

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING CABINET COMMITTEE

31 July 2013

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN

Safeguarding and Family Support Service 2011/12
Head of Service Annual Report

1. Purpose of Report

To present to the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee, prior to its formal submission to CSSIW, the Annual Report of the Head of Service – Safeguarding and Family Support submitted for and within the Annual Council Reporting Framework. This is the fourth Annual Report of the Head of Service – Safeguarding and Family support following the introduction of the current arrangements for evaluating Social Services in Wales. The process centres on self-evaluation, involves consultation with Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW) and will continue to be the major source for CSSIW's inspection programme.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 The work of the Cabinet Committee is linked to the Corporate plan and priorities:

1. Working together to develop the local economy
2. Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement
3. Working with children and families to tackle problems early
4. Working together to help vulnerable people to stay independent
5. Working together to tackle health issues and encourage healthy lifestyles

3. Background

3.1 In 2010 CSSIW introduced a new "Annual Reporting Framework" requiring all authorities in Wales to produce an Annual Report on the Effectiveness of their Social Care Services. The Annual Reports deliver the council's own assessment of performance in respect of their social services responsibilities and focus on strategic objectives and improvement priorities across the department. This new approach to reporting is intended to:

- see performance management accountability transfer from the national centre back to council members, Chief Executives, Directors, Managers and Officers;
 - present a recognisable picture to those delivering and served by their social services locally;
 - generate the core set of information needed by CSSIW to deliver their annual performance;
 - provide assurance function;
 - link much more immediately to business planning for priority improvement.
- 3.2 One of the longer term aims for the Annual Reporting Framework is that it will serve to address a number of reporting obligations in respect of social care and reduce the necessity for duplication of reporting effort. Work to develop this framework for annual reporting came from a commitment shared by the WLGA and ADSS Cymru to report openly and promptly on the effectiveness of each authority in meeting both needs and statutory obligations in social services, and also to link that report urgently to planned and continuous improvement. The Welsh Government then reflected the duty on the Director of Social Services to report annually in its new Statutory Guidance on the Director's Role, and CSSIW has made it a cornerstone of its modernised approach to regulation and inspection. It represents a move towards a new, mature, relationship between local government and the Inspectorate, which recognises authorities' prime and sovereign responsibilities under law. The Annual Council Reporting Framework places social services firmly at the heart of corporate and democratic local government.
- 3.3 The Statutory Director for Social Services in Bridgend is completing an Annual Overview Report which has been informed by the annual reports of the Heads of Service for both the Safeguarding and Family Support Service and Adult Social Care.

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 The report has been considered by Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny and their recommendations for change, to improve clarity and readability, have been taken on board.
- 4.2 The attached report will be submitted to CSSIW as a supplementary report to that of BCBC's statutory Director of Social Services' overview report. It reports on a range of issues related to how the authority has discharged its responsibilities to safeguard and protect children and sights the fundamental role that the Corporate Parenting Committee plays by having the same aspirations for Bridgend's Looked After Children as parents would for their own children.

4.3 Key issues note in the attached report include;

- An overview of the primary aims of the Safeguarding and Family Support Service.
- An overview of the range of service provided by the service.
- An overview of performance
- An overview of significant strategic and operational developments throughout 2012/13

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 None.

6. Equality Impact Statement

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. Recommendations

8.1 It is recommended that Committee Members consider the attached Annual Report and provide any observations and comments for the Head of Service – Safeguarding and Family Support.

Hilary Anthony
Corporate Director - Children

Contact Officer
Colin Turner
Interim Head - Safeguarding and Family Support

Telephone: (01656) 642314

E-mail: colin.turner@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Sunnyside, Bridgend. CF31 4AR

Background Documents

None.