

Date of Meeting	Item	Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:	Response/Comments
21-Jul-2016	Children with Disabilities Transformation Programme	Further information requested	
		<p>Specialist 52 week provision</p> <p>1. The Committee asked for further information on the staffing numbers required for the additional weeks under the new 52 week provision proposed for children with disabilities, as well as detail of where these staff will be coming from and how they will be funded?</p>	<p>Discussions are on-going with regulators (CSSIW) in respect of the management and staffing requirements within the home.</p> <p>However, it is anticipated that staffing establishments and costs will be proportionate to the other BCBC homes where BCBC provide the care; Sunnybank (4 bed complex unit) and Newbridge House (6 bed reablement unit), both of whom have budgets in the region of £400k per annum.</p> <p>One of the benefits of delivering the service 'in-house', is that there will be the potential to pool resources (with Sunnybank and Newbridge House) and create greater resilience within the area. The project is also being run alongside the Bakers Way review, meaning that any (potential) changes to staff at Bakers Way can be managed across the whole sector, providing greater flexibility and opportunity for staff.</p>
		<p>2. The Committee concluded that there was insufficient evidence of dialogue with the current providers out of county as well as other Local Authorities on models that would meet current and future needs. Members questioned whether three places would be sufficient given that there could be opportunities for income generation from other LAs utilising more spaces.</p> <p>The Committee also questioned how savings could be identified despite not knowing the cost of the future provision. Members asked for clarification and evidence of where the projected savings were coming from and what information has been sourced from current providers and other LAs.</p>	<p>The current marketplace for external providers for this specific type of provision has indicated through market share that this is a very niche market that is currently provided by one overarching provider in Wales; The Orbis group. 4 C's have not identified that there is larger need for this type of provision and whilst overall residential provision is increasing through providers, none have entered this marketplace, other Local Authorities also commission through this provider. In early discussions with the Vale of Glamorgan, Neath Port Talbot and Rhondda Cynon Taff, senior officers expressed a view that should BCBC provide this resource and have availability they would seek to commission a placemen but no more formal discussions have taken place to date.</p> <p>In our business case and calculations, we have forecast that costs are likely to be circa £120k per person (based on costs in other BCBC homes, such as Sunnybank and Newbridge House), per annum. When factoring-in that the average OOC placement costs £180k per annum, and is over £200k in many instances, this has been the rationale for identifying potential savings/cost avoidance.</p> <p>When profiling the number of placements made OOC over the last 5-10 years, it showed that on average, there is a running balance of 2-3 placements of this nature that this provision would meet. In addition to this, the building that has been identified is only suitable for 3 service users - with no larger buildings currently available.</p> <p>No assumptions have been made in respect of additional income being received from other LA's - as there are no guarantees around this source of income. This income could be received, only if there are voids within the home</p>
		<p>Short Breaks (respite) Services</p> <p>3. The Committee expressed concern over the presentation of the consultation data in that it was reported that there were 71 responses but no detail as to how many people were consulted with in total. The Committee asked for further detail of the number of participants, who they were and how they were consulted.</p>	<p>Parents of the children on the Disabled Children's Team (DCT) database were invited to attend an engagement session in November 2015. Of the 150 parents/carers contacted, 18 attended the session and contributed to the exercise via 'voting buttons'.</p> <p>The same 150 parents/carers on the DCT database also received a letter after then event, inviting them to complete the survey either online, or via hard-copy (a copy of the survey was attached to the letter) - to which two additional responses were received.</p> <p>An engagement session was undertaken DCT social workers, to which eight members of staff attended and contributed to the exercise via 'voting buttons'.</p> <p>An engagement session was also undertaken with Bakers Way staff, who were given copies of documentation, and invited to complete the consultation survey online - to which 14 responses were received.</p> <p>Face-to-face engagement was also conducted in order to receive responses from the service users (children and young people). Of the 40 using the service, there were 37 responses.</p>
<p>4. Members queried the changes to staffing in Bakers Way in that the plan was to look to existing staff to extend their shifts. Members questioned how agreeable staff had been to this in the consultation and expressed concern over whether agency staff could have to be utilised to meet the minimum requirements under the legislation. The Committee asked for clarification including the associated costings.</p>	<p>The plans for Bakers Way have yet to be finalised - as they may change following the consultation. However, in the draft proposal (which is being consulted upon), there is not an expectation that staff extend their shifts.</p> <p>As part of the proposal, Bakers Way is open for fewer nights, meaning that the hours worked by staff could reduce marginally, which will be dependant on the establishment structure at the point of implementation.</p> <p>Staff and Trade Unions have been engaged, and the full impact will be known following consultation, when a model has been finalised</p>		

	<p>Further comments</p> <p>5. The Committee commented on the need for caution when asking for generic personal information in consultation exercises to ensure that potential consultees are not deterred from participating. The Committee proposed that enhanced confirmation be incorporated within any consultation document that the information is strictly confidential.</p>	<p>These are standard fields in all consultation documents - and will need to be addressed corporately by the Communications team</p>
<p>Draft Participation Strategy</p>	<p>6. The Committee recognised the work that was being undertaken in relation to the participation of Children and Young People but commented on the lack of detail of this within the Strategy and the need for the Strategy to be sold better.</p>	<p>The Participation Strategy is within its early stages of multi-agency discussions in order to ensure that any future developments are aligned with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, with key stakeholders developing activity within the strategy around the key priorities of the Act. The detail around the priorities and actions is set out clearly within the Participation Strategy Action Plan. The strategy is being reviewed quarterly to ensure consistency with this approach.</p>
	<p>7. The Committee expressed concerns over the lack of detail for engagement of children and young people outside of the youth council such as those hard to reach or considered vulnerable as well as primary aged pupils. Officers reported that work with Unicef for example was being undertaken, working with primary aged pupils, but Members commented that this did not present anywhere in the strategy.</p>	<p>The supplementary action plan to the Strategy outlines priorities which recognises the need to engage with a diverse range of children and young people across Bridgend. Although there is a well established Youth Council within Bridgend, the priorities highlighted within the Participation Strategy Network emphasise the shift towards engaging with marginalised and disadvantaged young people in the decision making process. A collaborative working relationship is being developed with the Looked After Children's team, Young Carers and disabilities groups to ensure they have equal representation in the democratic process.</p>
	<p>8. Members were also concerned over the lack of monitoring or evaluation of participation work and commented that if this information is not consistently gathered it would prove difficult to provide it when needed; for the purposes of the self-assessment.</p>	<p>Monitoring and evaluating the participatory process is an ongoing priority within Education and Early help Service and work is currently being undertaken with external organisations (Children in Wales), to establish the most appropriate benchmarking process in order to monitor the effectiveness of Participation in Bridgend through a robust self-assessment, which will be one of the objectives of the local Participation Strategy network. In addition to monitoring the progress of the supplementary Participation Strategy Action Plan, Bridgend continues to monitor service delivery against the National Participation Standards and will build this in to service plans as a requirement of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.</p>
	<p>9. The Committee commented that the strategy is not written in a user friendly manner for children and young people and that this, along with the lack of detail in terms of 'how' children and young people can get involved, makes it difficult for them to access and understand how they can participate.</p>	<p>In consideration of this point, additional priorities have been embedded within the Participation Strategy Action Plan to reflect young people's views on the development of the Strategy. The Youth Mayor, as a representative of the Participation Strategy Network will be supported in consulting with members of the Youth Council and other young people specifically in relation to the strategy, and will look to jointly develop a Charter for children and young people in Bridgend outlining our promise as a Local Authority and Voluntary Sector partners, to enhance opportunities to access their rights and increase their participation on the decision making process.</p>
	<p>10. The Committee noted the comment from Officers on the need for other Directorates to take on the Strategy but suggested that in order for this to happen the Strategy needs significant expansion and detail to enable other Directorates to sign up to it.</p>	<p>There are examples of good practice across the majority of directorates and service areas, however the aim of the network is to ensure proportionate representation of key stakeholders across Bridgend to include opportunities for young people to feed in to the decision making process on issues which may directly or indirectly effect them.</p>
	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>11. Following their conclusions, Members recommended the following changes to the Strategy for incorporation in the final text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) That more information on other organisation involvement be incorporated into the strategy; b) That more examples of the 'How' aspect be incorporated into the strategy; c) That the strategy be more accessible and user friendly for children and young people; d) That the strategy recognise and evidence more the importance of engagement with other children and young people outside of the Youth Council and detail how this this is going to take place; e) That the action plan be incorporated within the strategy to evidence how the work is being targeted, monitored and evaluated; f) That the action plan be expanded for the whole Authority to incorporate other Directorates. 	<p>These recommendations will be discussed during the next full multi-agency Participation Network meeting.</p>
	<p>Further Comments</p> <p>12. The Committee were delighted that the Youth Council was to be represented on the Public Service Board.</p>	<p>NA</p>

<p>13. The Committee asked that the Bridgend Governors Association be contacted and asked to raise with all Chairs of Governors the requirement for pupil representation on Governing Bodies.</p>	<p>Welsh Government have recently consulted on the reform of school governance: regulatory framework.</p> <p>In the new regulations there continues to be provision for pupils to elect up to 2 pupils from years 11 to 13 to be appointed as pupil governors on a school's governing body. Pupil governors are not a requirement.</p> <p>To avoid confusion, the title of this category of governor has been shortened to "pupil governor" in the new regulations. Pupil governors will continue to be able to participate in certain committees of the governing body where most of the day-to-day work of the governing body takes place; if the governing body agrees, they may also have a vote.</p> <p>However, pupil governors will not to be able to participate in committees dealing with such matters as staffing issues or pupil discipline.</p> <p>It is proposed that once the new framework is adopted later in 2017, that the LA, with support from the BGA provides advice to schools to ensure that they understand the opportunities for pupil governors.</p>
<p>14. The Committee commented on the need for Scrutiny to engage with more youth organisations; getting more young people to attend Scrutiny Committees or provide written evidence. Members stressed that this needed to be taken forward across all Scrutiny Committees.</p>	<p>For Scrutiny to Action</p>