

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

20 OCTOBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING

MULTI AGENCY PERMANENCE SUPPORT SERVICE – CHILDRENS SERVICES

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Request approval to be part of a tender process, within the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region, for a regional Multi Agency Permanence Support Service (MAPSS) for Children and Young People who are looked after, or with a plan for adoption, and enter into a regional collaboration agreement; and
- Seek authorisation to delegate authority for the Head of Children's Social Care to represent Bridgend County Borough Council and make decisions within the Children's Regional Project Board, which will provide governance for the regional Multi Agency Permanence Support Service.

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

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/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 Evidence demonstrates that a significantly higher proportion of Looked After Children (LAC) experience emotional, behavioural and mental health difficulties and have shown poor mental health than children in the general population.

- 3.2 Health services and local authorities need to work together to meet the needs of children and young people whose needs escalate, resulting in challenges in foster carers and adoptive families meeting their needs without additional support. This can result in poor outcomes for children and young people and a significant escalation in costs to public services if needs can not be met by providing additional support to foster families and adoptive carers.
- 3.3 The Multi Agency Permanence Support Service (MAPSS) offers an assessment to identify a child's needs and provides a range of therapeutic interventions and strategies to children and their carers, supporting the child to process traumatic and difficult life experiences.
- 3.4 Previously Bridgend was part of the Western Bay MAPSS which came to an end on 31st March 2020, following the changes in health boundaries and the new regional footprint that came into effect the year before.
- 3.5 The Institute of Public Care (IPC) review was commissioned by the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Children's Project Board, to review the mental health and wellbeing needs of children who are looked after, and a business case was developed to identify service requirements and support an application for Integrated Care Fund (ICF) funding.
- 3.6 The IPC review indicated the best outcomes will be achieved by an integrated approach to assessment and delivery of service, utilising existing multi-agency working with additional resource to establish a more effective approach to meeting the therapeutic needs of children looked after. Improving children's therapeutic needs would result in more stable placements, lower placement costs overall, and improved outcomes for children.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 If a child who is looked after or adopted requires an assessment or any form of therapeutic services, Bridgend currently sources this provision through spot purchasing arrangements which are costly and time consuming, and quality and outcomes for the child can be variable.
- 4.2 Following the IPC review and the identified need for such a service across the region, it is being proposed to procure the MAPSS regionally with Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC, Merthyr Tydfil CBC and Bridgend.
- 4.3 The new service will appoint a specialist provider to help create a holistic, multi-disciplinary 'therapeutic intervention' service to support placement stability and achieve positive outcomes to children with the highest needs through joint working, robust assessments and a suite of therapeutic options.
- 4.4 The voice of the child and young people is paramount and will be central to the service and reflected through assessment, intervention and the review process. The tender documents ensure that the provider must have mechanisms in place for the child's voice to be heard, providing opportunities to feedback regarding the quality of support.

- 4.5 BCBC officers have worked with regional partners to develop the service specification for the procurement of the service provider and will participate in the tender process and evaluation panel. Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC will act as Lead Authority for the regional procurement exercise.
- 4.6 Robust performance measures shall be included in the tender documents to assess the short, medium and long term outcomes in order to demonstrate achievement and value for money. It is proposed that the service contract shall be for 3 years.
- 4.7 A collaboration agreement between the region will be established to set out how RCTCBC, BCBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC shall work together and offer support to the service provider to deliver the service fully. Approval has been sought from the Corporate Procurement Manager to this arrangement.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken and there are no direct equality implications as a consequence of 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 (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) 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 five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been considered in this report:
- Long Term – Social Services is demand led and the SSWBA focusses on sustainable prevention and 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 remodelling and transformation of services continues to be a priority. The Multi Agency Permanence Support Service promotes secure attachment as a means of helping children and young people and their carers maintain placements (living and educational) so that they can feel safe enough to develop supportive attachments/relationships, and opportunities for positive growth and resilience in the future.
 - Prevention – MAPSS will facilitate and support developing a shared understanding of the child's needs and their carer's difficulties, to determine

how best to intervene and respond to achieve positive outcomes and avoid the needs of young people escalating further.

- Integration – the implementation of the SSWBA requires local authorities to work with partners, particularly the NHS and the Police, to ensure care and support for people and support for carers is provided. The report evidences work with the Third Sector, enabling people to remain linked to communities, and work with young people to enable access to employment.
- Collaboration – The strategic planning and local delivery of integrated support and services are developed and agreed at a regional basis in order to provide the best possible intervention to people. Collaborating will help inform and support the regions vision in supporting children, and young people and families to have a full range of integrated services for children, young people and families with complex needs.
- 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 An application for Integrated Care Funding (ICF) was approved, awarding the region a total amount of £668,000 per annum for this financial year (2020/21) and the next financial year (2021/22).
- 8.2 The annual budget for the Multi Agency Permanence Support Service across the region is estimated at £668,000, over the 3 year life time of the contract the value will total approximately £2,004,000.
- 8.3 Welsh Government (WG) have confirmed ICF will be available up until March 2022, covering the total annual cost for 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- 8.4 If WG ICF is reduced or ceased post 2022, appropriate provisions will be written into the contract with the service provider to end the arrangement, or to allow amendments to reduce provision/funding, leaving minimal financial risk to the local authority.

9. Recommendation(s)

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- approves BCBC entering into a regional collaboration agreement with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council for the provision of MAPSS;
 - Delegates authority to the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing in consultation with the Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer and Chief Officer - Legal, HR and Regulatory Services to agree the terms of the regional collaboration agreement and any ancillary agreements and to arrange execution of the regional collaboration agreement on behalf of the Council, subject to such delegated authority being exercised in consultation with the Chief Officer - Legal, HR and Regulatory Services.

- approves BCBC being part of the regional procurement exercise to commission a service provider to provide the MAPSS, with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council acting as lead authority for the procurement and to note that approval to award the regional MAPSS service contract will be sought via delegated powers (under BCBC's Scheme of Delegation) once the procurement and evaluation process has been undertaken; and
- Delegate authority for the Head of Children's Social Care to represent and make decisions for BCBC as part of the Regional Project Board.

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Background documents

- Institute of Public Care (IPC) – Improving the mental health and emotional well-being of Cwm Taf children who are Looked After – Business case for investment in service improvement