

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 NOVEMBER 2015

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

#### CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAMME

##### 1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny of the work being undertaken as part of the Children with Disabilities Transformation programme, which focuses on the review of in-county residential provision and respite services for children with disabilities.

##### 2.0 Connection to Corporate Plan

2.1 This report links to the following improvement priorities in the Corporate Plan:

- Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement;
- Working with children and families to tackle the problems early;
- Working together to make best use of our resources.

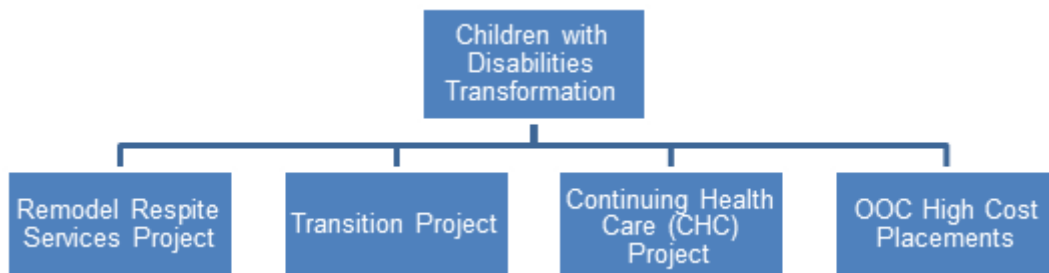
Plus the following background document:

- Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014-2018 (MTFS).

##### 3.0 Background

3.1 The Safeguarding and Family Support Change Programme is a key element of the Bridgend Transformation Programme, and is the mechanism to deliver and manage change under Improvement Priority Three: Working with children and families to tackle problems early.

3.2 Children with Disabilities (CWD) Transformation is a sub-programme that sits beneath the Safeguarding and Family Support Change Programme, within which four distinct work areas have been identified:



3.3 A CWD Programme Board has been created to oversee the programme, provide a strategic direction and to monitor progress. The board comprises of colleagues from Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate, Children's Directorate, Finance,

Human Resources, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board, and representatives from local residential care providers for disabled children. Work undertaken to date has focused on reviewing respite services and reviewing the high-cost out-of-county placements.

- 3.4 In May 2015, a report was presented to Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to update members on children and young people who are educated outside of the Authority. Local delivery, instead of out of county delivery of Autistic Spectrum Disorder provision, was identified as a potential source of savings.
- 3.5 In July 2015, a report was presented to Cabinet, to inform them of the work being undertaken as part of the Children with Disabilities Transformation programme. Cabinet noted the progress that had been made to date, and approved a consultation exercise with staff and stakeholders, to inform the options for delivery of respite services and in-county accommodation in the future.

#### **4.0 Current Situation**

##### Children with Disabilities – Out-of-County (OOC) High Cost Placements

- 4.1 The aim for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is for children and young people to remain within their local community with family and friends. Ensuring stability and continuity in young people's lives is of key importance to promote resilience and build success in later years. This aim is very much in keeping with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, coming into force in April 2016.
- 4.2 At present, the residential provision available in-county is at Heronsbridge School. Heronsbridge is a local authority residential special school, maintained by Bridgend Council, which provides education for pupils aged three to 19 years. Heronsbridge School is currently registered with Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW) to provide residential care for up to 6 service users for 39 weeks per year, for 5 days a week.
- 4.3 In addition to this, there is 39-week residential provision at Weston House in Bridgend College. Weston House is currently registered to provide term-time accommodation and care for up to 35 younger adults aged 16 to 25 with physical disabilities and/or learning disabilities, but this is not currently utilised or commissioned by BCBC, because Weston House provides a residential service only during term time and on weekdays. That model does not meet current needs or demand.
- 4.4 When the needs, complexities and challenges of a young person escalate, and the family are struggling to cope and a 52-week accommodation service is required, the only option currently available is an OOC placement. Placing young children outside the county is not ideal for the child or their family as they have to move from their local area and these placements can also be expensive.
- 4.5 There is clearly a demand for a 52-week accommodation service for children with disabilities locally, as there are currently three young people with disabilities who

are placed OOC, and it has been identified they could be placed and educated in-county, should there be 52-week residential provision available in Bridgend.

- 4.6 In addition there are currently three young people receiving 39-week residential care, whose needs and complexities are increasing to such a degree that 52-week residential provision may be needed in the near future.
- 4.7 There are also three young people currently receiving substantial Direct Payments packages, whose complexities and home circumstances are changing, which may necessitate 52 week provision in the near future.

#### Children with Disabilities – Respite Services

- 4.8 Respite Services for Children with Disabilities are currently provided through a combination of services, including Bakers Way, Family Link (disabled respite foster carer service) and Direct Payments.
- 4.9 Bakers Way provide an overnight respite/short break service situated in the Bryncethin area of Bridgend. It is a five bedded home which provides regular, planned short break stays for disabled children and young people, aged 0-18 years. The unit also provides an outreach service for disabled young children, teaching them independent living skills.
- 4.10 A review of Bakers Way has been undertaken, which found that even though a valuable and quality service is being provided, there are some drawbacks, including high transport costs due to distance to Heronsbridge School, high cancellation rates, and the building itself is in need of some renovation.
- 4.11 As the existing model for respite services is a high-cost, traditional model that provides limited flexibility for young people and their families, it is an opportune time for the Council to consider alternative models for respite services.

#### Moving forward

- 4.12 A multi-agency workshop took place in May 2015, involving colleagues from Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board, CSSIW, Weston House, and Heronsbridge to discuss potential new models for respite services and residential provision.
- 4.13 Findings from the workshop identified that there is clear appetite from all partners:
- to work together to explore how we can better provide local based services, particularly to develop 52 week residential provision;
  - to explore the opportunity for residential provision in-county as an alternative to placing OOC; and
  - to scope potential options for respite services in the longer-term, including the delivery of residential respite and how to expand community based family link services.

#### Short term plan

- 4.14 Social Workers have commenced assessments and initiated discussions with the families of the three existing high-cost OOC placements, who could potentially be placed in-county should there be 52-week residential provision available.
- 4.15 Discussions are on-going with local providers in respect of the viability of increasing their registration to 52-week residential provision, in order to facilitate the return of the three existing high-cost OOC placements, should these providers be able to meet service users' specific needs.
- 4.16 Short-term service efficiencies have been implemented within Bakers Way from 2015/16, which include introducing a new process to manage and monitor cancellations, reviewing transport arrangements and identifying closer links with Adult Social Care, and reviewing the rates charged for placements from other local authorities using Bakers Way.

#### Long term plan

- 4.17 An early engagement session has taken place with staff at Bakers Way, and an options appraisal for respite services for children with disabilities is being developed. At present, the draft options appraisal focuses on three key areas:
- **Service provision** – continue to provide an overnight respite service 7 days a week, or provide a remodelled service at alternative times of the week, when there is greatest need
  - **Location** – continue to provide the service from the current building and location, or deliver/commission the service from a new building and location
  - **Service provider** – continue using existing staff, or commission the service from an alternative provider
- 4.18 These options will be further refined and developed during the consultation events that have been arranged with families/carers, staff and pertinent stakeholders; scheduled to take place on 4<sup>th</sup> November. A full public consultation will also take place during November and December, allowing all citizens of the county borough to have an input and help shape this service.
- 4.19 A new model for residential provision for children with disabilities using the facilities of local providers and other Council facilities is also being developed, to include 52-week provision in-county. Discussions are on-going with local providers in respect of the viability of increasing their registration to 52-week residential provision, and these discussions will inform the models for residential services.
- 4.20 Following this period of consultation and provider engagement, a further report will be presented to Cabinet early next year, regarding future provision of respite services and in-county accommodation for Children with Disabilities in the longer-term.

## **5.0 Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules**

- 5.1 The three existing OOC placements that could potentially be placed in-county are exempt from Contract Procedure Rules, under exemption 3.1.3:

*In the case of contracts for services entered into in pursuance of powers under the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 the Children Act 1989 and Children’s Leaving Care Act 2000 for the benefit of an individual client, the Corporate Director Wellbeing or the Corporate Director Children’s Services (as the case may be), insofar as it is consistent with the law, will make appropriate arrangements for provision.*

## **6.0 Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 This report is for information only, and an EIA is therefore not required at this time.
- 6.2 When options have been fully considered, and officers are in a better position to know which service users and staff could be affected by the proposed new models for respite services and accommodation provision in the longer-term, an EIA screening (and a full EIA if necessary) will be undertaken, to assess the potential impact on service users and staff.

## **7.0 Financial Implications**

- 7.1 The Safeguarding and Family Support service has a number of challenging savings targets as set in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Specifically in relation to Residential Care and Looked After Children, the following savings targets have been set:

<b>MTFS</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
CH22 Remodelling Children’s Residential Care	£200k	£400k	£300k	<b>£900k</b>
CH25 Reduction in Safeguarding LAC	-	£585k	£520k	<b>£1,105k</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£200k</b>	<b>£985k</b>	<b>£820k</b>	<b>£2,005k</b>

- 7.2 Whilst the three OOC identified placements have a total current cost of £675k per annum, any savings will be dependent on whether the needs of these children can be met in-county and the timescale in which this can be facilitated as well as the cost of any proposed provision. Notwithstanding this it would be anticipated that having an in-county provision would offer some cost savings as well as enabling a reduction in the dependence on high-cost out of county placements in future years.
- 7.3 Any proposals will be subject to a financial assessment and analysis of opportunities to achieve cost efficiencies to contribute towards the service savings requirements and any such savings would be reported to Cabinet at a later date.

## **8.0 Recommendation**

- 8.1 Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny is requested to:
- Note the information contained in this update report;
  - Provide their views on the areas of focus for the options appraisal of respite services (paragraph 4.17);
  - Provide their views on the proposed approach to consultation, in order to inform the options appraisals and models (paragraph 4.18);
  - Note that following consultation, a further report will be presented to Cabinet.

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**9.0 Contact Officers**

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**10.0 Background documents**

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014-2018 (MTFS)