19^{eg} Mawrth 2019. Esboniodd mai un flaenoriaeth allweddol i CBSP oedd sicrhau bod pobl ifanc sydd eisieu mynychu addysg uwch yn gallu cyflawni hyn a bod cefnogaeth yn cael ei darparu. Darparwyd cefndir pellach yn adran 3 yr adroddiad.

Darparodd y Rheolwr Grŵp – Rheoli Achosion a Phontio fanylion am y tîm 16+ ym maes Gofal Cymdeithasol Plant a'r gefnogaeth mae'n ei rhoi i ymadawyr gofal yn ystod y cyfnod pontio yn eu bywydau. Roedd manylion pellach yn adran 4 yr adroddiad.

Darparodd fanylion am Brifysgol Caerdydd a Phrosiect Dyfodol Hyderus First Campus a ddefnyddiwyd gan ymadawyr gofal 14 i 19 oed gan geisio gwella dyheadau a hyder. Cynhaliwyd y sesiynau'n fisol rhwng mis Hydref a mis Ebrill yn flynyddol. Roedd manylion pellach yn adran 4 yr adroddiad.

Dywedodd y Rheolwr Grŵp – Rheoli Achosion a Phontio wrth y pwyllgor bod 9 o bobl ifanc yn mynychu cyrsiau Prifysgol ar hyn o bryd, gan gynnwys MSc, MA, BA, HND a TAR. Rhestrwyd ystadegau am bresenoldeb y flwyddyn flaenorol o gymharu â 2019/20 yn 4.6 yr adroddiad.

Esboniodd y Rheolwr Grŵp – Rheoli Achosion a Phontio bod pobl ifanc yn y Brifysgol yn dewis byw yn eu llety annibynnol eu hunain. Fodd bynnag, os oeddent yn dymuno dychwelyd i'w lleoliad y tu allan i'r tymor, bydd y tîm 16+ yn darparu cefnogaeth ac arweiniad i'r person ifanc, i wneud dewis doeth.

Esboniodd y byddai gan y person ifanc gynghorydd personol sy'n cysylltu ag ef yn rheolaidd i weithio gydag ef a'i gefnogi os oes angen. Dywedodd bod y brifysgol yn lle yn aml lle mae pobl ifanc yn dewis ymddieithrio oddi wrth y tîm 16+ a bod hyn yn aml yn gallu achosi risg i'r person ifanc os bydd yn dechrau cael anawsterau, ac felly mae'r tîm yn ceisio cysylltu'n rheolaidd â'r person ifanc.

Darparodd y Rheolwr Grŵp – Rheoli Achosion a Phontio esiampl i'r pwyllgor o berson ifanc oedd wedi rhoi'r gorau i'w astudiaethau ond a gafodd gefnogaeth gan y tîm i ddychwelyd atynt.

Gofynnodd yr Arweinydd i Becky, ymadawr gofal a oedd wedi dechrau astudio yn y brifysgol yn ddiweddar, rannu ei phrofiadau.

Esboniodd Becky ei bod wedi dechrau yn y brifysgol y llynedd. Ei phryderon i ddechrau oedd y llety dros dro ac roedd yn credu y byddai'n cael anhawster gydag addysg bellach. Esboniodd bod y gwasanaeth gofal a roddodd y gefnogaeth yr oedd arni ei

hangen i feithrin hyder i fynychu addysg bellach wedi ei helpu gyda nerfau a hyder yn gyffredinol.

Disgrifiodd Becky y gefnogaeth emosiynol ac ariannol gan y tîm gofal fel cefnogaeth amhrisiadwy, gan ddweud na fyddai wedi ymdopi hebddi.

Gofynnodd yr Arweinydd i Holly, ymadawr gofal arall sy'n astudio mewn prifysgol, rannu ei phrofiadau.

Esboniodd Holly ei bod yn ei 3^{edd} flwyddyn ym Mhrifysgol Abertawe yn astudio am gymhwyster Technegydd Treth gan Gymdeithas y Technegwyr Trethiant (ATT). Disgrifiodd y gefnogaeth fel cefnogaeth o gymorth mawr a'i bod yn gwerthfawrogi'r pethau bach gan eu bod yn gwneud gwahaniaeth mawr, yn enwedig help gyda meithrin hyder. Roedd yn bwriadu ymgymryd â'i chymhwyster treth ymgynghorol ar ôl y flwyddyn academaidd hon ac roedd yn ffodus o fod wedi derbyn cynnig o gyllid ar gyfer hyn gan Gyngor Gwlad yr Haf.

Gofynnodd yr Arweinydd i Aime, ymadawr gofal arall sy'n astudio mewn prifysgol, rannu ei phrofiadau.

Esboniodd Aime ei bod yn un am greu helynt yn yr ysgol ac nad oedd o ddifrif gyda'i hastudiaethau bob amser. Esboniodd ei bod wedi gadael yr ysgol yn 16 oed ac, yn fuan wedyn, cafodd blentyn. Esboniodd Aime nad oedd wedi meddwl am waith wedi hyn, ac nad oedd ganddi unrhyw ddyheadau am yrfa, a achosodd ddiffyg hunanhyder yn ei gallu wedyn. Esboniodd Aime bod y gefnogaeth yr oedd wedi'i chael yn hynod fuddiol a'i bod wedi ei sbarduno i wneud mwy. O ganlyniad i'r gefnogaeth a gafodd, mae Aime yn astudio am Radd Meistr yn awr.

Cyfeiriodd y tri ymadawr gofal at y gefnogaeth gan fynegi eu diolch am yr hyn roeddent wedi'i dderbyn ac roedd y tair yn cytuno na fyddent wedi cyflawni'r hyn roeddent wedi'i wneud hebddi.

Diolchodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant i'r ymadawyr gofal gan ofyn iddynt a oedd unrhyw sylwadau neu gyngor y gallent eu rhoi i'r staff.

Esboniodd Becky bod cysondeb y pecynnau oedd yn cael eu cynnig i ymadawyr gofal yn amrywio. Esboniodd na chafodd hi gynnig y lleoliad 'Pan Rwyf Yn Barod' i ddechrau allan o amser tymor ei chwrs prifysgol. Cadarnhaodd Holly hefyd bod newidiadau i becynnau a bod rhywfaint o anghysondeb gyda beth oedd yn cael ei gynnig a phryd. Esboniodd Becky bod rhai problemau cyfathrebu ar adegau, a oedd yn golygu nad oedd llawer o ymadawyr gofal yn deall beth oedd yn digwydd gyda'r newidiadau i'r pecynnau.

Diolchodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant i'r ymadawyr gofal am eu sylwadau a dywedodd y byddai'n mynd â'r sylwadau yn ôl i'r tîm ac yn sicrhau bod gwybodaeth gliriach yn cael ei bwydo yn ôl i weithwyr cymdeithasol.

Ychwanegodd Aelod bod ganddi gefndir mewn gweithio gyda phobl ifanc a'i bod yn deall y profiadau y mae llawer o bobl wedi gorfod mynd drwyddynt. Gwnaeth sylwadau am brofiadau'r ymadawyr gofal gan ddweud ei bod wedi cael ei hysbrydoli gan eu straeon a'i bod yn falch o weld cymaint o lwyddiant yn cael ei sicrhau.

Cyflwynodd yr Arweinydd sylwadau o ran ei bod yn ymddangos bod rhagfarn rhywedd yn bodoli, o ran bod llawer llai o fechgyn yn mynd i brifysgol. Gofynnodd a oedd unrhyw reswm hysbys dros hyn.

Esboniodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant ei bod yn fwy cyffredin i fechgyn ddewis llwybr prentisiaeth wrth adael yr ysgol. Roedd bechgyn yn dangos mwy o ddiddordeb yn gyffredinol mewn prentisiaethau na mewn prifysgol.

Diolchodd yr Arweinydd i'r ymadawyr gofal am rannu eu profiadau â'r pwyllgor ac roedd yn hynod falch o glywed am eu llwyddiant.

Hefyd diolchodd yr Arweinydd i'w gydweithwyr yn yr adran Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol.

Gofynnodd yr Arweinydd i'r Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant a'r ymadawyr gofal a fyddent yn gallu cyflwyno eu profiadau i ysgolion yn ardal Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, i ddarparu profiadau positif i fyfyrwyr a bod yn fodolau rôl iddynt, a dangos beth sy'n bosib i unrhyw un mewn unrhyw sefyllfa.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y pwyllgor yn;

- Nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad
- Cefnogi'r gwaith oedd wedi cael ei wneud hyd yma yn y maes hwn a pharhau â chefnogaeth yn y dyfodol.

206. CYMERADWYO'R DATGANIADAU O BWRPAS AR GYFER GWASANAETHAU PRESWYL

Cyflwynodd y Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Blant adroddiad a oedd yn cyflwyno i'r aelodau y datganiadau o bwrpas adolygedig ar gyfer y ddarpariaeth bresennol o wasanaethau preswyl yng nghyngor bwrdeistref sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Esboniodd ei bod yn ofynnol o dan gyfansoddiad y Cyngor i'r rhain gael eu cyflwyno ger bron y Pwyllgor Rhianta Corfforaethol ar gyfer eu cymeradwyo.

Darparodd y Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Blant gefndir i'r pwyllgor am nifer y cartrefi plant ym Mwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr sy'n darparu gwasanaethau i blant/pobl ifanc 0 i 19 oed. Roedd manylion pellach yn adran 3 yr adroddiad.

Esboniodd y Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Blant bod pob Awdurdod Lleol yn cael tystysgrif gofrestru yn awr, yn hytrach na chofrestru gwasanaethau unigol. Esboniodd mai'r rheswm dros hyn oedd cyflwyno datganiadau o bwrpas mewn ffordd unffurf. Mae'r Datganiad o Bwrpas ar gyfer pob un o'r pedwar cartref plant ym Mwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr wedi'u hatodi yn Atodiad 1 i 4 yn eu trefn, gyda chanllaw ar gyfer llunio datganiad o bwrpas wedi'i atodi yn Atodiad 5.

Gofynnodd Aelod i'r Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Blant a oes ystafell synhwyraidd yn Bakers Way o hyd, oherwydd mewn adroddiad blaenorol roedd crybwyll am drawsnewid yr ystafell synhwyraidd yn ystafell wely.

Esboniodd y Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Blant bod lleoliad yr ystafell synhwyraidd wedi newid ond roedd yn dal i fodoli. Amlinellwyd hyn yn Natganiad o Bwrpas Bakers Way sydd wedi'i atodi yn Atodiad 3.

Gofynnodd Aelod pam nad oedd ystafell synhwyraidd yn Harwood House ac a oedd cynlluniau ar gyfer ystafell o'r fath.

Esboniodd y Rheolwr Rhanbarthol y byddai hyn yn cael ei weithredu pe bai gofyn amdano ond, hyd yma, nid oedd unrhyw blant wedi bod angen ystafell o'r fath. Roedd y plant oedd angen ystafell synhwyraidd wedi bod mewn cartrefi oedd ag ystafell yn ei lle eisoes.

Gofynnodd Aelod a oedd unrhyw staff Cymraeg eu hiaith yn y cartrefi plant.

Esboniodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant nad oedd unrhyw ofyn wedi bod hyd yma am aelod o staff Cymraeg ei iaith ond byddai modd darparu hyn i blentyn pe bai angen.

Esboniodd yr Arweinydd pe bai angen unrhyw aelod o staff parhaol Cymraeg ei iaith yn unrhyw un o'r cartrefi plant y byddai hynny'n cael ei sicrhau rhag i unrhyw blentyn fod o dan anfantais.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Pwyllgor Rhianta Corfforaethol yn:

1. Nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad a;
2. Cymeradwyo'r datganiad o bwrpas ar gyfer pob darpariaeth o wasanaethau preswyl.

207. **EITEMAU BRYD**

Dim

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 11:45

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

4TH March 2020

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN REDUCTION STRATEGY & EARLY HELP & SAFEGUARDING BOARD STRATEGY

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update the Corporate Parenting Committee on the work of the Welsh Government National Technical Group which was presented to Corporate Parenting the 29th May 2019, and set out the actions that the Local Authority has undertaken since this date in respect of its implementation of its Looked after Children reduction strategy.
- 1.2 This report contains information on the Early Help & Safeguarding Boards' strategy and provides details on the associating work streams and key actions relating to its updated action plan.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priorities:-
 - **Supporting a successful economy** – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
 - **Helping people to be more self-reliant** – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
 - **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 29th May 2019 this committee was provided with a report by the Corporate Director of Social Services & Wellbeing in respect of the work being undertaken by Welsh Government to develop reduction expectations for Looked After Children (LAC) across Wales. The report highlighted that the First Minister's manifesto includes a firm commitment to support looked after children by focussing on the importance of reducing the need for children to enter care and also by improving outcomes for children in care.
- 3.2 The reports key findings were that in March 2018, there were 6,407 looked after children in Wales. This was an 8% increase on the previous year. Over the past 15 years, the number of looked after children had increased by 34%.

- 3.3 National data also highlights some other noteworthy patterns. For example, 24.6% of looked after children are placed out of county (1,575) and 5% are placed outside Wales (320). There will be good reasons why some of these children are placed out of area (e.g. placement with family or friends or the development of regional approaches to specialist provision), but it is recognised that others are placed further afield because there is no suitable provision locally. Some of the underlying issues have begun to be addressed through the National Fostering Framework, the Children's Residential Care Task and Finish Group and other work strands within the Improving Outcomes for Children programme. However, Welsh Government also wanted to take the opportunity to explore with local authorities the factors that influence decision making around out of county and cross-border placements, to ensure that more children can be placed closer to home where this is in their best interests.
- 3.4 To take this work forward Welsh Government established a technical group to inform and advise on the approach to this activity involving representatives from the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) Cymru, Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), local authorities, third sector and Welsh Government officials. The Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing represents ADSS on this group. The Local Authority was visited by Welsh Government as part of the work of the technical group on the 1st May 2019. Following visits to all 22 Welsh Local Authorities the technical group has now produced an overarching report which highlights the key messages and also identifies actions that have to be taken forward nationally.
- 3.5 The overarching report highlighted the areas that each Local Authority has to target and report on a quarterly basis. The 4 areas in which the Local Authority has to set out its proposed reduction expectations are:-
- Numbers of children in care
 - Numbers of children who are placed out of county
 - Numbers of children placed outside of Wales
 - Numbers of children removed from parents with a learning disability

Within each quarterly report the Local Authority has to set out its proposed reduction expectation for the year, its achievements to date, the narrative behind these achievements and set out its next steps.

- 3.6 The Early Help & Safeguarding Board is jointly chaired by the Corporate Director of Education & Family Support and the Corporate Director of Social Services & Wellbeing. The Board is made up of senior managers from each directorate, and senior officers from the Police and Health. The purpose of this panel is 'to ensure a whole system approach to the safe reduction of the numbers of children in the Safeguarding arena'. The board has a joint action plan which has been in place since 2016. This plan focussed on the Institute of Public Care (IPC) recommendations in respect of Early Help & Safeguarding services (2018) and the Care Inspectorate for Wales (CIW) inspection of Children's Services in 2017. The plan also monitored actions linked to the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) agenda and rehabilitation and permanence. At the Board meeting on 22nd October 2019 it was identified that the existing action plan had been achieved almost in its entirety. As a result it was agreed that a new action plan would be drafted which would refocus on the crosscutting directorate activity.

4. Current situation / proposal

LAC Reduction Expectation Strategy

- 4.1 Ensuring the safe reduction of the LAC population was already a key strategic aim for the Local Authority. However, as a result of the LAC reduction expectation strategy, Children's Social Care have reviewed and refocused its approach and practice in this area. A key facet of this revised LAC strategy action plan was the launch of the Permanency Monitoring Group. The purpose of the Permanency Monitoring Group is to track the progress of children's journeys through the looked after system at an operational level, and for senior managers to assure themselves that actions are being taken to progress their plans for permanence appropriately. This group is an effective forum for not only tracking and monitoring but also in addressing care plan drift and practice issues.
- 4.2 Two key areas of practice have been the focus of this group. The first is to target the cohort of cases for looked after children/young people who could be subject to an alternative order or have their Care Order discharged. The second is preventing cases escalating to the point that the child/young person has to become looked after.
- 4.3 The first Permanency Monitoring Group which focuses on the LAC strategy action plan met on 10th September 2019. The group is chaired by the Group Manager for Case Management & Transition and the Group Manager for Information Advice and Assistance (IAA) and Safeguarding, and takes place bi-monthly. For more detail on the groups criteria and work streams please see **Appendix A** which contains the groups terms of reference. The group focuses on the case management of the cohort of cases in which it has been identified that there are opportunities to change the permanency plan. The group is currently concentrating on 45 cases, in which it has been identified that the care plan could potentially change in the following ways:-
- the Care Order could be discharged
 - a child/young person could be reunified with their birth family under placements with parents regulations
 - a Special Guardianship Order could be granted
 - a child/young person could be brought back into the county or from outside of Wales
- 4.4 By focussing on this cohort of cases, setting key time focused actions, and targeting services and resources on these cases it is anticipated that the Local Authority will increase the number of children that can be discharged from Care Orders in 2020-21, and increase the number of children who are brought back to live within the Local Authority. To support this programme of work the Local Authority has utilised Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) funding to create four Reunification Support Worker posts in the Fostering Service. These workers are focusing on providing placement stability, supporting the plans to bring children/young people back from out of county placements and reunification with birth families. The first workers were employed in November 2019. These Re-unification workers will work closely with edge of care services to support children to return home safely to families when they have been in the care system.
- 4.5 The Local Authority has adopted the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) reunification toolkit. In October 2019, key members of staff undertook reunification training. There are now officers in each team within

Children's Social Care who are able to mentor and support their team members so that they can assess, plan and support children, young people and their families in respect of reunification. It is anticipated that this will lead to an increase in the number of children/young people who are reunified with their birth families and crucially there being a decrease in those children/young people returning to the care system at a later date.

- 4.6 The Local Authority continues to focus on bringing children/young people back from independent and out of county placements. All placements with independent providers are continually reviewed within 12 weeks of the children being accommodated with Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA's). The aim being, where appropriate, to bring children and young people back into in-house fostering placements. All children placed with independent providers are monitored through the Placement Audit Tracking Monitoring Report. In addition to this, information is forwarded to the Fostering Team on a weekly basis, identifying children under the age of 10 currently in agency placements with a view to them reviewing their in house provisions. All cases should be reviewed at the Accommodation and Permanence Panel prior to the second LAC Review, for permanence planning. There is ongoing focus and investment in respect of marketing and the recruitment of general, respite, transitional carers and Parent and Child carers in order to ensure that there are placements for children to move into. The Development Officer who sits in the fostering team focusses on this and on the retention of existing foster carers.
- 4.7 At the end of quarter 3 the number of looked after children was 387, this is compared to the figure of 381 at the start of the financial year and demonstrates the fragility of this area and the frequent fluctuations in numbers throughout the year. So far during this year the number of children who have become looked after during a month has been 7.4. This is a decrease on the 7.7 average per month in 2018-19. This evidences that our Early Help and Safeguarding services are helping to support the reduction of the number of children and young people who need to become looked after. However, the number who have ceased to become looked after has been 6.8 per month, which is a decrease on the 7.9 per month in 2018-19, and explains why there has been a slight increase in the looked after children population.
- 4.8 The number of children who returned from out of county placements during the first 3 quarters of 2020 has been 17. This is positive as the expectation target the Local Authority had set itself for 2020-21 was for 6 children/young people to return. However, some children and young people have experienced changes in their placements or been placed out of the county. This remains an area of focus for Children Social Care, as wherever possible we would want children/young people to reside within the Local Authority. The number of children who returned from placements outside of Wales in 2020-21 has been zero. However, Bridgend only has 7 looked after children placed outside of Wales, and the Local Authority had already assessed that it would not have been appropriate for any of these children/young people to be returned during this financial year.
- 4.9 Edge of Care services are working closely with Children's Social Care in respect of the prevention agenda. Services have been developed which focus on reducing the numbers of children being looked after. These include the development of an innovative service called Baby in Mind. This service was developed in response to a review of the Local Authority's LAC population which demonstrated that 38% of children who became looked after during the year (2017-18) were under the age of

one. The Local Authority had also commissioned ten parent and child placements during the same period. It was recognised that by developing a service to respond to this identified group it could provide opportunities for earlier intervention and reduce the need to use the care system and/or parent and child placements. This team has now been in operation for 12 months and is able to demonstrate a positive impact on the prevention of babies entering the care system. 87% of babies who have been supported during 2018-19 by the Baby in Mind team have been prevented from becoming looked after. In addition, there has been a reduction of 50% in the use of Parent and Baby placements over the same period.

- 4.10 Early Help have developed the Rapid Response team to assist families in immediate crisis which offers wrap around support including support early in the mornings, evenings and weekends. This team was created to assist our long standing and successful edge of care service Connecting Families which has consistently demonstrated positive impact on prevention on of LAC. In addition to these services, we have the Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS) which is a statutory support service developed by Welsh Government in 2012 to support families where substance misuse is impacting on parents ability to care for their children.
- 4.11 Another service has been developed as part of a regional arrangement within the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region called Reflect, this service is delivered on behalf of the three local authorities by Barnardos Cymru. Reflect is a project that was created to support parents following the removal of their child from their care. Reflect was developed in recognition that many parents have children removed from their care but then access or receive little support and subsequently have further children who also need to be removed. The service therefore aims to prevent further pregnancy for a period of time and supports the parents to focus on their own needs so that they will be able to parent effectively in the future. The development of all of these new services alongside existing support services provides Children's Social Care with a wide range of services to support children and families with the aim of preventing children entering the care system safely or to safely exit care and live at home with the support they need.

Joint Action Plan

- 4.12 A new joint action plan has been drafted (**Appendix B**) and will be presented to the Early Help and Safeguarding board on 9th March 2020. The action plan focuses on 5 key areas that cut across the Social Services & Wellbeing and Education & Family Support directorates. These areas are:-
- The Youth Justice Service
 - The safe reduction of the Looked After Children population
 - To review and monitor edge of care services
 - Evaluation of the step up/down process between Early Help & Safeguarding
 - Regional MAPPS (Multi- Agency Placement Permanence Service)
- 4.13 The focus of the Early Help and Safeguarding board remains 'to ensure a whole system approach to the safe reduction of the numbers of children in the safeguarding arena'. The above five fields of business are the current areas of focus for the directorates, which are cross cutting and support the strategy of the safe reduction of Looked After Children, or in the case of the MAPPS service, ensure that children and young people and their carers receive the appropriate specialist therapeutic support whilst they are looked after. Edge of care services

play a critical role in supporting the Local Authority to reduce the number of looked after children. The teams work closely with Children's Social Care to support families and contribute to decision making regarding children remaining at home with their family safely. Bridgend Youth Justice Service also works closely with Early Help and Childrens Social Care.

- 4.14 The joint action plan focuses on the working interface between Early Help and Safeguarding to ensure that it is meeting the needs of the children, young people and families that they support. Early Help & Safeguarding colleagues are co-located together in the North, East & West safeguarding hubs. There are processes in place to ensure that the team managers work closely together and meet on a weekly basis to discuss cases and working practises. Regular joint development days are held to support the development of the staff and maintain positive working relationships. Team managers undertake audits together in respect of cases which have either been stepped down by safeguarding or stepped up by Early Help to ensure good practice is in place. The Early Help & Safeguarding Board monitors the interface between the two services, and receives regular feedback from senior managers at the board in respect of progress in this area.
- 4.15 From April 1st 2020 MAPSS (Multi Agency Permanence Support Service) will be commissioned within the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region. The commissioning process is currently underway in respect of a MAPSS for children who have the most complex and challenging needs and require a specialised high level service providing therapy to support both the child/young person and the parent/carer/staff member to prevent any placement or adoption from breaking down.
- 4.16 The service aims to:

Improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children looked after (CLA) who experience multiple difficulties for example mental illness, emotional and/or behavioral difficulties. Promoting secure attachment as a means of helping children and young people and their carers maintain placements (living and educational) so that they can feel safe enough to develop supportive attachments/relationships, opportunities for positive growth and start to process developmental trauma. Through helping the child's welfare system (Social Workers, carers, teachers etc) to best understand the child, their development, the trauma they have experienced and how this can present challenges for their care, to inform planning and intervention. The Early Help & Safeguarding Board will be monitoring the impact of this newly commissioned service.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

- 5.1 There is no impact on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equality implications in this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

- 7.1 The implementation of the duties and responsibilities under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) supports the promotion of two of the seven

goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 within the County Borough of Bridgend. By promoting an environment that maximises people's physical and mental well-being and by supporting children, young people, adults and their carers and families to fulfil their potential no matter what their circumstances, the wellbeing goals of a Healthier and more equal Bridgend and Wales are supported.

7.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how the Authority should work to deliver wellbeing outcomes for people. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been considered in this report:

- Long Term – Social Services is demand led and the SSWBA focusses on sustainable prevention and wellbeing outcomes for the future. There is a requirement to meet the needs of people in the longer term and, because of rising demographics and increasing complexity, the safe reduction of looked after children numbers continues to be a priority.
- Prevention – the report reflects the ongoing commitment to new approaches adopted by the Directorate in line with the SSWBA, for example, the provision of information, advice and assistance to enable people to remain independent for as long as possible. This will ensure that need is anticipated and resources can be more effectively directed to better manage demand. There is a focus on prevention and early intervention in the Early Help & Safeguarding action plan.
- Integration and Collaboration – the implementation of the SSWBA requires local authorities to work with partners, particularly the NHS and the Police, to ensure care and support for people and support for carers is provided. The report evidences the work with partners that will be required to enable people to remain living within their communities, and where necessary, responding to safeguarding concerns in a timely, efficient manner.
- Involvement – the key stakeholders are the people who use social care. There is considerable engagement including surveys, stakeholder meetings, feedback forms and the complaints process. The provision of accessible information and advice helps to ensure that the voice of adults, children and young people is heard.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 Based on current projections the Local Authority in 2019-20 will, on average, spend £32,799 per Looked After Child, with a projected overall spend of £12,535,378. At the same period in 2018-19, the projected overall spend was £11,930,122. At the end of 2018-19 the actual overall spend was £11,486,106. The average spend per Looked After Child in 2018-19 was £30,147.

8.2 This figure has been largely affected by a small number of very complex cases with court orders in place requiring the authority to commission specialist placements and/or high levels of staffing to ensure the level of supervision and support is adequate.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Committee notes the information provided in this report.

Susan Cooper
Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing

DATE: February 2020

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Background documents

None

Permanency Monitoring Group Terms of Reference

September 2019

Definition of Permanence

Permanence is the framework of emotional permanence (attachment), physical permanence (stability) and legal permanence (the carer has parental responsibility for the child) which gives a child the sense of security, continuity, commitment and identity. The objective of planning for permanence is therefore to ensure that children have a secure, stable and loving family to support them through childhood and beyond.

A range of placement options for permanence exist, which can deliver good outcomes for children. These include:

- Return to birth parents where it has been possible to address the factors in family life which led to the child becoming looked after
- Shared care arrangement
- Permanence within the looked after system which could include residential care, long-term unrelated foster care or family and friends care
- Legal permanence through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders.
- Early permanence through Fostering for Adoption.

The purpose of a **Permanency Monitoring Group** is to track progress of children's journeys through the looked after system at an operational level, and for senior managers to assure themselves that actions are being taken to progress their plans for permanence appropriately. This group is an effective forum for not only tracking and monitoring but also in addressing practice issues.

Purpose

- To track all cases (S76 and within court proceedings) where children/YP are not in identified or matched permanent placements.
- To monitor progress of children when a Permanence Plan has already been identified but is yet to be finalised.
- To ensure that the Local Authority safely reduces its LAC population in line with its reduction expectation.
- To monitor all new Looked After Children to ensure that by the second LAC review all children have a clearly identified Permanence Plan.
- Identify issues thematically that have contributed to delays in achieving a final permanency placement – e.g. courts, delay between S76 and proceedings, lack

of timely adoption/permanent fostering placements for children: lack of expediency in progress of parallel planning process from the second review.

- Identify procedural and policy changes identified through core business of the meetings.
- Collating thematic information and using this to provide constructive challenge and change, which contribute to improved partnership working with both the judiciary and CAFCASS.
- To identify training needs to support social workers to strengthen and support understanding and confidence with permanency planning in line with pre-consultation: knowledge and skills statement for achieving permanence.

Process

- PMG will be held on a six weekly basis to ensure/monitor progress on permanent placement planning for Looked After children. The meeting will be jointly chaired by the Group Manager for Safeguarding and the IAA Service and by the Group Manager for Case Management and Transition. In their absence the meeting will be chaired by the PO for Case Management or the IRO Service Manager.
- Each of the service areas will be represented by a nominated Team Manager from Children's Social Care who will provide case updates relating to the permanence plans. If they are unable to attend they must nominate an appropriate deputy to attend in their absence.
- To assist the meeting the chair will identify particular thematic/practice issues that warrant further discussion. Once key cases have been identified, paperwork will be circulated and read by the group members in advance to support discussions. There is an expectation that panel members are prepared in advance. Any actions identified in the previous meeting should have been completed and an update will be required to be provided at the next meeting.
- The chair will finalise the agenda one week in advance of the meeting which will then provide sufficient time for group members to prepare for the forthcoming meeting. This will then be circulated to group members and the case relevant managers within the service area.
- Themes/Issues including statistical and qualitative data will be shared within the Senior Management Team Meeting which includes the Head of Children's Social Care.
- The meeting will be serviced by dedicated Business Support

Membership

- Group Managers for Safeguarding and IAA Service & Case Management and Transition (jnt Chairs)
- Principal Officer Case Management and IRO Service Manager (jnt vice chairs)
- Team Managers in Safeguarding Hubs, Children with Disability & Transition, Just Ask Plus, Fostering.
- Family support Service Manager
- Permanence Social Worker
- Child Care Lawyer
- Business Support

Outcomes

- All children who become looked after will have an identified permanence plan that is monitored through achieving better outcomes for children/young people and targeting the timely provision of resources. It is anticipated that there will be an associated benefit of reducing the Looked After Children population and associated costs.
- The LAC population is safely reduced in line with the reduction expectation.
- There is an increase in the use of alternative orders such as Special Guardianship Orders.
- The number of children/young people who are placed outside of Wales or out of county is reduced.
- The time that children/young continue are subject to Placement with Parents Regulations is reduced.
- All blocks and barriers to achieving this are identified as early as possible and where necessary are actively challenged both internally and externally.
- Learning from placement breakdowns and disruption meetings to ensure that we as Corporate Parents who strive to achieve placement stability through appropriate placement matching and choice.
- The authority knows how many children they are planning to care for in the longer term and those whose plans for permanence may have other opportunities for permanence.

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Early Help and Safeguarding Joint Action Plan April 2020 to March 2021

B	Completed
R	A problem needs serious attention and action now
A	Issues are being managed and if addressed should not affect delivery
G	On track, in progress, any minor risks/ issues being managed
NYS	Not Yet Started

Youth Justice Service								
	Owner	Due date	Recommendation	Action	Evidence	Update	Last RAG	RAG
1	Group Manager Integrated working and Family support	May 2020	To address the issues identified by HMIP in respect of the Youth Justice service (formerly Western Bay)	To implement the post inspection action plan	Outcome report following re-inspection of BCBC Youth Justice service in summer of 2020	Steady progress being made. Structural changes have been made and new management arrangements are in place. Focus now on quality assurance and risk management.	n/a	Amber
Reduction of Looked After Children (LAC) population								
	Owner	Due date	Recommendation	Action	Evidence	Update	Last RAG	RAG
2	Group Manager Case Management	March 2021	To safely reduce the Looked After Children population	Reduce the number of children and young people	A quarterly report to Welsh Government in			

	and Transition Group Manager IAA and Safeguarding		in Bridgend	placed outside Wales Reduce the number of children and young people placed out of the county Reduce the number of children and young people removed from parents with a learning disability Reduce the number of children and young people subject of Care Orders to BCBC	respect of the reduction of children and young people Looked After by Bridgend Local Authority			
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Review and monitor Edge of Care Services

	Owner	Due date	Recommendation	Action	Evidence	Update	Last RAG	RAG
3	Group Manager Integrated working and Family support	March 2021	Ensure Edge of Care Services inclusive of: Baby In Mind, Rapid Response, Connecting Families, Integrated Family	Provide regular performance data to the Early Help and Safeguarding Board in respect of its impact on preventing children and young people	Data information that is provided to the Early Help and Safeguarding Board on a quarterly basis			

			Support Services, Reflect, Family Group Conferencing and Reunification Support Workers continue to demonstrate effective intervention to prevent children and young people in Bridgend becoming Looked After	becoming Looked After in Bridgend				
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Evaluation of Step Up / Step Down Quality Assurance Audits

	Owner	Due date	Recommendation	Action	Evidence	Update	Last RAG	RAG
4	Group Manager Integrated working and Family support Principal Officer Case Management	April 2021	To ensure compliance with step up / step down audits and report identified themes to the Early Help and Safeguarding Board	Evaluation report to be shared with the Early Help and Safeguarding Board twice yearly	Regular quality assurance audit activity 6 monthly review meeting of findings Report to the Early Help and Safeguarding Board			

Regional MAPPS (Multi-Agency Placement Permanence Service)

	Owner	Due date	Recommendation	Action	Evidence	Update	Last RAG	RAG
5	Group	April	To ensure there is a	Develop a regional		Service specification is		

	Manager regulated Services	2021	specialist therapeutic service to support Looked After children.	MAPPS Service on a Cwm Taf footprint		being drafted with a view to tender in February 2020		
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Draft