

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING CABINET COMMITTEE

24 OCTOBER 2012

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - CHILDREN

#### THE RESIDENTIAL CARE REDESIGN PROJECT

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the progress of the implementation of the Residential Redesign Project.

#### 2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 Residential provision within Bridgend for our Looked After Children is linked to the theme of "Young Voices" as part of the community strategy.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Residential Services Review was initiated in September 2008 and endorsed as part of the corporate Supporting Vulnerable Children programme. Its remit was:

*"To examine the provision of residential services within Bridgend's community homes to identify whether a redesigned service can improve the outcomes of children and young people who become looked after".*

- 3.2 The review included:

- (i) the review of all key documents, policies and procedures for the service and for each of the Councils residential children's homes;
- (ii) the analysis of relevant data, for example - occupancy rates, admission and discharge information and financial profiling;
- (iii) interviews and discussions with residential staff, young residents, ex residents who had left the residential provision and their parents and/or carers;
- (iv) feedback from social work staff, managers and other professionals.

- 3.3 The review concluded that children and young people who require residential care often have multiple and complex needs requiring thorough assessment in order to help them achieve positive outcomes.

- 3.4 To meet the needs of children and young people, it is essential that all services are of a high quality, readily available and all relevant agencies working with children and young people are proactively involved in contributing to the planning and delivery of services for each individual child.

- 3.5 Following an extensive review, a committee report was presented to the Corporate Parenting Committee in January 2011, when the decision was taken that Cartrefle and Pant Morfa should be retained as residential care provision for looked after children in Bridgend, but redesigned as specialised units. It was agreed that Cartrefle, subsequently renamed as “Sunnybank” should develop into a residential unit which accommodated children and young people with multiple and complex needs. It was agreed that Pant Morfa, subsequently renamed as “Newbridge House” should be developed into a residential unit that supported young people through the transition to independence. It was further agreed that Maesteg children’s home should be decommissioned.
- 3.6 To pursue the proposed redesign of the Council’s residential care provision, a project team was set up to steer and implement the changes.

#### **4. Current Progress**

- 4.1 The newly redesigned residential care units became fully operational on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012.
- 4.2 All staff affected by the changes have been transferred into new positions within the new units with the exception of one member of staff who accepted redundancy.
- 4.3 All children and young people who were previously accommodated in the original homes have successfully moved on to suitable alternative accommodation and are making steady progress. New Statements of Purpose have been written for the redesigned service and approved by CSSIW.
- 4.4 Four children have been admitted to Sunnybank (Complex Needs unit) and plans for their ongoing care are progressing, for their rehabilitation home to their families or alternative care settings, e.g. foster carers.
- 4.5 Four young people accommodated in Newbridge House (Transition Unit) have moved onto alternative accommodation in line with their care plan. Since implementing the residential redesign, seven young people have been admitted to the new homes and all are making steady progress.
- 4.6 Maesteg Community Home has been decommissioned and recently sold.
- 4.7 Extensive refurbishment work was undertaken to modernise both Sunnybank and Newbridge House.
- 4.8 In September 2012, CSSIW made an unannounced inspection of Newbridge House and their report, received on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2012 was very complementary of the service. Inspectors stated that overall they found that the young people were cared for by a committed and competent staff team who demonstrated a great knowledge of the individual needs of the young people. Inspectors commended the staff team for managing one particularly difficult situation when a young person had threatened self harm. A copy of the inspection report, can be found at Appendix 1.
- 4.9 Children and young people requiring emergency accommodation are placed in foster care, pending further assessment of their needs to inform outcome based care planning.

4.10 An 'end of project' report and an evaluation of the new services have been completed, which can be found at Appendix 2.

4.11 A formal launch of the new redesigned services is currently being planned.

## **5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.**

5.1 None.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) in relation to the related policies and procedures has previously been undertaken and the needs of the children/young people will continue to be assessed on an individual basis.

6.2 From the previous EIA submitted in January 2011, work to the new units was undertaken to ensure there was disabled access to the properties.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 As part of the process of the new service becoming operational, a review of children and young people who were currently accommodated in out of county placements was undertaken. Where it was appropriate, some young people have moved into in house placements.

7.2 It was expected that the redesign of the residential services would make a saving of £200k over a 2 year period, this target has been achieved and the sale of Maesteg generated a modest capital receipt.

## **8. Recommendation**

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the content of this report and agrees to formally close the Residential Redesign Project.

### **Hilary Anthony**

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## **Background documents**

Appendix 1 – CSSIW Inspection Report re Newbridge House  
Appendix 2 – End of Project Report and Evaluation