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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEIS TREF SIROL RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Bydd cyfarfod rhithwir o'r **Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol** yn cael ei gynnal ar

14 Mawrth 2022 am 10.00 am

Cysylltwch â: Yula Kampouropoulou - Uned Busnes y Cyngor, Gwasanaethau Democrataidd (07747 485569)

MATERION I'W TRAFOD

1. DATGAN BUDDIANT

Derbyn datganiadau o fuddiannau personol gan Aelodau, yn unol â'r Cod Ymddygiad.

Nodwch:

1. Mae gofyn i Aelodau ddatgan rhif a phwnc yr agendwm mae eu buddiant yn ymwneud ag ef a mynegi natur y buddiant personol hwnnw; a

2. Lle bo Aelodau'n ymneilltuo o'r cyfarfod o ganlyniad i ddatgelu buddiant sy'n rhagfarnu, rhaid iddyn nhw roi gwybod i'r Cadeirydd pan fyddan nhw'n gadael.

2. COFNODION

Cadarnhau cofnodion y cyfarfod diwethaf a gynhaliwyd ar 31 Ionawr 2022 yn rhai cywir.

(Tudalennau 3 - 10)

3. ADRODDIAD CHWARTEROL FFORWM RHCT

Derbyn adroddiad gan Voices From Care Cymru sy'n rhoi trosolwg i Bwyllgor y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol o'r gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud i baratoi ar gyfer Diwrnod Gofal 22 ac addasu dulliau i gwrdd â phobl ifainc lle bynnag y maen nhw.

(Tudalennau 11 - 16)

4. ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL CYNHALWYR IFAINC 2021-22

Derbyn Adroddiad Blynyddol Cynhalwyr Ifainc 2021/2022.

(Tudalennau 17 - 30)

5. TRAFOD CADARNHAU'R PENDERFYNIAD ISOD:-

"Bod y cyfarfod hwn yn cadw aelodau o'r wasg ac aelodau o'r cyhoedd allan o ystafell y cyfarfod, dan Adran 100A(4) o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 (fel y'i diwygiwyd), yn ystod trafod yr agendwm nesaf, ar y sail y byddai'n debygol o olygu datgelu gwybodaeth eithriedig yn ôl diffiniad paragraff 13 o Ran 4 o Atodlen 12A i'r Ddeddf."

6. ADRODDIADAU RHEOLIAD 73

Derbyn adroddiad Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran y Gwasanaethau Cymuned a Gwasanaethau i Blant sy'n cynnwys gwybodaeth eithriedig.

(Tudalennau 31 - 76)

7. MATERION BRYS

Trafod unrhyw faterion brys y mae'r Cadeirydd yn eu gweld yn briodol.

<u>Cylchrediad:</u>

Y Cynghorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol:
Y Cynghorydd C Leyshon (Cadeirydd)
Y Cynghorydd G Caple (Is-gadeirydd)
Y Cynghorydd J Bonetto
Y Cynghorydd E Griffiths
Y Cynghorydd L Hooper
Y Cynghorydd S Rees
Y Cynghorydd S. Rees-Owen

Officers:

Christian Hanagan, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu
Ceri Jones, Pennaeth Materion Mynediad a Chynhwysiant
Annabel Lloyd, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant
Paul Mee, Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran y Gwasanaethau Cymuned a Gwasanaethau i Blant
Cara Miles, Cyfreithiwr Gofal Plant
Jayne Thomas, Rheolwr Gwella'r Gwasanaeth, Ymgysylltu a Chwynion

Tros Gynnal Plant Cymru

BWRDD RHIANTA CORFFORAETHOL CYNGOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Cofnodion cyfarfod y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol a gynhaliwyd ar-lein ddydd Llun, 31 Ionawr 2022 am 10.00am

Cynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol – Aelodau o'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol a oedd yn bresennol:-

Y Cynghorydd C. Leyshon (Cadeirydd)
Y Cynghorydd G. Caple (Is-gadeirydd)
Y Cynghorydd S. Rees-Owen
Y Cynghorydd E. Griffiths
Y Cynghorydd J. Bonetto
Y Cynghorydd S. Rees

Dyma'r Swyddogion oedd yn bresennol

Ms A Lloyd, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth, Gwasanaethau i Blant
Ms S. Edwards, Rheolwr Gwasanaeth
Mr A Cope, Rheolwr Datblygu Rhanbarthol – Gwasanaethau Maethu
Ms M Davies, Tros Gynnal Plant Cymru
Ms J Thomas, Rheolwr Cwynion a Sicrhau Ansawdd – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Ms C Jones, Pennaeth Materion Mynediad a Chynhwysiant
Ms C Miles, Cyfreithiwr Gofal Plant

Eraill oedd yn bresennol

Annabel Galt, VfCC/Fforwm Glasbrint – Swyddog Datblygu
Tracy Grenter – Arloeswr Gofal Maeth
A W - Cynrychiolydd Pobl Ifainc

43 DATGAN BUDDIANT

Cafodd buddiant ei ddatgan gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol S. Rees mewn perthynas ag eitem 3 yr agenda gan ei bod yn gynrychiolydd RhCT fel Aelod o'r Panel Mabwysiadu.

44 CROESO

Manteisiodd y Cadeirydd ar y cyfle i groesawu Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol G Caple i'r Pwyllgor, a Swyddogion o Voices from Care Cymru i'r cyfarfod gyda chroeso arbennig i'r cynrychiolydd pobl ifainc.

45 YMDDIHEURIADAU

Cafodd ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb eu derbyn oddi wrth Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol L Hooper a Mr P Mee, Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran y Gwasanaethau Cymuned a Gwasanaethau i Blant.

46 COFNODION

PENDERFYNWYD cadarnhau cofnodion cyfarfod Pwyllgor y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol a gynhaliwyd ar 29 Tachwedd 2021.

47 VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU (VFCC) – DIWEDDARIAD GAN Y CYNRYCHIOLYDD POBL IFAINC

Cyflwynodd y Swyddog Datblygu y cynrychiolydd pobl ifainc (AW) i'r Pwyllgor; rhoddodd AW y diweddaraf i Aelodau'r Pwyllgor am ei gweithgareddau diweddar yn ystod y 3 mis diwethaf. Tynnodd sylw at ennill gwobr, sef Cyflawnwr Ifanc y Flwyddyn, trwy raglen Gofal i Waith. Pwysleisiodd arwyddocâd Gofal i Waith a charfan Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol RhCT a roddodd gymorth iddi i geisio llety parhaol a rheoli biliau. Rhoddodd AW wybod i Aelodau am y cymorth parhaus a roddwyd gan Voices from Care Cymru i bobl ifainc drwy gydol y pandemig, er enghraifft trefnu achlysuron ar Zoom, galwadau ffôn a galwadau fideo i gadw mewn cysylltiad.

Manteisiodd y Cadeirydd ar y cyfle i longyfarch AW ar ei gwobr ac roedd yn falch o weld yr holl gynnydd y mae wedi'i wneud yn ei bywyd personol.

Rhoddodd y Swyddog Datblygu wybod i Aelodau am achlysuron diweddar a gafodd eu canslo o ganlyniad i'r pandemig. Serch hynny, roedd modd i sefydliad VfCC addasu ei wasanaethau trwy gynnal gweithgareddau yn yr awyr agored, achlysuron ar-lein a chymorth un i un. Wrth i gyfyngiadau gael eu llacio, rhoddodd y Swyddog Datblygu o VfCC wybod i Aelodau am brosiectau sydd i'w cynnal yn y dyfodol i ddenu grwpiau ehangach o bobl ifainc yn RhCT. Nododd y Swyddog waith ar y cyd â Chyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant i sefydlu gweithdy ar gyfer y Siarter Arfer Gorau i rieni sydd wedi derbyn gofal.

Roedd y Cadeirydd yn hapus gyda'r diweddariad ar lafar ac aeth ati i gydnabod yr angen i ailddechrau cynnal gwasanaethau wyneb yn wyneb i ymgysylltu â phobl ifainc yn RhCT.

Yn dilyn y diweddariad ar lafar, **PENDERFYNWYD**:

- Nodi'r diweddariad a gafodd ei roi i'r Bwrdd

48 ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL MABWYSIADU RHANBARTHOL Y FRO, Y CYMOEDD, A CHAERDYDD 2020/21

Rhoddodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau i Blant drosolwg cryno o Adroddiad Blynyddol Mabwysiadu Rhanbarthol y Fro, y Cymoedd, a Chaerdydd. Rhoddwyd gwybod i Aelodau'r Pwyllgor fod y Pwyllgor Craffu eisoes wedi trafod yr adroddiad ym mis Rhagfyr 2021; cafwyd sylwadau calonogol am yr adroddiad.

Nododd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau i Blant mai dyma'r 6^{ed} Adroddiad Blynyddol y Cydwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Rhanbarthol a gafodd ei sefydlu yn seiliedig ar Ddeddf Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant 2014. Yn yr adroddiad mae manylion am adrodd ar gyflawniad mewn perthynas â materion megis recriwtio mabwysiadwyr, gwneud penderfyniadau er mwyn i blant gael eu mabwysiadu, chwilio am deuluoedd a chymorth ar ôl mabwysiadu.

Cafodd Aelodau wybod am y gostyngiad bach yn y galw yn ystod cyfnod cyntaf y pandemig. Serch hynny, mae'r galw wedi dechrau cynyddu.
Yn yr adroddiad tynnwyd sylw at y 26 gorchymyn lleoliad. Serch hynny, pan ymchwiliwyd i gyflawniad y Gwasanaethau i Blant ddiwethaf, roedd 33 gorchymyn mabwysiadu wedi cael eu gwneud yn ystod 2020/21. Yn ystod cyfnod adrodd 2020/21, cadarnhaodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant y bydd 22 o blant yn cael eu mabwysiadu erbyn 31 Mawrth 2021.

Rhoddwyd gwybod i Aelodau i nodi effeithiolrwydd yr ymgyrch recriwtio a chynnydd yn nifer y mabwysiadwyr sydd wedi creu effaith gadarnhaol o ran nifer is o fabwysiadau nad ydyn nhw'n gysylltiedig ag asiantaeth. Rhoddodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant wybod i Aelodau am y cynnydd yn nifer y ceisiadau am gymorth ar ôl mabwysiadu a nododd arwyddocâd rhoi cymorth i fabwysiadwyr. Nododd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant yr angen am adnoddau ychwanegol i fabwysiadwyr gan fod y galw wedi cynyddu.

Roedd y Cadeirydd yn hapus gyda'r wybodaeth a ddarparwyd a gofynnodd i Aelodau am unrhyw gwestiynau.

Roedd un Aelod yn hapus gyda'r cyllid a ddarparwyd i gyflogi gweithiwr cymdeithasol rhan amser i gefnogi rhieni geni. Serch hynny, gofynnodd yr Aelod am y mecanweithiau atgyfeirio a'r math o gymorth y mae modd ei ddefnyddio i gefnogi rhieni geni.

Yn rhan o ddatblygiad gwasanaethau ychwanegol, rhoddodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant wybod i Aelodau am gyflwyno gwasanaeth 'Llwybr Cyn Geni'. Y bwriad yw gwella'r cymorth sydd ar gael i atal plant a rhieni rhag cael eu gwahanu. Nododd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant wasanaeth datblygu arbrofol newydd, sef Eiriolaeth Rhieni. Bydd hyn yn cynnwys cymorth i rieni i fynychu cyfarfodydd megis Cynadleddau Amddiffyn Plant. Nodwyd canlyniadau gwych gan Awdurdodau Lleol eraill sy'n rhoi'r gwasanaeth yma ar brawf gan fod rhieni wedi teimlo eu bod nhw'n cymryd rhan fwy yn y gwasanaethau cymorth a ddarperir.
O ran y mecanwaith atgyfeirio, nododd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant bwysigrwydd cwnsela i'r rhieni geni yn rhan o'r broses fabwysiadu. Felly, cyn i unigolyn sy'n gwneud penderfyniadau o'r asiantaeth ystyried mabwysiadu plentyn, mae'n sicrhau bod atgyfeiriadau wedi'u gwneud at wasanaeth cwnsela i rieni.

Croesawodd un Aelod roi eiriolaeth rhieni ar waith, gan gydnabod ei bod yn hanfodol o ran rhoi cyfle i rieni gymryd rhan a mynegi eu hunain. Gofynnodd yr Aelod am ragor o wybodaeth am ddyfodol y gwasanaethau ar fuddsoddiadau yn dilyn cynnydd yn y galw y flwyddyn ganlynol.

Cytunodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant â'r Aelod gan nodi'r angen am fuddsoddiad a chyllid pellach i symud gwasanaethau ychwanegol yn eu blaenau er mwyn diwallu'r galw. Rhoddodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant wybod i'r Pwyllgor am ddyddiad sydd wedi'i drefnu ar gyfer y mis canlynol i ymchwilio i sut mae modd i rieni sy'n mabwysiadu gael y cymorth cywir ar yr adeg gywir a sicrhau bod modd i rieni sy'n mabwysiadu fanteisio ar yr holl wasanaethau cymorth cynnar sydd ar gael iddyn nhw. Cadarnhaodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant lansiad y gwasanaeth cymorth amlasiantaeth sy'n wasanaeth therapiwtig i blant sydd wedi'u mabwysiadu a phlant sy'n derbyn gofal. Byddai gwybodaeth bellach yn cael ei rhoi i'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol mewn cyfarfodydd yn y dyfodol i dynnu sylw at y cynlluniau gweithredu a'r cynnydd sydd wedi'i wneud gan y gwasanaeth.

Yn dilyn trafodaeth, **PENDERFYNWYD**:

- Nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad

48 ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL ANSAWDD GOFAL Y GWASANAETH MAETHU

Cyflwynodd Rheolwr y Gwasanaeth ei hun i'r Pwyllgor fel y person enwebedig at ddibenion AGC o ran maethu yn RhCT. Rhoddodd wybod i Aelodau'r Pwyllgor mai nod yr adroddiad yw rhoi trosolwg o ansawdd blynyddol gofal o ran y gwasanaeth maethu yn 2020/21.

Cadarnhaodd Rheolwr y Gwasanaeth mai canolbwynt y gwasanaeth yn ystod 2020/21 oedd sicrhau bod rhieni maeth yn cael y cymorth gorau posibl. O ganlyniad i ddefnyddio technoleg, cadarnhaodd Rheolwr y Gwasanaeth fod modd cynnal cysylltiad cyson â rhieni maeth, er enghraifft dros y ffôn neu drwy alwadau fideo. Hefyd, cafodd y gwasanaeth ei addasu er mwyn cynnal cyfarfodydd ar-lein, megis y Panel Maethu.

Yn ogystal â chymorth cyson parhaus i rieni maeth, rhoddodd Rheolwr y Gwasanaeth wybod i Aelodau am wasanaeth newydd a gafodd ei gyflwyno sy'n cynnwys ymgynghori â chynhalwyr sy'n berthynas a chynhalwyr prif ffrwd. Pwrpas yr ymgynghoriadau oedd nodi gwelliannau y byddai modd eu gwneud o ran mynychu cyfarfodydd y panel, prosesau'r panel, arfarniadau ar gyfer Aelodau'r panel, ac aildrefnu dyddiadau cyfarfodydd y panel i annog gweithwyr cymdeithasol i fynychu. Aeth Rheolwr y Gwasanaeth ati i gydnabod yr angen i weithio'n agos gyda rhieni ac o ganlyniad i ymgynghori â rhieni ar blant sy'n derbyn gofal maeth, mae hyn wedi cael ei roi ar waith. Mae'r garfan wrthi'n gweithio gyda gwasanaeth y Swyddogion Adolygu Annibynnol i lunio adroddiadau i rieni er mwyn rhoi cyfle iddyn nhw fynegi eu barn ar y gofal maeth a dderbyniwyd.

Yn ystod y cyfnod clo cyntaf, cadarnhaodd Rheolwr y Gwasanaeth waith ar y cyd â Rhwydwaith Maethu yn rhan o raglen les. Rhoddwyd gwybod i Aelodau am lwyddiant y rhaglen les o ran cyflwyno Arloeswyr. Nodwyd arwyddocâd Arloeswyr o ran cefnogi rhieni maeth newydd yn RhCT. Cafwyd gwybod am yr heriau y mae'r gwasanaeth yn eu hwynebu megis recriwtio rhieni maeth ychwanegol sy'n barod i weithio gyda phobl ifainc sydd ag anghenion cymhleth, a phobl ifainc yn eu harddegau hŷn.

Cyflwynodd Rheolwr y Gwasanaeth Ms Grenter i'r Pwyllgor a roddodd drosolwg o rôl a phrofiadau Arloeswr yn RhCT. Nododd yr Arloeswr fanylion y gweithgareddau amrywiol sy'n cael eu cynnal yn rhan o'r rôl. Roedd y rhain yn cynnwys gweithio ar y cyd â Maethu Cymru mewn perthynas â lansiad 22 Drws Maethu, mynd i Baneli Cyflogaeth a thrafod effeithiolrwydd polisïau. Rhoddodd yr Arloeswr wybod am arwyddocâd y rôl o ran creu systemau cymorth i rieni maeth ac amgylchedd lle mae cyfathrebu agored yn cael ei annog er mwyn trafod yr heriau a datrysiadau. Siaradodd yr Arloeswr am ddatblygiad y rôl, gyda chymorth yn cael ei roi i rieni maeth ar-lein o ganlyniad i'r pandemig. Serch hynny, roedd yr Arloeswr yn gobeithio ailddechrau cynnal y gwasanaeth wyneb yn wyneb wrth i'r cyfyngiadau gael eu llacio.

Roedd y Cadeirydd yn hapus gyda'r gwaith a'r cymorth a ddarperir i rieni maeth gan Arloeswyr. Aeth y Cadeirydd ati i gydnabod pwysigrwydd cyfathrebu rhwng rhieni maeth ac Arloeswyr er mwyn rhannu profiadau, cyngor a datrysiadau.

PENDERFYNODD y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol:

- Cydnabod yr wybodaeth yn yr adroddiad.

49 'DRWS BLAEN' MAETHU CWM TAF

Rhoddodd Rheolwr Datblygu Rhanbarthol Gwasanaethau Maethu y diweddaraf am y ddau ddatblygiad sylweddol sydd wedi'u gwneud ers adrodd i'r Bwrdd yn ystod y flwyddyn flaenorol. Cadarnhawyd bod Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr wedi ymuno â'r Drws Blaen Rhanbarthol er mwyn ehangu'n ymhellach ar y gwaith ar y cyd a rhannu adnoddau ac arfer da. Ar hyn o bryd, cadarnhaodd y Rheolwr Datblygu Rhanbarthol ymrwymiad y tri Awdurdod Lleol mewn perthynas â recriwtio rhieni maeth. Rhoddwyd gwybod i Aelodau am y datblygiad sylweddol arall o ran lansio Maethu Cymru, sef cydweithrediad cenedlaethol o bob un o'r 22 o Awdurdodau Lleol. Roedd y Rheolwr

Datblygu Rhanbarthol yn hapus gyda'r buddsoddiadau wedi'u darparu gan Lywodraeth Cymru.

Cafodd Aelodau wybod am y newidiadau a gafodd eu rhoi ar waith i wasanaethau megis brandio a gwefan newydd ar draws pob Awdurdod Lleol. Nodwyd arwyddocâd y gwefannau newydd ar draws pob Cyngor i hyrwyddo'r neges am Faethu Lleol ac i gynnal y datganiad cenhadaeth, sef 'Mae plant lleol wrth galon popeth rydyn ni'n ei wneud'.
Er gwaethaf llwyddiant y gwasanaeth, aeth Rheolwr Datblygu Rhanbarthol Gwasanaethau Maethu ati i gydnabod yr heriau o ran recriwtio rhieni maeth ledled y DU. Cafwyd gwybod am y gostyngiad o 50% yn nifer yr ymholiadau ac ymweliadau cychwynnol am rolau rhieni maeth. O ganlyniad i hyn, mae gwaith ymchwilio wedi cael ei gynnal i ddod o hyd i esboniad. Nodwyd mai'r rheswm dros y gostyngiad oedd arfer ar ôl y pandemig ac, ar lefel leol, pobl nad oedden nhw'n effro i'r brandio newydd. Er gwaethaf y gostyngiad yn nifer yr ymholiadau ac ymweliadau cychwynnol, roedd Rheolwr y Gwasanaeth Rhanbarthol – Gwasanaethau Maethu yn falch o weld cynnydd yn nifer y bobl sy'n mynd ymlaen at fuddsoddiad a chymeradwyaeth. Yn ystod y tair blynedd diwethaf, nodwyd bod cynnydd i'w weld yn nifer y rhieni maeth bob blwyddyn. Rhoddodd Rheolwr Datblygu Rhanbarthol Gwasanaethau Maethu wybod i Aelodau am welliannau y mae angen eu gwneud o ran darpariaeth cadw rhieni maeth a sicrhau bod Awdurdodau Lleol yn cadw at yr Ymrwymiad Cenedlaethol.

O ran y dyfodol, bydd cynlluniau'n cael eu rhoi ar waith i hyrwyddo Maethu Cymru er mwyn denu'r genhedlaeth iau i ddod yn rhieni maeth. Mae ymgyrchoedd llwyddiannus wedi cael eu lansio, er enghraifft ar y radio, y teledu, Spotify ac ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol er mwyn hyrwyddo Maethu Cymru. Ar lefel leol, siaradodd Rheolwr Datblygu Rhanbarthol Gwasanaethau Maethu am lansio ymgyrch sy'n hysbysebu Maethu Cymru ar fysiau ac ar y radio (Capital FM) ledled Cwm Taf.

Rhoddodd y Cadeirydd ddiolch i Reolwr Datblygu Rhanbarthol Gwasanaethau Maethu am ei adroddiad a'r gwaith sydd wedi'i gynnal yn rhan o'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol dros y tair blynedd. Dymunodd y Cadeirydd bob lwc iddo yn ei rôl newydd yng Nghyngor Caerdydd.

50 ADRODDIAD CHWARTEROL TROS GYNNAL

Cafodd y Bwrdd ddiweddariad gan Ms Davies am y cynnydd sydd wedi'i wneud gan elusen Tros Gynnal Plant Cymru. Dechreuodd Ms Davies gan ganolbwyntio ar adran Cynnig Rhagweithiol yr adroddiad. Yn seiliedig ar y Cynnig Rhagweithiol yn Chwarter 3, manteisiodd 32 o bobl ifainc ar y gwasanaeth sy'n seiliedig ar faterion, a chafodd 12 o bobl ifainc eu hatgyfeirio at y Cynnig Rhagweithiol. Roedd dros hanner y bobl ifainc a fanteisiodd ar y gwasanaeth sy'n seiliedig ar faterion yn gwneud hynny am y tro cyntaf. Cafodd Aelodau wybod am y gostyngiadau mewn perthynas ag Eiriolaeth yn seiliedig ar Faterion (IBA) a'r Cynnig Rhagweithiol yn Chwarter 3 o'u cymharu â'r Chwarteri blaenorol (2). Yn ystod Chwarter 3, roedd 86 o bobl ifainc yn gymwys am y Cynnig Rhagweithiol ac allan o'r 86 yma, roedd 18 yn blant sy'n derbyn gofal. Cafodd yr Aelodau wybod am 2 berson ifanc a gafodd eu cynnwys ddwywaith gan eu bod nhw'n bodloni'r meini prawf o ran Amddiffyn Plant (CP) a Phlant sy'n Derbyn Gofal, felly nifer y bobl ifainc oedd 84.
Yn seiliedig ar yr wybodaeth a ddarparwyd gan Awdurdodau Lleol, gwrthododd 50 o blant a phobl ifainc gyfarfod y Cynnig Rhagweithiol pan gafodd ei awgrymu gan eu gweithwyr cymdeithasol. Serch hynny, derbyniodd 11 a chawson nhw eu hatgyfeirio. Gwrthododd 20 o bobl ifainc y Cynnig Rhagweithiol heb reswm a gwrthododd 30 o bobl ifainc y cynnig i gwrdd ag eiriolwr. Nododd 12 person ifanc fod gwell gyda nhw siarad ag aelod o'r teulu.

Tynnodd Ms Davies sylw'r Aelodau at y graffau yn yr adroddiad a roddodd grynodeb o feini prawf Atgyfeiriadau'r Cynnig Rhagweithiol, Eiriolaeth yn seiliedig ar Faterion a demograffeg defnyddwyr y gwasanaeth yn ystod Chwarter 3.

PENDERFYNWYD:

- Nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad
- Derbyn diweddariadau ar gynnydd TGP yn y dyfodol

51 Eithrio'r Wasg a'r Cyhoedd

PENDERFYNWYD bod y cyfarfod hwn yn cadw aelodau o'r wasg ac aelodau o'r cyhoedd allan o ystafell y cyfarfod, dan Adran 100A(4) o'r Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol (fel y'i diwygiwyd), yn ystod trafod yr agendwm nesaf, ar y sail y byddai'n debygol o olygu datgelu gwybodaeth eithriedig yn ôl diffiniad paragraff 14 o Ran 4 o Atodlen 12A o'r Ddeddf.

52 Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol - Cwynion a Chanmoliaethau Chwarterol

Rhoddodd yr adroddiad yma drosolwg i'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol o'r trefnau gweithredu ac effeithiolrwydd gweithdrefn cwynion y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol statudol rhwng **1 Hydref 2021 a 31 Rhagfyr 2021.**

Roedd yr adroddiad yn cynnwys gwybodaeth am nifer y cwynion a ddaeth i law, natur y cwynion, ac unrhyw wersi a ddysgwyd, yn ogystal â manylu ar ymholiadau gan Gynghorwyr, Aelodau o'r Senedd ac Aelodau Seneddol a nifer y cwynion a ddaeth i law.

Yn dilyn trafodaethau mewn perthynas â'r eitem eithriedig, **PENDERFYNWYD:**

- Nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad a'r gwaith sydd wedi ei gyflawni gan yr Uned Gwynion.

53 DERBYN DIWEDDARIAD GAN Y CYFARWYDDWR GWASANAETHAU I BLANT.

Rhoddodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant ddiweddariad ar lafar ar y tri phrif weithgaredd sydd wedi digwydd hyd yn hyn. Cafodd Aelodau wybod am gymeradwyaeth y Cabinet o'r strategaeth atal ar gyfer Plant sy'n Derbyn Gofal.

Yn ail, canmolodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant y gwaith a gafodd ei gynnal gan Ms Ceri Jones – Pennaeth Materion Mynediad a Chynhwysiant a Ceri Webster – Dirprwy Flaen Swyddog – Seicolegydd Addysg o ran arwain proses penodi Pennaeth Plant sy'n Derbyn Gofal. Rhoddodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant wybod i Aelodau am arwyddocâd y Pennaeth o ran trawsnewid Addysg i Blant sy'n Derbyn Gofal. Yn olaf, siaradodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant am brosiect ymchwil diweddar a gafodd ei gynnal gan CASCADE a nododd angen sylweddol am gymorth ystyrlon ar gyfer pobl ifainc sy'n dod yn rhieni. Rhoddodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant wybod i Aelodau am weithdy sydd i'w gynnal ar ôl yr etholiad. Bydd y Bwrdd yn cael gwahoddiad i'r gweithdy lle y bydd darganfyddiadau'r ymchwil yn cael eu cyflwyno.

Roedd y Cadeirydd yn hapus iawn gyda'r diweddariad ac edrychodd ymlaen at fynd i'r gweithdy i ddysgu rhagor am yr ymchwil.

PENDERFYNODD y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol:

- Derbyn adroddiad ar y Strategaeth Plant sy'n Derbyn Gofal.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 11.11am	**Y Cynghorydd C Leyshon Cadeirydd.**

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RCT Forum Quarterly Report

Introduction:			
Name of Project:	RCT Local Group	Funder:	RCT Local Authority
Team Member:	Francesca Pritchard and Annabel Galt	Project Timeframe:	Dec 2021 - Feb 2022

Project Summary:	
Young People connected with	During the last quarter, the project has continued to engage with nine (9) care experienced young people throughout the RCT area. Of those young people engaged in the sessions - three (3) were aged 16 – 21-year-old and six (6) were aged 21+ year olds. Throughout this time, a total of five (5) consultations were held on a 1-2-1 basis – three (3) face-to-face and two (2) by phone. Through the 1-2-1 connections and engagement with young people; the Local Groups Officer has referred two (2) young people to VfCC internal services for additional support. A total of five (5) group sessions were held, focussing on good practice support for care experienced parents, care day and outreach activities.
Projects Themes	The RCT forum's sessions principal areas of focus have been as follows. **Engagement into the group:** During the quarter engagement has been encouraged through promotion on social media, to maintaining connections with regular contact and information sharing directly to current members of the group and professionals within the local authority. The focus of engagement has been to bring the members together as a group to seek innovative approaches to engage with younger children (14-16); through our collaboration with Actif Woods - with the next session set to take place in Easter is April 11th. **Care Day 2022.** A number of events and activities took place in the lead up to and on Care Day of this year; throughout this time, we supported care experienced young people within RCT to link in with care experienced young people from across the 5 nations (Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, and England). Through the delivery of this young people provided us with feedback as to what they needed, as a care experienced child/young person to thrive. This feedback can be seen as below;

	1. More counselling and Mental Health services. 2. Further emotional support (as the young people felt that there was not enough understanding of their feelings and trauma/behavioural responses.) 3. Wanting consistent and positive relationships, with Social Workers who could inform them of their rights. 4. Continued support post 25 from the local authorities through an outreach model (due to long term concerns regarding mental health, wellbeing, and isolation) 5. Continued support to manage longer term aspirations i.e. support in buying a car, insurance etc.

Project Sucesses	**Care experienced parents within RCT:** We have supported local group members and other care experienced parents from the RCT area to contribute to several consultation opportunities throughout the last quarter. They have contributed to the Welsh Government's *'Childcare and Parental Employment Report - Minding the Future, the Childcare Barrier facing Working Parents';* supporting in the development of recommendations which can be found within the report.

A copy of the report can be found as follows -
https://business.senedd.wales/documents/s122062/Report.pdf

Those individuals have also contributed to Children in Wales Period Dignity Consultation providing their views and experiences, regarding the impact of being looked after upon their access to information, advice, and support around women's health issues. This feedback will support the work being completed by Welsh Government around the "*Period Dignity Strategic Action Plan*".

Given the success of our engagement with care experienced parents, Voices will now be involved in further opportunities in the next quarter for care experienced parents within the RCT area. This includes plans to meet with care experienced parents and the local authority in relation to the "*Supporting Parents in and Leaving Care*" charter; previously co-produced between CASCADE and care experienced parents from VfCC.

	Basic Income Pilot. Throughout the last quarter Voices from Care Cymru have worked with care experienced young people within the RCT area, to support and provide feedback to Ministers regarding the recent plans for the Basic Income Pilot for Care Experienced Young People. Voices from Care Cymru, will be leading on further opportunities for care experienced young people from across Wales to provide feedback/support in the development and reviewing of the Basic Income Pilot Model.
COVID Recovery Response to Near Misses.	**Steering Group** Throughout the last quarter a total of three (3) sessions were cancelled due to concerns raised by both the pandemic and severe weather warnings. In addition to this, whilst activities have been planned over the last quarter to carry out face-to-face sessions, we have received no referrals for the group or outreach activities (with only current members engaging in the activities). Having recognised the difficulties in maintaining consistent engagement into the group, VfCC have begun work with the local authority to review the delivery of the group to increase its reach and establish engagement mechanisms, to work with a wider representation of the care community. Therefore, VfCC will continue to deliver face-to-face sessions and outreach activities; whilst working with the steering group to review the group's model of delivery – in which feedback will be sought from care experienced young people.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

MARCH 2022

REPORT OF DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES: YOUNG CARERS AND YOUNG ADULT CARERS REPORT

Author(s): Mari Ropstad, Service Manager – Carers, Engagement and Direct Payments

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Corporate Parenting Board members with an update on the work with young carers in RCT during 2021/2022.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

Acknowledge the information contained within the report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 This is an information report.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The support service for young carers (aged 5-17) continues to be provided on a commissioned basis by Action for Children. Specific support is available via an externally funded post for Young Adult Carers (aged 18-25). Sibling carers (children whose sibling has additional needs) receive limited support via the Carers Support Project.

4.2 The assessment function for young carers remains within the Information, Assistance and Advice Service for Children's Services.

4.3 The all-age carers hub in Gelliwastad Road, Pontypridd, is now operational, with the Carers Support Project, the Young Carers Services, the Young Adult Carers Project and the Sibling Project all under the same roof.

4.4 The full report for RCT Young Carers and Young Adult Carers 2021/2022 (to date) is attached in Appendix 1. Members may wish to note the below key details:

- There has consistently been a higher than average rate of referrals for young carer assessments throughout the year.

- Similar to last year, a higher level of one-to-one sessions were provided to young carers this year to mitigate the continued restrictions on group work. Face-to-face group sessions were held when possible to provide young carers with a break from caring, including trips in the summer and Christmas parties.

- There are indications that the pandemic has significantly affected the health and wellbeing of young carers, and that it has increased the caring responsibilities for many.

- A pilot project has trialled a bespoke service for sibling carers. The project is based on a six-week period of intensive support to improve emotional wellbeing and resilience, followed with opportunities to take part in a range of activities throughout the year. This pilot will be evaluated at the end of the year to determine a way forward.

- The Young Adult Carers Services has had limited staffing during the year, but a new worker is now in post. Most support has been provided online and there is a need to deliver more face-to-face activities for this group of young people.

- There are various other pieces of work worth noting throughout the year, including the further development of the Young Carer Card, the Carers Covid film and the Young Carers Schools Award.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This is an information report.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 This is an information report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

7.1 There are no direct financial implications aligned to this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS *OR* LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 came into force in April 2016 and is intended to transform the way services

are delivered. It repeals the majority of community care legislation including the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010.

8.2 The National Plan for Unpaid Carers published in early 2021 will become increasingly important for developing strategies and delivering support to carers of all ages going forward.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

9.1 The business covered in this report contributes to the following well-being goals:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales.
- A healthier Wales.
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A globally responsible Wales

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 Young carers were significantly affected by the pandemic and support services going forward will need to focus on dealing with the ongoing consequences.

10.2 Work to adopt an all-age cohesive service approach to unpaid carers will continue, with the commissioned young carers service due to co-locate with the Carers Support Project from September 2021.

10.3 The new National Plan for Unpaid Carers will inform regional and local carers strategies and priorities.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

MARCH 2022

APPENDICIES

Appendix 1 – RCT Young Carers and Young Adult Carers Annual Report 2021/2022.

Annual report 2021/2022

RCT Young Carers and Young Adult Carers

Mari Ropstad
Service Manager - Carers
Annual report 2021/2022

OVERVIEW

The pandemic has continued to challenge service delivery over the last year. The support provided by young carers has continued to change depending on the restrictions and vulnerability of the people they care for. Many young carers have reported experiencing more isolation and anxiety as a direct result of the pandemic. Services have adapted to the changing restrictions by offering support in smaller groups and more individual sessions, however it has been challenging to provide sufficient breaks from the caring role for young carers. At the same time, our referral rates for assessment for young carers has remained higher than average throughout the year.

This report attempts to summarise the support provided to young carers (aged 0-17) and young adult carers (aged 18-25) during a turbulent year and recognise some of the key developments achieved despite extremely challenging circumstances.

BACKGROUND

The Young Carers Service now sits within the wider all-age Carers Support Project following a review and restructure carried out towards the end of 2018/2019. The review identified a need for a strategic lead for carers within the authority and the Service Manager for Carers now has responsibility for all carer issues, including young carers, young adult carers and adult carers.

The restructure resulted in changes to the support provided to young carers. The service still has a dedicated Young Carer Assessor who now sits within the wider Information, Advice and Assistance function of Children's Services. This is to ensure that statutory obligations are met in terms of assessment and monitoring of young carers.

In order to encourage greater integration of services, the commissioned young carers support service (currently provided by Action for Children) is now based within the Carers Support Project in Gelliwastad Road.

The support for young adult carers (aged 18-25) continues to be provided by a dedicated part-time worker, funded via the Families First grant. This funding has not yet been confirmed for 2022/2023.

YOUNG CARER ASSESSMENTS

There is a dedicated worker responsible for assessing young carers who is located within the children's services Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) team. This means we can ensure statutory obligations are met for assessing and supporting young carers with greater ease and accuracy.

Referrals received (to 17/2/22)

Q1 Apr-Jun	35
Q2 Jul-Sep	30

Q3 Oct-Dec	30
Q4 Jan-Mar	15 (to 17/2/22)
TOTAL	**110** (to 17/2/22)
Total 20/21	*88*

We have seen a high level of referrals throughout the year and this has been consistently above what we would on average expect. This has continued as a trend from Q3 20/21, when the schools returned and we saw higher levels of assessments for young carers.

Source of referrals

Children's Services	13
Resilient families	30
Family	23
School	19
Disabled Children's Team	16
College	1
YEPS service	1
Adult Services	1
Carers Support Project/Young Carers Project	1
Third sector	5

A total of 135 reviews (year to 23/2/22) were completed during the year, mostly over the telephone with feedback from the key workers at the young carer's project. If there have been any concerns identified or the young carer has not been engaging with the project, then the assessment worker has arranged to visit the families and contacted other agencies involved, including schools, to find out the reasons for non-engagement and if alternative support is needed

For most young carers this has still been a year of disruption. The Young Carers Project has had to alternate between online group sessions, outdoor meetings, and a few 'normal' indoor groups. This means that, for most young carers, again there has been little progress made on their support plans.

YOUNG CARERS SUPPORT SERVICE

The young carer support service is currently provided by Action for Children. As the below statistics show, the service has changed over the course of the pandemic to focus more on one-to-one support sessions due to the restrictions placed on group work:

	2019	2020	2021
April-June			
Number of referrals	10	4	9
1-to-1 sessions	5	62	31
Group work	27	8	21
July-September			
Number of referrals	14	11	13
1-to-1 sessions	6	5	14
Group work	18	20	21
October-December			
Number of referrals	12	8	8
1-to-1 sessions	4	29	24
Group work	18	20	18
January-March			
Number of referrals	10	11	12
1-to-1 sessions	8	12	52
Group work	27	24	12

Young carers have positively welcomed periods when face-to-face support sessions were possible, but the service has put in place many restrictions to ensure the safety of staff, young people and families. In September 2021 Action for Children also moved offices to be co-located in Pontypridd with the Carers Support Project.

According to Action for Children, the following has worked well:

- Face to face group session reintroduced when restrictions were lifted.
- The project was able to carry out trips throughout the summer holidays.
- The Young Carer Choir have been able to meet and take part in some amazing opportunities.
- Grants have been applied for to access food vouchers for families.
- Christmas Parties were held for young carers and their families.
- An 18+ Reunion was held to see all those that had left the project throughout the lockdown.

However, the project and the young carers still faced several issues and barriers:

- IT access to join online sessions remains an issue for some families.
- Transport for young carers to access face-to-face group sessions is still an ongoing issue due to the restrictions in place.
- The impact Covid has had on the health and wellbeing of young carers due to the increase in their caring roles.
- Families struggling with finances.

- There are some issues with accessing venues for group sessions due to closures and restrictions in place.

The virtual groups allowed young carers to have contact with staff and peers and receive support if they needed it. This was combined with face-to-face sessions and wellbeing visits were also made to families as required.

In between lockdown periods, Action for Children were able to re-start group sessions to provide a break away from home for some young carers. These groups have been smaller than normal groups and transport has been an issue for many as staff were not able to carry passengers in their cars as they would normally.

Many families were struggling financially, and Action for Children applied for more £1,000 worth of grants through their own Action for Children Covid/ Iceland Appeal. Through these grants families were able to purchase essential items such a gas, electricity and food.

SIBLING CARERS

Sibling carers (those helping to care for a sibling with additional needs or who are impacted socially/emotionally by growing up with a sibling with additional needs), continue to receive a limited specific support service via the Carers Support Project. Funding was secured in October 21 from the Carers Respite Grant to carry out a pilot model of service delivery for sibling carers. To date there are 79 young people registered to receive support, 62 of whom have accessed at least one activity over the past 6 months. There have been 39 sibling referrals made in the year 21/22 (to date), however 18 of these have been made since October when the additional funding was awarded. During 20/21 there were 22 siblings referred in total so there has been a definite increase this year.

Once they have been assessed by the Young Carers Assessment Worker, they are offered the opportunity to engage in a 6-week programme focusing on the social and emotional aspects of being a sibling carer. The key themes of the programme are raising self-esteem, discussing feelings (good and bad) associated with being a sibling carer, strategies to support them in their role as a sibling of a brother/sister with additional needs, opportunity to spend time with other young people who understand and are experiencing similar things.

As well as the 6-week programme sibling carers have been offered the opportunity to attend an ASD workshop. A large proportion of the sibling carers registered with the service have brothers/sisters with ASD so this workshop gave them an opportunity to gain more knowledge of ASD and understand why their siblings present certain behaviours.

RCT Carers Support Project has also made links with the bullying charity Kidscape who are running a ZAP workshop during February half term. Research from Carers Trust has shown that young carers (including sibling carers) are more likely to be bullied so this workshop will help sibling carers raise self-esteem, identify bullying

and bullying roles, increase assertiveness, identify the impact of positive body language and explore cyber bullying.

An important part of sibling support is to provide opportunities for sibling carers to spend quality time with a parent/carer, something they very often miss out on due to the care needs of their brothers/sisters. As part of the Carers Respite Grant and with funds from an additional Winter of Wellbeing Grant, sibling carers and their parents have been given the opportunity to do a cooking activity and attend Zip World Towers.

Sibling support also provides a way of respite and escape for sibling carers. Sibling carers have been given the opportunity to take part in a bushcraft session, ice skating at Winter Wonderland, cookery workshop, boxing and mindfulness session, virtual escape room, and photography session. There is also a 4-week pottery project called Expression Through Art starting in March which gives sibling carers an opportunity to express feelings and emotions by creating a piece of artwork with clay. Due to the pandemic and difficulty providing face-to-face activities, sibling carers have also been given the opportunity to have packs delivered to their home which have included craft packs, outdoor/indoor play packs and cooking packs.

Before the end of the financial year, we will be running the Sibs Grant scheme again where sibling carers can apply for something up to the value of £50 which benefits one of the below:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Education
- Family relationships
- Social isolation
- Breaks from the caring role

During the Easter holidays RCT Carers Support Project will be hosting Sibs Fest – an event specifically aimed at celebrating sibling carers. A mini festival taking place at Dare Valley Country Park, sibling carers and their families can take part in circus workshops, live music, sports taster sessions, live fire breathing shows, fairground stalls but also have access to information and advice from a range of organisations such as Papyrus, Kidscape, Meic, Challenging Behaviour Support, Resilient Families and more.

Feedback received for the Sibling Carer Service

"This is the first time I have ever been to the fair as my brother doesn't like the noise and lights."

Sibling carer aged 15

"We had lots of fun it was challenging getting it to stay together but we got it to work eventually. Thank you again so much."

Sibling carer feedback on the gingerbread house cooking activity

"The cooking zoom was lovely, thank you for the opportunity to do it."

Sibling carer

"B [sibling carer] really has a problem with talking about J's [sibling with additional needs] behaviour. I think he feels that he is going to get J in trouble or something. So it was so good for him to hear others talking about their siblings. He kept saying to me 'that's just like J'. I think it really helped him so thank you."

Parent feedback on the six-week programme

"Thank you so much, A [sibling carer] really enjoyed the experience and we were blown away by the cooking bundle! Such a positive experience, we are very lucky."

Parent

YOUNG ADULT CARERS SERVICE

The Young Adult Carer (YAC) Service has a dedicated part-time worker who is funded via a Families First grant. The worker is responsible for assessing the members of the group, which is currently 89, to provide evidence of how the service helps them develop resilience and mental wellbeing. The aim of the service is to support YACs with personal growth through educational workshops and social events. It also provides a break from the caring role and a chance to learn new skills.

The YAC service also supports the Caring and Supporting Each Other (CASE) group, which was set up as a charitable community interest group by the YACs.

The YAC service was delivered almost exclusively online during the first part of the year, except one outdoor social event at Barry Island in the summer. YACs have been offered the opportunity to join online mindfulness sessions, yoga, baking workshops, anxiety workshops and quiz nights.

Unfortunately, the YAC worker post remained vacant between August 2021 and January 2022, which meant a significantly reduced service was provided during the period. Workers within the Carers Support Project picked up some provision when capacity allowed, and were able to organise a cinema trip and a pizza night for the YACs.

Since January 2022, a new YAC worker has been in post and the following activities have taken place:

- The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Carers Grant enabled the wider Carers Support Project team to provide YACs with a Christmas Hamper during December 2021.
- Successful applications to the Winter of Wellbeing Grant resulted in three different activities being organised for the YACs during February/March 2022; namely white-water rafting, escape rooms and a team bowling night. The hope is that this can help to re-engage YACs into the Service.
- There has been increased use of the YAC Facebook Group and dedicated Facebook page to aid in engaging with YAC's registered with the service.

The priority for the service going forward will be carry out an audit of YAC registrations and review existing membership of the service; identifying carers who are no longer eligible for the service (owing to a change in their caring roles, age, etc.), and then to streamline the intake, assessment, and review process. Grant funding will be applied for to provide means for future events for the coming year.

YOUNG CARER CARDS

RCT Council was an early adopter for the Welsh Government's national ID card scheme for young carers. March 2022 will mark the one-year anniversary of the launch of the service. To date this year we have received 29 applications in 2021/2022 and 58 young carers currently hold a card.

We are organising a prize draw to mark the one-year anniversary where any young carer who either has a card or who applies for one by 31st March 2022 will be in with a chance of winning an Amazon voucher.

The promotional videos for the Young Carer Card are available here:

Welsh version: https://youtu.be/fui0ePeRiQM

English version: https://youtu.be/1V3WxVBH6RA

The purpose of the card is primarily for identification of young carers in schools, health and other settings as young carers have repeatedly indicated this as a need. We have however successfully attached a benefit via the Council's staff benefit scheme which entitles all successful applicants to also receive the Vectis card for local discounts on shopping. It is possible more benefits will in time be attached to the card, both nationally and locally.

The ongoing funding and resource to enable administration of the card scheme will need to be decided shortly as the current grant arrangements from Welsh Government are uncertain.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Carers Covid film

A film was produced during the pandemic, highlighting the experiences of unpaid carers of all ages. It includes young carers as young as 5, as well as young adult carers, parent carers and adult unpaid carers. The film is available here:

https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/AdultsandOlderPeople/Caringforotherpeople/Areyouacarer.aspx

https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/CY/Resident/AdultsandOlderPeople/Caringforotherpeople/Areyouacarer.aspx

Young Carers Schools Award

Sadly, since the start of the pandemic in 2020, the RCT Young Carers Schools and College Award uptake has been poor, in comparison to previous years. At present 16 out of the 17 secondary schools have come forward to say they still wish to be involved with the initiative, however it is proving extremely challenging to obtain any evidence for their portfolios. Tonyrefail Community School has recently secured the Bronze Award and very positively, the Gold Award has been achieved by Coleg Y Cymoedd. Coed y Lan Primary School have also expressed an interest in completing the primary school award aimed at Year 6 pupils.

The Schools Award officer within the Carers Support Project sends out a bulletin each term to all the school Carer Champions with information and news relevant to young carers and their families. Awareness sessions run by our young carers service will be reinstated for staff and pupils in secondary schools.

FUTURE PLANS

We hope to delivery an improved support programme for young carers next year, which will consider the changes they have experienced during the pandemic and provide a more individually tailored package of support. The integration of services within the Carers Support Project should help delivery smoother transitions from young carers into young adult carers and support joint delivery where appropriate to maximise resources.

We intend to review our YAC service provision to ensure it remains fit for purpose and provides clear outcomes for young people.

We hope to obtain clarity on the ongoing funding arrangements for the Young Carer Card in order to support the Welsh Government's priority of early identification and support.

A report will be produced on the Sibling Carers pilot programme to evaluate its effectiveness and decide on the future of this type of bespoke service.

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