



**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 a

Dydd Mawrth, 27 Mehefin 2023 am 1.30 pm

Swyddog cyswllt: Tracy Watson - Uwch Swyddog Democrataidd a Craffu (07747 485567)

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 eitem y 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 o gyfarfod y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol ar 30 Mawrth 2023 yn rhai cywir.

(Tudalennau 3 - 8)

3. RHAGLEN WAITH Y BWRDD RHIANTA CORFFORAETHOL 2023/24

Derbyn adroddiad y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth, Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu, sy'n rhoi manylion i'r Aelodau am Raglen Waith y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol ar gyfer Blwyddyn y Cyngor 2023/24.

**(Tudalennau 9 -
16)**

4. STRATEGAETH ATAL AR GYFER PLANT SY'N DERBYN GOFAL

Derbyn gwybodaeth am gynnydd y Gwasanaethau i Blant gyda'r Strategaeth Atal ar gyfer Plant sy'n Derbyn Gofal.

(Tudalennau 17 -

5. AROLYGIAETH GOFAL CYMRU AROLYGIAD AMLINELLOL-CYFRAITH GYHOEDDUS CHWEFROR 2023

Derbyn gwybodaeth am Adolygiad Cenedlaethol Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru (AGC) o ran cynllunio gofal ar gyfer plant a phobl ifainc.

(Tudalennau 25 -
44)

6. CYNNIG AM SESIWN 'INFORM'

Derbyn cynnig am sesiwn 'Inform' benodol.

(Tudalennau 45 -
50)

7. 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 eitem 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.”

8. Y DIWEDDARAF MEWN PERTHYNAS Â STRATEGAETH GOFAL PRESWYL 2022 I 2027: PLANT SY'N DERBYN GOFAL

Derbyn adroddiad eithriedig Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau i Blant.

(Tudalennau 51 -
60)

9. MATERION BRYN

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

Cylchrediad:

Y Cynghorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol:

Y Cynghorydd G Caple (Cadeirydd)
Y Cynghorydd R Lewis (Is-gadeirydd)
Y Cynghorydd C Leyshon
Y Cynghorydd J Bonetto
Y Cynghorydd P Evans
Y Cynghorydd S Rees
Y Cynghorydd S Trask
Y Cynghorydd K Webb

**PWYLLGOR CYNGOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF
BWRDD RHIANTA CORFFORAETHOL**

Cofnodion o gyfarfod y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol a gynhaliwyd Dydd Iau, 30 Mawrth 2023 am 10.00 am ym Rhithwir.

Cafodd y cyfarfod yma ei recordio, ac mae modd gweld y manylion [yma](#)

Y Cyngorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol – Roedd y Aelodau Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol canlynol yn bresennol:-

Y Cyngorydd G Caple (Cadeirydd)

Y Cyngorydd R Lewis Y Cyngorydd C Leyshon
Y Cyngorydd J Bonetto Y Cyngorydd S Rees
Y Cyngorydd P Evans

Swyddogion oedd yn bresennol

Mr N Elliott, Cyfarwyddwr Dros Dro'r Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Ms A Lloyd, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant
Ms C Jones, Pennaeth Materion Mynediad a Chynhwysiant
Ms C Miles, Cyfreithiwr Gofal Plant
Ms J Thomas, Rheolwr Gwella'r Gwasanaeth, Ymgysylltu a Chwynion
Ms E Brabon, Uwch Gydlynwyr Addysg, Hyfforddiant a Chyflogaeth
Ms L Hawkins, Pennaeth Ysgol Rithwir
Catherine Silver, Interim Service Manager
Ms M Davies - TGP

Ymddiheuriadu am absenoldeb

Y Cyngorydd S Trask Y Cyngorydd S.Evans

35 Datgan Buddiant

Yn unol â Chod Ymddygiad y Cyngor, ni wnaethpwyd unrhyw ddatganiadau mewn perthynas â'r Agenda.

36 Cofnodion

PENDERFYNODD yr Aelodau gymeradwyo'r cofnodion o gyfarfod y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol ar 26 Ionawr 2023 yn rhai cywir.

37 Rhaglenni Cyflogaeth, Addysg a Hyfforddiant ar gyfer Plant sy'n Derbyn Gofal

Rhannodd Uwch Gydlynnydd y Gwasanaeth Cyflogaeth, Addysg a Hyfforddiant yr wybodaeth ddiweddaraf â'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol am raglenni penodol y Cyngor i gefnogi plant sy'n derbyn gofal, y rheiny sy'n gadael gofal a'r rheiny ag anghenion gofal a chymorth, i gyflogaeth, addysg a hyfforddiant.

Cafodd y Bwrdd ddadansoddiad o'r deilliannau rhwng mis Ebrill 2022 a mis Mawrth 2023 mewn perthynas â rhaglenni Camu i'r Cyfeiriad Cywir a GofaliWaith.

Dywedodd y Swyddog wrth yr Aelodau fod y gwasanaeth yn torri tir newydd wrth iddo gysylltu â Phrifysgol De Cymru a Phrifysgol Caerdydd mewn perthynas â chwrs i baratoi pobl ifainc ar gyfer y brifysgol. Dywedodd y Swyddog y byddai'r bobl ifainc yn cael y cyfle i ymweld â'r prifysgolion ac aros yn y neuaddau preswyl.

Cafodd yr Aelodau wybod hefyd am raglen gyflogi'r haf i blant sy'n derbyn gofal sy'n rhoi cyfleoedd cyflogaeth a hyfforddiant gyda nifer o fusnesau yn Nhreorci. Mae hyn yn sgil llwyddiant y cynllun yn Nhreorci. Bydd cynlluniau tebyg yn cael eu cynnal yn Aberdâr a Phontypridd yn ystod yr haf.

Roedd y Cadeirydd yn canmol rhaglen gyflogi'r haf. Dywedodd ei bod yn wych gweld y cynnydd yn hunan-barch y bobl ifainc yn dilyn eu cyfleoedd cyflogaeth.

Gan gyfeirio at y rhaglen GofaliWaith, nododd un Aelod fod 15 o bobl ifainc ddim wedi ymgysylltu â hi, gan holi a oedd unrhyw resymau dros hyn. Dywedodd y Swyddog ei bod yn bosibl bod gyda'r bobl ifainc flaenoriaethau eraill adeg eu hatgyfeirio, megis symud o leoliad maeth i fyw'n annibynnol ac nad yw'r amseru'n iawn. Serch hynny, cafwyd esboniad bod y rhaglen GofaliWaith ddim yn gaeth i amser 'penodol', ac felly mae'r garfan yn ymgysylltu â phob person ifanc ac yn sicrhau ei bod yno iddyn nhw pan fo'r amser yn iawn.

Diolchodd y Cadeirydd i'r swyddog am yr adroddiad manwl a

PHENDERFYNODD y Bwrdd:

1. Nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad.

38 Cynllun Peilot Model yr Ysgol Rithwir – y newyddion diweddaraf ynghylch cynnydd y flwyddyn gyntaf

Rhannodd Pennaeth yr Ysgol Rithwir yr wybodaeth ddiweddaraf â'r Bwrdd am y cynnydd yn ystod blwyddyn gyntaf y cynllun peilot hwn ar gyfer plant sy'n derbyn gofal. Edrychodd yn benodol ar y camau a gymerwyd i fynd i'r afael â'r camau gweithredu sy'n rhan o Gynllun Gweithredu'r Ysgol Rithwir, a'u cwblhau. Aeth y Swyddog ati i atgoffa'r Aelodau fod y Cabinet wedi cytuno i gynnig i symud ymlaen â strategaeth i dreialu Model yr Ysgol Rithwir i wella deilliannau addysgol plant sy'n derbyn gofal, a hynny ym mis Gorffennaf 2021. Roedd Model yr Ysgol Rithwir wedi'i hen sefydlu yn Lloegr ac, o dan Ddeddf Plant a Theuluoedd 2014, mae gydag awdurdodau lleol ddyletswydd statudol i benodi Pennaeth ar gyfer yr Ysgol Rithwir. Ei rôl allweddol yw hyrwyddo cyflawniad addysgol plant sy'n derbyn gofal.

Cafodd yr Aelodau eu cyfeirio at Adran 5 o'r adroddiad lle mae rhestr manylion Gweithgareddau'r Cynllun Gweithredu ar gyfer 2022 i 2023.

Aeth y Cadeirydd ati i longyfarch y Swyddog ar y rôl, gan ddweud bod y cynllun peilot yn gyfle gwych i blant sy'n derbyn gofal ac yn ddysgwyr yn y fwrdeistref sirol. Gofynnodd a oedd y 210 o ddysgwyr oedran ysgol y tu allan i'r sir yn profi'n fwy heriol. Dywedodd y Swyddog nad oedd unrhyw heriau sylweddol a bod nifer yr ymatebion i holiadur a ddaeth i law yn llwyddiannus iawn. Cafodd yr holiadur ei anfon i'r holl ysgolion y tu allan i'r sir ym mis Rhagfyr 2022. Roedd yn gofyn

cwestiynau megis 'a oedd gyda nhw berson arweiniol, polisi ar gyfer plant sy'n derbyn gofal, niferoedd a oedd yn mynychu, cyfathrebu â rhieni maeth', ac ati. Ychwanegodd y Swyddog ei bod hi wedi mynychu adolygiadau ar gyfer plant Rhondda Cynon Taf yn Nyfnaint a Gwlad yr Haf a bod y carfannau yno wedi bod yn rhagweithiol iawn ac yn agored i fod eisiau dilyn ein protocolau ni.

PENDERFYNODD y Bwrdd:

1. Cydnabod cynnwys yr adroddiad; a
2. Derbyn adroddiad cynnydd pellach ar y cynllun peilot yn y dyfodol.

39 Adroddiad Blynyddol Cynhalwyr Ifainc

Rhannodd y Rheolwr Gwasanaeth Dros Dro ar gyfer Cynhalwyr, Taliadau Uniongyrchol ac Ymgysylltu â Defnyddwyr y Gwasanaeth yr wybodaeth ddiweddaraf â'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol am y gwaith gyda chynhalwyr ifainc yn Rhondda Cynon Taf rhwng 2022 a 2023.

Tynnodd y Swyddog sylw'r Aelodau at Adroddiad Blynyddol y Cynhalwyr Ifainc, a oedd ynghlwm wrth yr adroddiad, gan fanteisio ar y cyfle i grynhoi ei themâu allweddol:

- Mae'r contract ar gyfer yr elfen cymorth i gynhalwyr ifainc wedi'i ail-dendro'n llwyddiannus. Enillodd yr elusen Action For Children y contract ac maen nhw'n parhau i gynnig cymorth i gynhalwyr ifainc leded y fwrdeistref sirol;
- Mae lefel ddarpariaeth y gwasanaeth yn ôl i'w harfer yn dilyn y pandemig;
- Mae nifer yr atgyfeiriadau asesiadau ar gyfer cynhalwyr ifainc wedi dyblu'n gyson o'i chymharu â'r cyfnod adrodd blaenorol;
- O ganlyniad i hyn, bu cynnydd yn y galw am wasanaethau i gynhalwyr ifainc;
- Oherwydd llwyddiant cynllun peilot Brodyr a Chwirydd, mae'r angen am gymorth i frodyr a chwirydd ar wahân bellach wedi'i gydnabod. Mae capasiti ychwanegol i ddarparu'r cymorth hwn wedi'i sicrhau yn rhan o gontract newydd y cynhalwyr ifainc;
- Mae'r Gwasanaethau Cynhalwyr sy'n Oedolion Ifainc wedi newid ac mae bellach yn darparu model cymorth ychydig yn wahanol, sy'n canolbwyntio ar ddeilliannau ac ar yr unigolyn;
- Mae'r cyllid grant ar gyfer y swydd Gweithiwr Datblygu i Gynhalwyr sy'n Oedolion Ifainc a ddyfarnwyd ar gyfer 2023 i 2024 yn amodol ar ddiffyg o ran dod o hyd i gostau'r cyflog, (ni ddarparwyd unrhyw gynnydd); ac
- Er gwaethaf llwyddiant cynllun Cerdyn Adnabod Cynhalwyr Ifainc, ni fydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn darparu rhagor o gyllid. Serch hynny, bydd Rhondda Cynon Taf yn parhau i gyflwyno cynllun cardiau ar gyfer cynhalwyr ifainc.

Diolchodd y Cadeirydd i'r Swyddog am y diweddariad, gan gydnabod y byddai'r gwasanaeth, sydd bellach yn ôl fel yr oedd, yn gwneud gwahaniaeth cadarnhaol i'r cynhalwyr ifainc a'r staff. Roedd y Cadeirydd yn falch o nodi gwaith Action For Children a llwyddiant cynllun peilot Brodyr a Chwirydd. Gofynnodd am ragor o wybodaeth am y nifer sy'n manteisio ar y cynllun Cerdyn Adnabod i Gynhalwyr

Ifainc. Dywedodd y Swyddog fod y cynllun yn llwyddiannus ac yn boblogaidd ymhlith cynhalwyr ifainc a'i fod yn siomedig nodi na fyddai cyllid ar gael mwyach gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Serch hynny, rhoddodd y Swyddog sicrwydd i'r Aelodau fod y garfan yn angerddol am y cynllun ac y byddai'n parhau i ddarparu'r cynllun cardiau ar gyfer cynhalwyr ifanc.

Siaradodd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion Addysg, cyfranogiad Pobl Ifainc a'r Iaith Gymraeg yn gadarnhaol am yr adroddiad a'r llu o gefnogaeth sydd ar gael i gynhalwyr ifainc. Siaradodd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet am y cynnydd o tua 50% yn nifer yr atgyfeiriadau i'r rheiny dan 18, gan holi a oedd hynny oherwydd cynnydd yn y galw ar ôl y pandemig, gwell ymwybyddiaeth o'r gwasanaeth neu arfer gwell gan yr awdurdod lleol. Dywedodd y Swyddog fod y cynnydd yn cael ei adlewyrchu ar draws yr holl atgyfeiriadau a bod modd ei briodoli i gyfuniad o'r holl resymau a grybwyllwyd uchod. Roedd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet wedi cydnabod bod y gwasanaeth yn dibynnu ar ystod o ffynonellau ar gyfer cyllid, gan awgrymu y dylid cynnal trafodaethau ar wahân ar ôl y cyfarfod i ystyried opsiynau o ran cyllid. Cytunodd Cyfarwyddwr Dros Dro y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol y byddai'n fuddiol nodi'r gwasanaethau a gaiff eu darparu, ffynonellau ar gyfer cyllid, a sut i wneud y mwyaf o ddefnyddio'r cyllid ar gyfer cynhalwyr ifanc ledled y rhanbarth.

PENDERFYNODD y Bwrdd:

1. Nodi'r wybodaeth a oedd wedi ei chynnwys yn yr adroddiad.

40 Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) Cymru

Rhannodd Tros Gynnal Plant yr wybodaeth ddiweddaraf â'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol am gynnydd ar gyfer cyfnod chwarter 2, a oedd yn cwmpasu mis Hydref 2022 hyd at fis Rhagfyr 2022.

Clywodd yr Aelodau fod 35 o bobl ifainc wedi manteisio ar y gwasanaeth Eiriolaeth yn Seiliedig ar Faterion yn ystod y cyfnod, a chafodd 20 o bobl ifainc eraill eu hatgyfeirio ar gyfer y Cynnig Gweithredol ledled Rhondda Cynon Taf. Dywedodd y Swyddog fod 19 o bobl ifainc â phrofiad o dderbyn gofal wedi manteisio ar y gwasanaeth Eiriolaeth yn Seiliedig ar Faterion, a oedd yn cwmpasu gyda 22 o faterion, a chafodd 5 person ifanc â phrofiad o dderbyn gofal eu hatgyfeirio ar gyfer y Cynnig Rhagweithiol.

Clywodd yr Aelodau fod 14 o bobl ifainc â phrofiad o dderbyn gofal wedi dod yn gymwys ar gyfer y Cynnig Rhagweithiol yn ystod y cyfnod, bod 5 Cynnig Rhagweithiol wedi'u cyflwyno gan eiriolwyr a bod 5 person ifanc wedi derbyn y Cynnig Rhagweithiol ac wedi mynd ymlaen i gael y gwasanaeth Eiriolaeth yn Seiliedig ar Faterion. Mae hyn yn golygu bod 21% o bobl ifainc cymwys wedi'u hatgyfeirio ar gyfer y Cynnig Rhagweithiol o'i gymharu â 23% yn y chwarter blaenorol.

Cafodd ei egluro bod 5 o'r rhai a ddaeth yn gymwys drwy'r llwybr plant sy'n derbyn gofal yn chwarter 3 wedi'u hatgyfeirio ar gyfer y Cynnig Rhagweithiol drwy'r llwybr Rhianta Corfforaethol yn chwarter 4. Roedd 3 person ifanc eisoes yn ymwneud â'r gwasanaeth eiriolaeth ar ôl cael y Cynnig Rhagweithiol drwy'r llwybr Rhianta Corfforaethol yn y chwarteri blaenorol. Roedd hyn yn golygu, ar 22 Chwefror 2023, bod 79% o bobl ifainc â phrofiad o dderbyn gofal a ddaeth yn gymwys drwy'r llwybr plant sy'n derbyn gofal yn chwarter 3 naill ai wedi'u hatgyfeirio ar gyfer y Cynnig Rhagweithiol yn chwarter 3, wedi'u hatgyfeirio ar gyfer Cynnig Rhagweithiol yn ddiweddarach drwy'r llwybr Rhianta Corfforaethol,

neu eu bod nhw eisoes yn ymwneud â gwasanaethau eiriolaeth pan ddaethon nhw'n gymwys. Chafodd dau berson ifanc ddim cynnig cyfarfod ar gyfer y Cynnig Rhagweithiol gan eu gweithiwr cymdeithasol oherwydd doedd eu rhieni ddim am iddyn nhw wybod bod y Gwasanaethau i Blant yn ymwneud â nhw. Cynigiwyd y cyfle i'r person ifanc arall gwrdd ag eiriolwr, ond gwrthododd gan ei fod o'r farn bod gyda fe ddigon o bobl yn ei fywyd yr oedd yn gallu siarad â nhw.

Aeth y Swyddog ymlaen i ddarparu'r ystadegau i'r Aelodau ar gyfer pobl ifainc â phrofiad o dderbyn gofal sy'n defnyddio'r gwasanaeth Eiriolaeth yn Seiliedig ar Faterion a'r rhai a gafodd eu hatgyfeirio ar gyfer y Cynnig Rhagweithiol. Roedd hyn yn cynnwys gwybodaeth am oedran, rhyw, ethnigrwydd a lleoliad.

Diolchodd y Cadeirydd i Tros Gynnal Plant Cymru am yr adroddiad manwl a **PHENDERFYNODD y Bwrdd:**

1. Nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad

41 Trafod cadarnhau'r Penderfyniad isod:

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 eitem 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.

42 Strategaeth Trawsnewid Gofal Preswyl: Plant Mewn Lleoliadau Sy'n Gweithredu Heb Gofrestru

Rhannodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau i Blant wybodaeth â'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol am blant mewn lleoliadau sy'n Gweithredu Heb Gofrestru (OWR), a chynlluniau'r Gwasanaethau i Blant ar gyfer cefnogi'r plant hynny, a dod â'r trefniadau hynny i ben.

Ar ôl ystyried yr adroddiad eithriedig, **PENDERFYNODD y Bwrdd:**

1. Nodi'r wybodaeth a oedd wedi ei chynnwys yn yr adroddiad, a
2. Derbyn adroddiadau dilynol tan nad oes sefyllfaoedd OWR ar gyfer pobl ifainc sy'n derbyn gofal yn Rhondda Cynon Taf.

43 Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol – Cwynion a Chanmoliaethau Chwarterol

Rhannodd y Rheolwr Cwynion, Ymgysylltu a Gwella Gwasanaeth grynodedb â'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol o'r trefnau gweithredu ac effeithiolrwydd gweithdrefn cwynion y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol statudol rhwng 1 Hydref 2022 a 31 Rhagfyr 2022.

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 Cynulliad ac Aelodau Seneddol a nifer y cwynion a ddaeth i law.

Ar ôl ystyried yr adroddiad eithriedig, **PENDERFYNODD y Bwrdd:**

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

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 11.25 am

**Y Cynghorydd G Caple
Cadeirydd.**

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

27TH JUNE 2023

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION

Author: Hannah Williams, Council Business Unit

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Board with a draft Work Programme for the Corporate Parenting Board for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Members provide comment as appropriate on the draft work programme (which is attached as Appendix 1 to the report)
- 2.2 Subject to any amendments, Members approve the draft work programme as a basis, which can be amended to reflect any changing priorities throughout the year.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Following the Corporate Parenting Board's production of its Annual Report, the need to ensure that the areas identified as 'Going Forward' are considered by the Board.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In April 2016, the Board published its first Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board, which provided a summary of the role and work of the Board undertaken during the 2015/16 Municipal Year. As part of the report, the Board also outlined areas that it wished to consider over the 2016/17 Municipal Year, along with the usual updates that are presented to the Board in a timely manner.

4.2 At the meeting of the Board on the 20th July, 2016 (Minute 11) the Board agreed to the production of a work programme to assist Members with the Committees workload, although it was noted that this was to be a fluid document to be amended with changing priorities.

4.3 Following the successful introduction of the work programme, the Board felt it was necessary to continue the practice, to enhance transparency. Members will also have the opportunity to raise any matters that they would like to add to the programme during the year.

5. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

5.1 Corporate Parenting Board 'Going Forward'. - The areas identified in the annual report by Members for consideration over the Municipal Year were:-

- The review of performance data
- Participation & Engagement with CLA
- Elected Member Training opportunities
- Education, Employment and Training Opportunities for CLA
- The Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People who are Looked After and Care Leavers
- Virtual School Model
- Safeguarding
- Monitoring of Independent Sector Placements
- Operating without Registration Placements
- The MAGU Project

5.2 The Corporate Parenting Board will receive annual updates from the following services to continue to monitor the progress, achievements, and future aspirations:

- Miskin Services
- Youth Offending Service
- Vale, Valleys & Cardiff Regional Adoption Service
- Fostering Services Quality of Care
- Registered Childcare Provision
- Young Carers
- Youth Offending Service

5.3 It is proposed that each of the items are put forward against a scheduled Corporate Parenting Board meeting date, although depending on changing priorities the reporting dates may be subject to change.

5.4 Statutory reports which will regularly be presented to Members and are not included within the Work Programme include:-

- Regulation 73 Reports
- Social Services Compliments & Complaints Reports
- Tros Gynnal Plant Cymru Advocacy Updates
- Child Practice Review
- CIW Inspection Reports

5.5 During the Year, the Board will continue to invite representatives from the RCT Forum to attend meetings. The Corporate Parenting Board remain of the view that views and contribution of young people is invaluable.

5.6 Members will undertake frontline visits to the various Children Services teams at the end of the Municipal Year. A timeline will be circulated at a later date.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The proposed draft work programme is a fluid document, allowing the programme to be amended with changing priorities. The programme is based on factors highlighted within the Board's Annual Report and does not include the statutory updates presented to the Board.

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CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

Agreed work programme of the Corporate Parenting Board is set out below. This is a fluid document, allowing the programme to be amended with changing priorities. The programme is based on factors highlighted within the Boards Annual Report and does not include the usual updates presented to the Board, or other items Officers deem appropriate to bring forward to the Corporate Parenting Board.

REPORT	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	STATUS / COMMENTS
JUNE 2023		
Corporate Parenting Board Work Programme 2023-2024	Tracy Watson	
Proposal for an 'Inform' Session	Annabel Lloyd	
CLA Prevention Strategy Update	Annabel Lloyd	
CIW Inspection Report	Julie Evans	
JULY 2023		
Frontline Visits Findings	Chair	
Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2022-23	Tracy Watson	
Participation Update & RCT Forum	Nicole Katchi	
Radical Reform	Annabel Lloyd	
Foster Wales Collaboration Update	Amy McCardle	
OCTOBER 2023		

CLA Mental Health Support – Joint Report	Annabel Lloyd / CAMHS / MAPPS	
Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service - All Wales Protocol for Reducing the Criminalisation of Care Experienced Children and Young People 2022	Lyndon Lewis	
Safeguarding Information	Annabel Lloyd	
Magu – a new pre-birth service	Julie Evans	
IRO Update	Emma Walters	
NOVEMBER 2023		
Miskin Annual Report and Therapeutic Families Team Annual Report 2022-23	Clare Williams	
Vale, Valley & Cardiff Regional Adoption annual report 2022-23	Angela Harris	
Participation Update & RCT Forum	Nicole Katchi	
Evaluation of the School Cluster Model for expenditure of the Pupil Development Grant (PDG) Looked After Children (LAC) during the financial years 2022 - 2023	Linda Hawkins/Ceri Jones	
JANUARY 2024		
RCT Children’s services commissioning and monitoring of external placements for children looked after.	Karen Benjamin, 4C’s	
ALNET Act and ALN Code for Children Looked After	Ceri Jones & Linda Hawkins	
Fostering Quality of Care Annual Report	Sheryn Edwards	

ND service developments	Charlotte Thomas / Zoe Lancelott	
MARCH 2024		
Employment, Education and Training Programmes for Children Looked After	Emma Brabon	
Participation Update & RCT Forum	Nicole Katchi	
Virtual School Model pilot – Interim Evaluation of Year 2	Ceri Jones & Linda Hawkins	
Registered Childcare Provision Annual Update 2023-24	Jessica Allen	
Young Carers Annual Report 2023-24	Rachel Spry/Claire Williams	
Draft Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2023-2024	Tracy Watson	

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER PREVENTION STRATEGY

27TH JUNE 2023

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR G CAPLE

Author: **Annabel Lloyd**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides information to Corporate Parenting Board about Children's Services' progress with the Children Looked After Prevention Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board:

- 2.1 Note the information;
- 2.2 Ask questions in line with the duties and role of Corporate Parenting Board Members.

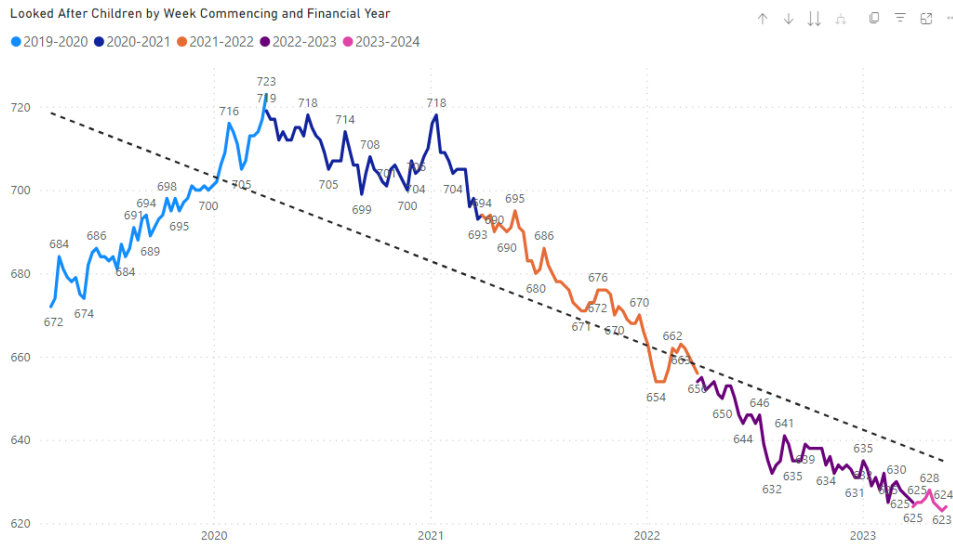
3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Under the Social Services and Well-Being Act (Wales) 2014, the Council has a duty to provide preventative family support services that promote family resilience and prevent family breakdown. In December 2022, Cabinet endorsed the updated Children Looked After Prevention Strategy and the associated funding proposal. In February 2022 the report was received by Scrutiny Committee, and in July 2022, the report was received by Corporate Parenting Board. This report is an update on progress in relation to the implementation of the Strategy.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In line with our statutory duties, Children's Services identify the right to a family life as chief amongst our principles and values. Notwithstanding our important safeguarding duty, Children's services keep under review the services, policy, processes and practice that optimises our potential to safely avoid parent-child separation and enhance our family support meanwhile.
- 4.2 The strategy itself was co-produced with a strategic academic partner (Institute of Public Care at Oxford Brooks University) and was informed by a literature review, secondary data analysis of the prior 3 years, a deep dive of 75 cases and focus groups with staff, families, and partners.
- 4.3 We keep our performance in safeguarding and protecting children under constant review. We acknowledge that to keep some children safe, it is absolutely necessary that they become looked after. However, our ethos is first and foremost to enable and support children to be brought up within their families. With this in mind, we are pleased to note improving performance in the number of children who become looked after by the Council, demonstrated by a reduction in numbers. RCT has moved from previously being the Council with the second highest rate of looked after children in Wales to being in 4th position in July 2022 to 6th position in May 2023 from where we strive to see further progress. This is a difficult and sometimes unpredictable area of business for the Council, and we face the uncertainty of the post pandemic and cost of living impact for vulnerable families. However, it has been promising to see steady decline in the rate at which children become looked after in RCT. Staff have worked hard to embrace, implement, and embed the public law reforms that see us working differently with families in the pre-public law phase of our work.
- 4.4 **RCT – Children Looked After Numbers**

The chart below demonstrates the reduction in number of children becoming looked after since 2020.



4.5 Strategy progress update:

The strategy includes four improvement and development areas.

Improvement and Development Area	Progress / next steps
<p><u>1. Model of Practice</u></p> <p>Development of a clear RCT practice model for social workers and allied staff working with families referred to Children’s Services for support, including to generate better engagement of families who are in ‘pre-contemplation’ (who have not yet come to the view that they need or want to change). This is a significant development and will require a step-change throughout the service.</p>	<p>The recently appointed Officer has commenced in post and will commence the work that will build on some of the great practice that is already in existence. We particularly want this to be practitioner led, with emphasis upon the importance of involving an experienced practitioner in the steering group. The Officer is engaged in a thorough induction process which will acquaint her with the teams delivering services to children and families.</p> <p><u>Next Steps:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The steering group will meet to co-produce a clear RCT Children’s Services model of practice, which is underpinned by evidence of what works best. • A celebration of practice and outcomes is being planned for the September Inform and Involve sessions
<p><u>2. Better Pre-birth Services</u></p> <p>Development of Magu which is our dedicated service for families referred to Children’s Services during a pregnancy to enable earlier intervention with parents considered to be very vulnerable before the child is born.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Magu team is operational and receiving cases <p><u>Next Steps :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to Corporate Parenting Board is planned for October 2023

<p>The service will include a specific pathway and set of supports for these parents.</p> <p>Linked with this, improvements to the support available to parents who have had a child removed from their care are also important.</p>	
<p><u>3.Developing reunification</u></p> <p>Development of a more coherent and consistent approach to reunifying children home who have spent some time being looked after by the local authority.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In hand, with final report anticipated early Autumn <p><u>Next Steps:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement then evaluate the revised reunification and permanence process
<p><u>4.Improve support for kinship carers and special guardians</u></p> <p>Strengthening of the support to be offered to children living with extended family - in kinship care and / or with a Special Guardian, including to their carers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have established a contract with Kinship Cymru in order to extend support • Therapeutic Service called MAPPS is now operational to support stability within the family placement • We have increased the staffing establishment that is available to support Special Guardians <p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are reviewing the financial support for Special Guardians

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and the initial screening test has not identified any negative impacts. A fuller assessment will be carried out. All of the services identified here are available to all families on a basis of risk and need irrespective of any protected characteristics.
- 5.2 The service and staff skill set will be attuned to reach families who most need the service and will do so in a way that over comes any socio - economic barrier. Supporting families to overcome barriers to improving well-being, accessing services and, where appropriate the workplace will be central to this work. Specifically, the service will seek to address and reverse any discrimination and stigmatisation experienced by parents who are in care and leaving care.

6 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been carried out and submitted for review. Recruitment will be carried out in compliance with the Welsh Language Standards, including seeking to appoint bi-lingual staff.

7 CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 Staff and parents with experience of the services took part in a focus group to inform the overall evaluation of the former looked after strategy.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 Financial modelling of the costs has been carried out, and the relationship between better outcomes for vulnerable children, safely reducing looked after populations and improved cost control is well established.

- 8.2 Alongside improving the outcomes for children and young people, the proposals set out in the Children Looked After prevention strategy are intended to provide a cost benefit (or cost avoidance). Nonetheless, the gap in service provision cannot be closed within existing resources without standing down other essential services, therefore additional investment with a view to longer term saving, has been supported. Financial modelling in this regard however is difficult and it is important that in the evaluation, we allow time for the intended outcomes to be delivered.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The proposed development will see the Council enhance its potential to deliver against its prevention duty to families. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 10.1 The implementation of the proposed changes to foster carer allowance allowances will make a positive contribution towards the Council's Corporate Plan Vision of 'a County Borough that has high aspirations, is confident and promotes opportunity for all'; as it will deliver against the specific priorities of 'People - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone *and* 'Place - *Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work*'.

10.2 It will also help the Council to meet three of the seven wellbeing goals that The Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015' puts in place as follows:

- A more equal Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities

10.3 The proposed changes are also consistent with the sustainable approach promoted by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act through the five ways of working:

- Long-term – the proposals seek to make a long-term difference to people's lives, the way we work with families and the Council's resources.
- Prevention – the proposal is fundamentally focused upon strengthening our prevention offer
- Integration – Partner organisations have been invited to join the steering group and will continue to be involved. Particularly important in terms of integrating a seamless offer to vulnerable families with the Resilient Families Service, and Midwifery
- Collaboration – Families, and staff have been involved in the evaluation and proposal
- Involvement – Families, and staff have been involved in the evaluation and proposal

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 The Children Looked After prevention strategy is being implemented, and positive results have been noted in the increase of the number of families that remain together, and safe avoidance of the looked after system.

11.2 We will need to keep services under review and monitor continuing progress in the medium to long-term, and any changes in that.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

27TH JUNE 2023

**REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S
SERVICES, IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO
HOLDER, COUNCILLOR G CAPLE**

Officer to contact: Annabel Lloyd

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

27th June 2023

CARE INSPECTORATE WALES PUBLIC LAW OUTLINE INSPECTION FEBRUARY 2023

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR G CAPLE

Author: **Julie Evans**

1. **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides information to Corporate Parenting Board about Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) National Review of care planning for children and young people subject to the Public Law Outline (PLO) pre proceedings. RCT was one of 5 sites in Wales identified for this work.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board:

- 2.1 Note the information.

3. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Children's Services are providing information to Corporate Parenting Board about the results of a recent CIW inspection.

4. **BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The purpose of CIW work in this area was:



- To provide external scrutiny, assurance and to promote improvement regarding the quality of practice in relation to the care planning for children and young people subject to the public law outline pre-proceedings
- To consider the extent to which practice has progressed since the publication of both the CIW *'National Review of care planning for children and young people subject to public law outline pre*

proceedings' and the publication of the Public Law Outline (PLO) working group report 2021 including best practice guidance.

- 4.2 Children's Services embraced the opportunity of this inspection having invested heavily in translating the PLO reforms into meaningful operational change in our approach with families.
- 4.3 CIW inspection method included the sharing of internal process documents about how Children's Service had implemented PLO reforms, file inspection and interviews of family members (where possible), alongside interviews with staff including managers and partners as well. The management team provided a presentation on the first day of the inspection that gave an overview of our PLO process and evaluation of that, children's services having implemented phase 1 of the PLO reforms as a pilot.
- 4.4 Overall it was a successful inspection, the report which is included below identifying the following strengths and areas for development:

Strengths	Areas for Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care and support planning is timely, meaningful and directed by the safety and wellbeing outcomes of the child • Good evidence that a strength-based, outcome focused approach underpins practice • Documents evidence balanced decision making in children and young people's best interest • Social workers have prevention of breakdown and the maintenance of family unification at the forefront of their practice • Social worker supervisions are clearly focussed on care and support plans and evidence that timescales are actively monitored to avoid delay • Evidence of good quality legal advice which is separated in documentation from social work assessment underlining professionally led approach • Families subject to legal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for more accessible information about the process to be made available to children and families • Family Group Meetings to be utilised earlier in the process • Promoting advocacy earlier in the process and more robustly considering both children and parents • Currently there is a reliance on data collated from the legal department, need to utilise WCCIS to establish own PLO data reporting • Beneficial to include partner agencies in PLO training developments • Clarity required with regards to advocacy for disabled children • More evidence in recordings and documentation of communication methods and tools used to understand and represent views of children with disabilities

<p>planning are given extensive support and opportunities to make effective changes before legal action is taken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of ongoing support continuing as needed when legal planning has ended • Evidence of timely and authoritative action when required to protect children • Good range of established intervention services such as Miskin and Resilient Families Service 	
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<p>CIW Report</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  CIW - RCT - PLO - Findings Letter - EN </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  CIW - RCT - PLO - Findings Letter - CY </div> </div>
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4.5 Children’s Services forward plan in relation to the areas for development is;

1. Need information to be more accessible to children and families

A short animation video explaining the PLO process in user friendly language is in the last stages of preparation. An information sheet will accompany this video for those who would prefer to read about the process. They will both be made available on the RCT Website and will be incorporated into the wider work on accessible public facing information being undertaken by the graduate participation officer – Proposed completion date September 2023

2. Family Group Meetings to be utilised earlier in the process

Timing of the family group meetings became evident as needing reconsideration during the pilot stage of the PLO implementation. Initial thoughts had been that the meetings would be beneficial to assist in resolving identified difficulties at the stage of PLO being initiated. The uptake has been poor which appears likely to be due to families feeling overwhelmed with a new process, additional meetings and the introduction of a solicitor. Encouraging the use of these meetings at an earlier stage of family difficulties has so far resulted in more uptake of the service. Quality assurance data provided as part of this service will enable us to analyse if earlier

use of this form of intervention contributes to prevention of escalation

3. Advocacy offer to be timelier and more robust

Action has been taken to change the timing of referral for the Active Offer Advocacy. This now ensures that every child who is eligible will have already had the option of discussion with an advocate before any meetings are held in the child protection process. In terms of this process being more robust than simply making the offer, reasons as to why children refuse an advocate are now routinely being sought and recorded. This enables the social worker to attempt to overcome identified barriers. This recommendation has already been addressed but ongoing analysis of reasons for refusal will be used to continue to improve practice

A pilot offer of advocacy to parents who have children involved in the child protection process is currently underway. A focus group meet to monitor this and evaluation will take place at the end of the pilot to consider how parental advocacy will be delivered in the future

4. PLO documentation to be added to the information recording and management system

The necessary discussions have taken place to identify what data needs to be captured to enable effective monitoring and review of the PLO process - It is anticipated that the system will be effective from early September

5. Informing partner agencies of progress and any new developments

The Head of Service for Partnerships has joined the PLO implementation group and is feeding back to partner agencies as part of her membership of the CWM Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board

6. Clarity with regards to advocacy services for disabled children

This action has been completed. TGP Cymry provide our advocacy services for all children regardless of their disability. The needs of the individual child are taken into account when planning the intervention. It is recognised that this may not have been made clear to CIW at the time of the inspection but information has since been passed on

7. Improve recorded evidence of communication methods and tools used to understand and represent views of children with disabilities

The relevant service manager has considered the issue of evidencing what tools have been used and methods of communication to ensure that such is suitable for the child's age, stage of development and specific needs. This will be incorporated as an element of ongoing quality assurance file checks

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out in relation to this specific report, but one has been completed in relation to the overall Children Looked After Prevention Strategy where no negative impacts were identified.

6 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Likewise, a Welsh Language Impact Assessment has not been carried out in relation to this specific report but one has been carried out in relation to the overall strategy as per section 5.1. for review.

7 CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 Staff, partners and parents with experience of the services took part in the inspection.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 The work outlined in this report is delivered within children's services budgeted resources.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 10.1 The implementation of the proposed changes to foster carer allowance allowances will make a positive contribution towards the Council's Corporate Plan Vision of '*a County Borough that has high aspirations, is confident and promotes opportunity for all*'; as it will deliver against the specific priorities of '*People - Promoting independence and positive*

lives for everyone and 'Place - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work'.

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- Collaboration – Families, and staff have been involved in the evaluation and proposal
- Involvement – Families, and staff have been involved in the evaluation and proposal

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 CIW PLO Inspection has taken place providing positive assurance and independent validation of the work in this area which includes the management of risk alongside families in the community.

11.2 The CIW report has been welcomed, and children's services plan to address the learning.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

27th June 2023

**REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S
SERVICES, IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO
HOLDER, COUNCILLOR G CAPLE**

Officer to contact: Julie Evans

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Neil Elliott
Interim Director of Social Services
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Date: 01/03/2023

Dear Director,

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) - National Review of care planning for children and young people subject to the Public Law Outline pre proceedings

This letter summarises the findings of our activity between the 07 and 10 February 2023. The purpose of the review was to provide external scrutiny, assurance and to promote improvement regarding the quality of practice in relation to the care planning for children and young people subject to the public law outline pre-proceedings.

Summary of findings:

1. Is there a systematic approach to ensuring that the threshold for Public Law Outline pre proceedings has been reached?

- 1.1. Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) has established a framework for ensuring that the threshold for Public Law outline (PLO) pre-proceedings has been reached. This was recently re-visited as part of a comprehensive review into its wider PLO-related processes, which was informed by the publication of the President of the Family Divisions' public law working group report published in March 2021.
- 1.2. The local authority invested significantly in this review, resulting in an integrated framework aimed at establishing a more coherent and consistent approach. It recognises the cultural challenge which lies ahead in ensuring that this becomes wholly embedded in practice.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- 1.3. A comprehensive suite of revised documents had been developed during the pilot stage of this review. At the core of which was a PLO process map, within which are a series of embedded documents, underpinning decision-making at each stage of the process. These included various iterations of the Social Work Evaluation Tool (SWET), a threshold request, a PLO assessment agreement, and an options analysis aimed at supporting decision-making in gateway meetings.
- 1.4. Practitioners spoken with found the new documentation accessible and a positive tool to support their consistent and timely decision making. This was reflected in those more recent social care records we reviewed.
- 1.5. We found good evidence that a strength-based, outcome focused approach underpins practice, in line with the core principles of the Social Service Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014.
- 1.6. Most of the care and support assessments seen were child-focused, thorough and timely, with the best examples being supported by ongoing assessments and reviews, facilitated by the provision of a range of appropriate support services, and input from multi-agency partners.
- 1.7. Social care records clearly identified concerns, and we saw the detailed options analysis document was utilised to underpin balanced decision making in children and young people's best interests, taking into account a range of presenting factors. The recently revised PLO pre proceedings process has multiple points that trigger consideration of risk, and whether this is manageable under the current arrangements.
- 1.8. In the best examples reviewed, the identification and analysis of risk pre-proceedings was well presented, clearly setting out the basis on which decision making was undertaken, resulting in positive options for both parents and children. Where required, these were supported by access to emergency legal advice, including out of hours.
- 1.9. Social workers have the prevention of breakdown and the maintenance of family unification at the forefront of their practice. Practitioners clearly know families they are working with well, and efforts are made to ensure continuity of relationships wherever possible. However, we also saw examples where children and families had experienced a change of social worker, resulting in inevitable disruption to key relationships. We also heard from partner agencies about instances where the lack of suitably experienced staff had resulted in delays in completing assessments in a timely manner.
- 1.10. It was clear the ongoing increase in demand at the front door, coupled with the enduring difficulties in the recruitment and retention of suitably qualified, experienced staff continues to challenge RCTCBC, in common with many other local authorities in Wales. Senior managers told us a review into the factors behind recent increases seen in demand for Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) services was due to be completed in May of this year. In addition, extensive work has been undertaken in relation to workforce challenges through the new workforce strategy policy.

- 1.11. Social worker supervisions are clearly focussed on care and support plans, and we saw that timescales are actively monitored to avoid delay whenever possible.
- 1.12. The formal tracking of cases through each stage of the PLO process is currently overseen by both children's services and the legal team. The local authority recognise more rigorous monitoring and oversight of the PLO-related processes are required and have identified this is an area for improvement utilising the Wales Community Care Information System (WCCIS) database by September 2023
- 1.13. Evidence of good quality, readily available legal advice was observed through documents and confirmed during interviews with staff. We heard that there are good relationships between the legal team and social workers which support the timely and effective implementation of PLO processes. The threshold document has a defined section for recording legal advice, meaning that this input is appropriately separated from the assessment by social workers, underlining RCTCBC's professionally led approach.
- 1.14. Families subject to legal planning and pre-proceedings work are given extensive support and opportunities to make effective changes, before further legal action is taken, even where the legal threshold for intervention has been reached. Evidence was seen that when parents successfully engage in helping to improve their children's lives, legal planning is ended but with appropriate care and support services continuing as needed. When identified improvements are not achieved, the local authority takes timely and authoritative action.

2. Are there effective arrangements in place to inform parents and carers about the PLO arrangements and what this process means?

- 2.1. Reflecting their commitment to and recognition of the key role played by their preventative and early intervention services, the local authority has seen a downward trend in the number of children looked after over recent years.
- 2.2. Children and families benefit from a good range of established provision, such as the Resilient Families Service, the IAA Team and the Miskin service. One parent we spoke to was particularly complimentary about the input and support they had received from the Miskin service. This in-house service aims to deliver intensive, family focused interventions over a period of up to 16 weeks, with the aim of improving parenting capacity and supporting parents to care for their children with the minimum statutory intervention.
- 2.3. It was clear that social workers and their senior managers have a good understanding of how the PLO pre-proceedings arrangements work, and a commitment to inform children and families about what this process means for them.
- 2.4. However, they are currently impeded from communicating this to best effect as there was an almost complete lack of easily accessible information about the process available to families and children. We heard that practitioners do spend time explaining both the process itself and specific implications for those involved, in order to assist their greater understanding of what can be a complex process. However, the absence of supporting information for either children or parents / carers inevitably impedes the successful implementation of this

objective, and is recognised by the local authority as an area which must be improved

- 2.5. It is clear that some improvements have recently been made in RCTCBC's communications with parents, for example to the 'letter before action' in order to both improve both the clarity and accessibility of this document.
- 2.6. We saw examples of timely, integrated approaches to providing effective support in complex circumstances from a range of partner agencies, with well-coordinated provision resulting in positive outcomes.
- 2.7. Newly qualified, and recently recruited social workers in RCTCBC were given regular opportunities to receive training in specific topics, including the PLO and related processes. It would be beneficial to include staff from partner agencies such as health and education in such initiatives, thereby furthering understanding of their particular roles and responsibilities within the PLO process.

3. Do care planning arrangements support timely permanence for children and young people to achieve good outcomes?

- 3.1. Care and support planning is timely, meaningful and directed by the safety and wellbeing outcomes of the child. Examples of creative support were evidenced in care and support packages reviewed, and these resulted in services providing bespoke responses to achieve individually tailored outcomes. We saw that care plans are reviewed regularly, and progress updates are included.
- 3.2. Support was provided quickly while assessments were ongoing, and the resulting care and support plans we saw included realistic timescales for specified outcomes to be achieved. The progress of children with care and support, child protection and looked after children plans is reviewed at regular intervals, in accordance with guidance.
- 3.3. Timely safeguarding action is taken where there is a risk of harm, with swift entry to the PLO process where needed. Effective support from partners within the safeguarding process was evidenced by well attended strategy meetings and initial case conferences.
- 3.4. The local authorities' vision set out in its 2018 Permanency policy 2018 is clear that the first stage within permanence planning is working with children, young people and their families to support them to stay together, balanced against any risk of harm to the child. It goes on to stipulate that where it is necessary for a child to leave his or her family this should be for as short a time as necessary to secure a safe and supported return home. We saw this commitment to keeping children and families together brought into effect in a number of the cases reviewed.
- 3.5. The options analysis form within the PLO process supports timely permanence planning for children and their families. Where there are significant changes during the PLO process, advice is sought from appropriate professionals in a timely manner to escalate or reduce interventions as required, thereby helping to reduce drift in decision making. Contingency planning was a clear focus in some assessments, although more work is required to ensure that this good practice is more widely embedded as appropriate.
- 3.6. The recently completed PLO pilot identified the need for an improved service offer for unborn and newly born children. In order to put this into effect, the local authority has recently agreed to invest significant resource in the establishment of the MAGU project. This is aimed at delivering an integrated care pathway for

- pregnant women and their families across early intervention and edge of care services, that focuses on building skills and resilience and thereby reducing risk.
- 3.7. The need for effective early planning for permanence was recognised and acted upon via the use of family group conferences (FGC's), which was seen in some of the records examined. When used to best effect, FGC's clearly supported families and their wider networks to feel empowered and informed the facilitation of strengths-based care and support.
 - 3.8. However, our findings support the local authorities' own conclusion that in many circumstances, the use of FGC's at an earlier stage of the PLO pre-proceeding process may prove to be more beneficial. For example, more opportunities for re-framing some of the conversations around informal support networks may assist in reducing unnecessary delays in the identification and assessment of alternative carers should this be required.
 - 3.9. Court is recognised as an option of last resort and proceedings are only initiated where the safety and welfare of the child demands it and the legal threshold is met.

4. Do arrangements promote rights-based practice and the voice of child?

- 4.1. There is a strong children's rights ethos and children are helped to understand their rights and entitlements. Whilst they are encouraged to access advocacy support to ensure that their voice is heard the local authority recognised the need to promote access to advocacy earlier in the process and also to do so more robustly, rather than simply recording that the 'active offer' has been made. We found limited evidence of IRO's actively considering whether advocacy would be beneficial for the child or their family members.
- 4.2. It was unclear what specific arrangements were in place to support disabled children and others with restricted means of communication to access the specialist or augmented forms of advocacy they may require. Following the inspection, the authority has commissioned TGP Cymru Advocacy Services who are able to deliver services to children regardless of age or ability.
- 4.3. Similarly, the need to strengthen the advocacy available to parents at various stages throughout the process had already been recognised, and we were told of plans to enhance this with effect from April of this year.
- 4.4. We heard directly from one parent who felt they were able to participate much more fully in the process after they were supported to access informal advocacy. However, in another involving a parent with limited support networks and documented vulnerabilities themselves, there was no consideration or offer of any advocacy support reflected in the social care record.
- 4.5. Social workers strive to establish the child's perspective and involve them, age appropriately, in their assessments and plans. Again, we heard from practitioners that attempts were made via augmented means of communication and other recognised tools to effectively understand and represent younger children's or those with disabilities lived experience. However, this depth of understanding and individual knowledge was more evident in our discussions with workers, rather than being consistently well represented in the written record used to inform decision making.

- 4.6. We heard from both parties about the positive relations established between Cafcass and children's services, supported by bi-monthly meetings and future plans for this to include further training opportunities for newly qualified social workers. It was apparent that early notification to Cafcass of their required input in forthcoming cases, as recommended in the March 2021 report, had been standard practice in RCTCBC for some time.

CIW will publish a brief national overview report informed by our findings in Spring 2023. We would like to extend our thanks to all those who helped with the arrangements for this activity and to those people and staff who spoke with us.

Yours sincerely



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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf

Dyddiad: 01/03/2023

Annwyl Gyfarwyddwr,

Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru (AGC) – Adolygiad Cenedlaethol o gynllunio gofal ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc sy'n destun proses cyn-achos yr Amlinelliad Cyfraith Gyhoeddus

Mae'r llythyr hwn yn crynhoi canfyddiadau ein gweithgarwch rhwng 7 a 10 Chwefror 2023. Diben yr adolygiad oedd rhoi proses graffu allanol ar waith, rhoi sicrwydd a hyrwyddo gwelliannau o ran ansawdd arferion mewn perthynas â chynllunio gofal ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc sy'n destun proses cyn-achos yr amlinelliad cyfraith gyhoeddus.

Crynodeb o'r canfyddiadau:

1. A oes dull systematig i sicrhau bod y trothwy ar gyfer proses cyn-achos yr Amlinelliad Cyfraith Gyhoeddus wedi ei fodloni?

- 1.1. Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf (y Cyngor) wedi llunio fframwaith er mwyn sicrhau bod y trothwy ar gyfer proses cyn-achos yr Amlinelliad Cyfraith Gyhoeddus (ACG) wedi ei fodloni. Ailystyriwyd hyn yn ddiweddar fel rhan o adolygiad cynhwysfawr o'u prosesau ehangach mewn perthynas â'r ACG, a gafodd ei lywio gan adroddiad gweithgor cyfraith gyhoeddus Llywydd yr Is-adran Teuluoedd, a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Mawrth 2021.
- 1.2. Buddsoddodd yr awdurdod lleol yn helaeth yn yr adolygiad hwn, a arweiniodd at fframwaith integredig wedi'i anelu at roi dull gweithredu mwy cydlynus a chyson ar waith. Mae'n cydnabod yr her ddiwylliannol sy'n wynebu'r awdurdod wrth sicrhau y caiff y fframwaith ei ystyried yn llawn wrth ymarfer.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- 1.3. Cafodd cyfres gynhwysfawr o ddogfennau diwygiedig ei datblygu yn ystod cyfnod peilot yr adolygiad hwn. Roedd map proses yr ACG yn rhan greiddiol o'r gyfres hon, a oedd yn cynnwys cyfres o ddogennau wedi'u mewnbllannu, fel sail i'r penderfyniadau a wneir yn ystod pob cam o'r broses. Roedd y rhain yn cynnwys amrywiol fersiynau o'r Adnodd Gwerthuso Gwaith Cymdeithasol (SWET), cais trothwy, cytundeb asesu'r ACG, a dadansoddiad o opsiynau wedi'i anelu at hwyluso'r broses gwneud penderfyniadau yn ystod cyfarfodydd porth.
- 1.4. Roedd yr ymarferwyr y gwnaethom siarad â nhw o'r farn bod y ddogfennaeth newydd yn hygyrch ac yn cynnig adborth cadarnhaol i'w helpu i wneud penderfyniadau cyson ac amserol. Roedd hyn wedi'i adlewyrchu yn y cofnodion gofal cymdeithasol diweddaraf a welsom.
- 1.5. Gwelsom dystiolaeth dda fod dull gweithredu seiliedig ar gryfderau sy'n canolbwyntio ar ganlyniadau yn sail i ymarfer, yn unol ag egwyddorion craidd Deddf Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant (Cymru) 2014.
- 1.6. Roedd y rhan fwyaf o'r asesiadau gofal a chymorth a welsom yn canolbwyntio ar y plentyn, yn drylwyr ac yn amserol, ac roedd yr enghreifftiau gorau wedi'u hategu gan asesiadau ac adolygiadau cyfredol, wedi'u hwyluso drwy ddarparu amrywiaeth o wasanaethau cymorth priodol, gyda chyfraniad gan bartneriaid amlasiantaethol.
- 1.7. Roedd y cofnodion gofal cymdeithasol yn nodi pryderon yn glir, a gwelsom fod y ddogfen dadansoddi opsiynau fanwl yn cael ei defnyddio fel sail i wneud penderfyniadau cytbwys a oedd er budd pennaf y plant a'r bobl ifanc, gan ystyried amrywiaeth o ffactorau cysylltiedig. Mae proses cyn-achos yr ACG, a ddiwygiwyd yn ddiweddar, yn cynnwys sawl pwynt sy'n sbarduno proses o ystyried risgiau, ac a yw hyn yn ymarferol o dan y trefniadau presennol.
- 1.8. Yn yr enghreifftiau gorau a welsom, roedd y broses o nodi a dadansoddi risgiau cyn-achos wedi'i chyflwyno'n effeithiol, gan nodi'n glir y sail ar gyfer gwneud penderfyniadau, gan arwain at opsiynau cadarnhaol i'r rhieni a'r plant. Lle roedd yn ofynnol, roeddent wedi'u hategu gan fynediad at gyngor cyfreithiol brys, gan gynnwys y tu allan i oriau.
- 1.9. Mae atal teuluoedd rhag chwalu a helpu teuluoedd i barhau'n unedig yn rhan flaenllaw o ymarfer gweithwyr cymdeithasol. Mae'n amlwg bod yr ymarferwyr yn adnabod y teuluoedd y maent yn gweithio gyda nhw yn dda, a gwneir ymdrechion i sicrhau parhad cydberthnasau lle bynnag y bo'n bosibl. Fodd bynnag, gwelsom enghreifftiau hefyd lle roedd plant a theuluoedd wedi profi newid mewn gweithiwr cymdeithasol, gan darfu'n anochel ar gydberthnasau allweddol. Clywsom hefyd gan bartneriaid am achosion lle roedd prinder staff â phrofiad addas wedi arwain at oedi wrth gwblhau asesiadau mewn modd amserol.
- 1.10. Roedd yn amlwg bod y cynnydd cyson o ran y galw wrth y drws ffrynt, ynghyd â'r anawsterau parhaus wrth recriwtio a chadw staff â'r cymwysterau a'r profiad addas, yn parhau'n her i'r Cyngor, fel llawer o awdurdodau lleol eraill yng Nghymru. Dywedodd yr uwch-reolwyr wrthym fod disgwyl i adolygiad o'r ffactorau y tu ôl i'r cynnydd diweddar yn y galw am wasanaethau Gwybodaeth, Cyngor a Chymorth gael ei gwblhau ym mis Mai eleni. Yn ogystal, gwnaed

gwaith sylweddol mewn perthynas â'r heriau sy'n gysylltiedig â'r gweithlu drwy'r polisi newydd ar gyfer strategaeth y gweithlu.

- 1.11. Mae sesiynau goruchwylio gweithwyr cymdeithasol yn rhoi ffocws penodol ar gynlluniau gofal a chymorth, a gwelsom fod amserlenni yn cael eu monitro mewn ffordd ragweithiol er mwyn osgoi oedi lle bynnag y bo'n bosibl.
- 1.12. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'r gwasanaethau plant a'r tîm cyfreithiol yn goruchwylio'r trefniadau ar gyfer olrhain achosion yn ffurfiol drwy bob cam o broses yr ACG. Mae'r awdurdod lleol yn cydnabod bod angen trefniadau mwy trylwyr ar gyfer monitro a goruchwylio'r prosesau sy'n gysylltiedig â'r ACG, ac maent wedi nodi'r maes hwn fel un i'w wella gan ddefnyddio cronfa ddata System Wybodaeth Gofal Cymunedol Cymru (WCCIS) erbyn mis Medi 2023.
- 1.13. Gwelsom o'r dystiolaeth yn y dogfennau fod cyngor cyfreithiol o ansawdd da ar gael yn hawdd a chadarnhawyd hynny yn ystod cyfweiliadau â'r staff. Clywsom fod cydberthnasau da rhwng y tîm cyfreithiol a'r gweithwyr cymdeithasol sy'n helpu i roi prosesau'r ACG ar waith mewn modd amserol ac effeithiol. Mae'r ddogfen drothwy yn cynnwys adran ddiffiniedig ar gyfer cofnodi cyngor cyfreithiol, sy'n golygu bod y mewnbwn hwn wedi'i nodi ar wahân i'r asesiad gan y gweithwyr cymdeithasol, gan bwysleisio'r ffaith bod dull gweithredu'r Cyngor wedi'i lywio gan wybodaeth broffesiynol.
- 1.14. Mae teuluoedd sy'n destun gwaith cynllunio cyfreithiol a gwaith cyn-achos yn cael cymorth eang a chyfleoedd i wneud newidiadau effeithiol, cyn y caiff camau cyfreithiol pellach eu cymryd, hyd yn oed pan fydd y trothwy cyfreithiol ar gyfer ymyriadau wedi'i fodloni. Gwelwyd dystiolaeth a oedd yn dangos pan fyddai rhieni yn ymgysylltu'n llwyddiannus er mwyn helpu i wella bywydau eu plant, y byddai'r gwaith cynllunio cyfreithiol yn dod i ben ond y byddai gwasanaethau gofal a chymorth priodol yn parhau fel y bo angen. Lle na chaiff y gwelliannau a nodwyd eu cyflawni, mae'r awdurdod lleol yn cymryd camau amserol ac awdurdodol.

2. A oes trefniadau effeithiol ar waith er mwyn hysbysu rhieni a gofalwyr am drefniadau'r Amlinelliad Cyfraith Gyhoeddus a'r hyn y mae'r broses hon yn ei olygu?

- 2.1. Gan adlewyrchu ei ymrwymiad i'w wasanaethau atal ac ymyrryd yn gynnar a chan gydnabod y rôl allweddol a gaiff ei chwarae gan y gwasanaethau hynny, mae nifer y plant sy'n derbyn gofal gan yr awdurdod lleol wedi gostwng yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf.
- 2.2. Mae darpariaeth sefydledig ac amrywiol ar gael i blant a theuluoedd, gan gynnwys y Gwasanaeth Teuluoedd Gwydn, y Tîm Gwybodaeth, Cyngor a Chymorth a gwasanaeth Meisgyn. Roedd un rhiant y gwnaethom siarad ag ef yn uchel iawn ei glod am y mewnbwn a'r cymorth roedd wedi'u cael gan wasanaeth Meisgyn. Mae'r gwasanaeth mewnl hwn yn anelu at ddarparu ymyriadau dwys sy'n canolbwyntio ar y teulu dros gyfnod o hyd at 16 wythnos, gyda'r nod o wella gallu rhianta unigolion a helpu'r rhieni i ofalu am eu plant â chyn lleied o ymyriadau statudol â phosibl.
- 2.3. Roedd yn amlwg bod gan y gweithwyr cymdeithasol a'u huwch-reolwyr ddealltwriaeth dda o'r ffordd y mae trefniadau cyn-achos yr ACG yn gweithio, ac ymrwymiad i hysbysu plant a theuluoedd am yr hyn y mae'r broses yn ei olygu iddyn nhw.

- 2.4. Fodd bynnag, cânt eu hatal ar hyn o bryd rhag cyfleu'r wybodaeth hon yn y ffordd orau gan nad oes llawer o wybodaeth hygyrch am y broses, os o gwbl, ar gael i deuluoedd a phlant. Clywsom fod yr ymarferwyr yn treulio amser yn esbonio'r broses ei hun a'i goblygiadau penodol i'r unigolion hynny dan sylw, i'w helpu i ddeall proses a all fod yn gymhleth yn well. Fodd bynnag, mae'r ffaith nad oes gwybodaeth ategol i blant nac i rieni/gofalwyr yn anochel yn eu hatal rhag cyflawni'r amcan hwn yn llwyddiannus, ac mae'r awdurdod lleol yn cydnabod bod hwn yn faes y mae'n rhaid ei wella.
- 2.5. Mae'n amlwg bod rhai gwelliannau wedi cael eu gwneud yn ddiweddar i ohebiaeth y Cyngor â rhieni, er enghraifft i'r 'llythyr cyn gweithredu' er mwyn gwella eglurder a hygyrchedd y ddogfen hon.
- 2.6. Gwelsom enghreifftiau o ddulliau amserol ac integredig o roi cymorth effeithiol o dan amgylchiadau cymhleth gan amrywiaeth o bartneriaid, gyda darpariaeth wedi'i chydgysylltu'n dda yn arwain at ganlyniadau cadarnhaol.
- 2.7. Roedd gweithwyr cymdeithasol newydd gymhwyso a rhai a recriwtiwyd yn ddiweddar gan y Cyngor yn cael cyfleoedd rheolaidd i ymgymryd â hyfforddiant mewn pynciau penodol, gan gynnwys yr ACG a phrosesau cysylltiedig. Byddai'n fuddiol cynnwys staff o asiantaethau eraill fel iechyd ac addysg mewn mentrau o'r fath, a thrwy hynny wella'r ddealltwriaeth o'u rolau a'u cyfrifoldebau penodol ym mhroses yr ACG.

3. A yw'r trefniadau cynllunio gofal yn helpu i sicrhau sefydlogrwydd amserol i blant a phobl ifanc er mwyn cyflawni canlyniadau da?

- 3.1. Mae'r gwaith o gynllunio gofal a chymorth yn amserol ac yn ystyrlon ac yn seiliedig ar ganlyniadau diogelwch a llesiant y plentyn. Gwelwyd enghreifftiau o gymorth creadigol yn y pecynnau gofal a chymorth a adolygwyd, ac o ganlyniad, llwyddodd y gwasanaethau i ddarparu ymatebion penodol er mwyn cyflawni canlyniadau wedi'u teilwra at yr unigolyn. Gwelsom fod cynlluniau gofal yn cael eu hadolygu'n rheolaidd, a bod diweddariadau ar gynnydd wedi'u cynnwys.
- 3.2. Roedd cymorth yn cael ei roi yn gyflym tra roedd asesiadau yn cael eu cwblhau, ac roedd y cynlluniau gofal a chymorth dilynol a welsom yn cynnwys amserlenni realistig ar gyfer cyflawni'r canlyniadau penodedig. Caiff cynnydd plant sydd â chynlluniau gofal a chymorth, cynlluniau amddiffyn plant a chynlluniau plant sy'n derbyn gofal, ei adolygu'n rheolaidd, yn unol â'r canllawiau.
- 3.3. Caiff camau diogelu amserol eu cymryd lle bo risg o niwed, a chaiff achosion eu cyfeirio'n gyflym at broses yr ACG pan fo angen. Gwelwyd tystiolaeth fod cymorth effeithiol yn cael ei roi gan bartneriaid fel rhan o'r broses ddiogelu, drwy lefelau presenoldeb da mewn cyfarfodydd strategaeth a chynadleddau achos cychwynnol.
- 3.4. Mae gweledigaeth yr awdurdod lleol a nodwyd yn ei Bolisi Parhad yn 2018 yn dangos yn glir mai cam cyntaf y broses o gynllunio parhad yw gweithio gyda phlant, pobl ifanc a'u teuluoedd i'w helpu i aros gyda'i gilydd, ond gan ystyried hynny yn erbyn unrhyw risg o niwed i'r plentyn. Mae'n nodi hefyd lle bo angen i blentyn adael ei deulu, y dylai hynny fod am y cyfnod byrraf sydd ei angen i sicrhau y gall ddychwelyd i'w gartref yn ddiogel â chymorth. Gwelsom fod yr ymrwymiad hwn i gadw plant a theuluoedd gyda'i gilydd ar waith yn nifer o'r achosion a adolygwyd gennym.
- 3.5. Mae'r ffurflen dadansoddi opsiynau sy'n rhan o broses yr ACG yn cefnogi trefniadau cynllunio parhad amserol i blant a'u teuluoedd. Lle ceir newidiadau sylweddol yn ystod proses yr ACG, gofynnir am gyngor gan weithwyr proffesiynol priodol mewn modd amserol er mwyn cynyddu neu leihau lefel yr ymyriadau fel y

bo'n ofynnol, gan felly helpu i leihau'r oedi wrth wneud penderfyniadau. Roedd gwaith cynllunio wrth gefn yn ffocws clir mewn rhai asesiadau, ond mae angen rhagor o waith i sicrhau y caiff yr ymarfer da hwn ei roi ar waith yn ehangach fel y bo'n briodol.

- 3.6. Nododd cynllun peilot ACG a gwblhawyd yn ddiweddar fod angen gwella'r gwasanaethau a gynigir i blant heb eu geni a phlant newydd-anedig. Er mwyn cyflawni hyn, mae'r awdurdod lleol wedi cytuno'n ddiweddar i fuddsoddi adnoddau sylweddol i roi prosiect MAGU ar waith. Mae'r prosiect hwn yn anelu at ddarparu llwybr gofal integredig i fenywod beichiog a'u teuluoedd ym mhob rhan o'r gwasanaethau ymyrryd yn gynnar a'r gwasanaethau ymyl gofal, gan ganolbwyntio ar feithrin sgiliau a gwydnwch a thrwy hynny leihau risg.
- 3.7. Cydnabuwyd yr angen i gael cynlluniau parhad cynnar ac effeithiol a gweithredwyd mewn ymateb i hynny drwy ddefnyddio cynadleddau grŵp teulu (CGT), a nodwyd yn rhai o'r cofnodion a welsom. Pan oeddent yn cael eu defnyddio yn y ffordd fwyaf effeithiol, roedd CGTau yn amlwg yn cefnogi teuluoedd a'u rhwydweithiau ehangach i deimlo eu bod wedi'u grymuso ac yn llywio ymdrechion i hwyluso gofal a chymorth seiliedig ar gryfderau.
- 3.8. Fodd bynnag, mae ein canfyddiadau yn cefnogi casgliad yr awdurdod lleol ei hun y byddai o bosibl yn fwy buddiol mewn nifer o amgylchiadau i ddefnyddio CGTau yn ystod cam cynharach o broses cyn-achos yr ACG. Er enghraifft, gallai mwy o gyfleoedd i ailfframio rhai o'r sgysiau a geir am rwydweithiau cymorth anffurfiol helpu i leihau oedi diangen wrth nodi ac asesu gofalwyr amgen os bydd angen gofalwyr o'r fath.
- 3.9. Cydnabyddir mai dim ond pan fetho popeth arall y dylid ystyried mynd i'r llys, ac mai dim ond pan fydd diogelwch a llesiant y plentyn yn gofyn am hynny a bod y trothwy cyfreithiol wedi'i fodloni y caiff achos llys ei gychwyn.

4. A yw'r trefniadau yn hyrwyddo arferion sy'n seiliedig ar hawliau a llais y plentyn?

- 4.1. Ceir ethos hawliau plant cryf a chaiff y plant gymorth i ddeall eu hawliau a'u hawliadau. Er eu bod yn cael eu hannog i gael gafael ar gymorth eirioli er mwyn sicrhau y caiff eu llais ei glywed, cydnabu'r awdurdod lleol yr angen i hyrwyddo mynediad i wasanaethau eirioli yn gynharach yn ystod y broses ac i wneud hynny mewn ffordd fwy pendant, yn hytrach na dim ond cofnodi bod y 'cynnig rhagweithiol' wedi cael ei wneud. Dim ond tystiolaeth gyfyngedig a welsom i ddangos bod Swyddogion Adolygu Annibynnol yn gwneud ymdrech weithredol i ystyried a fyddai cymorth eirioli o fudd i'r plentyn neu aelodau o'i deulu.
- 4.2. Nid oedd yn glir pa drefniadau penodol oedd ar waith i helpu plant anabl a phlant â gallu cyfathrebu cyfyngedig i gael gafael ar y mathau arbenigol neu estynedig o gymorth eirioli y gallai fod eu hangen arnynt. Yn dilyn yr arolygiad, mae'r awdurdod wedi comisiynu Gwasanaethau Eirioli TGP Cymru a all ddarparu gwasanaethau i blant o bob oedran neu gallu.
- 4.3. Yn yr un modd, roedd yr angen i atgyfnerthu'r cymorth eirioli sydd ar gael i rieni yn ystod amrywiol gamau o'r broses eisoes wedi cael ei gydnabod, a chawsom wybod am gynlluniau i wella'r cymorth hwn o fis Ebrill eleni.
- 4.4. Clywsom yn uniongyrchol gan un rhiant a oedd yn teimlo ei fod wedi gallu cymryd rhan llawer mwy cyflawn yn y broses ar ôl cael cymorth i gael gafael ar gymorth eirioli anffurfiol. Fodd bynnag, mewn achos arall a oedd yn ymwneud â rhiant â

rhwydweithiau cymorth cyfyngedig ac y nodwyd ei fod yn agored i niwed ei hun, nid oedd unrhyw sôn yn y cofnod gofal cymdeithasol fod unrhyw gymorth eirioli wedi cael ei ystyried na'i gynnig.

- 4.5. Mae'r gweithwyr cymdeithasol yn ymdrechu i ddeall safbwynt y plentyn a'i gynnwys, mewn ffordd sy'n briodol o ran oedran, yn ei asesiadau a'i gynlluniau. Unwaith eto, clywsom gan ymarferwyr fod ymdrechion yn cael eu gwneud drwy ddulliau cyfathrebu estynedig ac adnoddau cydnabyddedig eraill i ddeall profiad bywyd plant ifanc neu blant ag anableddau a'u cynrychioli'n effeithiol. Fodd bynnag, roedd y ddealltwriaeth ddofn hon a gwybodaeth unigol yn fwy amlwg yn ein trafodaethau â gweithwyr, ac nid oeddent o reidrwydd wedi'u cynrychioli'n dda yn gyson yn y cofnod ysgrifenedig a ddefnyddiwyd i lywio'r penderfyniadau a wnaed.
- 4.6. Clywsom gan y ddau barti am y cydberthnasau cadarnhaol a feithriniwyd rhwng Cafcass a'r gwasanaethau plant, wedi'u cefnogi gan gyfarfodydd bob deufis. Roedd cynlluniau ar gyfer y dyfodol hefyd i'r trefniadau hyn gynnwys cyfleoedd hyfforddi pellach i weithwyr cymdeithasol newydd gymhwyso. Roedd yn amlwg bod trefniadau ar gyfer hysbysu Cafcass yn ystod cam cynnar o'r broses y byddai angen mewnbwn ganddo mewn achosion arfaethedig, fel yr argymhellwyd yn adroddiad mis Mawrth 2021, wedi bod yn ymarfer safonol ers cryn amser yn y Cyngor.

Bydd AGC yn cyhoeddi adroddiad trosolwg cenedlaethol cryno yn seiliedig ar ein canfyddiadau yn ystod Gwanwyn 2023. Hoffem ddiolch i bawb a helpodd gyda'r trefniadau ar gyfer y gweithgarwch hwn ac i'r bobl a'r staff hynny a siaradodd â ni.

Yn gywir



Lou Bushell-Bauers
Pennaeth Arolygu Awdurdodau Lleol
Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

27th June 2023

PROPOSAL FOR AN 'INFORM' SESSION

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR G CAPLE

Author: **Colette Limbrick**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out a proposal for a dedicated 'Inform' session with Corporate Parenting Board, to include presentations from practitioners and managers about their work with children and families.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board:

- 2.1 Note the information
- 2.2 Approve the proposal for Children's Services to provide more information about their work at the September Corporate Parenting Board meeting.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Under the Social Services and Well-Being Act (Wales) 2014, the Council has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of each child it looks after, and every care leaver. One way in which this duty is fulfilled, is through the day-to-day provision of support and services to children and families from Children's Services teams.

3.2 Participation in this session delivered by Children's Services will assist members of Corporate Parenting Board in feeling informed and reassured about how the needs of vulnerable children are met, and risk is managed.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Children's Services is responsible for receiving information about new and open cases, assessing new information alongside what is already known, and making decisions about what needs to happen next. This is achieved by engaging with partner agencies, and with children and families, to work out what is important, and what steps need to be taken to best safeguarding, protect, and support children and families.

4.2 Decision making, however much it is shared, is invariably not without risk, and Children's Services practitioners and managers work closely together, and with partners, to identify, reduce, and manage this.

4.3 This is done through detailed assessment, careful planning and review processes, and with the welfare of the child at the forefront of service delivery.

4.4 We are working within a challenging context of increased contacts and referrals into Children's Services, increasing demand for early intervention and support, and increasing complexity in casework with children and families.

The Proposal

4.5 Children's Services would like to provide the opportunity for practitioners from selected teams to talk about how decisions are made on new cases, and how risk is managed, using anonymised case examples.

4.6 During this input, we will also:

- Present some performance information relating to Children's Services, and
- Provide an update on the actions plans related to the two Child Practice Reviews presented on 30th March 2023.

Intended outcomes

4.7 Corporate Parenting Board members will:

- Have an updated understanding about Children's Services decision making and risk management processes
- Have greater insight into the volume and demand facing Children's Services staff
- Be apprised of progress in respect of the Child Practice Review action plans

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out.

6 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment has not been carried out.

7 CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

7.1 Relevant managers and practitioners will be consulted about content for the session.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

9.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

10.1 The content of the proposed session links directly to:

- The Council's Corporate Plan Vision of '*a County Borough that has high aspirations, is confident and promotes opportunity for all*'; as it focuses on the specific priorities of '*People - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone and Place - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work*'.
- Three of the seven wellbeing goals that The Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015' puts in place as follows:
 - A more equal Wales
 - A healthier Wales
 - A Wales of cohesive communities
- The sustainable approach promoted by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act through the five ways of working, by demonstrating how our work with children and families:
 - Seeks to make a long-term difference to people's lives
 - Supports the provision of preventative services and early help
 - Is integrated with relevant partner agencies

- Is collaborative in nature, seeking to find solutions within families and communities
- Involves families in determining what matters most, and how best they can be supported

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 The proposed session will provide practitioners with an opportunity to speak first-hand about their work, and the challenges they face. This will support members of Corporate Parenting Board in being informed and reassured about how the needs of vulnerable children are met.
- 11.2 The content of the session will provide members of Corporate Parenting Board with:
- an updated understanding about Children's Services decision making and risk management processes
 - greater insight into the volume and demand facing Children's Services staff
 - an update on progress in respect of the Child Practice Review action plans for Child M and Child O.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

27th June 2023

**REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S
SERVICES, IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO
HOLDER, COUNCILLOR G CAPLE**

Officer to contact: Annabel Lloyd

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