

# Public Document Pack

## 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.*

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Annwyl Cynghorydd,

### **PWYLLGOR CRAFFU TESTUN 2**

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Pwyllgor Craffu Testun 2 yn i'w gynnal o bell trwy Dimau Microsoft ar **Dydd Mercher, 21 Ebrill 2021 am 09:30.**

### **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 14/12/20
4. Diogelu Plant ac Oedolion yn ystod Covid-19 9 - 28

#### Gwahoddwyr:

Claire Marchant - Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles

Cynghorydd Nicole Burnett - Aelod Cabinet - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar

Jackie Davies - Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Oedolion

Laura Kinsey - Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol I Blant

Nicola Echanis - Pennaeth Addysg a Chefnogaeth i Deuluoedd

Liz Walton James - Rheolwr Grŵp IAA a Diogelu

Mark Lewis - Rheolwr Grŵp Cymorth i Deuluoedd

Terri Warrilow - Rheolwr Diogelu ac Ystadau Diogel

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Claire O'Keefe - Dirprwy Bennaeth Diogelu Dros Dro - Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Cwm Taf Morgannwg  
Uwcharolygydd Karen Thomas - Cymunedau a Hartneriaethau - Heddlu De Cymru  
Ditectif Arolygydd Ben Rowe - Arolygydd Diogelu Strategol - Heddlu De Cymru

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.

Nodyn: Sylwch: Yn sgil yr angen i gadw pellter cymdeithasol, ni fydd y cyfarfod hwn yn cael ei gynnal yn ei leoliad arferol. Yn hytrach, bydd hwn yn gyfarfod rhithwir a bydd Aelodau a Swyddogion yn mynychu o bell. Bydd y cyfarfod yn cael ei recordio i'w ddarlledu ar wefan y Cyngor cyn gynted ag sy'n ymarferol ar ôl y cyfarfod. Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiwn am hyn, cysylltwch â cabinet\_committee@bridgend.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yn ddiffuant

**K Watson**

Prif Swyddog – Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Rheoleiddio

**Dosbarthiad:**

Cynghowrwy

S Aspey  
MC Clarke  
PA Davies  
SK Dendy  
J Gebbie  
CA Green

Cynghorwyr

A Hussain  
M Jones  
MJ Kearns  
JE Lewis  
AA Pucella  
G Thomas

Cynghorwyr

T Thomas  
CA Webster  
DBF White  
PJ White

## PWYLLGOR CRAFFU TESTUN 2 - DYDD LLUN, 14 RHAGFYR 2020

COFNODION CYFARFOD Y PWYLLGOR CRAFFU TESTUN 2 A GYNHALIWYD O BELL TRWY SKYPE FOR BUSINESS, DYDD LLUN, 14 RHAGFYR 2020, AM 09:30

### Presennol

Y Cyngorydd CA Green – Cadeirydd

MC Clarke  
A Hussain  
G Thomas

PA Davies  
M Jones  
CA Webster

SK Dendy  
MJ Kearn  
DBF White

J Gebbie  
AA Pucella

### Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb

T Thomas, PJ White, J Davies, P Tyson

### Swyddogion:

Rachel Pick  
Andrew Rees  
Tracy Watson

Swyddog Craffu  
Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Democrataidd  
Swyddog Cymorth Craffu

### Gwahoddwyr

|                     |                             |   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Cyng Nicole Burnett | Aelod Cabinet               | Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar |
| Cyng Dhanisha Patel | Aelod Cabinet               | Lles a Chenedlaethau Dyfodol                |
| Claire Marchant     | Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol   | - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles          |
| Laura Kinsey        | Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol | I Blant                                     |
| Andrew Thomas       | Rheolwr Grŵp                | - Chwaraeon a Gweithgarwch Corfforol        |

## 126. DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANNAU

Datganodd y Cyngorydd D White fuddiant personol yn Eitem 4 ar yr agenda, am fod ei wraig yn Swyddog Cefnogi Busnes yn y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles. Datganodd fuddiant personol hefyd, am ei fod yn cysgodi.

Datganodd y Cyngorydd C Webster fuddiant personol yn Eitem 4 ar yr agenda, am fod ei mab newydd gael ei dderbyn i'r Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol fel rhan o'r gwasanaeth pontio, Tîm Plant Anabl.

## 127. CYMERADWYO COFNODION

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod Cofnodion cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Pwnc 2, dyddiedig 11 Tachwedd 2020, yn cael eu cymeradwyo fel cofnod gwir a chywir.

## 128. DIWEDDARIAD LLAFAR GAN Y CYFARWYDDWR CORFFORAETHOL – GWASANAETHAU CYMDEITHASOL A LLES

Rhoddodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles, Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol Plant a Rheolwr y Grŵp - Chwaraeon a Gweithgaredd Corfforol gyflwyniad ar effaith Covid-19 ar y Gyfarwyddiaeth a'r ymateb.

Gofynnodd Aelodau'r cwestiynau canlynol:

Gofynnodd Aelod a fyddai cyswllt â Phlant sy'n Derbyn Gofal (LAC) a'u rhieni yn briodol yn ôl lefel Haen Covid-19, gan nodi'r newid posibl i Haen 4 yn fuan gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Gofynnodd hefyd a oedd asesiadau risg yn ddogfen fyw ac a oedd gwiriadau'n cael eu cynnal gyda rhieni a gofalmwr maeth i sicrhau bod plant yn ddiogel ac nad oedd unrhyw symptomau o Covid-19.

Eglurodd Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol y Plant ei fod wedi bod yn benderfyniad anodd atal pob cyswllt wyneb yn wyneb o blaid cyswllt o bell. Unwaith y caniateid i gyswllt wyneb yn wyneb ailddechrau, rhoddid blaenoriaeth i grwpiau fel plant newydd-anedig a rhieni wedi gwahanu, plant oedd wedi eu hailsefydlu gyda'u rhieni bedydd a brodyr a chwiorydd gyda pherthnasau agos. Roedd yr holl gysylltiadau wedi cael eu hailgychwyn. Roedd y Gyfarwyddiaeth yn dilyn canllawiau Llywodraeth Cymru ar yr asesiad dau gam, lle câi pob sefyllfa ei hasesu er mwyn canfod i ba raddau yr oedd yn angenrheidiol a graddau'r risg. Polisi'r Gyfarwyddiaeth oedd bod pob plentyn yn cael cysylltiad yn y lle cyntaf a, phe bernid bod hynny'n angenrheidiol, cynhelid yr asesiad dau gam. Gallai cyswllt ddigwydd yn yr awyr agored ond roedd hyn yn anodd yn ystod y gaeaf. Roedd canolfannau bellach yn cael eu defnyddio ac, mewn partneriaeth â Landlordiaid Corfforaethol, lechyd a Diogelwch ac lechyd yr Amgylchedd, câi glanhau dwfn ei gynnal ar ôl pob sesiwn gyswllt. Roedd y staff yn gwisgo cyfarpar diogelu personol a chynorthwyd y plant a'u teuluoedd i sicrhau bod yr holl ganllawiau'n cael eu dilyn. Câi asesiadau risg eu hadolygu'n barhaus fel, pe bai yna ragor o gyfyngiadau / newid yn y canllawiau, y câi trefniadau lleol eu hadolygu gan ymarferwyr a rheolwyr yn unol â hynny, e.e. datblygwyd atodiad pan osodwyd cyfyngiadau llym Covid-19 ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr ym mis Hydref.

Gofynnodd Aelod a oedd unrhyw fesurau diogelwch ar waith ar gyfer cyfnewid rhoddion rhwng teuluoedd ac a fyddai'r rhain yn destun cyfnod cwarantîn o 72 awr.

Eglurodd Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol y Plant fod hyn yn her a bod trafodaethau'n parhau. Roedd yn ddealladwy y byddai rhieni'n dymuno rhoi anrhegion. Pe bai plant yn symud i gyswllt corfforol, byddai angen rheoli'r sefyllfaoedd hyn ac asesu'r risg.

Roedd Aelod yn deall bod Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn arafach nag awdurdodau lleol eraill yn aildrefnu cyswllt i blant a gofynnodd beth oedd y rheswm dros yr oedi hwn. Yn ail, gofynnodd a fyddai Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn ystyried ychwanegu plant ag anghenion arbennig at eu grwpiau blaenoriaeth ar gyfer cyswllt wyneb yn wyneb oherwydd bod cyswllt ar-lein yn anaddas ar gyfer ymgysylltu. Gofynnodd sut yr oedd plant yn cael eu gweld fel blaenoriaeth pan nad oedd gan y rhai oedd yn mynychu ysgolion arbennig Weithiwr Cymdeithasol. Yn drydydd, gofynnodd yr Aelod faint o gartrefi gofal i oedolion oedd wedi caniatáu ymweliadau tu mewn. Canmolodd yr Aelod y Rheolwr Comisiynu, oedd wedi derbyn adroddiadau da iawn gan reolwyr cartrefi gofal ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr am ei waith caled yn ystod Covid-19, ac i'r awdurdod lleol am ei broses taliadau cyflym. Ar wahân i'r sefydliadau oedd wedi darparu cymorth lles, dymunai hefyd sôn am unigolion a gyfrannodd at les pobl eraill, gan sôn yn benodol am Lyfrgell y Safleoedd Bysiau ym Mhorthcawl.

Dywedodd Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol y Plant y byddai'n tynnu'n ôl y pwynt am gynnwys plant sy'n derbyn gofal/plant ag anableddau ac anghenion cyfathrebu fel grŵp blaenoriaeth ar gyfer cyswllt wyneb yn wyneb. Yr egwyddor oedd y byddai plant oedd yn derbyn gofal i gyd yn cael cyswllt wyneb yn wyneb. Yn ail, yr oedd yn anodd rhoi sylwadau ar y sefyllfa mewn awdurdodau lleol eraill. Roedd pob Pennaeth Gwasanaeth wedi bod mewn trafodaethau drwy gydol Covid-19 ac roedd Llywodraeth Cymru mewn cysylltiad rheolaidd â grwpiau Penaeithiaid Gwasanaeth rhanbarthol. Nid oedd Llywodraeth Cymru wedi tynnu sylw at y ffaith fod Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn profi oedi o'i gymharu ag awdurdodau lleol eraill. Roedd rhai teuluoedd wedi mynegi eu pryderon a'u rhwystredigaeth am nad oedd cysylltu wedi ailgychwyn, ac roedd y materion hyn yn

derbyn sylw. Yn drydydd, eglurodd Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol y Plant fod model trosiannol gydag un rheolwr safle ar y gweill. Pe bai plant yn derbyn cymorth gan y Tîm Anableddau, byddai asesiad yn cael ei gynnal a, phe bai angen cymorth hyd at fod yn oedolyn, byddai asesiad pellach yn cael ei gynnal. Byddai'n hapus i drosglwyddo ymholiadau ynghylch achosion unigol i'r rheolwr priodol. Cadarnhaodd yr Aelod nad oedd ei hymholiad yn ymwneud ag achosion unigol ac roedd yn croesawu'r cyfle i siarad â Phennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol y Plant yn dilyn y cyfarfod.

Mewn perthynas ag ymweliadau â chartrefi gofal i oedolion, eglurodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles fod asesiadau risg yn cael eu cynnal ar lefel ranbarthol a'u hystyried gan y Tîm Rheoli. Roedd angen i gartrefi gofal gynnal eu hasesiadau risg eu hunain. Un her oedd pe bai staff/preswylwyr yn profi'n gadarnhaol, y weithdrefn safonol oedd i'r cartref gofal fynd i mewn i gyfnod clo am ddau gyfnod heintus o'r feirws (28 diwrnod). Roedd Llywodraeth Cymru yn adolygu hyn ar hyn o bryd. Polisi lechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru oedd na ellid hwyluso ymweliadau wyneb yn wyneb pe bai cartref gofal yn mynd i mewn i gyfnod clo oherwydd Covid-19. Ar 9 Rhagfyr, roedd naw cartref yn y sefyllfa honno, gydag un o bosibl (yn disgwyl am gadarnhad), ac un yn penderfynu peidio â hwyluso ymweliadau. Roedd chwe chartref yn hwyluso ymweliadau, tra roedd dau yn rhan o gynllun peilot ar gyfer profion cyflym. Roedd hon yn sefyllfa symudol oherwydd bod posibilrwydd i unrhyw gartref gofal symud o achosion asymptomatig i achosion cadarnhaol o covid-19.

Nododd yr Aelod ymhellach y cyfleusterau newydd ac amrywiol ar gyfer cyswllt yr adroddwyd amdanynt yn y newyddion a holai a fyddai Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn hwyluso pebyll mawr, er enghraifft, i roi rhywfaint o dawelwch meddwl i deuluoedd.

Nododd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles mai sefyllfaoedd lle nad oedd teuluoedd yn gallu gweld ei gilydd oedd y rhai mwyaf heriol ac anodd. Bu datblygiadau arloesol drwy lwyfannau digidol ond nid oedd hyn wedi bod cystal â chyswllt wyneb yn wyneb. Roedd Llywodraeth Cymru yn buddsoddi mewn pod mewn un cartref gofal. Roedd rhai cartrefi gofal yn gallu hwyluso cyswllt wyneb yn wyneb yn well nag eraill. Dyna pam roedd asesiadau risg mor bwysig. Drwy'r Tîm Comisiynu, roedd y Gyfarwyddiaeth yn dal i weithio mewn partneriaeth er mwyn hyrwyddo arfer da a diogel.

Nododd yr Aelod yr anfantais i'r bobl hynny nad oeddent yn defnyddio TG. Roedd hi wedi derbyn darn o wybodaeth drwy ei drws a gofynnodd a fyddai unrhyw wybodaeth bellach ar bapur yn cael ei dosbarthu.

Eglurodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles i sesiynau digidol gael eu cynnal gyda gofalwyr a bod rhai yn fwy cyfforddus gyda TG nag eraill. Dywedodd fod angen edrych eto ar ddisbarthu gwybodaeth, ac ategu efallai â chylchlythyrau a gohebiaeth.

Cytunai'r Aelod Cabinet ar Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar fod angen i'r awdurdod lleol estyn allan at y rhai nad oedd ganddynt gystal cysylltiad digidol. Roedd Evergreen Hall yn gweithio gyda chylchgronau ffisegol a chyda Landlordiaid Cymdeithasol Cofrestredig a'r Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i geisio dosbarthu gwybodaeth a chynghor ynglŷn â lles. Gofynnodd i'r Aelodau feddwl am unrhyw unigolion yr oeddent yn eu hadnabod oedd angen derbyn gwybodaeth ar bapur.

Awgrymodd Aelod arall ei bod yn werth cysylltu â'r Ganolfan Gofalwyr i nodi unigolion oedd angen gwybodaeth ar bapur.

Gofynnodd Aelod, fel rhiant corfforaethol, a oedd modd gwranddo ar ein plant, ac a allai'r awdurdod lleol sicrhau bod pob plentyn ac oedolyn ifanc wedi cael ei osod yn ddiogel a hynny ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr.

Sicrhaodd Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol Plant y Pwyllgor fod y Gyfarwyddiaeth yn ymrwymedig i wrando ar blant ac oedolion ifanc a sicrhau eu diogelwch. Roeddent wedi ceisio gwneud hyn drwy gydol y pandemig drwy gadw mewn cysylltiad o bell ac wyneb yn wyneb gymaint â phosibl. Cafwyd adborth cadarnhaol gan blant sy'n derbyn gofal a'r rhai sy'n gadael gofal ynghylch y ffyrdd newydd o weithio drwy dechnoleg fodern, a byddai'r dulliau hyn yn parhau. O ran diogelwch plant, roedd Gweithwyr Cymdeithasol yn pryderu'n benodol am beidio â gweld plant wyneb yn wyneb ac roeddent yn gweithio'n agos gyda phartneriaid i gael adborth ar eu harsylwadau. Roedd plant ar y Gofrestr Amddiffyn Plant yn mynychu'r ddarpariaeth yn yr hwb, yn enwedig y rhai mwyaf agored i niwed a phlant sy'n derbyn gofal. Roedd perfformiad Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr o ran nifer y plant sy'n derbyn gofal sy'n cael eu lleoli o fewn y fwrdeistref yn gadarnhaol o gymharu ag awdurdodau lleol eraill. Gosodwyd y rhan fwyaf o'r plant sy'n derbyn gofal ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr a'u blaenoriaethu i aros yn y fwrdeistref, gyda chynlluniau ar waith i ofalwyr ychwanegol gefnogi hyn. Mewn achosion lle roedd plant sy'n derbyn gofal yn cael eu gosod y tu allan i Ben-y-bont ar Ogwr, roedd hyn oherwydd byw gyda pherthnasau.

Gofynnodd yr Aelod sut roedd y Gyfarwyddiaeth yn cadw mewn cysylltiad â'r plant oedd yn derbyn gofal oedd yn byw y tu allan i'r fwrdeistref.

Eglurodd Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol Plant fod y Gyfarwyddiaeth wedi cadw mewn cysylltiad â phlant sy'n derbyn gofal sy'n byw y tu allan i'r fwrdeistref drwy gyswllt o bell ac, o fewn canllawiau Covid-19, drwy ymweliadau statudol.

Holodd Aelod ynglŷn â'r newid mewn modelau gweithredu ar gyfer Gwasanaethau Dydd a'r effaith y byddai hyn yn ei chael ar ofalwyr, yr oedd y ddarpariaeth hon yr unig seibiant y byddent yn ei gael.

Nododd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles fod Gwasanaethau Dydd yn faes heriol ond bod y Gyfarwyddiaeth wedi ceisio lliniaru'r risg drwy barhau i redeg gwasanaethau. Roedd wedi edrych ar y nifer fwyaf posibl o bobl y gallai eu cefnogi mewn ffyrdd diogel, gydag ymbellhau'n gymdeithasol. Roedd hyn yn golygu llai o niferoedd bob dydd a llai o ddiwrnodau ar gael. Edrychodd y Gyfarwyddiaeth hefyd ar y cymorth arall oedd ar gael, e.e. cymorth allgymorth gyda gofalwyr. Parhaodd y ddarpariaeth ddydd ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr i weithredu o gymharu â rhai ardaloedd.

Roedd yr Aelod yn falch o glywed am barhad y gwasanaethau a ddarperir gan ei bod yn ymwybodol o ba mor hanfodol oedd y gwasanaethau dydd.

Gofynnodd Aelod i'r Pwyllgor nodi'r canlynol. Un mater a ddaeth i'r amlwg ymhlith trigolion yn ystod y pandemig oedd yr iaith ddryslud ac anodd i egluro sut y gallai pobl gael mynediad at Gynorthwydd Personol a'r ddarpariaeth gymorth ar gyfer lles eu teulu eu hunain, yn enwedig i'r rhai ag anawsterau iaith. Pe bai Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn mynd i mewn i Haen Covid-19 wahanol yn y dyfodol, gofynnodd yr Aelod a ellid defnyddio iaith haws i esbonio'r rheolau'n gliriach ac a ellid eu hanfon at bobl fel eu bod yn gwybod a oedd ganddynt eu Cynorthwydd Personol i'w helpu.

Nododd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar mai hwn oedd ei Phwyllgor Craffu cyntaf fel Aelod Cabinet. Dymunai ddiolch i'r Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles, Rheolwr y Grŵp – Chwaraeon a Gweithgarwch Corfforol, Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol Plant, Pennaeth Gofal

Cymdeithasol i Oedolion a'u timau perthnasol am eu hymrwymiad a'u hymroddiad. Ni allai bwysleisio digon gymaint yr oedd y Gyfarwyddiaeth wedi canolbwyntio yn ystod cyfnod heriol a llawn straen. Dymunai sicrhau'r Aelodau bod ganddi'r un pryderon a'i bod yn gofyn cwestiynau'n rheolaidd i sicrhau bod preswylwyr yn cael eu hystyried a bod y staff yn cael eu cefnogi.

Diolchodd y Pwyllgor i'r Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles a'i thîm am eu gwaith yn ystod Covid-19.

129. **DIWEDDARIAD AR Y RHAGLEN WAITH I'R DYFODOL**

Cyflwynodd y Swyddog Craffu yr adroddiad. Dywedodd y byddai'r Aelodau'n cofio i'r Cyngor gael gwybod y byddai Setliad Ariannol Llywodraeth Leol gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn hwyrach na'r disgwyl, ac felly y byddai Pwyllgorau Craffu yn ystyried craffu ar y Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canolig ar ôl i'r Cabinet ystyried y cynigion drafft ar y 19eg o Ionawr, yn hytrach na chylch cyfarfodydd mis Rhagfyr, fel y cynlluniwyd yn wreiddiol.

Fel y nodwyd yn y tabl ym mharagraff 4.1 yr adroddiad, ac yn dilyn cymeradwyaeth yng Nghyngor mis Tachwedd roedd dyddiadau cyfarfodydd Craffu wedi cael eu symud i:

20 Ionawr am 10a.m. – Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canolig Drafft ar gyfer Cyfarwyddiaeth Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd a Chyfarwyddiaeth Cymunedau.

21 Ionawr am 10a.m. – Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canolig Drafft ar gyfer Cyfarwyddiaeth Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles a Chyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr.

Ym mharagraff 4.5, atgoffwyd y Pwyllgor am ffurflen y Meini Prawf, y gallai Aelodau ei defnyddio i gynnig eitemau pellach ar gyfer y Flaenraglen Waith, y gallai'r Pwyllgor wedyn eu hystyried ar gyfer eu blaenoriaethu mewn cyfarfod yn y dyfodol. Pwysleisiai Ffurflen y Meini Prawf yr angen i ystyried materion megis effaith, risg, perfformiad, y gyllideb a chanfyddiad y gymuned wrth nodi pynciau i ymchwilio iddynt ac i sicrhau cyfrifoldeb strategol am Graffu a manteisio i'r eithaf ar y cyfle i gael effaith.

Nid oedd eitemau pellach i'w hystyried ar gyfer y Flaenraglen Waith am weddill y calendr dinesig o gyfarfodydd yn defnyddio'r ffurflen gytunedig, a gellid ailedrych ar hyn yn y cyfarfod nesaf.

**PENDERFYNWYD:** Bod y Pwyllgor yn nodi'r eitem nesaf ar gyfer Blaenraglen Waith y Pwyllgor a nodwyd ym mharagraffau 4.1 o'r adroddiad.

130. **EITEMAU BRYD**

Dim.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 11:00

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

21 APRIL 2021

#### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

#### SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS DURING COVID-19

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an overview of the safeguarding arrangements for adults and children during the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### 2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-

- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

#### 3. Background

##### March – September 2020

- 3.1 On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Corporate Parenting Committee received a report entitled 'Support For Vulnerable Children During Covid-19'. The report noted that in late February/early March 2020, as part of the preparation for supporting children and young people in the global pandemic, business continuity plans were reviewed. The report noted it was essential to ensure Bridgend partners continued to safeguard children and support their wellbeing in a time of great challenge. It was reported that the workforce was enabled to work from home through the greater use of technology with a focus on dynamic assessment of risk in which the risks to the workforce and risks to children and young people needed to be understood, balanced and mitigated. Face to face home visits only took place when the risks of not doing so were greater than the risks to the workforce of potential exposure to the virus.
- 3.2 In line with Welsh Government guidance social services re-designed the way services were delivered and prioritised. A service plan was put in place in March 2020 and

this has been subject to regular review as restrictions have been varied and/or national guidance has been revised.

3.3 The table below provides data on Children’s Social Care activity during the period April 2020 to September 2020:-

|              | Assessments | S47 Enquiries | Statutory Visits (Children Looked After) | Statutory Visits (Child Protection) | Child Protection Conferences | Core Group Meetings |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Apr-20       | 98          | 32            | 225                                      | 324                                 | 50                           | 120                 |
| May-20       | 57          | 48            | 224                                      | 442                                 | 59                           | 142                 |
| Jun-20       | 65          | 49            | 230                                      | 369                                 | 57                           | 135                 |
| Jul-20       | 104         | 40            | 255                                      | 392                                 | 67                           | 136                 |
| Aug-20       | 76          | 40            | 240                                      | 526                                 | 43                           | 169                 |
| Sep-20       | 80          | 55            | 260                                      | 426                                 | 52                           | 132                 |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>480</b>  | <b>264</b>    | <b>1434</b>                              | <b>2479</b>                         | <b>328</b>                   | <b>834</b>          |

- 96.67% of new assessments for children were completed within statutory timescales
- 89% of visits to children looked after were completed within statutory timescales
- 92% of visits to children placed on the child protection register were completed within approved timescales
- 93% of Initial Child Protection Conferences were held within statutory timescales

3.4 The table below identifies the mode of contact made for statutory functions between 1 April 2020 and 30 September 2020:-

|              | Statutory Visits (Children Looked After) | Statutory Visits (Child Protection) |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Face to Face | 37%                                      | 74%                                 |
| Telephone    | 48%                                      | 20%                                 |
| Video calls  | 15%                                      | 6%                                  |

3.5 The table below provides data on Adult Safeguarding activity during the period April 2020 to September 2020:-

|               | <b>Number of Safeguarding Referrals</b> | <b>Met threshold for Adult Protection Procedures</b> |
|---------------|---|--|
| <b>Mar-20</b> | 21                                      | 4  |
| <b>Apr-20</b> | 14                                      | 2  |
| <b>May-20</b> | 28                                      | 7  |
| <b>Jun-20</b> | 41                                      | 10   |
| <b>Jul-20</b> | 32                                      | 3  |
| <b>Aug-20</b> | 21                                      | 4  |
| <b>Sep-20</b> | 20                                      | 1  |

3.6 From the outset of the pandemic the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has remained fully operational at Ravens Court but with a reduced number of staff working from the office base on a daily basis. A small central team had been based at Ravens Court to receive calls and enquiries from professionals and members of the public on open cases. These would then have been passed to relevant personnel (based at home) if further action /advice is required.

3.7 The following support had been established for vulnerable learners via Education and Family Support Teams and Children’s Social Care:

- A multi-agency approach to supporting vulnerable children and prioritising the most vulnerable to offer some of them access to emergency childcare hubs (pre-school and school) and special schools was established in April 2020 in response to the pandemic. This approach was agreed between the Education and Family Support Directorate and Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate and was effective from 20 April 2020 until the end of July 2020.
- In the first 2 weeks of September there was a gradual return into education, with all pupils officially back in school from 14 September until all schools closed again on 11 December. The schools remained closed, other than for foundation phase pupils who returned to school on 22 February. Key Stage 2 and secondary pupils started returning to schools on 15 March 2021 with the expectation that schools will be opened fully on 12 April.
- Virtual/blended learning was offered as well as on-site provision for vulnerable learners during all school closure periods.
- During the current COVID-19 crisis, vulnerable learners were also provided with a variety of contact and support from a range of services to ensure their needs continue to be met. Those children who were on the child protection register and are also eligible for free school meals were having

their meals delivered to them directly by staff from the Edge of Care Team and the Bridgend Youth Justice Service. Information gathered on those visits was shared with allocated social workers and schools.

- A Central Hub and an Early Help COVID Helpline based in Ravens Court was established which assisted in the join up of support for children and families. This multi-agency hub supported the identification of services involved with children and families and signposting families and professionals to those allocated workers in the first instance. Where children and families are not known to services, the hub assisted in providing information, advice and assistance to ensure those needs are met and prevent issues escalating. This hub also acted as the conduit for referrals from schools and social workers of vulnerable learners who benefited from a place at one of the emergency childcare hubs.

- 3.8 In addition to the statutory services/functions covered in the service plan, the Council also responded to the need to provide support to its most vulnerable children and young people during the school holidays and established bespoke provision to achieve this at the time.
- 3.9 The Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate was able to make good use of Welsh Government funding to provide activities and support during the summer period. 20 days of activities were provided supporting 39 young people, who were registered or classed as vulnerable, and with 259 sessions provided to young people over the four week period.
- 3.10 Additionally a programme was supported for young people with additional needs who would normally have accessed the Discovery Days respite programme during the summer period. Last year the programme supported households including siblings with 21 young people being supported.
- 3.11 There had also been a growth in digital work with young people with disabilities with weekly on line activities progressed.

#### **4. Current situation/proposal**

##### **September 2020 – January 2021**

- 4.1 Over the pandemic period of the past year, children's social care has developed and adapted a number of service plans to support the working arrangements for staff whilst ensuring the most vulnerable children and young people continue to be contacted and visited on a face to face basis. The service plans have responded to the differing Tiers of Welsh Government guidance including the "Circuit Breaker Lockdown" or "Firebreak" which came into force between 23 October 2020 until 9 November 2020. The service plan for tier four restrictions can be found in **Appendix 1**
- 4.2 The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has remained fully operational at Ravens Court with a reduced number of staff working from the office base on a daily basis. A comprehensive MASH risk assessment has been completed to ensure the working arrangements for the Information, Advice and Assistance Team, The Adult

Safeguarding Team and all of its partner agencies withing MASH work in an environment which is safe and compliant with Welsh Government Guidance. At the start of the pandemic, a small central safeguarding children’s social care team was also working from Ravens Court offices to receive calls and enquiries from professionals and members of the public on open cases. As the options in the use of technology has progressed the work of the central team has now returned to the individual teams by means of virtual engagement.

4.3 The table below provides data on Children’s Social Care activity during the period April 2020 to December 2020:-

|              | Assessments | S47 Enquiries | Statutory Visits (Children Looked After) | Statutory Visits (Child Protection) | Child Protection Conferences | Core Group Meetings |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Apr-20       | 98          | 33            | 225                                      | 324                                 | 34                           | 124                 |
| May-20       | 57          | 48            | 224                                      | 442                                 | 63                           | 148                 |
| Jun-20       | 65          | 49            | 230                                      | 369                                 | 57                           | 139                 |
| Jul-20       | 104         | 41            | 255                                      | 394                                 | 73                           | 138                 |
| Aug-20       | 76          | 40            | 238                                      | 540                                 | 39                           | 183                 |
| Sep-20       | 80          | 55            | 263                                      | 412                                 | 57                           | 140                 |
| Oct-20       | 93          | 46            | 221                                      | 394                                 | 82                           | 132                 |
| Nov-20       | 82          | 62            | 266                                      | 496                                 | 83                           | 149                 |
| Dec-20       | 129         | 49            | 274                                      | 399                                 | 36                           | 132                 |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>784</b>  | <b>423</b>    | <b>2196</b>                              | <b>3770</b>                         | <b>524</b>                   | <b>1285</b>         |

- 95% of new assessments for children were completed within statutory timescales
- 85% of visits to children looked after were completed within statutory timescales
- 90% of visits to children placed on the child protection register were completed within approved timescales
- 95% of Initial Child Protection Conferences were held within statutory timescales on a virtual basis. Plans are underway to gradually introduce a blend of virtual and face to face conferences with family and partner professionals but this will be dependent on Welsh Government guidance.

4.4 The table below identified the mode of contact made for statutory functions between 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2020:-

|              | Statutory Visits<br>(Children Looked After) | Statutory Visits<br>(Child Protection) |
|--------------|---|--|
| Face to Face | 44%   | 76%                                    |
| Telephone    | 42%   | 17%                                    |
| Video calls  | 14%   | 7%                                     |

#### 4.5 Multi Agency Safeguarding

Despite the extreme challenges over the past year, multi-agency information sharing and safeguarding practices have continued to ensure adults, children and young people are safe within the community.

An example of this is the convening of multi-agency Professional Strategy meetings. These meetings respond to safeguarding concerns about those whose work, either in a paid or voluntary capacity, which brings them into contact with children or adults at risk. It also includes individuals who have caring responsibilities for children or adults in need of care and support and their employment or voluntary work brings them into contact with children or adults at risk.

A total of 58 Professional Abuse Strategy Meetings have been convened between 01/04/2020 to 31/01/2021 in respect of professionals working within services to children and young people. A total of 75 meetings have been convened in relation to professionals working within services to adults.

The service continue to work closely on a virtual basis at other multi-agency forums such as Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). This forum assess and manages the risks posed by sexual and violent offenders.

In addition, the work of the Regional Safeguarding Board has continued and the subgroups regularly meet to prioritise its safeguarding responsibilities.

Daily discussions are a core function within the MASH where high risk domestic abuse cases are considered. Multi-agency working and information sharing is essential to facilitate this function which has continued virtually throughout the pandemic.

Between July 2020 to September 2020, 42 high risk domestic abuse cases were discussed in this forum and between October 2020 to December 2020, 61 cases were discussed. This function of MASH allows information to be shared at the earliest opportunity, reducing risk and targeting support and protection for adults and children without the delay of waiting for a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which is convened every two weeks.

Although restrictions on people’s movements, social events and the closing of pubs and restaurants saw a reduction in Public Protection Notices (PPNs) generally throughout the pandemic, the domestic abuse related PPNs remained at a similar level throughout these months.

#### 4.6 Adult Safeguarding

In early March 2020, as part of the preparation for supporting adults in the global pandemic, all directorate business continuity plans were reviewed in the same way as Children’s Social Care. It was essential to ensure that Bridgend Adult Social Care Services continued to safeguard adults and support their wellbeing in a time of great challenge. As far as possible the workforce was enabled to work from home and there has been a greater use of technology aided by risk assessments to ensure practitioners and vulnerable adults are protected. Face to face home visits only took place when the risks of not doing so were greater than the risks to the workforce of potential exposure to the virus.

The Table below shows comparative figures for Adults at Risk referrals received between April 2020 to December 2020 and the number that progressed to a Strategy Meeting.

| Years<br>1 April –<br>31<br>December | Number of<br>Safeguarding<br>Referrals | Met threshold for Adult<br>Protection Procedures |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Apr-20                               | 14                                     | 2  |
| May-20                               | 28                                     | 6  |
| Jun-20                               | 41                                     | 10   |
| Jul-20                               | 32                                     | 4  |
| Aug-20                               | 21                                     | 5  |
| Sep-20                               | 20                                     | 1  |
| Oct-20                               | 31                                     | 12   |
| Nov-20                               | 43                                     | 6  |
| Dec-20                               | 30                                     | 4  |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>260</b>                             | <b>50</b>  |

The table below shows a breakdown in the categories of abuse for April 2020 until December 2020. Please note as a person can have more than one category of abuse:-

| Category of Abuse          | Total      |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Emotional or Psychological | 49         |
| Financial                  | 22         |
| Neglect                    | 120        |
| Physical                   | 98         |
| Sexual                     | 16         |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>305</b> |

For all safeguarding referrals received that do not meet the threshold for adult protection procedures an enquiry report is completed and recommendations made e.g. no further action the adult is not at risk or they may have needs for care and support and a referral made for social work support. It may also be appropriate for people to be signposted to alternative services. An enquiry report is also sent to the referrer where appropriate.

#### 4.7 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) provides a statutory framework for acting and making decisions on behalf of individuals who lack mental capacity to do so for themselves. In 2007, the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) were introduced to provide a legal framework to prevent breaches of the European Convention on Human Rights following the 'Bournewood' judgement.

DoLS is appropriate if people lack the capacity to consent to a particular treatment or care that is recognised by others as being in their best interest or which will protect them from harm. Welsh Government issued guidance which confirmed that during the pandemic, the principles of the MCA and the safeguards provided by DoLS still apply.

Bridgend as the Supervisory Body needed to take a proportionate approach to all applications, including those made before and during the pandemic. Any decisions must be taken specifically for each person.

Due to Welsh Government restrictions, for much of 2020/21, it has not been possible for Best Interest Assessors to undertake face to face visits in care homes. During periods of lockdown decisions around professional visiting are risk based decisions. Therefore to undertake DoLS assessments and reviews, remote techniques have been used, such as telephone or video calls where appropriate to do so, and the person's communication needs have been taken into consideration. Views have also be sought from family, friends and professionals who are concerned for the person's welfare.



It has been a challenging time for Best Interest Assessors and each DoLS assessment has taken a longer period of time to complete. Therefore currently BCBC have a backlog of 152 DoLS assessments that need to be completed. A plan is in place to clear the backlog. Arrangements for lateral flow device (LFD) testing will be in place in all care homes so BIA can undertake these tests when appropriate.

The team is currently working on allocating on a care home basis to limit the footfall into each home so numbers allocated to each BIA will depend on the requirements per home and how many new referrals are received.

The service is working towards clearing the backlog by the end of the financial year. Although it should be noted that approximately 60 - 70 new referrals were received between mid-February and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

In addition to funding received from Welsh Government of £11,803 for this financial year; 2021/22, following a successful further bid, BCBC were granted additional funding of £51,000, which became available in March 2021. Some of this funding will be used for training. The remainder of the funding will purchase additional Best Interest Assessors (BIA) capacity to reduce the current backlog.

#### **DoLS Referrals including outcome status**

| Years                          | Number of DoLS referrals received | Status at 31/12/20 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 April – 31 December          |                                   |                    |
| Granted Standard Authorisation | 370                               | 129                |
| Criteria not met               |                                   | 0                  |
| Withdrawn                      |                                   | 77                 |
| Allocated/Ongoing              |                                   | 48                 |
| Awaiting Allocation            |                                   | 116                |

#### **4.8 Secure Estate – Parc Prison**

In April 2016, in accordance with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, BCBC became responsible for assessing and meeting the care and support needs of adults in the secure estate (Parc Prison) in Wales.

A small team comprising of two social workers and an occupational therapist was developed. This team is usually based in Parc Prison however due to the global pandemic the Ministry of Justice made the decision to lock prison's down due to the risks of Covid 19 in the secure estate environment. The Safeguarding Prison Social Work team have remained fully operational but working from home, using remote techniques, such as telephone or video calls where appropriate to do so.

The social work team, also works as part of a wider multi-disciplinary prison team. The team assesses the needs of prisoners with care and support needs, with families of prisoners, plan for prisoner release and liaise with other local authorities to ensure

a safe discharge. If a prisoner requires a care package of support this is commissioned from G4S who provide domiciliary care service.

Prior to Covid-19 the service had seen a year on year increase in the numbers of referrals received. However from the figures below the referral rate has dropped this year:-

| Years                 | Number of Secure Estate Referrals | Number of Assessments Completed for the Secure Estate |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 April – 31 December |                                   |   |
| Apr-20                | 1                                 | 2   |
| May-20                | 8                                 | 4   |
| Jun-20                | 6                                 | 7   |
| Jul-20                | 4                                 | 2   |
| Aug-20                | 7                                 | 4   |
| Sep-20                | 11                                | 3   |
| Oct-20                | 6                                 | 3   |
| Nov-20                | 14                                | 7   |
| Dec-20                | 3                                 | 10  |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>60</b>                         | <b>42</b>   |

The impact of Covid 19 in the prison environment was significant, in order to try and contain the spread of Covid 19 prisoners were spending long periods of time in their cells, exercise was limited to 1 hour per day. Social care staff were based in specific areas of the prison and only worked in that area to prevent cross contamination. During the first wave of Covid infection in March 2020 – May 2020 7 prisoners contracted Covid 19, however the outbreak of Covid was far worse in the second wave when over 150 prisoners and over 100 prison officers contracted Covid 19 and there were three prisoner deaths.

#### 4.9 Residential & Nursing Homes

Adult Safeguarding and Contract Monitoring Teams work very closely together to support independent residential providers. Contract monitoring officers telephoned care homes on a weekly basis to offer support and to monitor the number of Covid cases in each home (residents and staff), this would form the basis of a RAG status report to the Head of Adult Social Care and the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing. Over the New Year period three homes were managed via the Escalating Concerns Process following significant Covid outbreak with the majority of staff and residents testing positive. JIMP (Joint Interagency Monitoring Panel) meetings were convened initially on a daily and then weekly basis. This is a statutory process led by the Authority. The purpose of the multi-agency process is to ensure the residents receive the necessary care to safeguard their health and wellbeing. The group will support the Responsible Individual (RI) in their legal role. All three homes are now Covid free.

There was a significant impact on the care home population with a high number of deaths amongst residents who had been diagnosed with Covid-19. This impacted on the wellbeing of other residents and the staff. Through the JIMP process the

service worked with care homes providers and offered additional counselling services to residents, staff and the managers of the homes. The impact on the care home population in Bridgend was reported to Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board by the Director and Head of Service in a Board meeting.

## **5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**

5.1 There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 There are no equality impacts arising from this report.

## **7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications**

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 remodelling and transformation of services continues to be a priority.
- Prevention – the report is about the approaches adopted by the Directorate in line with the SSWBA, for example, the continued provision of information, advice and assistance to enable people to remain independent and safe.
- Integration – 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 work with statutory partners and the Third Sector.
- Collaboration – The collaborative approaches described in the report, are managed and monitored through various strategic and collaborative boards across Directorates and with partners.
- 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 Where applicable the Council has claimed support from the Welsh Government COVID Hardship fund to support the provision of services for the county borough's most vulnerable children, young people and adults and this will continue into 2021-22. Any additional pressures not met from Welsh Government funding will be highlighted in the quarterly revenue budget monitoring reports to Cabinet.

## **9. Recommendation**

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the content of the report.

**Claire Marchant**  
**Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing**  
**March 2021**

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### **Background documents:**

None

## **Service Plan for Alert Level 4 Restrictions**

**Level 4 / Very High Risk: Restrictions at this level would be equivalent to the ‘firebreak’ regulations or lockdown. These could either be deployed as a ‘firebreak’ by doing so in advance, or as an emergency ‘lockdown’ measure if advance notice is not possible.**

When further operational guidance is provided by Welsh Government the senior management team will review and update the Service Plan as required.

**All staff are to use effective infection prevention & control measures including social distancing, hand hygiene, correct and appropriate use of PPE.**

### **Child Protection Visits**

Visits to children who are on the Child Protection Register should be carried out at least every 10 working days and it is expected that these will ordinarily be undertaken face to face. If following a two stage risk assessment a decision is taken that this requirement should be met through other remote/virtual contact then this decision must be agreed by a member of the senior management team and the rationale for it must be recorded.

### **Core Groups**

Core groups should take place using virtual means such as Skype or Teams wherever possible. If a parent or professional does not have this technology they should be encouraged to use the phone the SW who can speak them on speakerphone to enable them to engage within the meeting.



### **Visits to Children Looked After**

Statutory Visits to children who are looked after should take place virtually during Alert Level 4. If a face to face visit is deemed to be necessary then the two stage risk assessment should be completed and agreement given by a member of the senior management team before it takes place.

### **Visits to Children who are the subject of a Care and Support Plan**

Visits to children who are the subject of a Care and Support Plan should take place virtually during Alert Level 4. If a face to face visit is deemed to be necessary then the two stage risk assessment should be completed and agreement given by a member of the senior management team before it takes place.

### **Care and Support Meetings**

Care and Support meetings should take place using virtual means such as Skype or MS Teams wherever possible. If a parent or professional does not have this technology they should be encouraged to use the phone the SW who can speak them on speakerphone to enable them to engage within the meeting.

### **Face to Face Contact**

Where there were prior arrangements in place for children who are looked after to have contact with their family, the contact can continue. Arrangements will need to be established wherever possible for contact to take place using remote facilities such as face-time, telephone calls etc. and for carers to supervise as appropriate. In instances where contact is considered to be necessary the two part necessity/risk assessment will need to be completed and agreement be given by a member of the senior management team, prior to the contact going ahead. Key priority groups for direct contact that may be assessed as necessary include:

- Infants in care proceedings
- Children with communication difficulties
- Children whose care plan is reunification
- 'Goodbye contacts'
- Contacts for the purpose of Social Work assessment

### **Respite/Short Breaks**

While there is ongoing community transmission of the virus it is important to avoid contact with others as far as possible which includes visits or overnight stays in other households. This would mean that respite care is best avoided other than in exceptional circumstances. Where respite care is judged to be in the best interests of the child, the guidance in the document 'PHW Advisory Note - Use of PPE in Social Care Settings' should be applied. Where a short break is to be provided the two part Risk Assessment will need to be reviewed and updated as appropriate.

### **Access to Office Accommodation**

At Alert Level 4 all staff are required to work from home wherever this is possible. Only staff working within MASH can attend the council offices at Ravens Court. Office accommodation will also be made available at CCYD to staff who in between visits (where it is not practicable for them to return home) need a space from which to work.

### **Initial Child Protection Conferences**

At alert level 4, ICPC's will be held virtually using Microsoft Team (MS Teams) as the primary form of communication but the IRO will ensure family members are able to participate fully by another means if required.



### **Review Child Protection Conferences**

At alert level 4, RCPC's will be held virtually using Microsoft Team (MS Teams) as the primary form of communication but the IRO will ensure family members are able to participate fully by another means if required.

The RCPC will be a multiagency meeting and as such decisions will be made in relation to Child Protection registration, children will be permitted to be de-registered providing the majority of professionals determine this is the appropriate course of action and the child is no longer considered to be at risk of significant harm.

### **Combined Looked After Children Reviews and CPC's**

At alert level 4, these meetings will be held virtually using Microsoft Team (MS Teams) as the primary form of communication but the IRO will ensure family members are able to participate fully by another means if required.

### **Looked After Children Reviews**

At alert level 4, these meetings will be held virtually using Microsoft Team (MS Teams) as the primary form of communication but the IRO will ensure family members are able to participate fully by another means if required.

Any actions/recommendations are recorded and forwarded to the Team Manager & case holding Social Worker as usual practice.

### **IRO Contact with children & young people**

Contact between the IRO and children & young people who are looked after should now be undertaken virtually using Microsoft Team (MS Teams) prior to the LAC review.



## **Fostering**

### **Undertaking Medical Assessments for Prospective Foster Carers**

In line with most recent Welsh Government Guidance:

- prospective foster carers whose applications were already in the system as at 8th November 2020 and who have been unable to access face to face or virtual health assessments with a GP during the assessment process, can proceed to panel as planned with any recommendation for approval based on a self-declaration of health
- from 8th November 2020 all new prospective foster carer applicants entering the system, must access either a face to face or remote health assessment by a GP during the assessment process and before progressing to foster panel
- by 31st March 2021, all foster carers approved utilising a self-declaration of health form must have completed a full adult health assessment and the service must complete a review of their approval, under the regulatory first year review process

### **Face to face/in person contact during the foster care process**

When considering in-person and face to face contact, The Fostering Service should continue to risk assess on a case by case basis. In instances where in-person/face to face contact is considered to be necessary the two part necessity/risk assessment will need to be completed and agreement be given by a member of the senior management team, prior to the contact going ahead. Such instances can include:

- assessment for connected persons and general foster carers (including home visits to applicants homes)

- face to face family contact
- preventative support services
- moving on to adoption
- placement support

Where face to face/in person contact is not deemed as necessary or appropriate, the use of remote communication technology should be exercised.

### **Residential Care**

- Where there is a plan for a child to be placed into Residential care the child/young person should be tested prior to admission.
- For urgent situations, where delaying placement would likely have an adverse impact on a child's health and wellbeing routine testing of asymptomatic children prior to urgent placement is not required.
- In the event of an urgent placement testing should take place as soon as possible and a multi-agency risk assessed approach should be taken. Public Health Wales will provide specialist health protection advice to support a risk assessment.
- All Residential Care Homes must operate in line with “Guidance to Prevent COVID-19 Among Care Home Residents and Manage Cases, Incidents & Outbreaks in Residential Care Settings in Wales” published by Public Health Wales.
- All staff working and visitors will be expected to wear PPE in line with “Personal protective equipment (PPE) – resource for care workers working in transmission in England” published by Public Health England.



- All Residential Care Homes will need to operate effective Infection and prevention control in line with recommendations set out in “Covid-19: Guidance for the remobilisation of services within health and care settings – Infection prevention and control recommendations” published by Public Health England.
- All Residential Care Homes will need to operate in line with the expectations set out under Level 4 in the attached Welsh Government Guidance:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-12/coronavirus-control-plan-alert-levels-in-wales-for-social-care-services-for-adults-and-children.pdf>

#### Multi-Agency Panels

At Alert Level 4 all multi-agency panels will continue to be held virtually.

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