

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING CABINET COMMITTEE

6 MARCH 2012

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN

CORPORATE PARENTING POLICY STATEMENT

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To invite Corporate Parenting Committee Members to review the existing Corporate Parenting Policy Statement to decide whether any changes are necessary.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 Corporate parenting responsibilities relate to the Council and community strategy priority theme of Young Voices.

3. Background

- 3.1 A draft Corporate Parenting Policy was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December 2006. It was endorsed by the Social Services and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a basis for consultation with stakeholders, including children and young people.
- 3.2 In December 2007, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that further work was required to reinvigorate the issues and requested the new administration to take up the challenge.
- 3.4 On 4 November 2008, Cabinet agreed to establish a Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee in order to further enhance/improve the Council's corporate parenting role. The first meeting was held on 27 November 2008.
- 3.5 Consultation with young people and partners in respect of the draft corporate parenting policy was concluded during 2009 with the final corporate parenting policy statement being presented for consideration by the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee on 27 July 2009.
- 3.6 The corporate parenting policy statement was launched on 29 October 2009.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee considers the policy statement to decide whether it is still fit for purpose in 2012, given that it was originally approved in 2009. No specific changes to the policy are proposed by officers as it is evident that, as outlined in the policy statement, there is a commitment to improving corporate

parenting responsibility. Some examples of how the policy and the Council's commitment to improving its corporate parenting role are outlined below.

- 4.2 Consultation with young people on how they are looked after continues routinely but efforts to continually improve this valuable activity resulted in a consultation event on 14 February 2012. This successful event, managed by the Independent Reviewing Officer's (IRO's) and facilitated by Tros Gynnal, explored with young people how to improve the review process to ensure their voices could be heard and better inform decision making.
- 4.3 The transition from looked after to leaving care is a challenging process for any young person. A number of key initiatives and developments have been reported on separately in their own right, such as the Integrated Post 16 Service, the traineeship, work experience and apprenticeship opportunities and the residential redesign. In all these examples, the views of young people have been ascertained through consultation events and those views used to inform service design and delivery.
- 4.4 The Corporate Parenting Policy outlines the need to celebrate the achievements of our looked after children and care leavers. One mechanism for this has been the annual Achievement of Looked After Children Awards, the second of which will be held on 30 March 2012 in the Grand pavilion, Porthcawl.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 None.

6. Equality Implications.

- 6.1 There are no equality implications.

7. Financial Implications.

- 7.1 There are no financial implications.

8. Recommendation.

- 8.1 That Committee reviews the Corporate Parenting Policy Statement and decides whether it wishes to amend it.

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Background documents

Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Policy