

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE - EQUALITIES

18 DECEMBER 2013

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES

VALREC

6 monthly report on casework undertaken in Bridgend County Borough

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the casework undertaken by VALREC in Bridgend County Borough in the current financial year.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 The Strategic Equality Plan is a statutory plan and a cross cutting issue impacting on the whole of the council. It is linked to the Customer Care Programme and supports the community cohesion agenda.

2.2 This report also supports the following priorities in the Corporate Plan 2013 – 2017:

- **Priority 2:** Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement;
- **Priority 3:** Working with children and families to tackle problems early;
- **Priority 5:** Working together to tackle health issues and encourage healthy lifestyles;
- **Priority 6:** Working together to make the best use of our resources.

3. Background

3.1 In July 2010, Cabinet Equalities Committee agreed to receive reports and presentations on topic areas relevant to their remit. This includes community representatives presenting on relevant topics for members to gain a broader understanding of issues faced in our communities

3.2 The council has worked with and has part funded VALREC since 2008 and signed a Service Level Agreement with them in 2013. Appendix 1 of the SLA is a service specification and reporting process requiring VALREC to provide six monthly reports to this committee on casework undertaken and highlighting trends and issues. The committee's Forward Work Programme was updated accordingly.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.2 Attached as appendix 1 is VALREC's SLA report outlining casework undertaken and other developments during the current financial year.

4.2 The update from VALREC will include information on:

- VALREC background;
- Methods used to achieve outcomes including mentoring and work experience;

- Key approaches for ensuring quality provision;
- The benefits to VALREC and Bridgend County Borough of BCBC's financial contribution;
- Specific activity within Bridgend County Borough;
- Advice and advocacy.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

- 5.1 The report has no direct effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules but is required to effectively implement the council's statutory duties in relation to equalities and human rights.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

No equality impact assessment has been carried out as this report provides the committee with information that will positively assist in the delivery of the authority's equality duties.

7. Financial Implications.

None in this report.

8. Recommendation.

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Equalities Committee receives and considers this report.

Ness Young
Corporate Director – Resources
Date: 27 November 2013

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Background papers: None.