

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING

24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018

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

#### CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES INSPECTORATE WALES SELF ASSESSMENT JANUARY 2018 – CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet Committee of the self-assessment that all local authorities are being asked to complete in relation to:
  - Looked after children and care leavers profile;
  - Placement sufficiency and stability;
  - Impact of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (SSWBA) 2014 and regulatory requirements on out of authority placements.
- 1.2 The completed assessment has to be returned to the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) by 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018.
- 1.3 A presentation on the headline data/key findings contained in the self-assessment will be made at the meeting.

#### 2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan/Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 This report links to the following Corporate Plan priorities:
  - Helping people to be more self-reliant;
  - Smarter use of resources.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 CSSIW, as part of its 2017/2018 work programme, is undertaking a series of inspections with a particular focus on decision making and pathway planning for looked after children and care leavers.
- 3.2 As part of this work, CSSIW has designed a self-evaluation tool that all local authorities are being asked to complete. The aim of the self-assessment (SAF) is to capture a snap shot, as of December 31st 2017, of:
  - Looked after children and care leavers profile;
  - Placement sufficiency and stability;
  - Impact of the SSWBA and regulatory requirements on out of authority placements.
- 3.3 The self-assessment is designed to help capture the complexity of the looked after children and care leavers profile across Wales. While the SAF asks for quantitative data it also encourages authorities to evaluate the effectiveness of its strategic and operational arrangements and to identify any issues impacting on its looked after children and care leavers population.

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

- 4.1 Bridgend County Borough Council has begun work to complete the self-assessment. It is broken down into seven parts:
- Theme 1 – Profile
  - Theme 2 – Placement Stability and sufficiency
  - Theme 3 – Care and Support
  - Theme 4 – Placement panels and notification arrangements (Out of Authority)
  - Theme 5 – Early Intervention
  - Theme 6 – Safeguarding
  - Theme 7 – Workforce
- 4.2 The findings and analysis of these self-assessments will be used to inform:
- A national overview report;
  - CSSIW annual analysis of local authority social services performance;
  - CSSIW inspections of local authority social services and regulated services.
- 4.3 In tandem with the analysis of the self-assessment CSSIW will also undertake:
- A performance challenge meeting with each local authority to explore the issues identified in their self-evaluation.
  - A programme of inspection focussing on looked after children and care leavers, in up to 6 local authorities.

#### **Performance challenge meeting**

- 4.4 The aim of this meeting will be to discuss and constructively challenge the authority's self-assessment and develop a clear understanding of performance in relation to looked after children and care leavers. CSSIW is particularly interested in understanding trends, effectiveness of commissioning and placement sufficiency arrangements. They are also interested in areas the authority has identified for development or improvement along with any specific contextual issues.
- 4.5 CSSIW will work closely with authorities to ensure that these meetings are productive. They will take place during February - April 2018. The authority may wish to include relevant partners in this meeting.
- 4.6 These meetings will result in a summary note that will be incorporated and published in the next annual letter from CSSIW.

#### **Inspection of looked after children and care leaver services.**

- 4.7 Inspections will be undertaken in up to six local authorities commencing in early 2018. This programme of inspections will be undertaken in line with CSSIW published inspection framework. A published report will be produced for each individual inspection.
- 4.8 The inspection team will also include CSSIW regulatory inspectors who will undertake concurrent regulatory inspection of the local authority fostering service in line with CSSIW fostering inspection framework. A separate report will be produced.
- 4.9 Authorities to be inspected are being notified in line with CSSIW's usual notification process and Bridgend has not been contacted in this regard.

**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 There are no equality implications in this report.

**7. Financial Implications**

7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

**8. Recommendation**

8.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Committee notes the information provided in this report.

Susan Cooper  
Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing  
January 2018

**9. Contact officer**

Laura Kinsey  
Head of Children's Social Care  
Email: [laura.kinsey@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:laura.kinsey@bridgend.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01656 642314

**10. Background Documents**

None