

Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	21 NOVEMBER 2023
Report Title:	SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE POLICIES – ADMISSIONS AND COMMENCEMENT OF SERVICE AND ANTI-BULLYING POLICIES
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING
Responsible Officer:	JOE BOYLE POLICY OFFICER – SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules
Executive Summary:	This report outlines the process undertaken to develop two new policies for implementation across the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate regarding Admissions and Commencement of Service into Bridgend County Borough Council regulated care services, and the Anti-Bullying policy which is applicable to Children’s Residential Services.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval of the Admissions and Commencement of Service policy (**Appendix 1**) and the Anti-Bullying policy in Childrens’ Residential Services (**Appendix 2**) in order to support service provision in Direct Care services.

2. Background

- 2.1 It is a regulatory requirement under the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care Act (RISCA) (2016) for all direct care services to have a policy in place in relation to Admission and Commencement of services. At recent regulatory inspections conducted by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), it was highlighted through Priority Action Notices that this policy was required for our regulated care services.

2.2 It is a regulatory requirement under RISCA for all children's direct care services to have a policy relating to Anti-Bullying.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 For both policies, relevant members of the Social Services and Wellbeing directorate were engaged and provided support in the drafting of the policy content regarding the need for each relevant area of the service.

3.2 The Admissions and Commencement of Service policy has been developed to encompass all processes that are involved in the organising, admission process and commencement of care services.

3.3 The Admissions and Commencement of Service policy sets out the requirement as per RISCA, that the service does not begin to provide care and support to an individual until it has been determined that the service is suitable to the individual's care and support needs and to support them in achieving their personal outcomes. Each service is responsible for ensuring that appropriate assessment processes are in place to ensure suitability of the service provision.

3.4 All regulated care services have a detailed Service Specific Admissions and Commencement of services procedure, containing full details about the admissions and commencement of services process relative to that service.

3.5 This policy sets out the requirement for all regulated care services to ensure they implement a personal plan for the individual prior to the commencement of service, or within 24 hours of the commencement of service if the admission is in an emergency.

3.6 The Anti-Bullying in Children's Residential Services policy is a requirement under regulations 12 and 27 and as such the policy sets out the following arrangements:

- Definitions of bullying
- Impacts of bullying
- Anti-bullying strategies
- Risk assessment and placement planning processes
- Types of bullying
- Countering bullying on a day-to-day basis
- Notification requirements
- Involving and supporting young people with bullying.

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, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on these policies.

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

- 5.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report.

Involvement	These policies have been informed by the review of relevant legislation and guidance, along with meetings and discussions with relevant service members for the two policies.
Long term	There will be a positive long-term impact of these policies by formalising all processes and reducing the impact of any issues relating to the admission and commencement of direct care services and by reducing the impact where bullying is experienced by young people supported by our children's direct care services.
Prevention	These policies set out to ensure that all individuals access the correct service for them that is able to meet their assessed needs and achieve their outcomes, and to reduce and prevent instances of bullying in Bridgend County Borough Council's Children's Residential Services.
Integration	These policies will be integrated across the Social Services and Wellbeing directorate in both adults and children's services as set out above and as required for each policy.
Collaboration	These policies have been developed collaboratively by working groups involving staff from across the Social Services and Wellbeing directorate.

6. Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 There is no direct impact on Climate Change through the implementation of these policies.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 The new policies will enhance the Council's ability to discharge its statutory duties under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, and relevant regulations associated with Admissions and Commencement of Care services under the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care Act (2016) and reducing the impact and instances of bullying by the implementation of the Anti-Bullying policy.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications from the implementation of these two policies.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet consider and approve the new policies of Admissions and Commencement of Service at **Appendix 1** and Anti-Bullying in Children's Residential Care Services at **Appendix 2**.

Background documents

None