

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE - EQUALITIES

13 MARCH 2014

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES

SUPPORT FOR TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN BRIDGEND

1. Purpose of Report.

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the support networks available to transgender people in Bridgend County Borough.

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 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 An overview of the support available for transgender people in Bridgend County Borough was added to the committee's forward work programme.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 The council developed its first Strategic Equality Plan in 2012. It is within the SEP objective "Fostering Good Relations" that the council has made a commitment to raise awareness of transgender issues and support transgender people in Bridgend.

4.2 Samantha Bowler, Diversity & Equality Trainer/consultant, (raising awareness & supporting Transgender people across Wales), will describe the issues faced by Transgender people and the support available to them in Bridgend County Borough. Samantha is committed to:

- Working towards eliminating transphobic hate crime and discrimination
- Campaigning for equality of opportunity

- Promoting good relations
- Raising awareness of the barriers to and benefits of equality and diversity

4.3 The overview will include information on:

- Coping with the emotional and physical effects of gender dysphoria such as self-harming and depression;
- the harm caused by transgender prejudice (transphobia);
- the impact on family relationships and friendships;
- direct and indirect discrimination in the workplace when applying for jobs or dealing with harassment
- hate crime and its effect on Transgender people
- perceived lack of support from public service providers such as NHS, social care, mental health and police Crown Prosecution Service Witness Care

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.

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Background papers: None.