

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING CABINET COMMITTEE

23 JULY 2012

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN

Corporate Parenting Policy Statement

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To invite members of the Corporate Parenting Committee to review the recently updated Corporate Parenting Policy Statement to consider whether any further changes are necessary.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 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.
- 3.7. The corporate parenting policy statement was presented to Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee on 6 March 2012 for its review and decision on whether it was fit for purpose. Amendments were made and a decision taken that the revised Policy Statement be placed before the newly elected Committee following the election in May 2012.

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 and amended in March 2012. 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 (now known as Just Ask+), 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 Statement 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 took place on 30 March 2012 in the Grand pavilion, Porthcawl, and was an extremely successful event.
- 4.5 Members of the Committee may also wish to take account of the recent letter from Gwenda Thomas AM, Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services (attached as Appendix 2) in considering whether further changes are required.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

- 5.1 None.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 This has been considered but as there are no new or changed services / policy / functions in this report it is therefore not applicable at this time.

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.

Hilary Anthony
Corporate Director - Children

Contact Officer: Colin Turner
Head of Safeguarding and Family Support

Telephone: (01656) 642314

E-mail: Colin.Turner@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Sunnyside
Bridgend
CF31 4AR

Background documents

Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Policy