

Meeting of:	CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING
Date of Meeting:	20 JULY 2023
Report Title:	CORPORATE PARENTING DEVELOPMENT UPDATE
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING
Responsible Officer:	STEVE BERRY CORPORATE PARENTING & PARTICIPATION OFFICER
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	THERE IS NO EFFECT ON THE POLICY FRAMEWORK
Executive Summary:	UPDATE REPORT TO INFORM THE CABINET COMMITTEE OF PROGRESS IN RELATION TO THE CORPORATE PARENTING ACTIVITY. PARTICULAR POINTS TO NOTE ARE THAT THE CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY HAS BEEN LAUNCHED AND A PROFESSIONALS' ENGAGEMENT EVENT HAS TAKEN PLACE TO UNDERTAKE ACTION PLANNING FOR FUTURE WORK.

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. Background

- 2.1 The Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting has received an update report on Corporate Parenting Development at each meeting since the commencement of the Corporate Parenting & Participation post. Each of the reports have provided progress on the following areas:

- 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.

2.2 It is proposed that update reports on these areas will continue to be presented to the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting until these areas have been fully established.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 Establishing a shared vision for Corporate Parenting Responsibilities

3.1.1 The “Bridgend Corporate Parenting Strategy “Our plan for you...” was launched at the Heronston Hotel on Thursday 28th April 2023 with our care experienced young people and care leavers, represented as Bridgend Youth Voice Forum, facilitating proceedings. The Deputy Minister for Social Services, Julie Morgan MS and The Children’s Commissioner for Wales, Rocio Cifuentes were keynote speakers at the event where they praised the partnership working of agencies to embrace their corporate parenting responsibilities within a co-produced strategy.

3.1.2 The Bridgend Youth Voice Forum presented media clips that they had produced to explain what the priorities of the strategy meant to them and how important it is for professionals to recognise and champion their right to have a say on matters that affect them.

3.1.3 The event was attended by professionals of all levels and departments within Bridgend County Council (including elected members), partner agencies including South Wales Police, South Wales Fire & Rescue, Barnardos, TGP Cymru, Halo, Awen, Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, Bridgend College and Welsh Government.

3.1.4 The Corporate Parenting Strategy is now live and available on the Bridgend County Borough Council website:

English version: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/ndgnsudl/bridgend-corporate-parenting-strategy-eng.pdf>

Welsh version: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/ttjebv4c/bridgend-corporate-parenting-strategy-cym.pdf>

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

3.2.1 The subgroup meetings for the Board have been put on hold until a decision is made by the Corporate Parenting Board to hold them in the future. It was recognised that due to the fact that each of the subgroups were being held at the early stages of corporate parenting development, it was difficult to facilitate meaningful pieces of work without a coordinated approach through a strategy and workplan.

3.2.2 Now that the strategy is in place there are clear areas of work to focus on. To address the need to have greater detail to turn the strategy into tangible activity, an action planning engagement event was held on Thursday 22nd June 2023 involving a total of 50 Board members and subgroups members.

3.2.3 The action planning engagement event sought to draw out specific pieces of work for each of the strategy's 6 priorities. During the event the professionals discussed and agreed on a list of actions / task recording

3.3. Establishing a Corporate Parenting Performance Framework

3.3.1 At the last Corporate Parenting Board meeting held in March 2023, it was agreed that housing, education, children services and health would seek to provide regular data to the Board. The September Board meeting will seek to rationalise what data is going to be requested on a quarterly basis to formulate a Corporate Parenting dataset.

3.3.2 In addition to the proposed dataset, it is hoped that the action planning engagement event will produce an agreed list of objectives, for each of the strategy priorities, that will be timebound and have owners with measurable indicators and outcomes. All of these objectives will be drawn together to produce an action plan for the strategy that will be presented at the September Board for consideration and review.

3.4. Establishing care experienced forums to provide our children and young people with a collective voice

3.4.1 It must be noted that the involvement of our young people in the strategy development and more especially the launch event was praised by both the Children's Commissioner for Wales and Welsh Government.

3.4.2 The engagement and involvement of our young people continues to be a challenge due to clashes with education, employment, training and leisure pursuits. Nevertheless our young people have been involved in engagement events to inform the commissioning of supported accommodation and also staff recruitment.

3.4.3 The youth forum worker is planning on holding more regular youth forum meetings, sharing dates with our young people well in advance and there will be engagement events during the school holidays where our young people will be invited to inform strategic planning along with other pieces of work.

4. **Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)**

4.1 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, or 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.

5. **Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives**

5.1 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.

- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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, is to 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.
- 5.4 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 are cited within the ‘Bridgend Corporate Parenting Strategy – Our plan for you....’
- 5.5 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.

6. Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 There is no direct impact on Climate Change through the implementation of this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 All safeguarding implications have been fully considered within Corporate Parenting development. No safeguarding issues were raised within the work cited in this report.
- 7.2 The subject matter of this entire report relates directly to corporate parenting and any implications are discussed within it.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 Corporate Parenting development does not have a specific allocated budget. Where costs have arisen to support participation of children and young people, engagement, meetings and training of professionals the costs have been absorbed within the Children’s Services core budget.

9. Recommendation(s)

- 9.1 For the Cabinet Committee to note the progress made identified within this report and invest in the future development of Corporate Parenting activity to establish better outcomes for our children and young people

Background documents

None