

Bridgend County Borough Council

Corporate Parenting Policy

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 children, young people and care leavers.
2. Being ambitious for looked after children, young people and care leavers and encouraging and supporting their personal development to assist them reach their potential, whether through education, training or employment and other social and interpersonal skills.
3. Ensuring that looked after children and care experienced young people have ready access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities and also work experience.
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

6. Sharing in and celebrating the success of looked after children, young people and care leavers through recognition of their unique achievements.
7. Ensuring that all looked after children and care experienced young people 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.
8. Regularly consulting with and responding to the views of looked after children and young persons in a supportive and inclusive way.
9. Ensuring that young people's transition to independence is properly planned and prepared for in a holistic and supportive manner, which appreciates young people's considerations about leaving care.

Providing Strong Leadership

10. Respecting the rights and needs of children and young people who are looked after by the Council, and challenging negative attitudes towards them.
11. Ensuring there are clear lines of accountability at all levels of service provision.
12. Maximising the benefit to service users from the resources available, and demonstrating the effectiveness and value for money of the care and support provided.
13. Being proactive when there are known or suspected serious difficulties facing our looked after children or our care experienced young people.
14. Continuing, strengthening and improving the role of Councillors as effective Corporate Parents.
15. Developing improved communication with looked after children, young people and care leavers.
16. Helping ensure that services are integrated across Education, Social Care, Health, Leisure and Cultural Services and that effective communication and information sharing takes place amongst partner agencies, to include housing advice.

Supporting Families and Foster Carers

17. Facilitating better family support in the Community, to make sure that fewer children need to be 'looked after' in the future.
18. Ensuring that services remain focused around the needs of children, young people and families through their involvement in the planning and monitoring of services.
19. 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

20. Ensuring that all Council services maintain high standards to encourage, protect and support looked after children and young persons in line with their needs, the local community and national objectives.
21. Ensuring the continual improvement of Council services by regularly evaluating performance against the outcomes for children, young people and care leavers to ensure the on-going review and development of Council policy.