

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING

12 OCTOBER 2022

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

#### UPDATE ON CORPORATE PARENTING DEVELOPMENT

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting with an update on the development of Corporate Parenting in Bridgend.

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

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being 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 The first Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting meeting of the municipal year received a report presented by the Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer setting out proposals for the future development of Corporate Parenting in Bridgend.

- 3.2 The proposals included:

- Establishing a shared Vision for Corporate Parenting Responsibilities.
- Establishing a governance structure that supports the strategic and operational approach to Corporate Parenting.
- Establishing a Corporate Parenting Performance Framework.
- Establishing care experienced forums to provide our children and young people with a collective voice.

This report will provide an update on the progress of the above proposals.

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

### **4.1 Establishing a shared Vision for Corporate Parenting Responsibilities**

- 4.1.1 In order to establish a shared Vision for Corporate Parenting Responsibilities, it was agreed that the views of our young people need to be sought to prioritise what issues are most important to them and then these views would be shared with multiagency professionals to inform their discussions on future planning Corporate Parenting activity.
- 4.1.2 During the School Summer holidays the Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer facilitated a consultation event with our Care Experienced Children, Young People and Care Leavers at Bryngarw Country Park with the support of professionals from the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate and the Education and Family Support Directorate. The event involved our young people engaging in a consultation workshop in the morning, having a buffet lunch midday and taking part in fun activities in the afternoon.
- 4.1.3 The consultation involved our young people being asked about:
- Having a voice
  - Being healthy
  - Access to services
  - Having stability in their lives
  - Being ready for independent living
  - Celebrating milestones
- 4.1.4 Part of the consultation workshop involved the young people recording voices to share their views on the above topics. A media company was commissioned to undertake the recordings and to use them to create a presentation on their collective views.
- 4.1.5 As with all good participation practice, the young people were rewarded for their time and involvement by being given gift vouchers.
- 4.1.6 On 12<sup>th</sup> September, a multiagency workshop event was held at the High Tide Porthcawl to raise awareness of Corporate Parenting responsibilities with all professional agencies that work with and for Care Experienced Children, Young People and Care Leavers in Bridgend County Borough.
- 4.1.7 The event sought to enable all of the professionals to hear the views of our Young People recorded at the event held at Bryngarw Park earlier in the Summer and to discuss these views in multiagency workshops. The second part of this event was for professionals to identify what they could do as both single agencies and also as a multi-agency collective to address the issues raised by our young people.
- 4.1.8 A report from the multiagency event will be produced for the first Corporate Parenting Board due to take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

4.2 Establishing a governance structure that supports the strategic and operational approach to Corporate Parenting

4.2.1 Following on from the first Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting meeting of the municipal year, it has been decided by the Deputy Leader and the Corporate Director of Social Services and Wellbeing that, due to the strategic nature of the new approach to Corporate Parenting, that the proposed 'Operational Corporate Parenting Group' will now be the 'Corporate Parenting Board'.

4.2.2 The draft membership of the Corporate Parenting Board has been established as a result of nominations from Senior Leaders in a variety of agencies and directorates working with and for Care Experienced Children, Young People and Care Leavers across Bridgend County Borough.

4.2.3 The draft membership of the Corporate Parenting Board is as follows:

<i>Deputy Leader,</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
<i>Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
<i>Chief Executive</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
<i>Head of Partnership Services</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
<i>Wellbeing Manager, Healthy Living</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
<i>Deputy Head of Children's Social Care</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
<i>Group Manager, Learning Disability, Mental Health and Substance Misuse</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
<i>Employability Programme Team Leader</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
<i>Head of Education and Family Support</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
<i>Group Manager, Vulnerable Groups Support</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
<i>Corporate Parenting &amp; Participation Officer</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
<i>Performance and Information Manager</i> <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>
<i>Superintendent</i> <b>South Wales Police</b>
<i>Director of Midwifery</i> <b>Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB</b>
<i>Vice Principal Learner Journey, Systems and Inclusive Practice,</i> <b>Bridgend College</b>
<i>Team Manager Cwm Taf Morgannwg Advocacy Service</i> <b>TGP Cymru</b>
<i>Group Manager, Operations Department</i> <b>South Wales Fire &amp; Rescue Service</b>
<i>Assistant Director Children's Services, Western Bay</i> <b>Barnardo's Cymru</b>

- 4.2.4 The draft membership for the Corporate Parenting Board will be signed off and amended if needed as part of the draft Terms of Reference in the first meeting of the Board on Wednesday 26th October .
- 4.2.5 The Corporate Parenting Board has been established to have strategic oversight and coordinate the Corporate Parenting agenda across Bridgend County Borough.
- 4.2.6 The Corporate Parenting Board will work collaboratively to produce and implement the Corporate Parenting Strategy that will seek to provide a framework to improve the life outcomes for Care Experienced Children, Young People and Care Leavers (our children and young people).
- 4.2.7 It is proposed within the draft Terms of Reference of the Corporate Parenting Board that there will be 6 subgroups that will seek to address the priority areas identified by our young people and the multiagency professionals at the two consultation events held over the last two months as previously mentioned in this report.
- 4.2.8 The Corporate Parenting Board priorities are as follows:
- Priority 1 – Having a voice
  - Priority 2 – Good health and well-being
  - Priority 3 – A comfortable, safe, stable home whilst in care and after
  - Priority 4 – Educational achievement, training and employment
  - Priority 5 – Ready for independent living
  - Priority 6 – Celebrating our children and young people’s milestones
- 4.2.9 The first meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board will agree the subgroups along with their frequency and membership.
- 4.3 Establishing a Corporate Parenting Performance Framework
- 4.3.1 As stated in the report to the first Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting meeting of the municipal year, it is essential that we measure and monitor the effectiveness of the care and parenting we provide for our children and young people. Therefore, it is proposed that the Corporate Parenting Board will identify key performance indicators on the priorities identified along with any other relevant evidence for parenting performance. The Performance Framework would be both quantitative and qualitative and would be collated into an agreed formatted dashboard to be used by the Corporate Parenting Board for benchmarking and reporting to this Committee for scrutiny.
- 4.3.2 It is proposed that the Performance Framework would highlight multiagency data and therefore, whilst it is recognised that Children’s Social Care would host the dashboard, there is a commitment and expectation of all Council Directorates and partner agencies to provide their agreed data in a timely manner as agreed by the Corporate Parenting Board. This is dependent on data requirements being mapped out, agreed by Board, so that the capacity on all data representatives is fully

understood which will determine the resource required by the Directorate Performance and Information Team.

4.3.3 In order to commence work on the Performance Framework, it is proposed that the Corporate Parenting Board will establish a data subgroup that will meet regularly to agree a manageable and relevant dataset that will report on the progress of the work relating to the priorities.

4.4 Establish care experienced forums to provide our children and young people with a collective voice

4.4.1 Following on from a formal tender process, Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) have been awarded the contract for providing a Specialist Participation Service for the Corporate Parenting Board. This service will gain the views of our young people through a Care Experienced Youth Forum (aged 12 – 18) and a Care leaver Forum (aged 16 – 25) that will each meet once a month. The forums will consider the issues of children and young people identified through our commissioned advocacy service, the issues raised by the individual members of the forums along with any consultation responses requested by the Corporate Parenting Board.

4.4.2 It is hoped that the first forums will be held in October or November depending on the success of the recruitment drive to gain members on the forum.

4.4.3 The Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer will present a report on the views of our young people collected from the forums at each Corporate Parenting Board meeting.

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

5.1 There is no impact on the policy framework or procedure rules arising from this report.

## **6. Equality Act 2010 implications**

6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

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

7.1 Long term – the establishment of the Corporate Parenting Board will address how agencies can address their responsibilities for Corporate Parenting in a strategic manner to make robust plans for the future.

7.2 Prevention – the proposals that have been made mean that the responsibilities we all have for Corporate Parenting are identified and established into what we need to report on. Measuring and reporting on these responsibilities through the Corporate Parenting Board will enable us to take early action on any issues identified.

7.3 Integration – the Corporate Parenting Board has a proposed membership, as part of the draft Terms of Reference due to be discussed at the first Corporate Parenting Board meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October. This membership is intended to provide

sufficient representation to cover who has specific responsibilities for our children and young people in particular circumstances. Moreover, the discussion due to take place regarding the draft Terms of Reference will identify where professionals and agencies need to work together in the future to forge a coherent approach to the care of our children and young people.

7.4 Collaboration – the success and effectiveness of our Corporate Parenting in Bridgend is dependent on how well agencies work together to achieve shared goals and aspirations for our children and young people. These goals and aspirations will be agreed and worked to in the first multiagency Corporate Parenting Board due to be held on Wednesday 26th October.

7.5 Involvement – due consideration has been given to how different ‘providers of care’ are involved in the proposals around Corporate Parenting. Specific attention and proposals are given to enabling the voice and lived experience of our children and young people.

## **8. Financial implications**

8.1 The contract for the Specialist Participation Support provided by Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) for 12 months (to an extendable 6 months if needed) costs £18,000 and is funded from within the Childrens Social Care budget.

## **9. Recommendations**

9.1 It is recommended that the Committee consider the contents of this report and support the progress of the Corporate Parenting Board.

Claire Marchant

**Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing**

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### **Background documents:**

None