

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING

12 JANUARY 2023

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 The vision statement for the Corporate Parenting Board will be finalised at the next Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board meeting to be held on Wednesday 25th January.
- 4.1.2 The vision statement will be informed by a series of consultations that have been undertaken since June 2022 and have involved care experienced young people and care leavers along with a range of professionals from different agencies.
- 4.1.3 It is hoped that the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Vision Statement will set the underpinning principles of the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Strategy and will be the cornerstone to all of the work undertaken by the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board and its member agencies.
- 4.1.4 The Corporate Parenting Board vision statement will be shared with our care experienced young people and care leavers in workshop activities during February 2023 half term. Our young people will discuss how the vision could be translated into tangible action and outcomes for care experienced children, young people and care leavers.
- 4.1.5 Following on from the young people's consultation workshop in February 2023 half term, a 'Pledge Event' will be held at the High Tide, Porthcawl on Monday 6th March. At this event, a range of professionals representing different departments and organisations along with County Councillors will hear the views of our care experienced young people and care leavers. It is hoped that all attendees will be making a pledge at the event on how they will respond to their corporate parenting responsibilities, be held to account for these and strive to support children and young people to have the best outcomes possible.
- 4.1.6 The pledges from the March event will be collated and embedded into the draft Bridgend Corporate Parenting Strategy that will be finalised at the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board on 16th March. It is intended that the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Strategy will then be shared for ratification by the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee meeting, due to be held on 19th April 2023.
- 4.1.7 A launch event for the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Strategy is planned to take place at the Heronston Hotel on 27th April 2023 where the Children's Commissioner for Wales has agreed to be a guest keynote speaker.

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

- 4.2.1 A draft terms of reference for the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board providing a structure to the strategic and operational development of Corporate Parenting was presented to the Board's first meeting on 26th October 2022. All members were in agreement with its content and it was agreed for it to be shared with the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee for approval in January 2023.

4.2.2 The Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference are included in this update report as Appendix 1 for consideration and ratification from the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.

4.2.3 The multiagency membership for the 5 subgroups of the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board has been agreed. The meetings have been diarised and will take place once a quarter and with each subgroup reporting back to the Board with their progress.

4.3 Establishing a Corporate Parenting Performance Framework

4.3.1 During the first Corporate Parenting Board meeting, it was agreed that the capacity of each agency to produce data could be limited and therefore a scoping exercise would need to be undertaken by each agency to identify what current data pertinent to care experienced children, young people and care leavers is collected and analysed.

4.3.2 The first Data Subgroup of the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board will be meeting in early January where benchmark data will be discussed along with any data that is not currently being collated.

4.3.3 The outcomes of the Data Subgroup will be fed back to the first Corporate Parenting Board meeting of the quarter for members to consider any findings, recommendations or issues.

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

4.4.1 Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP), the providers of our Specialist Participation Service for the Corporate Parenting Board, have successfully recruited to the post of Participation Worker in October. The service was promoted across Children's Social Care and care experienced young people and care leavers were sent flyers during November offering them the opportunity to attend the first meeting.

4.4.2 The first meetings for the forums were held in the evening of 30th November. The first forum involved care experienced young people aged 11 – 16 and the second forum followed at a later time involving care leavers aged 16+.

4.4.3 During the forums the young people:

- participated in a variety of icebreaker / team building exercises,
- discussed potential topics for future meetings
- discussed potential names for their forums
- engaged in a consultation led by a care leaver who will be designing the branding for the Bridgend Corporate Parenting branding
- engaged in a consultation to decide upon the new name for the Brynmenyn Residential Setting
- agreed to meet monthly

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 multiagency membership, along with an extended multiagency membership through its 5 subgroups. This membership is intended to provide sufficient representation to cover who has specific responsibilities for our children and young people in particular circumstances. The purpose of the next Board meeting and the subgroup meetings being held within this quarter, 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 within a ‘shared vision’ at the next Corporate Parenting Board on 25th January 2023. The shared vision will be the cornerstone for carrying out the steps necessary to launch the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Strategy on 27th April 2023.

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 Children’s 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 development.
- 9.2 It is recommended that the Committee approve the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference.

Claire Marchant

CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

January 2023

Contact officer: Steve Berry
Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer

Telephone: (01656) 642070

Email: steve.berry@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Background documents: None

Appendix 1

Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board

Terms of Reference

Introduction

When a child or young person enters the care of the Council, the role of being a parent is taken on by the local authority. This is known as Corporate Parenting. The term describes how Bridgend Council and its partners collectively fulfil their parenting responsibilities, by seeking positive outcomes for care experienced children, young people and care leavers in the same way we do for our own children.

From early years into adulthood all our children and young people should be kept safe, are happy and have every opportunity to thrive. During their lifetime these young people will have involvement from a range of different services across the County.

Aim

The Corporate Parenting Board has been established to have strategic oversight and coordinate the Corporate Parenting agenda across Bridgend County Borough.

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).

Function

- To agree a vision for Corporate Parenting in Bridgend County Borough that has the full commitment and support of all those services that work with and for our children and young people.
- To produce a Corporate Parenting Strategy that is underpinned by the ethos and aspirations of the shared vision for our children and young people.
- To work to a structure and governance that enables the activity cited within the Corporate Parenting Strategy to be managed effectively with performance and progress systematically measured, monitored and reviewed.
- To work positively in partnership to identify solutions to any challenges that might prevent or delay actions within the strategy being met
- To actively provide opportunities and discuss future projects to enhance life chances of our children and young people
- To contribute to an annual Corporate Parenting report

- To promote Corporate Parenting within service areas and galvanise support
- Champion each of the six priority areas within the strategy and ensure appropriate multiagency representation within the subgroups that work to these priorities:
 - **Priority 1:** Having a voice
 - **Priority 2:** Good health and wellbeing
 - **Priority 3:** A comfortable safe stable home whilst in care and after
 - **Priority 4:** Educational achievement, training, and employment
 - **Priority 5:** Ready for living independently
 - **Priority 6:** Celebrating our children and young people’s milestones
- Hear from our children and young people on issues that are important to them.
- Create opportunities for our children and young people to inform the work of the Corporate Parenting programme and be involved at all levels where relevant, appropriate and meaningful.

Membership

Members of the Corporate Parenting Board are expected to be a champion for Care Experienced Children, Young People and Care leavers within the specific Directorate or organisation in addition to the collective ethos of Board.

All participants will report on updates from their service area and subgroup, share good practice and resources and contribute to the agenda.

Each of these members should represent the views of the wider groups they are part of and should ensure their relevant groups/teams are updated with the progress of this group’s work.

Cllr Jane Gebbie (Chair)	<i>Deputy Leader,</i> Bridgend County Borough Council
Claire Marchant (Vice Chair)	<i>Corporate Director, Social Services and Well Being</i> Bridgend County Borough Council
Mark Shepherd	<i>Chief Executive</i> Bridgend County Borough Council
Martin Morgans	<i>Head of Partnership Services</i> Bridgend County Borough Council
Andrew Thomas	<i>Group Manager - Sports and Physical Activity</i> Bridgend County Borough Council
Iain McMillan	<i>Deputy Head of Children's Social Care</i> Bridgend County Borough Council
Mark Wilkinson	<i>Group Manager, Learning Disability, Mental Health and Substance Misuse</i> Bridgend County Borough Council
Gemma Hayne	<i>Employability Programme Team Leader</i> Bridgend County Borough Council
Nicola Echanis	<i>Head of Education and Family Support</i> Bridgend County Borough Council
David Wright	<i>Group Manager, Vulnerable Groups Support</i>

	Bridgend County Borough Council
Steve Berry	<i>Corporate Parenting & Participation Officer</i> Bridgend County Borough Council
Clayton Richie	<i>Detective Chief Inspector,</i> South Wales Police
Claire O Keefe	<i>Head of Safeguarding and Looked After Children</i> Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB
Joe Baldwin	<i>Vice Principal Learner Journey, Systems and Inclusive Practice,</i> Bridgend College
Meg Davies	<i>Team Manager Cwm Taf Morgannwg Advocacy Service</i> TGP Cymru
Matthew Bradford	<i>Station Manager</i> South Wales Fire & Rescue Service
Sarah Rowe	<i>Children Service Manager, Western Bay</i> Barnardo's Cymru
Heidi Bennett	<i>Chief Executive,</i> Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations
Ryan Statton	<i>Community Manager</i> Halo Leisure

Board Meetings

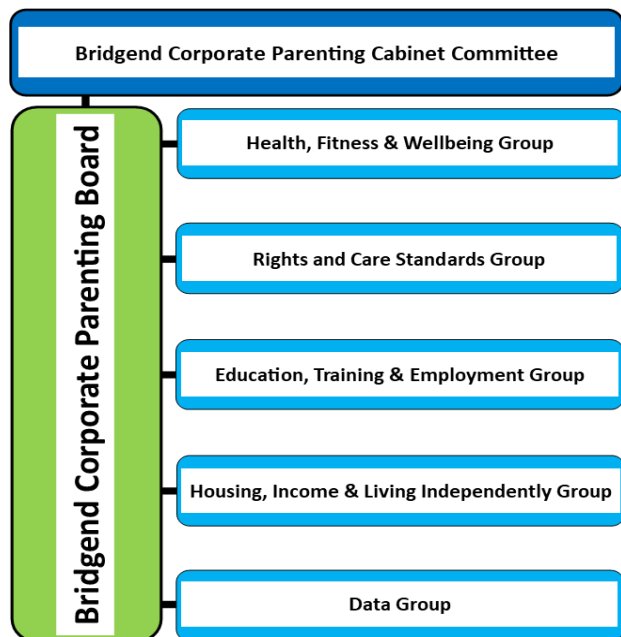
The Corporate Parenting Board shall meet on a bi quarterly basis, prior to the meeting, the service area or organisation champion shall provide a progress update against each of the actions assigned to their service area or organisation.

The first Corporate Parenting Board meeting in a quarter will address any feedback from the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee. This first meeting will set the work for the subgroups of the Board. The Board will also receive a data report card from the 'data subgroup', a report from the 'Health, Fitness & Wellbeing subgroup' and a report from the 'Rights & Care Standards subgroup' that will enable discussion of progress made.

The second Corporate Parenting meeting will receive updates from the 'Education, Training & Employment subgroup' and the 'Housing, Income & Living Independently subgroup' that will enable discussion of progress made.

The data report card and reports from all subgroups within a quarter will inform the report to be written by the Corporate Parenting and Participation for the following Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.

Subgroups



Each of the subgroups have a specific remit that supports the priorities. All priority subgroups will report into the Board following an agreed schedule. In addition to the priorities subgroups, there is a data subgroup that will produce a data dashboard that will report on qualitative and quantitative data for each of the priorities. This data will be shared at the first Board of quarter and then shared in the respective subgroups to illustrate progress.

Progress

Alongside the quarterly data report cards, members of the Corporate Parenting Board will contribute to an annual report showing progress of the Corporate Parenting Strategy, which will be shared with the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee and be available on the Council website.

Quoracy

A minimum of 50% of the named agencies must be present for the Corporate Parenting Board meeting and 50% of the named agencies in the Terms of Reference relating to the individual subgroup meetings to be considered quorate. However, meetings can proceed in the absence of full quoracy at the meetings' Chairs' discretion.

Legal Support

To be provided by the lead partner (Bridgend County Borough Council) where necessary and a representative will be co-opted into meetings when necessary.

Administration

Business support will be provided by the Social Services and Well Being Directorate for Board meetings. Business support for subgroups will be requested by each subgroup Chair within their own agency in the first instance and where this is not possible, other member agencies will be requested to contribute resources.

Decision Making

Made by majority. A split vote will go to the Chair for final decision

Any decision making for subgroups will be delegated by the Board in specific circumstances, all other decision making will be made by the Board.

Minutes of Meetings

Board meeting Minutes and agenda to be distributed 5 working days prior to the following meeting.

Chairing arrangements

The term of office for new Chair and Vice Chair roles should be 12months.

In the spirit of commitment and partnership working, there is an expectation for all members to put themselves forward for the roles of Chair and Vice Chair where they are able, when the current role holders are due to finish their term of office. The timing of having a new Chair and Vice Chair must not be at the detriment of ongoing work and continuity.

Amendments to Terms of Reference

Only with the approval of the Board.