

**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE**

**14 OCTOBER 2021**

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

**CARE INSPECTORATE WALES**  
**INSPECTION OF RESIDENTIAL HOMES**

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To present to Committee the report and associated Action Plan following the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) inspection of Maple Tree House in October 2020.

**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**:

- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient**– To reduce demand through targeted early help and intervention programmes (contributing to the safe reduction of looked after children).
- **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 Care Inspectorate Wales are responsible for inspecting all regulated care and support services, including Children's Homes, in Wales. Inspections consist of four key stages - inspection planning and preparation; the inspection visit; feedback; and reporting. During the process inspectors will make judgements as to how well the service is performing under four core themes - Well-being; Care and Support; Environment; and Leadership and Management.
- 3.2 In the case of Children's Homes, CIW will make annual inspections as part of their rolling programme. There are two main types of inspection:
- **Full Inspections:** During a full inspection CIW will check that providers are providing a service according to the law. They will also check that the service is meeting the conditions of their registration and operating in line with their Statement of Purpose.
  - **Focused Inspections:** These normally happen when concerns are raised or to follow up on areas of improvements identified at previous inspections. This type of inspection may only look at some aspects of a service.

- 3.3 All CIW inspections are unannounced although, in exceptional circumstances, they may contact the service a day or so in advance to minimise disruption or distress.

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

- 4.1 CIW undertook a focussed inspection at Maple Tree House on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020; the full inspection report is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 Verbal feedback was provided to Committee Members regarding the outcome of the Inspection, but at that time the final inspection report had not been received.
- 4.3 The following is an extract of the findings made by CIW following their inspection:

“CIW carried out a focussed inspection in line with our improvement and enforcement process. This was to test the outstanding non-compliance raised at the previous three inspections in September 2019, February 2020 and August 2020, relating to well-being, care and support and leadership and management of the service. The service was deemed a service of concern and a notice of decision was issued to restrict admissions.

At this inspection, we found there have been positive changes and developments to processes and structures and to some of the internal systems supporting staff to care for young people. Safeguarding systems in place are more robust with a reduction in risk taking behaviour for some young people. Personal plans include more detail to allow care staff to understand young people’s needs. Staff training has improved and there are better quality assurance systems in place. As a result the service has achieved compliance in all areas and are no longer deemed a service of concern and can now admit young people to the home.

Whilst some areas still require further improvement, the management team and Responsible Individual (RI) have fully engaged with CIW evidencing their commitment to improving the service to ensure they are compliant and continue to drive forward improvements.”

- 4.4 There were no areas identified where improvement was required.
- 4.5 A comprehensive Action Plan was developed by the Service to address identified areas of non-compliance from previous Inspections which has now been completed.
- 4.6 Development of a new placement hub remains a key element of the re-modelling of Residential Care in Children’s Services and will ensure that further improvements can be made to the service that is provided to vulnerable children and young people in Bridgend. There have been unavoidable delays to the building of the new provision but there are now plans in place to ensure that this will be delivered during Autumn 2022.

#### **5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**

- 5.1 There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules.

## 6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an EIA in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result 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 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 residential provision has been assessed to meet the needs of the current and future looked after children population.
- **Prevention:** Harwood House enables children with complex needs to remain living in the county whilst Bakers Way provides respite to support disabled children and young people to remain living within their families. The statements of purpose will support the other residential provisions to run effectively meeting the needs of Looked After Children.

Maple Tree House provides accommodation which enables children with complex needs to remain in the community. The multi-disciplinary team facilitates the return of children who are currently placed outside of county. The wrap around support services assists in the prevention of long term residential care episodes and provides short term intervention to enable children to return home or to a placement with family or foster carers.

- **Integration:** Children and young people have homes in the county borough that support familial contact, attendance at local education provision as well as helping to maintain their community and ethnic links.
- **Collaboration:** All of the homes have strong links to health, education, police and other local community services to meet the holistic needs of children and young people who live in them. The homes work in close collaboration with

other departments within the Local Authority as well to ensure that young people's needs are met.

- **Involvement:** Each of the residential units have independent rota visits undertaken, are inspected by Care Inspectorate Wales and review feedback from children and young people and their families through meeting or evaluation forms.

## **8. Financial implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **9. Recommendation**

9.1 It is recommended that Committee note the content of the Inspection report and receive and approve the updated action plan.

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**September 2021**

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## **Background documents:**

None