

CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING - WEDNESDAY, 7 MAY 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 7 MAY 2025 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor J Gebbie – Chairperson

E L P Caparros

P Davies

M J Evans

M Jones

Present Virtually

F D Bletsoe
A Ulberini-Williams

N Farr

D M Hughes

J E Pratt

Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Spanswick

Officers:

Claire Marchant
Claire O'Keefe
Steve Berry
David Wright
Daniel Bolton
Amy McArdle
Nichola Rogers
Jodi Farley-Morris

Christa Bonham-Griffiths
Megan Apsee
Michael Pitman
Oscar Roberts

Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Head of Safeguarding – Cwm Taf Morgannwg
Corporate Parenting & Participation Officer
Deputy Head of Children and Family Services
Group Manager - Provider Services
Regional Development Manager – Cwm Taf Morgannwg – Foster Wales
Regional Adoption Services Manager - Western Bay Regional Adoption Service
Recruitment and Assessment Manager for Western Bay - Western Bay Regional
Adoption Service
Strategic Manager – Youth Justice Service
Education Engagement Team Manager
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Business Administrative Apprentice – Democratic Services

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Declarations of Interest

None.

67. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Committee approved the minutes of the 10/01/2025 as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	7 May 2025

**68. Overview Of Health Services Provided To Care Experienced Children
And Young People Report**

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Head Of Safeguarding, was to provide an outline of health services that Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) provides to care experienced children as well as outlining achievement of objectives within the Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise for Wales. Councillors posed questions on: • Waiting lists for neurodiverse children • CAMHS waiting lists • The trajectory of demand for CTM's services and resources deployed to meet those demands • Failure to meet objectives within the Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise for Wales • Whether timeframes within legislation are being met These questions were addressed by the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Head Of Safeguarding, the Chairperson, the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing and the Deputy Head of Children and Family Services. The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Head Of Safeguarding agreed to pass on information on reductions in waiting lists for neurodiverse children and any current service backlogs to the Cabinet Committee. The Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer also agreed to share CAMHS information to the Committee. <u>RESOLVED:</u> The Cabinet Committee noted the report and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board's contribution to supporting care experienced babies, children and young people.
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	The Committee thanked care workers within Bridgend County Borough for their work and their delivering to this report's objectives.
Date Decision Made	7 May 2025

69. Foster Wales Bridgend Update

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Group Manager - Provider Services and the Regional Development Manager – Cwm Taf Morgannwg – Foster Wales, was to provide Cabinet Committee - Corporate Parenting with an update on Foster Wales Bridgend Service Developments. Councillors posed questions on: • The increase in numbers of children with complex needs requiring fostering • The reasons behind low conversion rates from initial visits to assessments • Improvement points from recent inspections These questions were answered by the Group Manager - Provider Services, the Regional Development Manager – Cwm Taf Morgannwg – Foster Wales and the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing. <u>RESOLVED:</u> The Cabinet Committee noted the contents of the report. The Cabinet Committee thanked everyone involved with producing the report and the Council's foster carers. The Chairperson also requested that example profiles and pages from the new Big Welcome app be sent round to the Cabinet Committee.
Date Decision Made	7 May 2025

**70. Monitoring The Performance and Progress Of The Western Bay
Regional Adoption Service**

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Regional Adoption Services Manager - Western Bay Regional Adoption Service, was to provide information to the Cabinet Committee about the performance and
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	progress of the Western Bay Regional Adoption Service, including end of year performance information. The presentation included a video on sibling and family contact. Councillors posed questions on: • The timescale on prospective adoptive parents becoming certified • The number of approved adopters coming through, and the conversion rate of approval • Membership of the attached Youth Club These questions were answered by the Regional Adoption Services Manager - Western Bay Regional Adoption Service, the Chairperson and the Recruitment and Assessment Manager for Western Bay - Western Bay Regional Adoption Service <u>RESOLVED:</u> The Cabinet Committee considered and noted the performance and progress of the Regional Adoption Service. The Cabinet Committee also thanked all who were involved with creating the report, as well as the network of adopters and adoptive parents. The Cabinet Committee also requested specific dates for reviews undertaken within the service. Cllr N Farr and Cllr J E Pratt left the meeting following this item.
Date Decision Made	7 May 2025

71. Focus On Engagement - Voice Of The Child

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Corporate Parenting & Participation Officer, was to provide the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting with an overview of the Care Experienced Youth Forum activity for the year April 2024 to March 2025. Councillors posed questions on: • The reasons behind the choice of the Forum's home at Evergreen Hall • Plans for expanding attendance to the Forum • Limits on attendance for individual sessions • What elected members can do to assist with the Youth Forum's goals
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	• Local schemes to provide equipment to care experienced young people • The trajectory of numbers of care experienced children within Bridgend County Borough These questions were answered by the Corporate Parenting & Participation Officer and the Deputy Head of Children and Family Services. <u>RESOLVED:</u> The Cabinet Committee noted the report and gave recognition to the work that the Bridgend Youth Voice Forum does.
Date Decision Made	7 May 2025

72. Youth Justice Service Update On Care Experienced Children

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Strategic Manager – Youth Justice Service, was to update Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting on the Bridgend Youth Justice Service (BYJS) provision available for care experienced children who enter the criminal justice system. Councillors posed questions on: • Delays that care experienced children experience when accessing CAMHS or substance misuse services • Have the children within the report been previously known to Youth Justice, and whether any are noted as prolific offenders These questions were answered by the Strategic Manager – Youth Justice Service. <u>RESOLVED:</u> The Cabinet Committee: • Considered the contents of the report • Provided feedback The Cabinet Committee thanked the Youth Justice team for their work on this report. Cllr F Bletsoe left the meeting following this item.
Date Decision Made	7 May 2025

73. Education Engagement Team Support For Care-Experienced Children

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Education Engagement Team Manager, was to update Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting on the support provided by the Education Engagement Team (EET) for care experienced children. Councillors posed questions on: • How many care experienced children are not attending school, or are on reduced timetables • The attainment levels of care experienced children compared to the standard population • Bespoke support to older young people • The reason behind levels of achievement from care experienced children These questions were answered by the Education Engagement Team Manager. It was agreed to bring an updated report to the Cabinet Committee to provide updates on these goals in a year's time. <u>RESOLVED:</u> the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting considered the contents of the report and provided feedback and recommendations. The Cabinet Committee thanked the Education Engagement team for their work on the report.
Date Decision Made	7 May 2025

74. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	7 May 2025

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 12:30.

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