

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING CABINET COMMITTEE

17th January 2012

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - CHILDREN

STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE FOR FOSTERING, ADOPTION AND CHILDREN'S HOMES

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval of the revised and new Statements of Purpose for the service areas specified below in line with regulatory requirements.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The report links to the following corporate priority:
 - Young Voices

3. Background

- 3.1 Within the Children's Homes Regulations (Wales) 2002, the Fostering Services Regulations (Wales) 2003, and the Local Authority Adoption Service (Wales) Regulations 2007 there is a requirement that each children's homes and service area has a 'Statement of Purpose'.
- 3.2 The regulations require that all 'Statements of Purpose' are approved and subsequently kept under review by the Registered Provider. This is done on an annual basis. Best practice indicates that this should be a function for elected members as part of their corporate parenting role. In addition, the CSSIW Inspection reports in relation to the regulated services reiterate that this action must be completed.
- 3.3 The 'Statement of Purpose' is a summarising document which describes the range of services and information about the particular service. It is a publicly available document but is specifically for use by anyone involved in the service area to which it applies, for example, children, parents, foster carers, adoptive parents, practitioners and managers. A copy is also made available to the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales. Along with the 'Statement of Purpose', the service provider must also produce a written guide about the service and this is referred to as the 'Children's Guide'. This summarises the 'Statement of Purpose' in a format that is easily understood by any age of child.
- 3.4 The content of Statements of Purpose is prescribed by the regulations and each 'Statement of Purpose' is shaped by those requirements and provides relevant information on the aims and objectives of each service area and the services and

facilities provided by the individual children's home or fostering and adoption service. 'Statements of Purpose' are required for:

- Adoption Services
- Fostering Services
- Baker's Way Short Break Service
- Complex Needs Unit
- Transition Unit

3.5 During the last year the residential services has undergone a redesign in line with the recommendation made to Cabinet in January 2011 which subsequently approved the decommissioning of Maesteg Community Home and the development of new services on the existing sites of Pant Morfa Community Home and Cartrefle Community Home. The new services will comprise of a Complex Needs Service for 11-15 year olds and a Transition Service for 16-17year olds.

3.6 The Complex Needs Service will operate from the existing Pant Morfa site in Porthcawl and will provide placements for up to four young people and has undergone major refurbishment to meet the needs of service delivery. Placements will be short to medium term depending on the children/young people's needs up to a period of 12 months. The service will be considered as one of the first options of accommodation for children/young people who display complex needs and require intensive work being undertaken to stabilise their behaviour to allow them to move on and settle into a suitable permanent or long term placement.

3.7 In delivering this service the objectives will be:-

- to provide children and young people with an individualised package of support that focuses on their assessed needs;
- to offer children and young people therapeutic interventions to assist them in achieving well being;
- to assist children and young people to explore their own issues and experiences and work through any emotions and feelings which may become a bar to a stable placement and future accommodation;
- to provide appropriate levels of support that recognises, values and encourage children and young people to maintain personal skills and competencies and promote their confidence and self esteem;
- to provide a comprehensive package of educational support to promote the best possible outcomes for children and young people within their educational setting;
- to work closely with families or substitute families to ensure that when children/young people return home or go to other suitable placements, adequate support is given to both the young person and their family to ensure success.

3.8 The Transition Unit will operate from the existing Cartrefle site in Bridgend and will provide placements for up to four young people on the main unit. In addition to this it will also provide placements for two young people in bedsits which have been developed through the refurbishment of the flat attached to the main building with the availability of outreach workers to support young people to make the transition to supported accommodation within the community. Placements will be short to medium term up to a period of 12 months and will provide an innovative service to

young people who require an intensively managed transition into independent living. It will provide a quality needs-led service which incorporates an individually designed plan for each young person, allowing maximum personal autonomy within a safe environment free from exploitation.

3.9 In delivering this service the objectives will be:

- To assist young people prepare for independent living by:
 - helping them become financially responsible;
 - to become proficient in the practical aspects of independent living;
 - ensure they acknowledge the importance of their own health care;
 - helping them form appropriate relationships.
- To provide an environment for young people which enables them to deal with their individual problems, supporting them in preparing them for independence and working through the young persons care plan and pathway plan.
- To provide an outreach service to those young people living in the community and have moved on through the Transition Unit.
- Young people will initially be supported by staff to budget for their requirements and given guidance in all the practical aspects such as shopping, preparing and cooking of food and laundry. To offer advice and support in obtaining jobs, work experience and further education and training. Further assistance is provided by outreach workers assigned to the young people and they will continue to work with them through their transition into independence.

3.10 The new services will be operational from 11th January 2012.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 Each 'Statement of Purpose' includes an outline of the nature and scope of the service provided and gives detail about the processes adopted in order to carry out its functions.
- 4.2 The main areas covered in the 'Statement of Purpose' include access to services, information relating to the staff engaged in the service provision, the management structure, policies and procedures in relation to a range of service provision, and complaints.
- 4.3 Copies of each 'Statement of Purpose' are attached as appendices.
- 4.4 The amendments made to the Adoption, Fostering & Bakers Way Statements of Purpose in the main relate to updates in respect of staffing. There are some minor amendments to the Fostering Statement of Purpose to reflect changes in delivery of services i.e. development of the Support Care Scheme and the appointment of a new Placement Support Worker to undertake work with carers and young people in situations where there is challenging behaviour and/or the placement is at risk of disrupting, carers facing allegations/complaints and to assist carers who are moving

on for adoption. In respect of the Complex Needs Unit and the Transition Unit these are new Statements of Purpose which reflect the changes to the delivery of new services as outlined in 1.4 to 1.8.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework& Procedure Rules

5.1 None.

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

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

7. Financial Implications

7.1 None.

8. Recommendation

8.1 That the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee approves the revised individual 'Statement of Purpose' for the named service areas referred to, as appended to this report.

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Background documents

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.