

**APPENDIX**

**DRAFT**

**CORPORATE PARENTING  
POLICY STATEMENT**

**Safeguarding and Family Support**  
**June 2009**

# **Bridgend County Borough Council**

## **Corporate Parenting Policy Statement**

In raising the quality of life for all looked after children, young people and care leavers in the County Borough of Bridgend, Bridgend County Borough Council is committed to:

### **Improving Life Chances**

1. Respecting and nurturing the personal identity and individual uniqueness of all looked-after children & young people and care leavers.
2. Being ambitious for looked-after children & young people and care leavers and encouraging and supporting their learning and development to fulfill their potential, whether through education, training or employment.
3. Ensuring that looked-after children & young people and care leavers have ready access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities.
4. Ensuring that the health needs of looked-after children & young people and care leavers are properly provided for in a sensitive way which seeks to promote better health and well being.
5. Protecting looked-after children & young people and care leavers from being socially excluded by encouraging them to play an active role in the local community, its activities and opportunities as a whole.

### **Empowering Children and Young People**

1. Sharing in and celebrating the success of looked-after children & young people and care leavers through recognition of their individual achievements.
2. Ensuring that all looked-after children & young people and care leavers are able to exercise their rights through accessible advocacy services which operate high levels of confidentiality and empower them to have a voice in matters and decisions that affect their lives.
3. Regularly seeking, and responding to, the views of looked-after children & young people and care leavers, and involving them in whatever way they choose.
4. Ensuring that young people's transition to independence is properly planned and prepared for in a supportive manner which appreciates young people's considerations about leaving care, including where they want to live.

### **Providing Strong Leadership**

1. Respecting the rights and needs of looked-after children & young people and care leavers, and challenging negative attitudes towards them.
2. Ensuring there are clear lines of accountability at all levels of service provision.
3. Maximising the benefit to looked-after children & young people and care leavers from the resources available across the Authority, and demonstrating the effectiveness and value of the care and support provided.
4. Being proactive when there are known or potential difficulties facing our looked after children or our care experienced young people.
5. Clarifying and strengthening the roles of Councillors and Officers as effective Corporate Parents.
6. Developing improved communication with looked-after children & young people and care leavers, and helping to maintain links with family members where appropriate.
7. Helping ensure that services for looked-after children & young people and care leavers are integrated across all directorates and with partner agencies.

### **Supporting Families and Foster Carers**

1. Being pro-active in facilitating better support for families in the community, to make sure that fewer children need to be 'looked after' in the future.
2. Ensuring that services remain focused around the needs of looked-after children & young people and care leavers, and families, through their involvement in the planning and monitoring of services.
3. Recognising the skills and dedication of Foster Carers, and being committed to celebrating their achievements to boost morale and increase their commitment to providing high standards of care.

### **Continually Improving Performance**

1. Ensuring that all Council services maintain high standards to encourage, safeguard and support looked-after children & young people and care leavers in line with their needs, the local community and national objectives.
2. Ensuring the continual improvement of Council and jointly provided/commissioned services by regularly evaluating performance against the outcomes for looked-after children & young people and care leavers.
3. Monitoring standards and relevant performance indicators across Directorates to inform the review and development of Council policy.