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## Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

### Bridgend County Borough Council



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#### Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

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

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

**Dyddiad/Date:** Friday, 6 January 2023

Dear Councillor,

### **CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING**

A meeting of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting will be held Hybrid – Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend / remotely - via Microsoft Teams on **Thursday, 12 January 2023 at 09:30.**

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence  
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest  
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 6  
To receive for approval the minutes of 12/10/2022
4. Update On The Implementation Of The Basic Income Pilot Scheme 7 - 10
5. Update on the Care Inspectorate Wales Inspection of Bridgend County Borough Council's Children's Residential Homes in 2022 11 - 18
6. Update On Corporate Parenting Development 19 - 28
7. Urgent Items  
To consider any other item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should be reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Note: This will be a Hybrid meeting and Members and Officers will be attending in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend or remotely. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable

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after the meeting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact  
cabinet\_committee@bridgend.gov.uk or tel. 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yours faithfully

**K Watson**

Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

Councillors:

F D Bletsoe  
JPD Blundell  
HJ David  
N Farr

Councillors

J Gebbie  
W R Goode  
J E Pratt  
JC Spanswick

Councillors

T Thomas  
A Wathan  
AJ Williams  
HM Williams

# Agenda Item 3

CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING - WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2022

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2022 AT 09:30

## Present

Councillor J Gebbie – Chairperson

F D Bletsoe  
W R Goode  
A Wathan

JPD Blundell  
J E Pratt  
AJ Williams

HJ David  
JC Spanswick

N Farr  
T Thomas

## Apologies for Absence

HM Williams

## Officers:

Steve Berry	Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Steven Howell	Group Manager Placements & Provider Services
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Manager
Carys Lord	Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Michael Pitman	Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive

## 7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

## 8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That that minutes of the 27/07/2022 be approved as a true and accurate record.

## 9. APPROVAL OF THE STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE FOR RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

The Group Manager Placements and Provider Services presented a report with the revised statements of purpose for the current children and young people's residential services provision in Bridgend County Borough Council. He explained that it was a requirement under the Council's constitution that these are presented to the Corporate Parenting Committee for approval.

The Group Manager Placements and Provider Services stated that Bridgend County Borough Council currently had four children's residential homes delivering services to children and young people aged 0-19 years, these were Maple Tree House, Sunny Bank, Bakers Way and Harwood house. Further details were at section 3 of the report.

The Group Manager Placements and Provider Services explained that the introduction of The Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 (RISCA) came into force on the 2nd of April 2018. The purpose of the Act was to build on the success of regulation in Wales and reflected the changing world of social care. Each Local Authority is now issued with a certificate of registration as opposed to individual services being registered. This means that all Statements of Purpose are presented in a more uniform way. A guide to compiling a statement of purpose was provided under the above Act by

Care Inspectorate Wales in April 2019. Further details on the changes to the statements of purpose were at section 4 of the report .

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted the content of the report and approved the statement of purpose for each of the residential services provision.

10. **UPDATE ON CORPORATE PARENTING DEVELOPMENT**

The Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer presented a report which provide the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting with an update on the development of Corporate Parenting in Bridgend.

He explained that the first Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting meeting of the municipal year received a report presented by the Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer setting out proposals for the future development of Corporate Parenting in Bridgend. The proposals included:

- Establishing a shared Vision for Corporate Parenting Responsibilities.
- Establishing a governance structure that supports the strategic and operational approach to Corporate Parenting.
- Establishing a Corporate Parenting Performance Framework.
- Establishing care experienced forums to provide our children and young people with a collective voice.

The Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer highlighted that the Corporate Parenting Operational Group had now been renamed to the Corporate Parenting Board. Details on the above proposals and the progress made to date was highlighted in details at section 4 of the report. He provided a presentation and video which highlighted the issues from the consultation event that young people had.

The Chairperson explained that she enjoyed the partnership event and the connections and developments made at this event were valuable and promising. She added that resources across stakeholders were not being utilised as effectively as they could be.

The Cabinet Member Future Generations welcomed the report and reflected on the event and believed it to be eye opening into the children we care for and the challenges they faced and what we could be doing to make their lives more normal. He encouraged members of the committee to attend future events.

The Chief Executive stated that the presentation was very informative and helpful provided an indication on the things that as a committee should be looking at to ensure that the services provided to care experienced children was as good as it could be. He asked how all the concerns of the children were captured and what action plan was in place to ensure we were delivering. The Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer explained that in the terms of reference its cited the six priorities listed in the report and there will be subgroups whereby each points would be broken down and an action plan formed for each subgroup. By the new financial year there will be an established list of objectives each with an action plan which the committee can look at.

The Chief Executive asked for clarity on the relationship between the Corporate Parenting Board and this Committee. He asked that relevant information and data be fed back to this committee. The Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer ensured that a strict governance around how we approach corporate parenting to ensure it was sustainable. He explained that the board was meeting shortly following this meeting today, and then 4 weeks before the next scheduled Corporate Parenting meeting.

During this time there will be a data report and any recommendation that came from this meeting would contribute to that report. This would then be provided back to the next committee meeting.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing added that it was disheartening to see the aspirations of many care experienced children being so low. As a committee and a Council we need to challenge ourselves to raise the aspirations of children which requires close working with partners and organisations. She agreed that a data report would be beneficial for this committee to receive.

**RESOLVED:** That the committee considered the contents of this report and supported the progress of the Corporate Parenting Board.

#### 11. **EDGE OF CARE SERVICES**

The Group Manager Family Support presented a report which updated Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting on the work of Bridgend County Borough Council's Edge of Care Service.

He explained that the Edge of Care Service is a multi-agency, intensive intervention team consisting of 24 staff from a range of professional backgrounds including:

- social workers;
- a mental health nurse;
- a health visitor;
- a specialist substance misuse worker; and
- family support workers.

He provided further background on the specialist teams within the Edge of Care service which included Connecting Families, Baby in Mind, Integrated Family Support Service, Rapid Response, Dads' Support Team and the Rise team. Further information was at section 3 of the report.

The Group Manager Family Support highlighted the positive outcomes of the edge of care service in that over the last five years it has been successful in preventing over 92% of the children they support from entering the care system consistently year on year. Since April 2020, edge of care services in Bridgend, with relatively small resources, have supported 827 children and their families, and over 94% have been prevented from becoming care experienced (this data excludes any data on Rise). Table 1 of the report provided a breakdown of these figures each year.

The Leader welcomed the report and asked in relation to the Rise service had any feedback been provided on the impact of this service, albeit that it was a new service. The Edge of Care Services Team Manager explained that there was no feedback as of yet from the six families that we were currently working, however there was feedback from professionals which had been positive and had allowed care to be provided at a faster rate than what would have been possible without the service.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing highlighted the importance of the needs assessment and how that provides the details we need as an authority to provide effective services. She added that the child protection register was at an all time high in Bridgend and that the review of their operating models was an important piece of work going forward which included edge of care services as part of that review. She also added that the WCCIS system can be further utilised in driving performance and this was something that also needed to be looked into.

The Chief Executive stated that the financial settlement for next year looks challenging and this further highlighted the importance of ensuring the services we were delivering and investing in were as effective as they could be. He asked for further information on the independent review that was taking place and what details could emerge from that as it was important to understand the challenges we face and how best we deal with them.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing explained that the IPC had been appointed as an improvement partner, the first piece of work that they had been commissioned for was review our front door arrangements and the report on this was being considered today by the Corporate Management Board. The next staged was to look at how we operate in localities which will look at unprecedented contacts into the council, unprecedented levels of need which was currently being managed through the Child Protection register. These reviews will help us better understand what improvements were needed from an operations standpoint.

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee:

- Considered the contents of the report; and
- Considered the continued investment identified in further developing the proven service models.

12. **URGENT ITEMS**

None

The meeting closed at 11:00

## REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING

12 JANUARY 2023

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

#### UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASIC INCOME PILOT SCHEME

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting with an update on the implementation of the Welsh Government's (WG's) Basic Income Pilot (BIP) Scheme for eligible care experienced young people.

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

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being 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 The Basic Income Pilot Scheme was announced by Welsh Government in February 2022. It is a pilot scheme which offers eligible care leavers in Wales who turn 18 between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> June 2023 a monthly income of £1600 before tax, with the aim to support them to make a successful transition into adulthood. The pilot is intended to last for three years.

This report will provide an update on the progress of the above scheme.

#### 4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 In March 2022 the cohort of care experienced young people who would be eligible to participate in the scheme were identified. There are 25 eligible young people in Bridgend. Throughout March, April and May 2022 a series of engagement sessions

took place between WG and Welsh local authorities to discuss the scheme, plans for implementation and to develop practice guidance.

- 4.2 Discussions took place between young people eligible to participate, their social workers and/or personal advisors at the onset of the scheme being announced to enable them to give consideration as to whether they wished to participate and could be supported to make the decision. This is a key feature of their pathway planning when considering finances as they transition into adulthood.
- 4.3 Welsh Government have expanded their single advice fund agreement with Citizens Advice Cymru to include specialist advice to young people specifically relating to the BIP and support with the 'better off calculation' to determine whether the young person is better off opting in or not. Lead workers were identified in each local authority's Citizen's Advice Cymru branch. A personal advisor for the 16+ Team was identified as a lead for the scheme within the local authority to support the team manager with day to day operations. The local authority has worked alongside Citizen's Advice Cymru to support young people on whether or not to opt into the scheme and ensure that they are provided with advice and are fully informed in doing so.
- 4.4 Following the provision of information and advice, if the young person chooses to participate, they complete the enrolment forms with support from their allocated social worker/personal advisor. Two members of the business support team have access to an online portal whereby they upload the forms which are then accessed by the independent payment provider who processes the documents in readiness for the payments to be made. As with all applications for any benefits, there is usually a 4-6 week wait for the initial payment. We provide financial assistance to the young person in the interim period, usually the equivalent to the Universal Credit payment for consistency purposes but we would make discretionary payments or support via other means such as supermarket vouchers or meter top ups.
- 4.5 Feedback from the 16+ team on the implementation has been very positive overall. All young people eligible to participate in Bridgend have already or intend to enroll in the scheme. The 16+ Team has clear processes in place to ensure that young people are provided with timely advice to enable them to make decisions with appropriate support along with seamless enrolment processes. Young people are receiving payment in a timely manner and there have been no reported issues or concerns relating to the scheme or its implementation.
- 4.6 Welsh Government are now working with local authorities to develop processes for evaluation of the outcomes of the Basic Income Pilot Scheme. Young people are being encouraged to complete online surveys at the start of the scheme, and at the 12 and 24 month point. Cardiff University have been commissioned by Welsh Government to evaluate the impact of the pilot and have begun to engage with the service in respect of this evaluation.

## **5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**

- 5.1 There will be no immediate impact upon any policies or procedure rules. Processes impacted by this report will be subject to review.



## **6. Equality Act 2010 implications**

- 6.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the implementation of the Basic Income Pilot scheme for eligible care experienced young people. All young people who are eligible for leaving care services from Welsh Local Authorities between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 will be eligible to participate in the scheme if they wish to do so.
- 6.2 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report; therefore, it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report

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

- 7.1 Long term – the Basic Income Pilot Scheme is intended to provide care experienced young people with a level of financial security and stability with the overall aim to develop skills of financial independence and a motivation to support oneself therefore reducing reliance on welfare benefits.
- 7.2 Prevention – the aim of the scheme is for young people to develop their independence skills, reduce the risk of poverty and decreased likelihood of reliance on welfare benefits.
- 7.3 Integration – with an increased level of independent living skills and motivation to support oneself, it is envisaged that young people would integrate within their local communities through local employment and accessing education and training opportunities. Young people will be able to actively contribute to their communities.
- 7.4 Collaboration – the success of the rollout of the Basic Income Pilot scheme has required the local authority working with the Welsh Government and Citizens Advice Cymru to ensure that effective systems and process have been in place to for effective implementation.
- 7.5 Involvement – from the onset of the announcement of the scheme, and identification of the eligible young people, planning commenced to ensure young people were fully involved in the process. They were made fully aware of the scheme and supported by their social worker and/or personal advisors in conjunction with Citizens Advice Cymru to enable them to make the decision as to whether they wished to participate. Young people have been kept fully up to date with all development relating to the scheme through the implementation process.

## **8. Financial implications**

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The scheme is fully funded by the Welsh Government.

## **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committee consider the contents of this report and are therefore fully informed of the progress relating to the implementation of the Basic Income Pilot Scheme.

Claire Marchant  
**Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing**  
January 2023

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING

12 JANUARY 2023

#### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

#### UPDATE ON THE CARE INSPECTORATE WALES INSPECTION OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL HOMES IN 2022

### 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Cabinet Corporate Parenting Committee with the outcome of the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Inspections of Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) Children's Residential Care Homes during 2022. This report relates to inspection activity detailed below:

- Maple Tree House on 28 June 2022
- Sunny Bank on 04 August 2022
- Harwood House on 13 September 2022
- Bakers Way on 29 September 2022

### 2 Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

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

- **Helping people and communities to be more self-reliant** – 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 development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's objectives.

### 3. Background

3.1 Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) are responsible for inspecting all regulated care and support services, including Children's Homes, in Wales. Inspections consist of four key stages, inspection planning and preparation; the inspection visit; feedback; and reporting. During the process, inspectors will make judgements as to how well the service is performing under four core themes, Well-being; Care and Support; Environment; and Leadership and Management.

3.2 In the case of Children's Homes, CIW will make annual inspections as part of their rolling programme. There are two main types of inspection:

- Full Inspections: During a full inspection CIW will check that providers are providing a service according to the law. They will also check that the service is meeting the conditions of their registration and operating in line with their Statement of Purpose.
- Focused Inspections: These normally happen when concerns are raised or to follow up on areas of improvements identified at previous inspections. This type of inspection may only look at some aspects of a service.

3.3 All CIW inspections are unannounced, although in exceptional circumstances they may contact the service a day or so in advance to minimise disruption or distress.

#### **4. Current situation / proposal.**

4.1 The CIW Inspection reports have been received and the summary of findings is set out below.

#### **Summary of findings Maple Tree House**

4.2 Maple Tree House provided care and support for up to six children / young people within the age range 8 – 17 years (mixed gender) at any one time. This consisted of four placements within the assessment facility and two within the emergency provision.

4.3 Maple Tree House aimed to offer a therapeutic environment for children and young people, using a trauma informed approach to provide the most effective support possible. This, in turn, aimed to enable them to understand their individual circumstances, develop resilience and self-care skills.

4.4 The emergency provision offered short-term specialist support for children / young people who are experiencing difficult circumstances and who are in immediate need of care and support, for a period of up to 28 days.

4.5 Maple Tree assessment service sought to provide children / young people aged 8-17 years with intensive placements up to a period of 6 months and focussed on assessments and therapeutic interventions to stabilise the child's / young person's behaviour, work on improving any risk-taking behaviours, re-integrate to education, training or employment where necessary and identify the most suitable long-term move on placements.

4.6 Maple Tree House had been open since February 2019 and from the outset there were challenges in relation to consistent and robust management oversight, stability and skill mix of the workforce and the wide range of issues and level of complexity the children who have lived there have experienced. Consequently, the service

delivered has been impacted upon and when improvements made, sustaining them was a continuous challenge. This was reflected in the most recent Inspection and the findings below will provide more detail.

- 4.7 The inspection concluded that children who had been in Maple Tree House had not been supported to have a positive care experience. There were a number of deficits in the skills, experience and training regimes and the stability and permanence of the workforce. CIW noted that this impacted on the ability of the service to meet the identified care planned needs of the children living there, support the children to meet their wellbeing outcomes and as a result children were placed at risk. Issues were also identified with routines, consistency of relationships with carers and reporting and recording systems. Urgent action was required to ensure children were always safeguarded. The Council worked through an Escalating Concerns Safeguarding process and the home entered a period of dormancy, with intense care planning, to enable the two remaining children to transition to their new placements.
- 4.8 The inspection noted that the manager and care staff were committed and wanted to provide a good service, but the arrangements to support them to deliver the standard of care children deserve were not adequate and had not been implemented effectively. Governance arrangements were not fit for purpose and the oversight of the quality of the service by the registered manager and responsible individual, including the standard of care and support provided to children was poor. Quality assurance systems had not been effective in recognising and being responsive, where it was clear there were serious issues in the service which were adversely impacting on children's well-being.
- 4.9 Just prior to this inspection the Council had undertaken its own independent investigation and as a result a decision was already made to place the care home into an Escalating Concerns process under safeguarding procedures so there was significant multi-agency oversight whilst the home was operational. CIW attended the escalating concerns meetings. There was alignment with the Council's own findings and that of inspectors. The service was required to make rapid improvements and a 'corrective action plan' was put in place. CIW inspection identified additional areas where regulatory standards were not met most notably a failure in the standards of care and support. As a result, CIW issued the service with thirteen Priority Action Notices and two areas where improvement was required. The service will not resume until all of the areas for improvement have been addressed and there is confidence that this will be sustained.

### **Summary of Findings Sunny Bank**

- 4.10 Sunny Bank provides care and support for up to four young people between the ages of 8 and 17 years. The home is in a residential area of Porthcawl and close to a range of amenities and transport links to other towns and cities.
- 4.11 Young people are encouraged to pursue activities that interest them and maintain contact (where appropriate) with family and friends. They are supported to attend and

engage in education, however not all young people participate. Young people's safety is promoted by care staff, and regular reviews of their risky behaviours are carried out to ensure safe practice is upheld. However, at the time of the inspection, some young people were regularly engaging in risk taking behaviours and spending significant periods of time away from the home, which may have been having a detrimental impact on their physical and emotional health.

- 4.12 Care staff receive support via supervision and training; however, these have been sporadic and require improvement. The leadership and management are operational; however, improvements are required to ensure a full complement of permanent care staff is available to provide consistency to the assessed care and support needs for young people which reflects the statement of purpose. There are systems in place to monitor and review the quality of the service and these could be further improved to provide more oversight and guidance in relation to missing from care incidents and risky behaviours.
- 4.13 Three areas of non-compliance were identified during the Inspection. However, as no immediate or significant risk for people using the service was identified they were identified as Areas for Improvement (as opposed to Priority Action Notices).

#### **Summary of Findings Harwood House**

- 4.14 Harwood House is a care home operated by Bridgend County Borough Council. The care home can accommodate up to three young people aged 8-19 years who have a learning disability. Care staff know the young people well and are dedicated to improving ways in which they can contribute to their views, using pictorials and guides to support making choices. The care staff team include male and female staff and there are a few staff vacancies.
- 4.15 Care staff are motivated and receive support and training from the manager. There are systems for assessing, planning, and reviewing young people's care and support. Systems and process to monitor potential safeguarding incidents have been improved following the inspection.
- 4.16 No areas of non-compliance were identified.

#### **Summary of Findings Bakers Way**

- 4.17 Young people receive care and support that supports their well-being. Care staff are competent and undertake their responsibilities. The environment allows young people to feel safe, play and have fun. In turn, parents can have a break from their usual caring responsibilities. Leadership and management are effective, the manager has clear oversight of the day to day running of the care home and the responsible individual provides scrutiny to further ensure the service continues to be effective.
- 4.18 No areas of non-compliance were identified.

## **Recommendations and Next Steps**

- 4.19 In addition to the Corrective Action Plan developed through the escalating concerns process, an additional Action Plan was developed to address the Priority Action Notices issued by Care Inspectorate Wales. As this was the second occasion on which there had been high level of regulatory concerns in respect of Maple Tree House, the Escalating Concerns process oversaw the temporary closure of the service when all children living there had safely moved to other regulated settings. The outcome of the Escalating Concerns process has also been reported to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Safeguarding Board.
- 4.20 Maple Tree House remains in a period of dormancy to enable a root and branch review to be completed into the operating model and workforce skill mix required for a specialist assessment care home operated by a Local Authority. This work is ongoing, and a revised operating model will be presented to the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting which will reflect the lessons learned. A very early reflection was that to be a significant provider of high quality services there needed to be a dedicated Responsible Individual (RI) for Children's Social Care Homes provided by the Council. An appointment to this post has been made and the appointee is progressing their RI application with Care Inspectorate Wales.
- 4.21 An Action Plan was also developed in relation to the areas of improvement identified by Care Inspectorate Wales for Sunny Bank and appropriate steps have been taken to ensure compliance in these areas.
- 4.22 In addition to the Action Plans, Placements and Provider Services are currently in the process of reviewing and updating the Quality Assurance Framework for Children's Residential Care. This work is intended to ensure that there is a robust and effective Quality Assurance Framework in place to serve as an "early warning" system to prevent deterioration in the Quality of Care being offered across all of the Local Authority's Children's Residential Care Homes.

## **5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules**

- 5.1 There is no impact on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report; therefore, it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

## 7. Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Implications

7.1 The implementation of the duties and responsibilities under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) supports the promotion of two of the seven goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 within the County Borough of Bridgend. By promoting an environment that maximises people's physical and mental well-being and by supporting children, young people, adults and their carers and families to fulfil their potential no matter what their circumstances, the well-being goals of a Healthier and more equal Bridgend and Wales are supported.

7.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how the Authority should work to deliver wellbeing outcomes for people. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been considered in this report:

- **Long term:** The residential provision has been assessed to meet the needs of the current and future looked after children population.
- **Prevention:** Harwood House enables children with complex needs to remain living in the county whilst Bakers Way provides respite to support disabled children and young people to remain living within their families. The statements of purpose will support the other residential provisions to run effectively meeting the needs of Looked After Children. Maple Tree House provided accommodation which enabled children with complex needs to remain in the community. The multi-disciplinary team facilitated the return of children who are currently placed outside of county. The wrap around support package aimed to reduce and prevent 'long term' residential care episodes, transitioning to a return to families or foster care.
- **Integration:** Children and young people have homes in the county borough facilitating familial contact and education provision being provided locally, supporting and maintaining their community and ethnic links.
- **Collaboration:** All of the units have strong links to health, education, police and other local community services to meet the holistic needs of children and young people placed. The units work in close collaboration with other departments within the Local Authority as well to meet service user needs.
- **Involvement:** Each of the residential units review feedback from children and young people and their families through mechanisms including meetings, evaluation forms, complaints and compliments.

## 8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications from this report.

## 9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Committee note the report.



**Claire Marchant**  
**Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing**  
**January 2023**

**10. Contact officer(s)**

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**11. Background Documents**

None

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING

12 JANUARY 2023

#### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

##### UPDATE ON CORPORATE PARENTING DEVELOPMENT

### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting with an update on the development of Corporate Parenting in Bridgend.

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

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being 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 The first Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting meeting of the municipal year received a report presented by the Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer setting out proposals for the future development of Corporate Parenting in Bridgend.

- 3.2 The proposals included:

- Establishing a shared vision for Corporate Parenting Responsibilities.
- Establishing a governance structure that supports the strategic and operational approach to Corporate Parenting.
- Establishing a Corporate Parenting Performance Framework.
- Establishing care experienced forums to provide our children and young people with a collective voice.

This report will provide an update on the progress of the above proposals.

#### **4. Current situation/proposal**

##### **4.1 Establishing a shared vision for Corporate Parenting Responsibilities**

- 4.1.1 The vision statement for the Corporate Parenting Board will be finalised at the next Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board meeting to be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January.
- 4.1.2 The vision statement will be informed by a series of consultations that have been undertaken since June 2022 and have involved care experienced young people and care leavers along with a range of professionals from different agencies.
- 4.1.3 It is hoped that the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Vision Statement will set the underpinning principles of the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Strategy and will be the cornerstone to all of the work undertaken by the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board and its member agencies.
- 4.1.4 The Corporate Parenting Board vision statement will be shared with our care experienced young people and care leavers in workshop activities during February 2023 half term. Our young people will discuss how the vision could be translated into tangible action and outcomes for care experienced children, young people and care leavers.
- 4.1.5 Following on from the young people's consultation workshop in February 2023 half term, a 'Pledge Event' will be held at the High Tide, Porthcawl on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March. At this event, a range of professionals representing different departments and organisations along with County Councillors will hear the views of our care experienced young people and care leavers. It is hoped that all attendees will be making a pledge at the event on how they will respond to their corporate parenting responsibilities, be held to account for these and strive to support children and young people to have the best outcomes possible.
- 4.1.6 The pledges from the March event will be collated and embedded into the draft Bridgend Corporate Parenting Strategy that will be finalised at the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board on 16<sup>th</sup> March. It is intended that the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Strategy will then be shared for ratification by the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee meeting, due to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- 4.1.7 A launch event for the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Strategy is planned to take place at the Heronston Hotel on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 where the Children's Commissioner for Wales has agreed to be a guest keynote speaker.

##### **4.2 Establishing a governance structure that supports the strategic and operational approach to Corporate Parenting**

- 4.2.1 A draft terms of reference for the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board providing a structure to the strategic and operational development of Corporate Parenting was presented to the Board's first meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022. All members were in agreement with its content and it was agreed for it to be shared with the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee for approval in January 2023.

4.2.2 The Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference are included in this update report as Appendix 1 for consideration and ratification from the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.

4.2.3 The multiagency membership for the 5 subgroups of the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board has been agreed. The meetings have been diarised and will take place once a quarter and with each subgroup reporting back to the Board with their progress.

#### 4.3 Establishing a Corporate Parenting Performance Framework

4.3.1 During the first Corporate Parenting Board meeting, it was agreed that the capacity of each agency to produce data could be limited and therefore a scoping exercise would need to be undertaken by each agency to identify what current data pertinent to care experienced children, young people and care leavers is collected and analysed.

4.3.2 The first Data Subgroup of the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board will be meeting in early January where benchmark data will be discussed along with any data that is not currently being collated.

4.3.3 The outcomes of the Data Subgroup will be fed back to the first Corporate Parenting Board meeting of the quarter for members to consider any findings, recommendations or issues.

#### 4.4 Establish care experienced forums to provide our children and young people with a collective voice

4.4.1 Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP), the providers of our Specialist Participation Service for the Corporate Parenting Board, have successfully recruited to the post of Participation Worker in October. The service was promoted across Children's Social Care and care experienced young people and care leavers were sent flyers during November offering them the opportunity to attend the first meeting.

4.4.2 The first meetings for the forums were held in the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> November. The first forum involved care experienced young people aged 11 – 16 and the second forum followed at a later time involving care leavers aged 16+.

4.4.3 During the forums the young people:

- participated in a variety of icebreaker / team building exercises,
- discussed potential topics for future meetings
- discussed potential names for their forums
- engaged in a consultation led by a care leaver who will be designing the branding for the Bridgend Corporate Parenting branding
- engaged in a consultation to decide upon the new name for the Brynmenyn Residential Setting
- agreed to meet monthly

## **5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**

5.1 There is no impact on the policy framework or procedure rules arising from this report.

## **6. Equality Act 2010 implications**

6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

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

7.1 Long term – the establishment of the Corporate Parenting Board will address how agencies can address their responsibilities for Corporate Parenting in a strategic manner to make robust plans for the future.

7.2 Prevention – the proposals that have been made mean that the responsibilities we all have for Corporate Parenting are identified and established into what we need to report on. Measuring and reporting on these responsibilities through the Corporate Parenting Board will enable us to take early action on any issues identified.

7.3 Integration – the Corporate Parenting Board has a multiagency membership, along with an extended multiagency membership through its 5 subgroups. This membership is intended to provide sufficient representation to cover who has specific responsibilities for our children and young people in particular circumstances. The purpose of the next Board meeting and the subgroup meetings being held within this quarter, will identify where professionals and agencies need to work together in the future to forge a coherent approach to the care of our children and young people.

7.4 Collaboration – the success and effectiveness of our Corporate Parenting in Bridgend is dependent on how well agencies work together to achieve shared goals and aspirations for our children and young people. These goals and aspirations will be agreed within a ‘shared vision’ at the next Corporate Parenting Board on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The shared vision will be the cornerstone for carrying out the steps necessary to launch the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Strategy on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

7.5 Involvement – due consideration has been given to how different ‘providers of care’ are involved in the proposals around Corporate Parenting. Specific attention and proposals are given to enabling the voice and lived experience of our children and young people.

## **8. Financial implications**

8.1 The contract for the Specialist Participation Support provided by Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) for 12 months (to an extendable 6 months if needed) costs £18,000 and is funded from within the Children’s Social Care budget.

## **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committee consider the contents of this report and support the progress of the Corporate Parenting development.
- 9.2 It is recommended that the Committee approve the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference.

Claire Marchant

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING**

January 2023

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**Background documents:** None

## Appendix 1

### Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board

#### Terms of Reference

##### **Introduction**

When a child or young person enters the care of the Council, the role of being a parent is taken on by the local authority. This is known as Corporate Parenting. The term describes how Bridgend Council and its partners collectively fulfil their parenting responsibilities, by seeking positive outcomes for care experienced children, young people and care leavers in the same way we do for our own children.

From early years into adulthood all our children and young people should be kept safe, are happy and have every opportunity to thrive. During their lifetime these young people will have involvement from a range of different services across the County.

##### **Aim**

The Corporate Parenting Board has been established to have strategic oversight and coordinate the Corporate Parenting agenda across Bridgend County Borough.

The Corporate Parenting Board will work collaboratively to produce and implement the Corporate Parenting Strategy that will seek to provide a framework to improve the life outcomes for Care Experienced Children, Young People and Care Leavers (our children and young people).

##### **Function**

- To agree a vision for Corporate Parenting in Bridgend County Borough that has the full commitment and support of all those services that work with and for our children and young people.
- To produce a Corporate Parenting Strategy that is underpinned by the ethos and aspirations of the shared vision for our children and young people.
- To work to a structure and governance that enables the activity cited within the Corporate Parenting Strategy to be managed effectively with performance and progress systematically measured, monitored and reviewed.
- To work positively in partnership to identify solutions to any challenges that might prevent or delay actions within the strategy being met
- To actively provide opportunities and discuss future projects to enhance life chances of our children and young people
- To contribute to an annual Corporate Parenting report



- To promote Corporate Parenting within service areas and galvanise support
- Champion each of the six priority areas within the strategy and ensure appropriate multiagency representation within the subgroups that work to these priorities:
  - **Priority 1:** Having a voice
  - **Priority 2:** Good health and wellbeing
  - **Priority 3:** A comfortable safe stable home whilst in care and after
  - **Priority 4:** Educational achievement, training, and employment
  - **Priority 5:** Ready for living independently
  - **Priority 6:** Celebrating our children and young people’s milestones
- Hear from our children and young people on issues that are important to them.
- Create opportunities for our children and young people to inform the work of the Corporate Parenting programme and be involved at all levels where relevant, appropriate and meaningful.

## Membership

Members of the Corporate Parenting Board are expected to be a champion for Care Experienced Children, Young People and Care leavers within the specific Directorate or organisation in addition to the collective ethos of Board.

All participants will report on updates from their service area and subgroup, share good practice and resources and contribute to the agenda.

Each of these members should represent the views of the wider groups they are part of and should ensure their relevant groups/teams are updated with the progress of this group’s work.

Cllr Jane Gebbie (Chair)	<i>Deputy Leader,</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
Claire Marchant (Vice Chair)	<i>Corporate Director, Social Services and Well Being</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
Mark Shepherd	<i>Chief Executive</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
Martin Morgans	<i>Head of Partnership Services</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
Andrew Thomas	<i>Group Manager - Sports and Physical Activity</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
Iain McMillan	<i>Deputy Head of Children's Social Care</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
Mark Wilkinson	<i>Group Manager, Learning Disability, Mental Health and Substance Misuse</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
Gemma Hayne	<i>Employability Programme Team Leader</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
Nicola Echanis	<i>Head of Education and Family Support</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
David Wright	<i>Group Manager, Vulnerable Groups Support</i>

	<b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
Steve Berry	<i>Corporate Parenting &amp; Participation Officer</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
Clayton Richie	<i>Detective Chief Inspector,</i> <b>South Wales Police</b>
Claire O Keefe	<i>Head of Safeguarding and Looked After Children</i> <b>Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB</b>
Joe Baldwin	<i>Vice Principal Learner Journey, Systems and Inclusive Practice,</i> <b>Bridgend College</b>
Meg Davies	<i>Team Manager Cwm Taf Morgannwg Advocacy Service</i> <b>TGP Cymru</b>
Matthew Bradford	<i>Station Manager</i> <b>South Wales Fire &amp; Rescue Service</b>
Sarah Rowe	<i>Children Service Manager, Western Bay</i> <b>Barnardo's Cymru</b>
Heidi Bennett	<i>Chief Executive,</i> <b>Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations</b>
Ryan Statton	<i>Community Manager</i> <b>Halo Leisure</b>

### **Board Meetings**

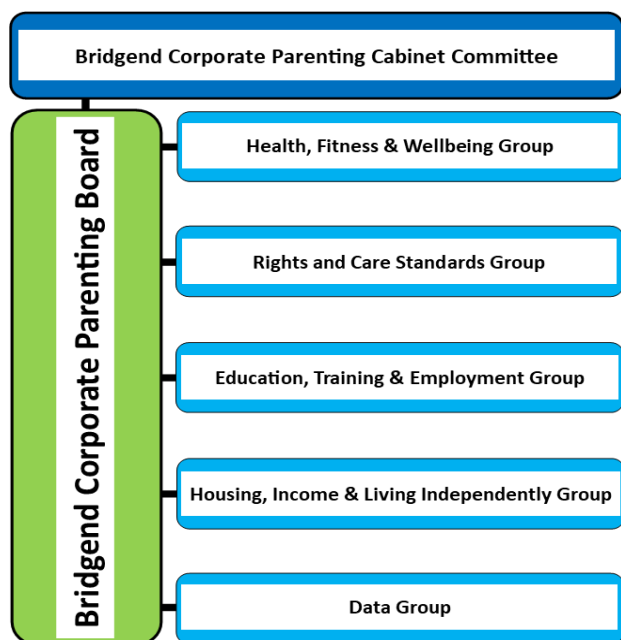
The Corporate Parenting Board shall meet on a bi quarterly basis, prior to the meeting, the service area or organisation champion shall provide a progress update against each of the actions assigned to their service area or organisation.

The first Corporate Parenting Board meeting in a quarter will address any feedback from the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee. This first meeting will set the work for the subgroups of the Board. The Board will also receive a data report card from the 'data subgroup', a report from the 'Health, Fitness & Wellbeing subgroup' and a report from the 'Rights & Care Standards subgroup' that will enable discussion of progress made.

The second Corporate Parenting meeting will receive updates from the 'Education, Training & Employment subgroup' and the 'Housing, Income & Living Independently subgroup' that will enable discussion of progress made.

The data report card and reports from all subgroups within a quarter will inform the report to be written by the Corporate Parenting and Participation for the following Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.

## Subgroups



Each of the subgroups have a specific remit that supports the priorities. All priority subgroups will report into the Board following an agreed schedule. In addition to the priorities subgroups, there is a data subgroup that will produce a data dashboard that will report on qualitative and quantitative data for each of the priorities. This data will be shared at the first Board of quarter and then shared in the respective subgroups to illustrate progress.

## Progress

Alongside the quarterly data report cards, members of the Corporate Parenting Board will contribute to an annual report showing progress of the Corporate Parenting Strategy, which will be shared with the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee and be available on the Council website.

## Quoracy

A minimum of 50% of the named agencies must be present for the Corporate Parenting Board meeting and 50% of the named agencies in the Terms of Reference relating to the individual subgroup meetings to be considered quorate. However, meetings can proceed in the absence of full quoracy at the meetings' Chairs' discretion.

## Legal Support

To be provided by the lead partner (Bridgend County Borough Council) where necessary and a representative will be co-opted into meetings when necessary.

## Administration

Business support will be provided by the Social Services and Well Being Directorate for Board meetings. Business support for subgroups will be requested by each subgroup Chair within their own agency in the first instance and where this is not possible, other member agencies will be requested to contribute resources.

## Decision Making

Made by majority. A split vote will go to the Chair for final decision

Any decision making for subgroups will be delegated by the Board in specific circumstances, all other decision making will be made by the Board.

## Minutes of Meetings

Board meeting Minutes and agenda to be distributed 5 working days prior to the following meeting.

## Chairing arrangements

The term of office for new Chair and Vice Chair roles should be 12months.

In the spirit of commitment and partnership working, there is an expectation for all members to put themselves forward for the roles of Chair and Vice Chair where they are able, when the current role holders are due to finish their term of office. The timing of having a new Chair and Vice Chair must not be at the detriment of ongoing work and continuity.

**Amendments to Terms of Reference**

Only with the approval of the Board.