

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING CABINET COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 29 APRIL 2013

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 Statements of Purpose for the service areas specified below in line with regulatory requirements.
- 1.2 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 of the children's homes and service areas have a 'Statement of Purpose'.
- 1.3 The content 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
 - Newbridge House Transition Unit
 - Sunnybank Complex Needs Unit

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 The report links to the following corporate priorities:
 - Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement.
 - Working with children and families to tackle problems early.
 - Working together to help vulnerable people to stay independent.
 - Working together to tackle health issues and encourage healthy lifestyles.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Children's Homes (Wales) Regulations 2002 (Regulations 4 and 5), the Fostering Services (Wales) Regulations 2003 (Reg 3 and 4) and the Local Authority Adoption Service (Wales) Regulations (2007) and Local Authority Adoption Service and Miscellaneous Amendments (Wales) Regulations 2003 (Reg 3 and 5) 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 the 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.

- 3.2 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.

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 each of the 4 Statements of Purpose relate to updates in respect of staffing and changes in relation to developments of the services. None of the changes have significantly affected the role and function of any of the services provided.

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5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

- 5.1 None.

6. Equality 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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2 April 2013

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Background documents

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