

Meeting of:	CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING
Date:	28th May 2026
Report Title:	CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD ANNUAL UPDATE 2024/25
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING DEPUTY LEADER / CABINET MEMBER SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING
Responsible Officer:	KATHRYN SILLMAN PRINCIPAL OFFICER – SOCIAL WORKER TRANSFORMATION
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 the annual activity of the Corporate Parenting Board and its partners

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting with an overview of the Corporate Parenting Board in 2024-2026.

2. Background

- 2.1 In 2023, alongside care experienced young people, the Corporate Parenting Board and its priorities were developed. During 2024-25 those priorities continued to direct the Board and to structure the focus of the Local Authority and its partners, ensuring the things that are important to care experienced young people are at the centre of the Board's priorities. The annual update for 2024-26 will expand on the Board's workplan for the year and provide a forward look into 2026/27.

3. Current situation/ proposal

- 3.1 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has statutory responsibilities towards all care experienced children. Care experienced children under 18 have allocated social workers and care leavers have allocated personal advisors. The allocated worker is responsible for developing and overseeing the care plans to ensure that

all children and young people are working towards their identified outcomes and are having their needs met. There were 316 care experienced children on 31st March 2026.

The number of care experienced children steadily decreased over the course of the year. In 2024-25 BCBC launched its Safe Reduction of Care Experienced Children and Young People strategy which has supported the downward trend of our care experienced population over the last two years. BCBC has worked closely with families to identify those where children and young people are safe to exit care and reunify with their families. The practice model of Signs of Safety has also contributed towards safe risk management, keeping children within their families and reducing the need to become looked after.

As a Board the priorities in 2024-26 have been around increasing the voice of our care experienced young people, ensuring we, and the young people themselves, understand and meet their rights and entitlements.

2024-25 saw an increase in the amount of young people moving 3 or more placements due to lack of placement stability and sufficiency. The impact of this was brought into the Senior Management forum where robust strategies were developed to meet the need for stability in placements.

As a result in 2025/26 there was a significant reduction in the number of children experiencing 3 or more placement moves with 7.81% having 3 or more moves over the year. This was a 14% reduction compared to 2024/25.

Educationally, care experienced young people in Bridgend struggled to meet the outcomes of those of their peers who were not care experienced. As a Board we have worked together to consider the opportunities afforded to care experienced young people within their educational setting and have developed a systemic trauma informed response, attempting to work collaboratively with preventative services, fostering services and families to support care experienced young people within their education settings. Data from education systems remains a barrier and is something the Board is working on over the next year.

2024-26 saw an increase in vocational offers from the Fire Service and well-being and leisure activities. The schemes available have been successful for those who have engaged. The focus for 2026/27 will be to ensure the awareness and accessibility of these offers is increased to support more care experienced young people.

Housing services continue to work closely with Children's Services in developing their support of care leavers who access their service. In 2024-26 the joint assessment protocol was under development. The Joint protocol is now being rolled out in Q2 of 2026/27 with a view to the protocol offering a service that is young people focused and puts the needs of care experienced young people at the center.

During 2024-26 there were opportunities where the Board have been able to learn from limited data about the offer and experience of care experienced young people looked after by BCBC. Moving forward into 2026-27 the Board will continue to work alongside young people to understand the barriers to positive outcomes and how, as one, together with partners internally and externally, we are able to improve our

offer for our care experienced young people and support them to thrive now and as they progress into adulthood.

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

A summary of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment is listed below:

- 5.1 Long term – the establishment of the Corporate Parenting Board addresses how agencies can address their responsibilities for Corporate Parenting in a strategic manner to make robust plans for the future.
- 5.2 Prevention – 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 multi-agency membership. This membership is intended to provide sufficient representation to cover who has specific responsibilities for our children and young people in particular circumstances and regular liaison between the Youth Forum and the Board is undertaken through the work of the Corporate Parenting Officer.
- 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 and Nature Implications

- 6.1 There is no direct impact on Climate Change and Nature 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 Ongoing work on a corporate parenting data set to support our understanding of needs and outcomes in 2026/27

Background documents

None