

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>23 SEPTEMBER 2025</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>DELEGATED AUTHORITY POLICY</b>
<b>Report Owner / Corporate Director:</b>	<b>CLAIRE MARCHANT CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>JOE BOYLE POLICY OFFIER – SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING</b>
<b>Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:</b>	<b>There is no effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<b>This report presents and proposes the new Delegated Authority Policy for implementation into the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate. The delegation of authority is the process undertaken to allow certain decision-making processes to be made by a child or young person’s primary care worker(s) or carer(s), where they do not reside with an individual holding parental responsibility due to them being a child experiencing care. The implementation of this policy will allow the child to experience a “more normal” process regarding certain decision-making processes which can be reported as taking lengthy periods of time by children experiencing care resulting in embarrassment or inconvenience to the child or young person.</b>

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request approval for the proposed Social Services and Wellbeing Delegated Authority Policy (**Appendix 1**).

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Many Children and Young People who live in the care system, either in foster or residential care settings, have reported to experience delays in gaining approval or permission to obtain items or attend events which leads to embarrassment, inconvenience, the individual missing out on things, and can lead towards breakdown in relationships between children/young people and their carers.
- 2.2 Delegated Authority means the individuals with parental responsibility for a child or young person to let the foster carers make some of those day-to-day decisions on their behalf without having to consult first. Individuals with parental responsibility may be the child/young person’s parents or the Local Authority.

### **3. Current situation/ proposal**

- 3.1 The proposed policy at **Appendix 1** replaces all previous versions of a Delegated Authority policy used previously by Bridgend County Borough Council's Children and Family Services.
- 3.2 This policy has been produced to provide a framework for Foster Carers and Social Care Workers to follow, resulting in reduced delays in decision making processes for children and young people.
- 3.3 Work has been completed by the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board to produce a regional policy called "Consent for Medical Treatment for Children Looked After". This policy has been written in line and accordance with this regional policy, its definitions and the principles it sets out.
- 3.4 This policy sets out the areas in which Delegated Authority may apply for children and young people, and the different levels and reasons for those. It also states when the decisions about what Delegated Authority may be consented to will take place and with whom.
- 3.5 At the end of any discussions a document will be produced, which will clearly state to whom Delegated Authority responsibility is given and for what. This is a document that will be read, discussed and agreed by all the people involved in the child/young person's life, and will afterwards be signed and retained on the child/young person's file. Any areas where Delegated Authority responsibility is given will be regularly reviewed, either at the annual review process or as and when needed if sooner.

### **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 this policy or proposal.

### **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	This policy has been informed by the review of relevant legislation and guidance, along with meetings and discussions with relevant colleagues.
Long term	This policy seeks to support the long-term placements of children leading to greater outcomes for them by more stable placements through appropriate delegation of authority by allowing for decisions to be made in appropriate timescales.

Prevention	This policy seeks to prevent break down of working relationships with children and young people by enabling them to feel heard and respected to a greater extent by enabling appropriate and effective delegation of authority allowing appropriate and timely decision making to be made.
Integration	These policies will be integrated into the Social Service and Wellbeing Directorate's Children and Family Services.
Collaboration	The policy has been developed collaboratively by working groups involving staff from across the Social Services and Wellbeing directorate.

## **6. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

- 6.1 There are no climate change or nature implications arising from this report.

## **7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**

- 7.1 This policy will enhance the Council's ability to discharge its statutory duties under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, and relevant regulations, with regard toward its safeguarding and Corporate Parent responsibilities to children and young people supported within the care system.

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of this policy. Where any financial aspects or considerations are required because of any delegated authority decisions, these will be met within existing budgets and financial allowances.

## **9. Recommendation**

- 9.1 For Cabinet to approve the implementation of the Delegated Authority policy into the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate (**Appendix 1**).

## **Background documents**

None