

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING

2 MARCH 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER - FINANCE PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

HOUSING FOR CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information to the corporate parenting committee regarding the work being undertaken with regards to care experienced children and young people and their future accommodation needs.

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** - 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 All Welsh Councils have recently been tasked by Welsh Government to examine their corporate parenting response in relation to care experienced children and young people and their future accommodation needs.
- 3.2 Care leavers in Wales have a range of entitlements set out in social services legislation to ensure that they are properly accommodated. These are detailed in Appendix A to this report.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 In response to the legislation, Councils should respond to the need for:
- An active identification process to ensure care experienced young people presenting as homeless can access all the support they are entitled to in cooperation with children services;

- Multi agency reviews to be undertaken to identify any gaps within the system or interventions that could have taken place to ensure future similar cases are prevented for care experienced young people presenting as homeless;
- Granting local connection status for care experienced young people who are placed out of county when moving on ; and
- Extending Personal Adviser support up to the age of 25

4.2 Work has been undertaken across housing and social care to consider current joint working and commissioning practises. Whilst joint working does take place across these services in relation to this matter, more detailed work is required. It is proposed that the work will be classified under the following headings:

- Corporate outcomes
- Commissioning
- Joint working
- Projecting need
- The experience for young people

The details of the work to be undertaken are contained in the action plan within Appendix A

4.3 To progress this action plan a working group is to be established consisting of officers across social care and the housing service. The first meeting of this group will agree terms of reference, agree the ongoing membership of the group including which external agencies could be involved with this work and agree timelines for completion of the works included within the action plan.

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 (Wales) Act (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 improved service will ensure the Council is better placed to meet the needs of the current and future looked after children population.
- Prevention: Improved planning between departments and agencies will prevent care experienced young people from experiencing homelessness.
- Integration: Improved planning for care experienced young people is integrated across the authority
- Collaboration: Collaboration will be critical to achieving the best outcomes for care experienced young people.
- Involvement: The knowledge of care experienced young people will be key to informing the work that needs to be undertaken.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

9. Recommendation(s)

9.1 It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee note the content of this report

Carys Lord
Chief Officer Finance, Performance And Change
February 2022

Contact officer: Carys Lord
Chief Officer, - Finance, Performance and Change

Telephone: (01656)) 643249

Email: carys.lord@bridgend.gov.uk

Background documents:

None