

CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING - FRIDAY, 10 JANUARY 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON FRIDAY, 10 JANUARY 2025 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor J Gebbie – Chairperson

E L P Caparros
JC Spanswick

P Davies

M J Evans

M Jones

Present Virtually

F D Bletsoe
HM Williams

N Farr

J E Pratt

A W Ulberini-Williams

Apologies for Absence

D M Hughes, Steve Berry

Officers:

Claire Marchant
Dave Wright
Mark Lewis
Daniel Bolton
Paul Miles
Mark Galvin
Oscar Roberts

Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Deputy Head of Children and Family Services
Group Manager – Early Years and Young People
Group Manager – Provider Services
Group Manager – Human Resources and Organisational Development
Senior Democratic Services Officer – Committees
Business Administrative Apprentice – Democratic Services

Declarations of Interest

None.

60. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Committee approved the minutes of the 04/09/2024 as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	10 January 2025

61. Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2023 - 2024

Decision Made	The Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing presented a report which summarised the progress in Bridgend's children's care and support across the County Borough following the release of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and acknowledging the role of stakeholders both within the council and externally alongside schools and other providers in working towards these aims. The role of a strong partnership with CAMHS was also mentioned as a key component in delivering on the goals and achievements contained within the Annual Report. Councillors posed questions on: • Support for kinship carers. • Reasons behind multiple moves for care experienced children. • The financial status of other authorities/ children being hosted in Bridgend facilities. • Youth employability for care-experienced children. • The promotion of associated funds for care-experienced children. • The number of children from other authorities placed in Bridgend, and the reverse. • Clarification on the 47% reduction in multiple placement numbers over the past year. • Analysis of any children who are not within the care system but still require assistance, and outcomes associated with those cases. • Progress on the Safe Reduction of Care-Experienced Children Strategy's implementation. • Attendance of some officers and partners at quarterly Corporate Parenting Board meetings. • Comparing Bridgend's numbers of care-experienced children in various settings with other comparable authorities. These questions were addressed by the Deputy Head of Children and Family Services, the Group Manager – Early Years and Young People and the Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing, agreeing to take forward the improvement of youth employability as an ongoing goal to be addressed by the Corporate Parenting Board.
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	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The Cabinet Committee endorsed the content of the report, noting additionally that the commitment from officers and partners to the Council in supporting care-experienced children is both inspiring and incredibly important to the success achieved and further progress to be made in future. In addition, it was agreed that the exact numbers of Bridgend young people in other authorities/ locations as well as the number of other authorities' young people in Bridgend locations would be ascertained and returned to the Cabinet Committee. It was further agreed to bring information to the Committee in future on the Inspire Programme and other initiatives supporting care-experienced children as well as the take-up thereof, to gather further information on the reduction in multiple placement numbers, and to pose questions to the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service on their performance metrics in this area upon their upcoming visit to Council.
Date Decision Made	10 January 2025

62. Care Inspectorate Wales (Ciw) Inspection of Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) Regulated Services in Children's Social Care

Decision Made	The Group Manager – Provider Services presented report outlining progress and findings from inspections in care environments across Bridgend County Borough, including Sunny Bank, Harwood House and Golygfa'r Dolydd and providing several recommendations for future progress which have now been addressed with individual location action plans. Councillors asked questions on: • Location capacity. • Accommodations for out-of-county children in Bridgend locations. • Care plan improvements. • Required environmental improvements. • Potential consolidation of locations. • Reasons behind not following procedure and the consequences attached to those decisions. • The token economy system mentioned in the report. • Notice prior to inspections taken of facilities. • The status of staff fitness checks among permanent and agency staff. • Officer confidence on implementing recommendations.
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	These queries were answered by the Group Manager – Provider Services, the Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing and the Group Manager – Human Resources and Organisational Development <u>RESOLVED:</u> The Cabinet Committee noted the outcomes of the inspections contained within the report and thanked CIW for their inspections.
Date Decision Made	10 January 2025

63. A 3 Year Sustainability Plan to Improve Outcomes for Children and Family Services in Bridgend - Mid Year (2) Report on Progress - 2024/25

Decision Made	The Deputy Head of Children and Family Services presented a report considering the Children and Family service's progress against milestones identified for improvement within the sustainability plan across Bridgend, following a number of independent reviews. Councillors asked questions on: • Reasons behind a decrease in visits to families. • Gaps in information found within the report. • Current numbers of temporary/agency staff within the section. • The delays to completion of the staff survey. • Reasonings behind a major reduction in abuse instances. These were answered by the Deputy Head of Children and Family Services and the Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing. <u>RESOLVED:</u> The Cabinet Committee noted the report, recognising the progress made against the recommendations identified to improve service levels and congratulating staff for their work and their commitment toward those objectives.
Date Decision Made	10 January 2025

64. Urgent Items

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

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Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED</u> : None.
Date Decision Made	10 January 2025

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 11:30.