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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

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*We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please
let us know if your language choice is Welsh.*



Annwyl Cyngorydd,

Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 / 643147 / 643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for:

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Dydd Mercher, 31 Mawrth 2021

PWYLLGOR Y CABINET DROS FATERION RHIENI CORFFORAETHOL

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Pwyllgor Y Cabinet Dros Faterion Rhieni Corfforaethol o bell trwy Microsoft Teams ar **Dydd Iau, 8 Ebrill 2021 am 14:00.**

AGENDA

1. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb
Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan Aelodau.
2. Datganiadau o fuddiant
Derbyn datganiadau o ddiddordeb personol a rhagfarnol (os o gwbl) gan Aelodau / Swyddogion yn unol â darpariaethau'r Cod Ymddygiad Aelodau a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cyngor o 1 Medi 2008.
3. Cymeradwyaeth Cofnodion 3 - 10
I dderbyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cofnodion cyfarfod y 04 02 21
4. Diweddariad ar sefydlu Fframwaith Maethu Cenedlaethol a Gwaith cyfredol mewn perthynas â darpariaeth gofal Maeth Mewnol 11 - 20
5. Plant sy'n Derbyn Gofal Mewn Addysg 21 - 26
6. Materion Brys
I ystyried unrhyw eitemau o fusnes y, oherwydd amgylchiadau arbennig y cadeirydd o'r farn y dylid eu hystyried yn y cyfarfod fel mater o frys yn unol â Rhan 4 (pharagraff 4) o'r Rheolau Trefn y Cyngor yn y Cyfansoddiad.

Nodyn: Sylwch: Yn sgil yr angen i gadw pellter cymdeithasol, ni fydd y cyfarfod hwn yn cael ei gynnal yn ei leoliad arferol. Yn hytrach, bydd hwn yn gyfarfod rhithwir a bydd Aelodau a Swyddogion yn mynychu o bell. Bydd y cyfarfod yn cael ei recordio i'w ddarlledu ar wefan y Cyngor cyn gynted ag sy'n ymarferol ar ôl y cyfarfod. Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiwn am hyn, cysylltwch â cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01656 643147 / 643148.

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Cyfnwidiad testun: Rhowch 18001 o flaen unrhyw un o'n rhifau ffon ar gyfer y gwasanaeth trosglwyddo testun

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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg. Rhowch wybod i ni os yw eich dewis iaith yw'r Gymraeg

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please let us know if your language choice is Welsh

Yn ddiffuant

K Watson

Prif Swyddog – Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Rheoleiddio

Dosbarthiad:

Cynghowrwyr

NA Burnett

N Clarke

HJ David

J Gebbie

T Giffard

Cynghorwyr

CA Green

RM James

D Patel

RL Penhale-Thomas

JC Radcliffe

Cynghorwyr

CE Smith

DBF White

HM Williams

RE Young

COFNODION CYFARFOD Y PWYLLGOR Y CABINET DROS FATERION RHIENI
CORFFORAETHOL A GYNHALIWDYD YN O BELL TRWY TIMAU MICROSOFT DYDD IAU, 4
CHWEFROR 2021, AM 14:00

Presennol

Y Cynghorydd NA Burnett – Cadeirydd

N Clarke
D Patel

HJ David
CE Smith

J Gebbie
HM Williams

CA Green
RE Young

Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb

T Giffard

Swyddogion:

Nicola Echanis	Pennaeth Addysg a Chymorth Cynnar
Mark Galvin	Uwch Swyddog Gwasanaethau Democraidd - Pwyllgorau
Lindsay Harvey	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd
Laura Kinsey	Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol Plant
Mark Lewis	Rheolwr Grŵp Gwaith Integredig a Chymorth i Deuluoedd
Claire Marchant	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles
Michael Pitman	Swyddog Gwasanaethau Democraidd – Pwyllgorau
Mark Shephard	Prif Weithredwr
Elizabeth Walton- James	Rheolwr grŵp
David Wright	Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Cymorth i Deuluoedd
Raeanna Grainger	Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Adolygu Annibynnol

220. DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANT

Dim.

221. CYMERADWYAETH COFNODION

CYTUNWYD: Derbyniwyd fod Cofnodion 26 Tachwedd 2021 yn gofnod cywir.

222. DIWEDDARIAD CYNLLUN GWELLA CYFIAWNDER GWASANAETH IEUENCTID PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR

Cyflwynwyd adroddiad gan y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chefnogaeth Deuluol, er mwyn diweddarau'r Pwyllgor Rhianta Corfforaethol ynglŷn â'r cynnydd wrth weithredu'r cynllun gwella Gwasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuenctid Pen-y-bont a ddatblygwyd yn dilyn arolwg gan Arolygaeth Gwasanaeth Prawf Ei Mawrhydi (HMIP) o Wasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuenctid ac Ymyrraeth Gynnar Western Bay ym mis Rhagfyr 2018.

Cadarnhaodd Rheolwr Grŵp Gweithio Integredig a Chefnogaeth Deuluol, fel cefndir, fod Gwasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuenctid Pen-y-bont (Bridgend YJS) yn bartneriaeth amlasiantaethol statudol a chanddo gyfrifoldeb cyfreithiol i gydweithio er mwyn sicrhau gwasanaethau cyfiawnder ieuenctid lleol addas. Ariannwyd y gwasanaeth gan amrywiaeth o ffynonellau yn cynnwys Llywodraeth y DU, Llywodraeth Cymru a phartneriaid statudol (h.y. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont, Heddlu De Cymru, y Gwasanaeth Prawf a Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Cwm Taf Morgannwg).

Cafodd Gwasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuencid ac Ymyrraeth Gynnar Western Bay (WBYJEIS) ei arolygu'n llawn ar y cyd gan Arolygaeth Gwasanaeth Prawf Ei Mawrhydi (HMIP) yn ystod mis Rhagfyr 2018, a chyhoeddwyd y canfyddiadau ym mis Mawrth 2019. Daeth yr arolwg i'r casgliad fod Gwasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuencid ac Ymyrraeth Gynnar Western Bay wedi derbyn graddfa derfynol o annigonol. Daeth Arolygaeth Gwasanaeth Prawf Ei Mawrhydi (HMIP) i'r casgliad fod naw o'r deuddeg maes arolygu wedi eu graddio fel bod yn annigonol, bod un yn ddigonol, a bod un yn arbennig.

Argymhellodd Rheolwr Grŵp Gweithio Integredig a Chefnogaeth Deuluol, ar 19 Ebrill 2019, y dylai'r Cabinet gytuno i ddadgyfuno'r Gwasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuencid ac Ymyrraeth Gynnar Western Bay (WBYJEIS) ac y dylai'r drefn newydd fod ar gyfer Gwasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuencid Pen-y-bont i eistedd o fewn portffolio un o'r rheolwyr grŵp presennol o fewn y Gyfarwyddiaeth Addysg a Chefnogaeth Deuluol.

Ychwanegodd fod y gwasanaeth yn dal i gael ei fonitro gan y Bwrdd Cyfiawnder Ieuencid (YJB) ac yn cael ei sgriwneiddio'n helaeth gan amrywiol ffynonellau yn cynnwys Llywodraeth y DU a Llywodraeth Cymru. Serch hynny, yn sgil effaith COVID-19, nid yw'n hysbys ar hyn o bryd pryd fydd Gwasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuencid Pen-y-bont yn cael ei arolygu o'r newydd.

Daeth y gwaith o ailstrwythuro Gwasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuencid Pen-y-bont i ben ym mis 2019. Arweiniodd yr ailstrwythuro at y gwasanaeth yn dod yn rhan o hwb y Tîm Atal Amlasiantaeth Integredig Achosion Cymhleth (IMPACCT) gan weithio'n agos gyda'r timau gofal. Roedd y drefn newydd hon yn cynnig gwelliant o safbwynt cydweithio, rhannu sgiliau ac adnoddau gan leihau dyblygu gwaith i blant, pobl ifanc a theuluoedd. Roedd yr ad-drefnu hefyd wedi arwain at greu swyddi ymarferwyr arweiniol, a oedd yn cynnig y gwasanaeth gyda'r cyfle i ddarparu arolygiaeth gadarn, sicrwydd ansawdd gwaith a rheolaeth llinell ar gyfer staff. Dyma feysydd a gafodd eu tanlinellu gan yr arolygiad fel bod yn achos pryder. Recriwtiwyd ar gyfer y swyddi ymarferwyr arweiniol yn ystod mis Hydref 2019, gyda'r ddau ymarferwr arweiniol yn dechrau yn eu swyddi ym mis Ionawr 2020.

Aeth ymlaen i egluro'r gwaith sicrhau Ansawdd a oedd wedi dechrau o fewn y gwasanaeth. Roedd yr adborth a gafwyd wedi tanlinellu fod gwelliant wedi digwydd a safbwynt ansawdd yr asesiadau. Serch hynny, gwelwyd bod angen gwneud gwaith pellach o safbwynt mynd i'r afael â'r risg o niwed a diogelwch a lles. Mewn ymateb i hyn, comisiynwyd hyfforddiant annibynnol cydnabyddedig gan y Bwrdd Cyfiawnder Ieuencid (YJB) er mwyn cefnogi staff yn y maes hwn. Yn ogystal ag asesiadau, gwelwyd yr angen am ddatblygu cynlluniau amserol wedi eu harwain gan anghenion ac sy'n mynd i'r afael â'r materion a danlinellwyd o fewn asesiadau fel maes ar gyfer gwelliant. Mae datblygu ymyriadau a rhaglenni sy'n lleihau'r perygl o aildroseddu yn feysydd sy'n dal angen eu gwella o fewn y gwasanaeth, fel yr eglurwyd gan y Rheolwr Grŵp Gweithio Integredig a Chefnogaeth Deuluol.

Mae paragraffau nesaf yr adroddiad yn cadarnhau sut mae'r uchod yn cael eu cyflawni.

Cynhaliwyd hunanasesiad o Wasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuencid Pen-y-bont ym mis Ebrill 2020. Ychwanegwyd meysydd yr oedd angen eu gwella i'r Cynllun Gwella a atodir yn Atodiad 1. Pwysleisiodd fod gwaith yn dal i gael ei wneud yn rhai o'r meysydd. Ymysg y meysydd y cyfeiriwyd atynt o fewn yr adroddiad roedd gwelliannau parhaus ym maes asesu, cynlluniau cefnogi, ymyriadau, gweithio ar y cyd a gwerthuso ffurflenni adborth oddi wrth bobl ifanc.

Serch hynny, cadarnhaodd paragraff 4.6 o'r adroddiad sut yr oedd y pandemig Covid-19 wedi effeithio ar wireddu rhai o'r gwelliannau oedd wedi eu cynllunio i raddau, er bod ffyrdd i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem honno wedi eu gweithredu.

Yn Atodiad 2 o'r adroddiad, atodir adroddiad o'r fframwaith perfformiad a drafodir yng nghyfarfodydd misol Bwrdd Rheoli'r Gwasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuenctid. Cadeiriwyd y Bwrdd Rheoli ar y cyd gan Brif Weithredwr y Cyngor a'r Aelod Cabinet ar gyfer Cymunedau. Atodir cylch gorchwyl y Bwrdd Rheoli yn Atodiad 3, eglurodd Rheolwr Grŵp Gweithio Integredig a Chefnogaeth Deuluol.

Daeth y Rheolwr Grŵp Gweithio Integredig a Chefnogaeth Deuluol â'i gyflwyniad i ben drwy egluro fod rhywfaint o'r data a atodwyd i'r adroddiad wedi'i ddiweddarau'n ddiweddar ac roedd yn hapus i rannu hwnnw gyda'r Aelodau, yn ôl y gofyn.

Eglurodd y Cadeirydd ei bod wedi mynychu dau gyfarfod Bwrdd Rheoli'r Gwasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuenctid, ac roedd yn falch o weld lefel ymgysylltiad y partneriaid ar y Bwrdd.

Eglurodd yr Aelod Cabinet – Addysg ac Adfywiad ei fod yn falch o'r duedd tuag at welliannau parhaus a wnaed ers i'r tîm Cefnogi Teuluoedd gymryd awenau'r gwasanaeth ers yr arolygiad a'i fod yn hyderus iawn y byddai gwelliannau'n cael eu gwneud eto i'r dyfodol.

Cyfeiriodd yr Aelod Cabinet – Lles a Chenedlaethau'r Dyfodol ei bod hithau hefyd wedi bod yn ymwneud ers cryn amser â Bwrdd Rheoli'r Gwasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuenctid gan ddod i'r casgliad ei fod yn mynd o nerth i nerth. Roedd yn hynod falch o'r modd yr oedd y Bwrdd yn gweithredu mewn ffyrdd blaengar, er mwyn goresgyn heriau'r pandemig, h.y. ymbellhau cymdeithasol a.y.b., gan olygu ei bod yn anodd ymwneud yn agos iawn a3 chleientiaid a phobl ifanc.

Cyfeiriodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd at argymhelliad 13 Arolygaeth Gwasanaeth Prawf Ei Mawrhydi (HMIP) yn ymwneud â lefelau sgiliau llythrennedd a rhifedd y bobl ifanc o fewn y system. Holodd sut oedd mynd i'r afael â hyn, ac os oedd yn cael ei gyflawni.

Eglurodd y Rheolwr Grŵp Gweithio Integredig a Chefnogaeth Deuluol fod llawer o blant a phobl ifanc yn gwneud yn dda, ond roedd eraill nad oedd yn llwyddo cystal. Cyflogwyd therapydd llefaredd ac iaith yn y gorffennol. Roedd mater arall hefyd wedi effeithio ar gynnydd, yn benodol fod rhai o oed ysgol statudol nad oedd, drwy eu haddysg, yn derbyn yr isafswm o 25 awr statudol o addysg yr wythnos. Roedd yr awdurdod lleol felly wedi herio'r ysgolion oedd yn rhoi addysg iddynt ynglŷn â hyn, er mwyn cynyddu eu horiau. Roedd rhai o'r bobl ifanc hefyd wedi bod yn ymwneud a3 throeddu a/neu ymddygiad heriol. Roedd materion fel y rhain hefyd wedi llesteirio eu cynnydd o safbwynt cyrraedd targedau addysgol craidd. Roedd Tîm Ymrwymiad Addysgol bellach wedi'i ffurfio, gan lenwi'r gofod yng nghyswllt yr uchod, felly roedd mwy o gynnydd yn cael ei wneud, a fyddai, gobeithio, yn parhau i'r dyfodol, ychwanegodd.

Holodd y Cadeirydd sut oedd y gwasanaeth yn sicrhau fod plant o fewn y system yn gallu cael gafael ar ddeunydd darllen addas, er mwyn eu hannog i wella eu sgiliau llythrennedd.

Eglurodd y Rheolwr Cymorth Gwasanaeth Teulu fod hyn yn rhywbeth yr oedd y gwasanaeth llyfrgell yn mynd i'r afael ag ef, a gallai'r Cadeirydd ddarparu manylion pellach y tu allan i'r cyfarfod.

Mewn ymateb i nifer o bwyntiau a godwyd gan yr Arweinydd, cynigiodd y Rheolwr Cymorth Gwasanaeth Teulu y sylwadau canlynol:

O safbwynt yr asiantaethau oedd yn rhan o Fwrdd rheoli'r Gwasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuencid, cadarnhaodd eu bod yn cynnwys sylwadau gan asiantaethau statudol yn ogystal ag anstatudol. Roedd yn falch i allu ychwanegu fod cefnogaeth i'r cyfarfodydd yn gryf a bod llawer yn eu mynychu. Prin oedd y rhai oedd yn mynychu cyfarfodydd yn y gorffennol o safbwynt Gofalwyr Cymru a Charchar y Parc. Serch hynny, roedd mwy yn mynychu o'r asiantaethau yma bellach. O safbwynt cynnig cefnogaeth i ddiodefwyr troseddau yn ogystal â'r rhai sy'n cyflawni troseddau, dywedodd fod hyn mewn lle, ond cydnabu y gellid gwneud gwelliannau pellach o safbwynt y maes cefnogi hwn. O safbwynt lefelau capasiti o fewn y tîm i gefnogi'r Gwasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuencid, roedd pethau'n anodd yn enwedig yng nghyswllt y ffaith fod y gwasanaeth wedi cymryd yr awenau yn sgil yr archwiliad beirniadol blaenorol (o safbwynt y gwasanaeth). Roedd Gweithiwr Cymdeithasol pellach wedi'i recriwtio er mwyn cryfhau'r tîm. Serch hynny, roedd effaith hyn wedi'i leihau i raddau, gan fod Gweithiwr Asiantaeth newydd adael y gwasanaeth. Felly, er bod gwasanaethau'n cael eu cyflawni, roedd lefelau gwaith yn heriol.

Gofynnodd yr Arweinydd am ddiweddariad pellach ar y gwasanaeth yng nghyfarfodydd y Pwyllgor i'r dyfodol, ar ffurf adroddiadau cynnydd, er mwyn rhoi'r sicrwydd i Aelodau fod y camau gweithredu y gofynnwyd amdanynt fel rhan o'r arolygiad diweddaraf wedi eu cwblhau.

Daeth y Prif Weithredwr â'r drafodaeth ar yr eitem hon i ben drwy gadarnhau fod rhai heriau a gwaith sylweddol i'w gyflawni eto i'r dyfodol, er gwaetha'r ffaith fod gwelliannau diamheuol o fewn y Gwasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuencid wedi eu cyflawni, cyn unrhyw ragarolwg a allai ddigwydd yn weddol fuan. Cydnabu, serch hynny, fod y gwaith yn mynd yn ei flaen.

CYTUNWYD: Y dylid nodi'r adroddiad a'r gwaith a wnaed hyd yn hyn o safbwynt Cynllun Gwella Gwasanaeth Cyfawnder Ieuencid Pen-y-bont.

223. ADRODDIAD Y GWASANAETH ADOLYGU ANNIBYNNOL (GAA)

Cyflwynwyd adroddiad gan y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles, er mwyn cyflwyno Adroddiad y Gwasanaeth Adolygu Annibynnol (IRO) i Aelodau'r Pwyllgor, yn unol â Chanllaw Adolygu Annibynnol Swyddogion (Cymru) 2004, yn ogystal â Chynllun Gweithredu Gwasanaeth yr IRO.

Eglurodd ei bod yn ofynnol dan y gyfraith i Awdurdodau Lleol benodi Swyddogion Adolygu Annibynnol gan Awdurdodau a bod eu prif swyddogaethau'n cael eu rheoli gan y ddeddfwriaeth a'r canllawiau canlynol:

- Deddf Fabwysiadu a Phlant 2002;
- Canllawiau Swyddogion Adolygu Annibynnol (Cymru) 2004.

Eglurwyd fod gan wasanaeth y Swyddog Adolygu Annibynnol (IRO) rôl awdurdodol wrth sicrhau ansawdd y cynllunio gofal a gyflawnir.

Roedd adroddiad y Gwasanaeth Adolygu Annibynnol (atodwyd yn Atodiad A yr adroddiad) yn ymwneud â gwaith gwasanaeth yr IRO o fis Ebrill 2019 tan fis Mawrth 2020.

Roedd yr adroddiad yn cynnwys gwybodaeth perfformiad o safbwynt yr angen statudol i adolygu'r Plant sy'n Derbyngofal, yn cynnwys plant a chanddynt gynlluniau Mabwysiadu a Phobl Ifanc â Gofal Gadael Plant sy'n Derbyngofal/Cynlluniau Pathway

(o dan 18) gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont. Roedd hefyd yn cynnwys gwybodaeth am blant â chanddynt gynllun amddiffyn plant ac adolygiadau o'r cynlluniau yma mewn Cynadleddau Achos Gofal Plant.

Manylodd yr adroddiad ymhellach ar wybodaeth yn ymwneud â gofynion rheolaethol yng nghyswllt dod i benderfyniad yn sgil anghydfod, baich achosion y Gwasanaeth Adolygu Annibynnol, cyfranogiad ac ymgynghoriadau pobl ifanc yn eu Hadolygiadau, sialensiau a chyflawniad yn ystod y cyfnod adrodd a blaenoriaethau'r gwasanaeth ar gyfer 2019-20.

Yn ogystal â'r canllawiau y cyfeirir atynt ym mharagraff 3.1 o'r adroddiad, cyflwynwyd canllawiau ac arferion safonol pellach gan y Gwasanaeth Adolygu Annibynnol ar ddechrau 2019. Roedd Swyddogion Adolygu Annibynnol wedi gweithio i wella'r system dracio a chynigiwyd arweiniad gan Swyddogion yn unol â'r Canllaw Safonau Ymarfer ac Arfer Dda, cadarnhaodd y Swyddog.

Cadarnhaodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles, fod y Gwasanaeth Adolygu Annibynnol wedi cadeirio/adolygu 2,022 cyfarfod rhwng Ebrill 2019 a Mawrth 2020, fel y nodwyd yn yr adroddiad. Cafodd 1,506 o archwiliadau ansawdd eu cwblhau yng nghyswllt y cyfarfodydd yma hefyd.

Wrth ddod i gasgliad ynglŷn â'r adroddiad, eglurodd fod y Gwasanaeth Adolygu Annibynnol yn dal i weithio ar y cyd â'r timau diogelu i wella arferion yng nghyswllt cynadleddau diogelu plant gan fynd ymhellach i gynnwys asiantaethau megis y gwasanaethau Ymwelydd Iechyd, Nyrsys Ysgol a'r Gwasanaethau Bydwagedd. Y cam nesaf oedd gweithio at wella ansawdd adolygiadau Plant sy'n Derbyn Gofal ar lefel amlasiantaethol.

Wrth gloi, pwysleisiodd fod angen sicrhau fod y gwasanaeth yn parhau i wella o hyd ac o'r herwydd, byddai'r Gwasanaeth Adolygu Annibynnol yn anelu at barhau i gael effaith gynyddol o safbwynt gwella ansawdd y plant a'r bobl ifanc hynny oedd wedi cael profiad o'r gwasanaeth gofal. Mae Cynllun Gweithredu'r Gwasanaeth Adolygu Annibynnol yn cyfeirio at y meysydd sydd angen sylw er mwyn eu gwella o fewn y gwasanaeth yn ystod y 12 mis nesaf, ac y byddai'r rhain yn cael eu hadolygu'n gyson er mwyn sicrhau fod y camau gweithredu a awgrymwyd yn cael eu gweithredu.

Cafwyd cyflwyniad pwynt pŵer (yn ogystal â fideo byr) i gefnogi'r adroddiad gan reolwr Grŵp yr IAA a Rheolwr Diogelu/Adolygu Annibynnol, gyda chefnogaeth cydweithwyr yn y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol.

Roedd y cyflwyniad yn ymdrin â nifer o themâu a meysydd gwaith allweddol, yn cynnwys yr enghreifftiau isod:

- Rôl a maes gwaith y Swyddogion Adolygu Annibynnol (IRO's)
- Poblogaeth amddiffyn plant yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf, h.y. 185 ar gyfartaledd (189 ar hyn o bryd)
- Cyfartaledd misol lleoliadau Gofal Maeth yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf = 383, gyda'r rhai rhwng 10 a 15 oed ymysg y ganran uchaf a'r rhai rhwng 0 ac 1 oed, ymysg yr isaf
- Rhai blaenoriaethau gofal a amlinellwyd yn y Cynllun Gweithredu:
 1. Mwy o gyswllt rhwng y Swyddogion Adolygu Annibynnol â phlant a phobl ifanc (i'r dyfodol);
 2. Sicrhau sefydlogrwydd a lleihau nifer y Plant sy'n Profi Gofal;
 3. Gwella ymgynghoriadau/cyfranogaeth plant;
 4. Gwella adolygiadau Plant sy'n Derbyn Gofal a'r prosesau cynllunio gofal;
 5. Datblygu themâu dysgu a gwella arferion drwy Sicrhau Ansawdd;

6. Datblygu gwasanaethau Eiriolaeth/cynnig byw i blant.

Holodd yr Aelod Cabinet – Lles a Chenedlaethau'r Dyfodol y Swyddogion os allent roi ychydig wybodaeth bellach yn ymwneud ag Ail-ddatganiadau, h.y. pam fod plant yn cael eu dadgofrestru oddi ar y Gofrestr Amddiffyn Pant, cyn cael eu hail-gofrestru wedyn, weithiau'n sydyn iawn.

Eglurodd Swyddogion fod hwn yn faes Cyngor oedd yn cael ei adolygu'n gyson. Os oedd digon o dystiolaeth ar gael er mwyn dod i benderfyniad ynglŷn â dadgofrestru plentyn, y prif reswm am roi enw nôl ar y gofrestr oedd bod rhieni'r plentyn wedi gwahanu ar y dechrau ond eu bod bellach nôl gyda'i gilydd. Yn ystod y cyfnod hwn, serch hynny, roedd y berthynas wedi dirywio unwaith eto, gyda'r plentyn yn cael ei roi nôl o fewn lleoliad gelyniaethus o bosib.

Yn sgil y fath sefyllfa, caiff y plentyn ei roi unwaith eto ar y Gofrestr Diogelu Plant er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn cael eu hamddiffyn i'r dyfodol.

Mewn achosion o'r fath, mae eu sefyllfa wedyn yn cael ei hadolygu a'i sgriwteiddio'n barhaus, gan gynnwys gweithio gyda rhieni a chefnogi diddordebau, iechyd a lles y plentyn.

Gan fod gwaith y Gwasanaeth Asesu Annibynnol yn weithred statudol, holodd yr Arweinydd sut oedd y gwasanaeth yn gweithio'n agos gyda phlant iau er mwyn clywed eu llais a pha effaith yr oedd y pandemig Covid wedi ei gael ar y gweithio agos yma ymysg pobl ifanc o bob oed. Teimlai fod mwy o gyfle, yn enwedig ar hyn o bryd, i glywed lleisiau plant o oed Meithrin/Cynradd o fewn lleoliad yr ysgol. Yn ystod Covid, teimlai fod yn rhaid i ni barhau i ddarparu cefnogaeth a gwasanaethau yn enwedig i'r mwyaf agored i niwed o fewn cymdeithas, mewn ffyrdd gwahanol i'r arfer, wrth geisio sicrhau cydbwysedd rhwng heriau megis risgiau a rôl o safbwynt lles yr unigolion yma i'r dyfodol.

Cydnabu fod Trais yn y Cartref yn broblem fawr ac yn rhywbeth a oedd wedi gwaethygu yn ystod y cyfnod clo. Er ei fod yn ymwybodol o beirianwaith i gefnogi dioddefwyr yn yr achos hwn, holodd os oedd rhywbeth wedi ei sefydlu i helpu'r rhai oedd yn cyflawni troseddau, am ei fod yn ymwybodol o'r Rhaglen Cyflawnwyr Trosedd (Perpetrator's Programme).

O safbwynt cadw cysylltiad â phlant hŷn a pharhau â'u gofal a chynllunio gofal ar eu cyfer, cadarnhaodd Swyddogion fod cyswllt cyson â'r grŵp oedran hwn o bobl ifanc yn parhau drwy gyfrwng llwyfannau rhithiol, yn ogystal â thrwy fentrau a chefnogaeth megis y Tîm 16 Plws. Felly, doedd y pandemig ddim wedi llesteirio'r grŵp yma o safbwynt monitro parhaus a chefnogaeth. Er bod modd cadw cysylltiad heblaw am drwy ddulliau rhithiol, roedd y sefyllfa'n dal yn heriol yn sgil ymbellhau cymdeithasol. Roedd gwasanaethau Eiriolaeth wedi eu sefydlu er mwyn cefnogi lles y bobl ifanc yma, eglurodd Rheolwr Grŵp y Gwasanaeth Asesu Annibynnol a Diogelu.

Cadarnhaodd y Rheolwr Adolygu Annibynnol fod sawl math o ddogfennau Ymgynghori yn cael eu defnyddio i gynnig cefnogaeth barhaus ac ymrwymo ag unigolion ifanc yn unol â'u hoedran. Gyda chynlluniau ar y gweill i ailagor ysgolion adeg hanner tymor, ar gyfer disgyblion iau i ddechrau, byddai rhyngweithio'n digwydd yn yr ysgolion er mwyn sicrhau parhad y gefnogaeth barhaus yn achos y plant mwyaf bregus a'r rhai mewn gofal maeth. Roedd cyfle hefyd drwy'r Cynlluniau Addysg Personol (PEP's) i gyfeirio hefyd at y gefnogaeth barhaus, ychwanegodd. Roedd hyn yn helpu ac i raddau'n goresgyn unrhyw ddiffyg yn nifer yr ymweliadau gan y Rheolwyr Adolygu Annibynnol mewn lleoliad un i un mwy personol.

Awgrymodd Swyddogion hefyd fod nifer o raglenni wedi eu creu i fynd i'r afael â thrais yn y cartref, drwy weithio gyda'r dioddefwr a'r un sy'n gyfrifol am y trais, yn cynnwys y Rhaglen Teuluoedd Ysbrydoledig (Inspiring Families Programme).

Nododd Aelod, ar sail y wybodaeth gefnogol yn yr adroddiad, ac o safbwynt ystyriaethau'r Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canolig i'r dyfodol, fod argymhelliad i leihau nifer y staff cefnogi swyddfa ar gyfer y Tîm Amddiffyn Plant. Holodd os oedd siawns y byddai hyn yn tynnu oddi ar y lefelau cefnogaeth gyfredol ar gyfer plant maeth, a.y.b.

Eglurodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles fod hyn yn rhywbeth a oedd dan ystyriaeth wrth symud ymlaen, ond bod cyfarfodydd Rheoli cyson yn cael eu cynnal o fewn y Gyfarwyddiaeth ar sail cylch parhaus, i gyfarfod â phob gwasanaeth wrth i'r heriau gynyddu o fewn y timau. Roedd hyn yn cynnwys y Rheolwyr Adolygu Annibynnol, yn enwedig er mwyn sicrhau fod cefnogaeth ddigonol ar gael o safbwynt eu gwaith yn cynnwys eu llwyth gwaith ar unrhyw adeg benodol.

Nododd y Cadeirydd fod esgeulustod yn ffactor gyffredin iawn ymysg Plant sy'n Derbyn Gofal. Holodd os oedd data ar gael i ddangos faint o blant oedd yn cael eu hesgeuluso a faint sy'n gallu hawlio prydau ysgol am ddim.

Eglurodd Swyddogion nad oedd y data hwn ganddynt wrth law, serch hynny, cadarnhaodd Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Plant y byddai'n trafod y mater gyda'r Gyfarwyddiaeth Blant ac yn darparu data i Aelodau maes o law, y tu allan i'r cyfarfod.

CYTUNWYD:

Fod y Pwyllgor yn nodi adroddiad y Gwasanaeth Adolygu Annibynnol, cynnwys y cyflwyniad pwynt pŵer a chynllun gweithredu'r Gwasanaeth Adolygu Annibynnol (atodir yn Atodiad A yr adroddiad).

224. MATERION BRYN

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

8 APRIL 2021

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

UPDATE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL FOSTERING FRAMEWORK (NFF) AND CURRENT WORK IN RELATION TO IN HOUSE FOSTER CARE PROVISION

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to :

- provide the Corporate Parenting Committee with an update (further to the report presented on 18th April 2018) regarding the progress of work undertaken on establishing a National Fostering Framework in Wales.
- provide the Corporate Parenting Committee with updated information about Bridgend Foster Care service provision and the fostering service review and developments that are underway.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

National Fostering Framework

- 3.1 As stated previously for many years, key stakeholders have advocated for greater collaboration across all sectors, to address strategically the growing concerns about the overall effectiveness and sustainability of fostering services in Wales. The creation of a National Framework was seen as a means of ensuring that known concerns were addressed and introduced greater consistency without sacrificing the acknowledged strengths and diversity of local accountability within the existing system.
- 3.2 Phase One of the work (2015) saw the Minister for Health and Social Services endorse the proposed framework and provided funding from Welsh Government, and reflected both the scale of people's concerns and also the need to support effective change which could only be addressed at a strategic level.
- 3.3 Following a programme of engagement and consultation a Phase One report was produced and submitted to Welsh Government that set out recommendations for how the National Fostering Framework work should be taken forward. These were as follows:
- Develop a National Fostering Framework, including the allocation of functions at national, regional and local levels and begin putting in place the appropriate structures. (Year one).
 - Introduce a national performance and resource framework aligning this with the work to deliver the Welsh Community Care Information Service (WCCIS). A phased approach to implementation will be developed. A distinct performance framework to be developed for the independent sector (commercial and Third Sector providers). (Year one).
 - Introduce a national website, social media, brand identity for foster care in Wales, to underpin a marketing strategy for recruiting foster carers and improving communication. (Year one).
 - Ensure greater consistency in the use of Kinship Foster Care for Children who are looked after, building on the initial scoping paper in Phase One. (Year One).
 - Develop national arrangements for the commissioning of all placements regardless of sector, but building on the work of the 4Cs (Childrens Commissioning Consortium Cymru). (Year one).
 - Benchmark best practice in corporate parenting across Councils and other public services to improve outcomes for children and increase resilience for foster care placements. (Year one).
 - Establish the right balance between Local Authority foster care, third sector providers and commercial providers in terms of national policy objectives, service quality considerations and value for money requirements. (Year two).
 - Produce a national policy framework for fostering services, to include the training and support of foster carers. (Year two).
 - Establish an all-Wales public service fostering collaborative, delivering services regionally and locally, incorporating all the relevant services directly provided by Local Authorities. (Year three).

- Harmonise policies for paying fees and allowances to Local Authority foster carers (Year three).
- 3.4 To support the further development of the National Framework (Phase Two) a national strategic steering group was established and a further series of consultations took place across Wales about what a 'National Fostering Framework' and its components should look like and an implementation plan was developed for 2017–2020.
- 3.5 The work programme from phase 2 carried out during 2016-17 included:
- Work stream 1: Develop a National Fostering Framework including the allocation of functions at national, regional and local authority levels and begin putting into place the appropriate structures.
 - Work stream 2: Introduce a national performance framework aligning this with the work being done to deliver the WCCIS.
 - Work stream 3: Introduce a national website, social media, brand and identity for Local Authority foster care in Wales, to underpin a marketing strategy for recruiting foster carers and improving communication.
 - Work stream 4: Ensure greater consistency in the use of Kinship Foster care for children who are looked after.
 - Work stream 5: Develop national arrangements for commissioning of all placements regardless of the sector and building on the work of the 4 Cs
 - Work stream 6: Benchmark best practice in corporate parenting across Councils and other public services to improve outcomes for children and increase the resilience of foster care placements.
 - Work stream 7: Harmonise policies for paying fees and allowances to local authority foster carers.
- 3.6 Phase 3 commenced in 2017 and regional development managers were appointed throughout Wales to engage with the national work streams and coordinate plans for delivery in their areas. Swansea hosted this post for Western Bay.
- 3.7 The work programme at that time is outlined below:
- Work stream 1: Create capacity for an extended National Adoption Services central team to provide the co-ordination and leadership for the National Fostering Framework (NFF).
 - Work stream 2: Development of Regional work programmes based on the regional priorities identified by the national performance framework.
 - Work stream 3: Implement the national performance framework across all Local Authorities to help shape the regional priorities.
 - Work stream 4: create an All Wales brand for Local Authority fostering. Establish a marketing strategy at regional and central level for the brand.
 - Work stream 5: Increase capacity within the regions to respond to additional enquiries following the market activity.
 - Work stream 6: develop a national approach to commissioning of fostering services:

- Work stream 7: develop consistent standards and Best Practice Guide for Kinship Care and Implementation Plan.
- Work stream 8: continue work on harmonising fees and Allowances for foster carers.
- Work stream 9: Develop a national training framework for foster carers.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Since April 2019 Bridgend has moved from being part of Western Bay to become part of Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership/Health Board. The Regional Development Manager post for this region is hosted by Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) CBC.

4.2 To support the implementation of the National Fostering Framework across the region a strategic group has been established to provide overview and scrutiny in order to monitor the performance of the NFF work-streams at a local and regional level. The strategic group is supported by an operational group to deliver the identified priorities.

4.3 A Regional Work Programme has been agreed that supports the National Fostering Framework and has identified the following priority tasks:

- **Improve recruitment and retention of foster carers across the region**
 - April 2019 saw the launch of a regional (RCT and Merthyr (MTCBC)) foster care website and “front door” for fostering which included a new team to handle all enquiries and visits.
 - Implementation of Regional Skills to Foster started in June 2019. Bridgend continue to co-ordinate their own training but places are made available to RCT and MTCBC applicants when required.
 - During September 2020 an options paper was developed with a view to BCBC joining with its regional partners and deliver one point of contact for foster care enquiries. The Regional Front Door was approved at BCBC’s Cabinet on 9th March 2021 and “went live” from 1st April 2021.
 - A Regional Marketing Officer was appointed in March 2021 who will be responsible for developing a Marketing Strategy.
- **Implementation of new National Brand across all 3 Local Authorities**
 - A national brand (Maethau Cymru/Foster Wales) has been developed. Each Local Authority will maintain an individual identity within this, recognising the need to connect with local people. Bridgend will be known as “Maethau Pen y Bont/Foster Bridgend”.
 - To support the implementation of a national brand/identity a national website has been developed and it is anticipated that it will be launched during summer 2021. Sitting beneath and linking directly to this each Local Authority will have its own fostering webpage.
- **Develop a regional ‘Local Authority Offer’ for foster care**

- All 3 LA's have completed the national core offer template designed by the Regional Development Manager, who collated and highlighted consistencies/differences across the region.
 - Consultation taken place with all foster carers in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area to consider what would be important to them in a core offer and the region is to work towards implementing the core offer set out by the National Fostering Framework.
 - Work has been undertaken to develop a new HR policy for each LA with a view to establishing them as "Fostering Friendly Organisations."
 - Work needs to be undertaken to align current offer across the region before promoting and publicising through the website and social media.
- **Adapt the Post Approval Learning and Development (L&D) Framework to meet local needs**
 - The Regional Development Manager met with training co-ordinators in Bridgend and the Cwm Taf region during February 2019 to discuss what already exists and implementation of the national L&D framework.
 - A national launch took place in November 2019 and a Cym Taf Morgannwg launch took place with over 70 stakeholders from across the region in attendance.
 - The Framework is now operational across all three local authorities.
 - An audit/review is to take place in April 2021 to ascertain current use across the region.
- **Harmonise fees and allowances**
 - Early scoping work has been undertaken in relation to harmonising fees and allowances.
 - All three LA's have linked with the national working group for this area of development.
 - We are in the early stages of considering options that would support a Regional approach to payment of carers.
- **Develop a local performance management framework that enables reporting nationally and tells us what we want to know locally**
 - Regionally all are completing the NFF return as required.
 - Fostering team and performance leads in BCBC met with the Regional Development Manager in December 2020 to look at embedding the performance framework.
 - BCBC have aligned the initial visit and recruitment process with RCTCBC and MTCBC.
 - Further work is required to embed other elements of the new NFF return and Key Performance Indicators (KPI) tool onto WCCIS.
- **Develop regional principles for Fostering panel**
 - A working group considered the options for a Regional Approach in respect of the Foster Panel. The Working group decided against full regionalisation of the Panel,

but agreed to align the recruitment and appraisals process for panel members, share training and good practice and share foster carers (on the Panel) mutually across the LA's.

- Agreement reached to establish a forum for panel chairs and members to share good practice. However, as a National Forum has been established this is the preferred option that is being followed.
 - Team Managers in each local authority are to identify foster carers that would be suitable and in agreement to attend foster panel in other LA's and share their details with regional colleagues.
 - Discussion is needed with training leads to identify joint training for panel chairs.
 - Further consultation needed with fostering panels in each area to gather their views collaborative working.
 - A new scoping exercise to be undertaken to consider the potential for regional mainstream panels to be held.
- **Embed the AFA Cymru Best Practice Guidance for Kinship care across the region**
 - Identified in L&D Framework sub group in October 2018 that training for kinship carers needs development, particularly pre approval training.
 - Need to establish a separate kinship care task and finish group to align processes and practice and develop a Cwm Taf approach.
 - Regional Development Manager is currently developing pre-approval training for Kinship carers that can be used across the region.
 - Need to decide where kinship care and SGO carers fit within the development of fostering services.
 - **Communication and Collaboration with all LA's in the region**
 - Quarterly Meetings taken place since July 2019 between LA's.
 - Representation from each LA in regional task and finish groups.
 - Regional strategic group (to be held quarterly) was launched in September 2020.
 - Operational group is launching on 08.04.21 and will meet Bi-monthly

Bridgend Foster Care/ Foster Bridgend

- 4.4 Bridgend Fostering Service continues to offer a wide range of fostering services for children who need to be Looked After and this includes carers who are able to offer care to children and young people who they do not have a pre-existing relationship with and carers who are considered to be "connected persons".
- 4.5 As at 23rd March 2021 within Bridgend Foster Care there were:
- 99 approved Fostering households for general foster placements
 - 129 children placed with in-house general foster carers
 - 56 approved Connected Persons fostering households
 - 88 children placed with Connected Persons Foster Carers
 - 65 children placed with independent fostering agencies

4.6 Bridgend Fostering has faced significant challenges during 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic but during this time has sought to provide on-going support to carers.

4.7 In November 2019 funding was secured to recruit 4 re-unification workers whose main aims were to:

- support foster placements at risk of placement breakdown,
- support children to transition into step down provision (from residential and out of county placements) and
- support children to be reunified into the care of their birth family

During quarters 1-3 there were some notable outcomes achieved:

- 56 Referrals received
 - 26 placement Stability
 - 23 re-unification
 - 2 transition between placements
 - 4 inappropriate referrals
- 11 cases where re-unification home has been achieved
- 3 cases where support and intervention has contributed to a plan for Special Guardianship Order
- 1 case which supported a grandmother to obtain a Child Arrangement Order
- 1 case which supported a young person to transition to a Connected Person Foster Carer
- 6 cases where placement stability was achieved
- The number of children having 3 + placement moves as at 31st December 2020 was 7.12% (6.72% 31st December 2019).

4.8 As part of Children's Services re-modelling of Residential Care in 2018 it was proposed that 6 Transitional Foster Carers would be recruited who would act as a step-down for young people coming out of the residential units before being placed in a long-term family or independent placement. They would be therapeutically trained and therefore able to address issues that occurred as a result of a transition into a different environment, increasing the chances that the long-term placement will be successful and reducing multiple placement breakdowns and reliance on out-of-county placements.

The scheme was only successful in recruiting 3 Transitional Foster Carers who were approved at the beginning of 2019 and this did have an impact upon the overall success. Since this time one of the Transitional Carers resigned and another made the decision to step down from her role as a transitional carer in order to continue to provide a long term placement to a child who was in her care.

In January 2021 a review of this scheme was undertaken, with one of the previous transitional foster carers central to and informing our discussions/decisions and we are currently seeking to recruit an additional 5 carers. It is recognised that the Transitional Foster Care Scheme plays a key role within the wider Placements

Service to reduce the number of children who need to be placed outside of BCBC and to prevent children and young people experiencing numerous placement breakdowns.

- 4.9 Bridgend's Fostering Team is also going through a re-structure at the present time with a view to continue to provide timely and high quality support to our general foster carers, whilst promoting a focus on permanence options for children and young people within their own extended family.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There are no implications on the policy framework and procedure rules arising from this report.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no direct equality implications as a consequence of this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

- 7.1 As stated above stakeholders have advocated for greater collaboration across all sectors, to address strategically the growing concerns about the overall effectiveness and sustainability of fostering services in Wales. The creation of a National Framework was seen as a means of ensuring that known concerns were addressed and of introduced greater consistency without sacrificing the acknowledged strengths and diversity of local accountability within the existing system.

- 7.2 Both the regional and local work programmes seek to support BCBC Children's Services Aim that where children and young people are looked after this is done in placements that are within the local authority boundary enabling them maintain links with and access their school, GP, dentist, friends and family. These work programmes also recognise the impact on Health and Education when children and young people are placed in outside of BCBC.

- 7.3 From the outset one of the key drivers in the development of a National Fostering Framework has been the recognition that Local Authorities across Wales did not have sufficient numbers of foster carers, with sufficient support and skills to meet the increasing demand for placements for children and young people with increasingly complex needs. The work that has and continues to be undertaken is focusses on this to prevent any further deterioration in the ability of Local Authorities to meet this demand.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 There are no specific financial implications arising directly out of this report.

9. Recommendation(s)

- 9.1 That the Cabinet Committee notes the updated information contained within the report and supports the further development of the Bridgend Foster Care service as set out above.

Claire Marchant
Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing
March 2021

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Background documents: None

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

8 APRIL 2021

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR of EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN IN EDUCATION

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Corporate Parenting Committee with an update on the support for Looked After Children in Education (LACE) across the local authority. The report will specifically focus on the support provided to Bridgend's Looked After Children (LAC) for the school year 2020-2021.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-**

- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 It is well researched and documented that looked after children (LAC) often under achieve compared to their peers in terms of educational attainment and are less likely to progress into further education or training. There are a range of reasons for this, but, in general, where a child is struggling at an early stage of their education, not attending school regularly, with little support and encouragement at home, they will generally do less well at later stages.

- 3.2 Children become looked after often as a last resort and only where there are significant concerns related to their safety. The impact of this in terms of a child's development can be significant and in particular on their ability to engage in education. Research conducted by Public Health Wales in respect of Adverse Childhood Experiences notes that children who have experienced trauma are at significant risk for impairments including IQ, memory, attention and language/verbal ability poorer academic performance and school-related behaviours such as discipline, dropout and attendance;, and higher rates of behavioural problems and internalising symptoms.
- 3.3 In May 2018, the role of supporting Looked After Children's Education (LACE) moved into the previously named Vulnerable Groups Team, now called the Education Engagement Team (EET). The EET has responsibility as a single point of contact for all professionals where concerns present for a vulnerable learner relating to their education. This includes children on the child protection register, LAC, home educated learners, young carers and any other learner as identified by Estyn's vulnerability criteria. This single point of contact assists by ensuring there is clarity on support for vulnerable learners as information is contained within one team and is easily disseminated to professionals as and when issues present.
- 3.4 The local authority has a statutory duty to promote and ensure looked after children's educational needs are met through the Children Act 1989 and 2004. Responsible authorities are required to designate a specialist practitioner (the LACE Coordinator) to coordinate the child's education plan and address the education needs of looked after children and care leavers in the local authority area. In addition, the responsible authority must ensure that every child looked after by them has an effective and high quality personal education plan (PEP). This duty is discharged via EET.
- 3.5 In addition, the EET team offers advice, support and training to schools while also working in close partnership with Children's Social Care (CSC) and other services to ensure LAC are accessing good quality education that meets their needs. The team also works with school clusters around a consistent approach in utilising the LAC Pupil Development Grant (PDG).

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 As at 19 March 2021, there were 271 statutory school age pupils who were looked after by the local authority.
- 4.2 As indicated earlier in the report, the role of supporting LACE sits within the Education Engagement Team (EET). The EET provides a single point of contact for all agencies including schools, Children Social Care (CSC) and other services for information, advice, training and guidance for vulnerable learners including LAC. The team deliver training to the schools and remain a point of contact for the schools designated teacher related to Personal Education Plans (PEPs) and any other issues presenting for LAC.

- 4.3 The EET works with each school cluster to develop a clear and coherent plan to support LAC via their PDG. Examples of some of these plans created by schools to support LAC include the appointment of a school-based counsellor to acknowledge the impact becoming looked-after can have on learning, Learning Support Officers (LSO) delivering 'Thrive' training to promote educational attainment for looked-after children and mental health and trauma training for staff to consider how behaviour can present itself within school for children who have entered the care system. These approaches are intended to assist schools in supporting and promoting the attendance and attainment of looked after children.
- 4.4 In addition to this, and to support LAC, the local authority via EET has access to PDG funding. This year, the funding has been used to offer additional education to those looked after children most in need of extra support. To date, 33 looked after children have accessed additional tuition via a school teacher over the course of the pandemic. This support has ranged from one hour a week to six hours per week dependent on their needs. Support has focussed on literacy, numeracy and practical skills such as forest schools and online music projects.
- 4.5 Further to the above support and through the statutory responsibility of LACE, the EET deliver training to schools and partners in respect of the impact of trauma and how this can affect a child's ability to engage in learning. The team have facilitated mental health first aid training to schools in response to the impact on LAC emotional wellbeing.
- 4.6 PDG plans produced by schools in Bridgend have been noted in a recent Estyn thematic review regarding good practice with looked-after children (eg tracking of pupils and dedicated transition work). In particular, Brynteg School and Penybont Primary School were identified as implementing good practice models for those learners.
- 4.7 The local authority has also been central to the development of work experience and apprenticeship opportunities for LAC. This opportunity was developed as a pathway for those learners leaving education in the summer with the aim of securing an employment opportunity. All Year 11 looked after learners are presented with the opportunity to engage in work experience over their summer holidays.
- 4.8 With the impact of COVID-19, multi-agency working has been key to ensure that all children continue to access education during this period. For looked after children this has included the opportunity to access on site provision within schools when national restrictions were being implemented. Digital equipment has been provided for those learners who have required it to assist with home learning. There has been regular monitoring and liaison by schools and children's social care to ensure looked after children's needs continued to be met during the pandemic.
- 4.9 As part of that multi agency working, all looked after children were considered for on site school provision. However, emphasis and priority was given to those children in foster placements that were at risk of placement breakdown. Since January 2021, an

average of 50 looked after children were accessing on site provision (primary school age through to Year 8) each week. These children were those deemed by schools, social care and foster carers to be most in need of accessing on site support during the height of the pandemic.

4.10 Moving forward, improvements will be made to the PEP process for look after children via EET. This work will focus on the plans being tailored to be more child centered and reviewed consistently within LAC reviews. Joint work between children's social care and Education and Family Support is being undertaken on this area.

4.11 Further to this, ongoing support will be offered to schools in respect of PDG. This will include the re-introduction (following Covid-19 restrictions) of the termly designated LAC leads forum facilitated by EET. The aim of this is to share good practice across schools in Bridgend with each other.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no direct equality impact issues arising from this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 Summary on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment is listed below:

Long-term	The long term aim is to improve outcomes for children, young people looked after by the local authority related to attendance, attainment, health and wellbeing
Prevention	Intervening early to prevent issues escalating for lookd after children in education is key. It is well documented that engagement in education can be a challenge for looked after children. The LA works with partners to promote this and ensure understanding of looked after children's needs are well understood and considered within Personal Education Plans.
Integration	The approach to supporting looked after children's education is an integrated once across the authority and schools.
Collaboration	Collaboration will be critical to deliver outcomes for looked after children. Joint working is key in ensuring the needs of looked after children are met.
Involvement	Participation and engagement is a central aspact as part of looked after children's reviewing processes.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. However, the Committee may wish to note that the LAC PDG which is distributed to schools for 2020-2021 amounts to £304,227.44

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee note the content of the report.

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Background documents

None

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