

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING

19 APRIL 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 focused 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 It was decided at the Corporate Parenting Board meeting in January 2023 that the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Strategy would be a 'young person friendly document' rather than a formal strategy document. Therefore, the Board decided to list what they plan to do for care experienced children, young people and care leavers in Bridgend rather than produce a specific 'vision statement' as first proposed.

4.1.2 Within the Strategy document cited in **Appendix 1**, the Board have provided 'Our Plan for You', as an offer to their children, young people and other professionals with a series of headings that explain their intentions for support and future work programme activities that are attributed to subgroups of the Board to carry out.

4.1.3 The Board has 5 subgroups: 4 'subject based' subgroups and a Data subgroup:

- Health, Fitness & Wellbeing subgroup
- Rights & Care Standards subgroup
- Education, Training & Employment subgroup
- Housing, Income & Living Independently subgroup
- Data subgroup

The four subject based subgroups each have a specific remit that support the priorities. All subgroups report into the Board following an agreed schedule.

The Data subgroup will produce a data dashboard that will report on qualitative and quantitative data for each of the priorities.

4.1.4 'What we will do for you...' heading within the strategy are the listed activities that the Corporate Parenting Board are responsible for:

- *'We will listen to your views, wishes & feelings and do what we can to make things better from what you say and work with you to make decisions that are about you.'*
- *'We will support you to get the most out of as many opportunities and experiences as we can and help you to reach your full potential.'*
- *'We will recognise and praise you for your achievements, and we will support you to celebrate events that are important to you.'*
- *'We will make sure that you are given all the information you need to know about your rights and that you are able to access this information from a range of places'*

4.1.5 'How we will care for you ...' heading within the strategy are the listed activities that the Health, Fitness & Well-Being subgroup are responsible for:

- *'We will keep you safe, give you somewhere comfortable to live where you are cared for properly and make sure you have all that you need'*
- *'We will make sure that all of those that work with you and support you are well trained and treat you with dignity and respect'*

- 4.1.6 'How we will consider your health...' heading within the strategy are the listed activities that the Rights & Care Standards subgroup are responsible for:
- *'We will support and encourage you to access all the health, fitness and wellbeing services, activities, and opportunities that you need or choose to explore*
 - *We will let you and the people that care for you to know about all the information you need to have a healthy life*
 - *With your consent, we will support you to manage your own thoughts and feelings and give you the option to have extra help relating your mental health and wellbeing if this is what you want'*
- 4.1.7 'What we will do for you in education, training and employment...' heading within the strategy are the listed activities that the Education, Training & Employments subgroup are responsible for:
- *'We will support you to engage and succeed in education, training, apprenticeships, and employment of your choice.*
 - *We will provide you with alternative education opportunities when you need them and support your achievement and engagement for you to reach your full potential.*
 - *We will make you aware of the different opportunities and choices in education, training and employment at a time that is relevant to you, and we will support you to access these'.*
- 4.1.8 'What we will do for you to help you live independently...' heading within the strategy are the listed activities that the Housing, Income & Living Independently subgroup are responsible for:
- *'We will work with you to understand your housing needs and make plans so that we can support you*
 - *We will help you with the skills and information you need and develop a clear pathway of support for you to live independently*
 - *we will strengthen the support given by all of your Corporate Parents; improve the contact we have with you, and we will keep in touch to see how you are doing after you are 18 years of age'.*
- 4.1.9 Corporate Parenting Board members, subgroup members, their organisation colleagues and some elected members attended a 'Promise Event' in March 2023 where the above activities were strengthened through individual designations providing specific promises in what they intend to do in their specific roles for their children and young people. The individual promises are at the end of the strategy within **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 Establishing a governance structure that supports the strategic and operational approach to Corporate Parenting
- 4.2.1 The Governance structure for the Corporate Parenting Board is now fully established and functional with broad representation from Council departments and multiagency partner representation at both Board and subgroup level.

4.2.2 The Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board Strategy provides the Board and its subgroups with agreed overarching activities and support principles that will form the objectives for each respective topic based work programme.

4.2.3 The work programme for the Board and the subgroups will be coproduced between the representatives in meetings and the young people in the youth forum and this work will commence in May 2023 after the Strategy Launch.

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 Corporate Parenting Board have since recognised that Board members are not fully aware of each other's responsibilities to our children and young people and what services, support and care they currently offer.

4.3.3 Therefore it has been agreed that each organisation will provide a presentation from May 2023 onward explaining what their role is in the lives of our children and young people.

4.3.4 As part of their presentations to Board meetings, member organisations will also be expected to share what they are currently able to offer in terms of data and their ability to share this as part of a 'Corporate Parenting report card' in the future.

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

4.4.1 Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP Cymru), continue to provide our Specialist Participation Service to facilitate our youth forums. TGP Cymru will be working alongside the Corporate Parenting & Participation Officer in the Easter holidays to consult the youth forums on a range of activities including how they can be involved in the Corporate Parenting Strategy Launch.

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 19th April 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 Corporate Parenting Strategy design, translation and launch will be paid for through Social Services and Wellbeing - Children 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.

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CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

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Background documents: None