

Meeting of:	CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING
Date of Meeting:	5 OCTOBER 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 are no implications for the policy framework and procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	An update report to inform Cabinet Committee of progress in relation to the Corporate Parenting activity. Particular points to note are that the specialist participation service has been extended and Care Experienced young people's education and training achievements are being celebrated.

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 Corporate Parenting Board's fifth meeting took place on 14th September 2023. The Board received several presentations for Board members to consider their Corporate Parenting responsibilities as single agencies and as a collective body.
- 3.1.2 One of the aspirations of the Board is to have all of the agencies working to support our children and young people to have the knowledge and skillset to support our children and young people in a cohesive manner. The Board received a presentation at their meeting from Public Health Wales where they were offered the opportunity to use research led learning tools on trauma informed practice. It is hoped that these resources can be utilised by Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board to train all staff across the locality and region so that our children and young people are worked with using consistent approaches.
- 3.1.3 Alongside their peers, our children and young people have to work extra hard to overcome the obstacles that they have been presented with to achieve in their education and training. As a Corporate Parenting Board, we have committed to recognise and celebrate our children and young people's endeavors and achievements. Following on from their exams, tests, and courses a Celebration Dinner was held for those young people aged 16 and above who deserve recognition for their education and training attainment and engagement and commitment in learning based activities. The Celebration Dinner took place on 21st September 2023 at the Heronston Hotel in the presence of the Julie Morgan MS, Deputy Minister for Social Services and Corporate Parenting Board members.
- 3.1.4 In addition to the Education and Training Celebration Dinner, the Board is also planning to recognise the achievements of all our care experienced children, young people and care leavers at an event on 16th February 2024 in Halo Leisure Centre, Bridgend. An update on this event can be provided at the next Cabinet Committee meeting.

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

- 3.2.1 At the Board meeting on 14th September 2023, members were invited to consider the action plan proposed by the Corporate Parenting Officer produced from the discussions held at the professional's engagement event held in June 2023.
- 3.2.2 Members were invited to decide how to take the action plan forward which is underpinned by the Corporate Parenting Strategy commitments and priorities. Members were invited to make comments via email to a deadline set after the meeting and to nominate a representative to sit on a task and finish group who will finalise the action plan to be shared at the next Board meeting on 16th November 2023.

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 November 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 The Councils housing department presented how they carry out their corporate parenting duties and highlighted areas for improvement and opportunities for collaboration with other agencies.
- 3.3.3 Education and Social Services and Wellbeing Council departments, along with the regional Health Board, will be invited to present in the November Corporate Parenting Board meeting. With the Board having received the 3 statutory bodies presentations of how they intend working to the Corporate Parenting Strategy, the Board should be in a good position to write their annual report with proposals for the new financial year.
- 3.4. Establishing care experienced forums to provide our children and young people with a collective voice
 - 3.4.1 The Specialist Participation Service, contracted to TGP Cymru, was for one year with the open option to carry through 6 more months. Considering the work achieved through the production of the co-produced Corporate Parenting Strategy and the Bridgend Youth Voice's facilitation of the launch event, the contract has been extended to the full 18th months as proposed when the contract was first agreed.
 - 3.4.2 The end of this 18 month contract will also fall in line with the end of TGP Cymru regional advocacy contract. This provides an opportunity for Bridgend County Borough Council to align its advocacy offer and specialist participation service regionally. These opportunities will be considered in the coming months and proposed when appropriate to regional commissioning partners and Children's Services Senior Management Teams.
 - 3.4.3 The youth forum is currently deciding upon what projects and priorities they wish to focus on alongside their ongoing discussions on creating an information resource on rights for care experienced children, young people and care leavers.

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 met from within the Children’s Services core budget.

9. Recommendation(s)

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet Committee notes the progress made identified within this report.

Background documents

None