

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

26 NOVEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING
REVISED STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE FOR CHILDREN'S FOSTERING SERVICES

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the revised statement of purpose for the Fostering Service in Bridgend County Borough Council. It is a requirement under the Council's constitution that these are presented to the Corporate Parenting Committee to approve.

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

This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-**

1. **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.
2. **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 The Fostering Service provides a range of foster care to children and young people who are looked after by Bridgend County Borough Council. The service offers the following types of family care to children and young people from birth to 18 years of age:

- **Emergency, respite and short term care:** Providing care for a few days, weeks or months while plans are being made for the child's long term future.
- **Long-term care:** Where foster carers provide permanent family care for a child up to, and into, adult independence where adoption is not an option.
- **Kinship care:** Care by friends or family members who are approved as foster carers.

- **Reg.26 care:** Immediate care of a child with relatives or friends under Regulation 26 of the Care Planning Placement and Case Review Regulations (Wales 2015).
- **Private Fostering:** Private fostering is when a child under 16 (under 18 if disabled) is cared for by an adult who is not a close relative i.e. brother/sister, aunt/uncle, grandparent, a full or half relation, a step parent or related by marriage. It is an arrangement between the parent and a carer. The Fostering Service offers support to private foster carers; currently we do not have any private foster carers in Bridgend and there is information available on the Bridgend Fostering website.
- **The Family Link Scheme:** The short breaks service offers family-based short break care to disabled children and young people. Short breaks help to combat the isolation often felt by disabled children and young people enabling them to meet new people and become part of a 'second family,' widening their social life and offering new experiences.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The relevant provisions of The Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 (RISCA) came into force on 2nd April 2018. The purpose of the Act was to build on the success of regulation in Wales and reflected the changing world of social care. It places service quality and improvement at the heart of the regulatory regime and strengthens protection for those who need it. Regulation will move beyond compliance with minimum standards, and focus more on the quality of services and the impact which they have on people receiving them.
- 4.2 The Local Authority Fostering Services (Wales) Regulations 2018 came into force on 29th April 2019 and sets out the Requirement of the Local Authority to prepare a Statement of Purpose and to keep it regularly under review.
- 4.3 In line with the guide to compiling a Statement of Purpose that was provided under the above Act by Care Inspectorate Wales (April 2019), Bridgend Fostering Service has prepared its Statement of Purpose and this is included at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.4 In April 2020 the Statement of Purpose has been subjected to its annual review and changes to the statement are described below:
 - The Statement of Purpose has been updated using the same template as that for the Residential Care Homes to ensure consistency of approach across the Service where possible.
 - *Page 10* – Inclusion of the Re-unification Support Workers role.
 - *Pages 19 & 20* – Updated to reflect the current staffing structure of the Fostering and Placement Team.

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 impacts 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 five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been considered in this report:

- **Long term:** The fostering service continues to actively recruit new foster carers in order to be able to meet the needs of the current and future looked after children population.
- **Prevention:** The fostering service provides a number of services that seek to support children and their families to continue to live together through provision of respite, family link and kinship care private for example.
- **Integration:** Children and young people are placed with carers within the county borough that supports familial contact, attendance at local education provision as well as helping to maintain their community and ethnic links.
- **Collaboration:** The Fostering Service works in close collaboration with Children's Safeguarding Teams, Education and Health to ensure that children's needs are met whilst in foster care.
- **Involvement:** The Fostering Service is Inspected by the CIW in order to ensure that it is acting in accordance with the regulatory framework. There is a thorough and robust assessment process for all foster carers, who are also subject to an annual review. As part of the on-going review the views of the Young Person are gathered along with all other relevant parties.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the content of the report and approve the revised Statement of Purpose for Bridgend Fostering Service.

Claire Marchant
Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
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10 Contact officer:

Name: Steven Howell Group Manager, Placements and Provider Services

Telephone: (01656) 642330

Email: steven.howell@bridgend.gov.uk

Address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend

11 Background documents:

None