

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING

10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019

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

#### CARE INSPECTORATE WALES

#### INSPECTION OF WESTERN BAY ADOPTION SERVICE – ACTION PLAN

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the Committee with an overview of the Inspection findings and recommendations relating to the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Inspection of Western Bay Adoption Service (November 2017).
- 1.2 To update the Committee on the progress made in addressing the recommendations and the action plan that had been developed in response.

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

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priority/priorities:-
  1. **Helping people to be more self-reliant** – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
  2. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, 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 priorities.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 In March 2016, Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW (previously CSSIW) required that all regional adoption services complete a self-evaluation of their regional adoption service. This was the first phase in implementing the revised adoption framework for inspection following the introduction of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Joint Adoption Arrangements) (Wales) 2015. Following the analysis of the evaluations the Inspectorate decided to pause the inspection programme to allow services time to implement their plans.
- 3.2 In August 2017, CIW notified all regional adoption services that they would be required to update their self-assessments, this only required information about the progress in the development areas identified in the previous assessment along with the most recent adoption data for the year 2016/17. At the same time regions were advised that CIW's intention was to identify one regional adoption service that would be inspected before the end of 2017 to pilot the revised methodology. Alongside this there would also be a review of the regional and national adoption arrangements. The outcome of this work would be reported on and the remaining regional services and independent adoption services would be inspected during 2018.

- 3.3 In September 2017, Western Bay Adoption Service was notified by CIW that the region had been selected as a pilot for the revised inspection methodology. The inspection was to focus on how the service 'promotes the wellbeing and safety of children and young people through the provision of services and placements with families who can safely meet their needs and improve the likelihood of them achieving best possible outcomes'.
- 3.4 The inspection would also evaluate the quality of leadership, management and governance arrangements in place to develop and support service delivery.
- 3.5 The dates of the inspection were as follows:

28 November-1 December 2017

In advance of the fieldwork, the Service was required to submit a range of advance information/documentation in the following areas:-

- Policy and Procedures
- Strategy and Structures
- Key Documents and Operational Protocols
- Blank Templates
- Cabinet/Committee Reports
- Development Work
- Performance Data and Quality Assurance
- Workforce

This required the coordination and provision of 386 documents/items in total from within the service, from the three local authority partners and from health, education and the Voluntary Adoption Agency partners.

- 3.6 The Inspection team consisted of three Regulatory Inspectors and one Lead Inspector. During the fieldwork, CIW inspected the work by assessing a sample of 25 from 445 cases, these included children referred to the service, adopters pre-approval, adopters waiting a match for more than 12 months, adopters post approval where matching had begun, children placed for adoption, post adoption services, intermediary services, access to birth record, and adoption disruptions. Six of the 25 cases were tracked and this included interviewing the allocated case worker and their manager. In addition, CIW also sought the views of service users through interviews with children and young people and adopters both individually and in groups; and also those people who had received an intermediary service
- 3.7 In addition to the case related interviews the inspection team also conducted interviews with:-
- Representatives from: Children & Young Persons Scrutiny Committee, including the Lead Member for Children
  - Chairperson and members of the regional board
  - Heads of Children's Services ( from each authority member )
  - Manager with responsibility for Quality Assurance & Performance
  - Regional representatives from education and health
  - Service manager
  - Adoption panel chairperson and panel representative.

- 3.8 Surveys were also conducted with adopters and the regional adoption panel members along with observations of adoption panels and visits to support groups for adopters and adopted children and young people.
- 3.9 CIW published a report of the findings in respect of Western Bay Adoption Services on their website in May 2018 and the Review of the National Adoption Arrangements in June 2018.

#### **4 Current Situation/Proposal**

- 4.1 The CIW inspection reports are attached at **Appendices 1 & 2**.

##### **Summary of Findings**

- 4.2 This report will be supported by a presentation which provides details of the summary of findings and recommendations as per **Appendix 3**.

##### **Recommendations and Actions Taken**

- 4.3 An action plan in respect of the Western Bay was developed in response to the recommendations made by CIW and can be found at **Appendix 4**.
- 4.4 The Action Plan is monitored by Regional Adoption Management Board.
- 4.5 **Appendix 4** provides updates against each recommendation and demonstrates the progress achieved since the Inspection report was published.

#### **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 arising from this report.

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

- 7.1 The implementation of the duties and responsibilities under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) (SSWBA) 2014, in turn, 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 wellbeing 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 relevant well-being goals have been considered in this report:

- **Long Term** – Social Services is demand led and the SSWBA focusses on sustainable wellbeing outcomes for the future. There is a requirement to meet the needs of people in the longer term and, because of rising demographics and increasing complexity, the transformation of services continues to be a priority.
- **Integration** – the implementation of the SSWBA and the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Joint Adoption Arrangements) (Wales) Directions 2015 requires local authorities to work with partners, particularly the NHS and Education, to ensure care and support for people and support for carers is provided. The report evidences work with partners to enable children to be placed in permanent arrangements.
- **Collaboration** – The collaborative approaches described in the report, are managed and monitored through the regional collaborative management board and the National Adoption Service Advisory Group and Governance Board where there is local authority and sector stakeholder representation.
- **Involvement** – the key stakeholders are the people who use social care. There is considerable engagement including surveys, stakeholder meetings, feedback forms and the complaints process. The provision of accessible information and advice helps to ensure that the voice of adults, children and young people is heard.

## 8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications, the report highlights that the authority is working hard to transform services at a time when there are medium term financial savings to be delivered.

## 9. Recommendation

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the CIW report on the inspection of Western Bay Adoption Service and comments on the associated Action Plan along with noting the CIW report on the Review of the National Adoption Arrangements.

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**December 2018**

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11. **Background Documents**  
 None