



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

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

Dydd Llun, 2 Hydref 2023 am 10.00 am

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 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 o gyfarfod y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol ar 27
Mehfin 2023 a 18 Gorffennaf 2023 yn rhai cywir.

**(Tudalennau 3 -
12)**

3. CYMORTH IECHYD MEDDWL

Derbyn gwybodaeth am y gwasanaethau sydd ar gael i wella lles
emosiynol a diwallu anghenion iechyd meddwl pobl ifainc ag anghenion
gofal a chymorth.

**(Tudalennau 13 -
22)**

4. NEWYDDION DIWEDDARAF Y GWASANAETH MAGU

Derbyn gwybodaeth am gynnydd y gwasanaeth Magu ers ei lansio ym mis Mai 2023.

(Tudalennau 23 -
28)

5. ADRODDIAD MONITRO GWASANAETH ADOLYGU ANNIBYNNOL CYFARWYDDWR CYFADRAN Y GWASANAETHAU CYMUNED A GWASANAETHAU I BLANT

Derbyn gwybodaeth am gyflawni swyddogaethau'r Swyddog Adolygu Annibynnol ar gyfer plant sy'n derbyn gofal (PDG).

(Tudalennau 29 -
44)

6. TROS GYNNAL PLANT (TGP) CYMRU

Derbyn adroddiad cynnydd chwarterol Tros Gynnal Plant Cymru.

(Tudalennau 45 -
54)

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 55 -
64)

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 Hickman
Y Cynghorydd S Rees
Y Cynghorydd S Trask

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

Cofnodion o gyfarfod y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol a gynhaliwyd Dydd Mawrth, 27 Mehefin 2023
am 1.30 pm 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 C Leyshon Y Cyngorydd P Evans
Y Cyngorydd S Rees

Swyddogion oedd yn bresennol

Ms A Lloyd, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant
Ms N Bowditch - Rheolwr Gwasanaeth – Carfan Ymyrraeth Ddwys (Dwyrain)
Ms L Hawkins, Pennaeth Ysgol Rithwir
Ms N Katchi, Swyddog Graddedig - Cyfranogiad (Gwasanaethau i Blant)
Ms C Limbrick - Pennaeth Cymorth Cynnar
Ms A Rowling - Prif Arolygwr AGC
Mrs T Watson, Uwch Swyddog Democrataidd a Craffu

1 YMDDIHEURIADAU AM ABSENOLDEB

Derbyniwyd ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan yr Is-gadeirydd, y Cyngorydd R Lewis, Cyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol J Bonetto, Cyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol S Trask, Ms J Evans, Gwasanaethau i Blant a Rheolwr Cwynion a Sicrhau Ansawdd, Ms J Thomas.

2 DATGAN BUDDIANT

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

3 COFNODION

Cadarnhau cofnodion o gyfarfod y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol a gafodd ei gynnal ar 30 Mawrth 2023 yn rhai cywir.

Manteisiodd y Cadeirydd ar y cyfle, ar ran y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol, i longyfarch yr Is-gadeirydd, y Cyngorydd R Lewis, ar enedigaeth ei blentyn cyntaf.

4 RHAGLEN WAITH Y BWRDD RHIANTA CORFFORAETHOL 2023/24

Rhoddodd yr Uwch Swyddog Materion Democrataidd a Chraffu grynodedd i'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol o'r rhaglen waith ddrafft ar gyfer Blwyddyn 2023-

2024 y Cyngor. Yn ogystal â'r diweddariadau blynyddol rheolaidd, roedd nifer o'r pynciau i'w trafod yn rhan o'r Rhaglen wedi cael eu nodi gan Aelodau mewn cyfarfodydd blaenorol.

Esboniodd y Swyddog fod y rhaglen waith yn ddogfen hyblyg a byddai modd ei diwygio i adlewyrchu unrhyw newidiadau i anghenion busnes yn ystod y flwyddyn.

PENDERFYNODD y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol:

1. Rhoi sylwadau, fel y bo'n briodol, ar y rhaglen waith ddrafft;
2. Cymeradwyo'r rhaglen waith ddrafft, a bydd modd ei diwygio i adlewyrchu unrhyw flaenoriaethau sy'n newid yn ystod y flwyddyn.

5 STRATEGAETH ATAL AR GYFER PLANT SY'N DERBYN GOFAL

Rhoddodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau i Blant wybodaeth i'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol am gynnydd y Gwasanaethau i Blant o ran y Strategaeth Atal ar gyfer Plant sy'n Derbyngofal. Nododd mai dyma'r ail ddiweddariad, gan y cafodd adroddiad blaenorol ei gymeradwyo gan y Cabinet ym mis Chwefror 2022, a'i dderbyn gan y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol ym mis Gorffennaf 2022.

Darparodd y Cyfarwyddwr y fethodoleg yn adran 4, gan nodi bod hyn yn rhan o daith. Er y gallai gyfeirio at ychydig o gynnydd, byddai'n parhau i gynnal ac adolygu'r deilliannau a phriodoldeb ymyraethau. Roedd siart ddata i'w gweld yn adran 4.4, a oedd yn cynnwys sut roedd cynnydd wedi cael ei olrhain o ran lleihau nifer y plant yr oedd angen iddyn nhw dderbyn gofal neu blant sydd ag anghenion gofal a chymorth cynyddol. Cafodd Aelodau eu hatgoffa bod pedwar maes gwella a datblygu wedi'u nodi yn yr adroddiad (adran 4.5), a chawson nhw ddiweddariad ar y cynnydd a'r camau nesaf.

Rhoddodd y Cadeirydd ddiolch i'r Cyfarwyddwr am y diweddariad a chyfeiriodd at y model ymarfer i weithwyr cymdeithasol ar dudalen 19. Gofynnodd a oedd angen adnoddau a hyfforddiant ychwanegol ac esboniwyd, pan gafodd y strategaeth ei chyflwyno i'r Cabinet, ei bod yn cynnwys achos busnes a dynnodd sylw at yr angen am adnoddau ychwanegol o dan y strategaeth, gyda buddsoddiadau mewn 3 maes.

Roedd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion yr Hinsawdd a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol yn falch o weld yn yr adroddiad fod modd i ragor o blant aros gyda theuluoedd, gyda chymorth i wneud hynny, a dyna'r hyn oedd ei eisiau. Roedd hefyd yn falch o weld bod cynhalwyr sy'n berthynas a gwarcheidwaid arbennig mewn sefyllfa gyfartal â rhieni maeth.

PENDERFYNODD y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol:

1. Nodi'r wybodaeth yn yr adroddiad.

6 AROLYGIAD AMLINELLIAD CYFRAITH GYHOEDDUS AROLYGIAETH GOFAL CYMRU – CHWEFROD 2023

Rhoddodd y Rheolwr Gwasanaeth – Carfan Ymyrraeth Ddwys (Dwyrain) wybodaeth i'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol mewn perthynas ag Adolygiad Cenedlaethol Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru o drefniadau cynllunio gofal ar gyfer plant a phobl ifainc sy'n destun cyfarfod cyn-achos Amlinelliad Cyfraith Gyhoeddus

(PLO). Nododd y swyddog fod yr adolygiad o broses y PLO wedi cael ei groesawu, a bod yr adroddiad a gafodd ei ddarparu yn amlinellu cyfnod peilot gweithdrefnau'r PLO. Roedd y rhain wedi bod ar waith am oddeutu blwyddyn, hyd at yr adolygiad.

Nododd y swyddog fod y gwasanaeth yn falch iawn o ganlyniad yr adroddiad a nododd sawl cryfder o ran yr hyn yr oedd RhCT eisoes yn ei wneud. Yna rhoddodd ddiweddariad cynhwysfawr ar lafar i Aelodau mewn perthynas â chryfderau a meysydd datblygu, fel sydd wedi'u hamlinellu yn adran 4 yr adroddiad.

Gorffennodd y swyddog trwy ddweud bod y gwasanaeth wedi gweld gostyngiad sylweddol yn nifer y ceisiadau llys ar y cyfan. Hefyd, defnyddiwyd dulliau meddwl mewn ffordd arloesol er mwyn rhoi cymorth i deuluoedd, plant a phobl ifainc aros gyda'i gilydd yn rhan o drefniadau diogel a oedd yn gweddu'n well i'w sefyllfaoedd teuluol. Roedd y gwasanaeth eisoes yn gweld budd o'r cyfnod peilot a'r gobaith oedd y byddai modd gweld rhagor o fuddion dros y 12 mis nesaf.

Rhoddodd y Cadeirydd ddiolch i'r swyddog am y diweddariad, gan gydnabod bod yr adroddiad yn ardderchog a bod gwaith y Cyngor i'w ganmol.

Llongyfarchodd Aelod y swyddog ar yr adroddiad gan nodi bod diddordeb gyda nhw mewn gweld yr animeiddiad byr a taflen wybodaeth sy'n esbonio proses y PLO pan fyddan nhw ar gael. Roedd hefyd gan yr Aelod ddiddordeb mewn clywed rhai o'r rhesymau pam roedd plant yn dewis peidio â manteisio ar wasanaethau eirioli. Roedd o'r farn y byddai'n ddefnyddiol cael gwybodaeth am y canfyddiadau mewn perthynas ag eiriolaeth i rieni.

Rhoddodd y swyddog wybod bod nifer o resymau pam roedd plant wedi penderfynu gwrthod y cynnig o eiriolwr, gan gynnwys teimlo'n gyfforddus yn siarad â'u gweithiwr cymdeithasol felly doedd dim angen eiriolwr arnyn nhw. Yn achos rhai plant iau, lle roedd eu rhieni yn amheus neu ddim yn siŵr am yr hyn roedd gwasanaethau eirioli yn mynd i'w gynnig, byddai modd i hyn ddylanwadu ar benderfyniadau'r plant. Serch hynny, roedd wedi bod yn brofiad cadarnhaol ar y cyfan. O ran eiriolaeth i rieni, roedd rhieni wedi ymgysylltu â'r gwasanaeth eirioli. Serch hynny, pan gafodd penderfyniad ei wneud i beidio â rhoi plentyn ar y gofrestr, roedden nhw'n tueddu i dynnu'n ôl o'r cyfnod peilot ond roedd modd iddyn nhw barhau â'r daith honno trwy ddull arall e.e. roedd gan eu plentyn gynllun cymorth a gofal o hyd. O ran eiriolaeth i blant, roedd gweld eu rhieni'n cael profiad cadarnhaol yn annog plant i gymryd rhan yn y gwasanaethau eirioli eu hunain.

Cytunodd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion yr Hinsawdd a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol fod yr adroddiad a'r diweddariad ar lafar yn ardderchog.

Cyfeiriodd y Cadeirydd at dudalen 36, eitem 2.7, mewn perthynas â Gweithwyr Cymdeithasol sydd newydd gymhwyso a'r rheiny sydd newydd gael eu recriwtio. Gofynnodd a yw hyn yn rhan o'r broses.

Rhoddodd y swyddog wybod bod rhai gweithdai wedi cael eu trefnu lle trafodwyd sawl pwnc yn ymwneud â phroses y PLO. Serch hynny, doedd gweithwyr cymdeithasol sydd newydd gymhwyso ddim yn gyfrifol am achosion PLO. Bwriad y gweithdai oedd datblygu eu dealltwriaeth a'u hyder o ran y broses honno, a hynny'n rhan o'u dysgu a datblygiad parhaus.

Gofynnodd y Cadeirydd a oedd cydweithwyr iechyd ac addysg yn gyfarwydd â phroses y PLO.

Rhoddodd y swyddog wybod eu bod nhw'n gyfarwydd â'r ymarfer ar lawr gwlad a bod cynlluniau ar y gweill i drafod hynny gyda'r Bwrdd, yn ogystal â thrafod rhoi hyn ar waith, ond roedd cyd-ddealltwriaeth.

Nododd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau i Blant, ar ran Prif Arolygwr AGC, fod yr adroddiad yn gadarnhaol. Roedd y Gwasanaethau i Blant yn gwybod am bob mater y tynnwyd sylw ato, ac roedd y deilliannau ac amserlenni yn realistig. Cafodd plant a theuluoedd eu rhoi yn gyntaf ac roedd y gwasanaeth yn gwbl effro i risg.

Canmolodd y Cadeirydd y gwasanaeth yn gyffredinol.

PENDERFYNODD y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol:

1. Nodi'r wybodaeth yn yr adroddiad.

7 CYNNIG I GYNNAL SESIWN WYBODAETH (INFORM)

Rhoddodd Pennaeth Cymorth Cynnar wybodaeth i'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol am gynnig i gynnal sesiwn wybodaeth benodol gyda'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol. Bydd y sesiwn yn cynnwys cyflwyniadau gan ymarferwyr a rheolwyr am eu gwaith gyda phlant a theuluoedd.

Rhoddodd y swyddog wybod bod llawer o wybodaeth yn cael ei chyflwyno i'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol, a hynny ar lefel uchel yn aml, felly roedd sesiwn yn gyfle da i bobl siarad am yr hyn mae hynny'n ei olygu'n ymarferol, sef yr heriau a wynebir, y mathau o risg sy'n cael eu rheoli, y penderfyniadau y mae rhaid i'r Gwasanaethau i Blant eu gwneud ar y cyd â phartneriaid.

Cafodd Aelodau wybod y byddai'r sesiwn yn tawelu meddyliau Aelodau'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol ac yn sicrhau eu bod nhw'n gwybod sut y cafodd anghenion plant eu diwallu a sut y cafodd risg ei rheoli. Byddai'r sesiwn yn cynnwys trafod achosion yn ddiennw, darparu gwybodaeth am gyflawniad y gwasanaethau i blant a rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y cynllun gweithredu mewn perthynas â'r 2 adolygiad ymarfer plant. Bwriad arfaethedig y sesiwn fyddai diweddarau dealltwriaeth y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol o brosesau gwneud penderfyniadau a rheoli risg, a thaflu goleuni ar nifer yr achosion a'r galw am y Gwasanaethau i Blant, yn ogystal â'r 2 adolygiad ymarfer.

Rhoddodd y Cadeirydd ddiolch i'r swyddog am yr adroddiad ac esboniodd ei bod yn braf clywed gan ymarferwyr, gan gynnwys y risgiau yr oedd rhaid iddyn nhw eu rheoli, nifer yr achosion a'r galw am y gwasanaethau, yn ogystal â'r adolygiadau ymarfer plant, a oedd yn bwysig iawn. Roedd y Cadeirydd yn hapus i fwrw ymlaen â'r cynnig yma ac roedd o'r farn y byddai'r sesiwn o fudd mawr i bawb dan sylw.

PENDERFYNODD y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol:

1. Nodi'r wybodaeth yn yr adroddiad;
2. Cymeradwyo'r cynnig i'r Gwasanaethau i Blant ddarparu rhagor o wybodaeth am eu gwaith yng nghyfarfod y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol ym mis Medi.

8 TRAFOD CADARNHAU'R CYNNIG ISOD YN BENDERFYNIAD:

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.

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

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.

Yn dilyn trafodaeth ynghylch materion cynllunio posibl, cytunodd Aelodau mai ymgysylltu cynnar gyda chynllunio fyddai orau.

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

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

10 MATERION BRYN

Dim.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 2.09 pm

**Y Cynghorydd G Caple
Cadeirydd.**

tudalen wag



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL RHONDDA CYNON TAF

BWRDD RHIANTA CORFFORAETHOL

Cofnodion o gyfarfod y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol a gynhaliwyd Dydd Mawrth, 18 Gorffennaf 2023 am 11.00 am ym Rhithwir.

Y Cynghorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol - Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol Aelodau oedd yn bresennol:-:-

Y Cyngorydd G Caple (Cadeirydd)

Y Cyngorydd C Leyshon Y Cyngorydd S Rees

Swyddogion oedd yn bresennol

Mr N Elliott, Cyfarwyddwr Dros Dro'r Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Ms C Jones, Pennaeth Materion Mynediad a Chynhwysiant

Ms A Lloyd, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant

Ms L Hawkins, Pennaeth Ysgol Rithwir

Ms N Katchi, Swyddog Graddedig - Cyfranogiad (Gwasanaethau i Blant)

Ms J Thomas, Rheolwr Gwella'r Gwasanaeth, Ymgysylltu a Chwynion

Ms C Miles, Cyfreithiwr Gofal Plant

Ms H Jones, Uwch Swyddog Busnes Rheoleiddiol a Gweithredol

Mrs T Watson, Uwch Swyddog Democrataidd a Craffu

11 YMDDIHEURIADAU AM ABSENOLDEB

Derbyniwyd ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb oddi wrth yr Is-Gadeirydd, y Cyngorydd R Lewis, a Chyngorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol J Bonetto, P Evans, S Trask, a K Webb.

12 DATGAN BUDDIANT

Yn unol â Chod Ymddygiad y Cyngor, doedd dim datganiadau o fuddiant ynglŷn â'r agenda.

13 YMWELIADAU AELODAU'R BWRDD RHIANTA CORFFORAETHOL Â CHARFANAU RHENG FLAEN YN YSTOD BLWYDDYN Y CYNGOR 2022-2023.

Darparodd y Cadeirydd drosolwg i'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol o ymweliadau Aelodau'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol â Charfanau Rheng Flaen yn ystod Blwyddyn y Cyngor 2022-23.

Dywedodd y Cadeirydd mai dyma ei ymweliad cyntaf ef a'r Is-Gadeirydd, gan nodi bod morâl y staff yn uchel, tra'n cydnabod bod popeth wedi newid ar ôl Covid, ond bod staff wir yn addasu i'r ffordd hybrid newydd o weithio. Roedd hyn yn gweithio'n dda felly does dim disgwyl i'r drefn newid.

Aeth y Cadeirydd ati i gydnabod fod problemau gyda diffyg staffio o ran gweithwyr cymdeithasol, ond yn gyffredinol roedd y carfanau'n gweithio'n dda. Roedd y llwythi achosion wedi dod yn fwy cymhleth ac wedi cynyddu ers Covid, ond roedd hi'n braf cyfarfod â'r carfanau a dweud diolch. Nododd y Cadeirydd fod yr ymweliadau yn ddefnyddiol iawn ac roedd ef a'r Is-Gadeirydd wedi dysgu cryn dipyn. Bu'n bleser mynd o gwmpas a diolch i'r carfanau am y gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud i ddiogelu plant.

PENDERFYNODD y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad.

14 ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL Y BWRDD RHIANTA CORFFORAETHOL 2022-2023

Rhoddodd yr Uwch Swyddog Busnes Rheoleiddiol a Gweithredol Adroddiad Blynyddol y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol i'r Aelodau ar gyfer Blwyddyn y Cyngor 2022-23. Roedd yr adroddiad yn ymdrin â chwmpas y gwaith a drafodwyd gan y Bwrdd yn ystod y flwyddyn ac yn cyflwyno'r eitemau a nodwyd i'w hystyried yn y dyfodol. Atgoffodd y swyddog yr Aelodau y byddai'r adroddiad cael ei gyflwyno i'r Pwyllgor Craffu a'r Cabinet pe bydden nhw'n ei gymeradwyo.

Dywedodd y Cadeirydd ei bod hi'n bleser dilyn ei ragflaenydd, y Cyngorydd Leyshon, a diolchodd iddi am y gwaith a wnaeth. Roedd manylder yr adroddiadau dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf yn aruthrol, a llongyfarchodd y Cadeirydd y Swyddogion am eu hymdrechion i lunio'r adroddiadau yma.

Diolchodd y Cadeirydd i'r swyddog am yr adroddiad manwl a **PHENDERFYNODD** y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol:

1. Cynnig sylwadau fel y bo'n briodol ar yr Adroddiad Blynyddol drafft cyn ei gyflwyno i'r Cabinet.
2. Yn amodol ar 1, anfon fersiwn terfynol yr adroddiad i AGC er gwybodaeth.

15 Y DIWEDDARAF O RAN CYFRANOGIAD PLANT A PHOBL IFAINC Â PHROFIAD O FOD MEWN GOFAL YN 2022-2023

Rhoddodd y Swyddog Graddedig - Cyfranogiad yr wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol am y cynnydd a gyflawnwyd wrth symud Strategaeth Cyfranogiad 2023-2026 yn ei blaen, gan roi adborth ar y gweithgareddau cyfranogiad a gynhaliwyd gan y Gwasanaethau i Blant yn ystod 2022-2023. Darperir y rhan fwyaf o'r wybodaeth yn yr Atodiadau. Trafododd y Swyddog Graddedig - Cyfranogiad y cefndir a'r cynnydd hyd yma o ran Adran 3, gan amlygu nifer o bwyntiau allweddol, cyn rhoi manylion i'r Aelodau am y cyswllt â'r Blaenoriaethau Corfforaethol a Chenedlaethol a Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol. Wedyn, aeth ati i amlinellu'r Camau Nesaf ac Adran 9 yr adroddiad. Daeth y Swyddog Graddedig - Cyfranogiad i ben trwy nodi'r atodiadau ynghlwm i'r Aelodau eu hystyried.

Diolchodd y Cadeirydd i'r Swyddog am yr adroddiad a dywedodd ei bod yn wych gweld sylwadau gan Blant, a oedd am i'w lleisiau gael eu clywed, a bod y datganiad yn gywir a phriodol.

Nododd y Cadeirydd fod tudalen 45 o'r adroddiad yn gofyn beth allai fod yn well, a gofynnodd a oedd y cynllun yn mynd i'r afael â'r materion a amlygwyd yn yr ymatebion?

Eglurodd y Swyddog Graddedig – Cyfranogiad fod hyn yn rhan o gynllun gweithredu'r prosiect i ddatblygu'r wybodaeth i'r cyhoedd gan gymryd i ystyriaeth yr hyn yr oedd pobl ifainc wedi'i ddweud, ond y byddai hefyd yn gweithio gyda phobl ifainc hefyd i ddatblygu'r wybodaeth honno ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Holodd un aelod am y gweithdy hydref, gan holi sut beth fyddai hwn?

Dywedodd y Swyddog Graddedig – Cyfranogiad y byddai'n datblygu fforwm un llais fel bod Plant sy'n Derbyn Gofal yn cael eu cefnogi drwy staff a'r Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol i gyflwyno eu barn er mwyn cydweithio'n well. Nododd y byddai LIC yn egluro sut olwg fyddai ar y weledigaeth honno, a sut y gellid ei datblygu ar lefel leol, cyn bo hir.

Gofynnodd Aelod a fyddai'r gweithdy ar-lein neu'n un hybrid.

Eglurodd Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau i Blant mai'r uchelgais ar gyfer y gweithdy arfaethedig oedd darparu cyfarfod wyneb yn wyneb i Aelodau ymgysylltu â phobl ifainc â phrofiad o ofal. Y gobaith oedd mai un o'r canlyniadau fyddai gweithio tuag at sut y gallai pobl ifainc â phrofiad o ofal, ac sydd â phrofiad cyfredol o'r system, gefnogi gwaith y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol, gan drafod opsiynau i bobl ifainc â phrofiad o ofal fod yn Aelodau o'r Bwrdd e.e. sut i lunio adroddiadau sy'n gyfeillgar i bobl ifainc, penderfyniadau, ac ati. Roedd Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau i Blant yn ymwybodol bod Byrddau Rhianta Corfforaethol yn cael eu cyd-gadeirio gan Aelod Cabinet a pherson ifanc mewn rhai ardaloedd, a oedd yn fodel cryf iawn o gydweithio. Y gobaith fydd anelu at symud i'r cyfeiriad hwnnw.

Cytunodd y Cadeirydd fod pobl ifainc eisiau llais ar y lefel uchaf, a'i bod hi'n briodol gwrandao ar yr hyn oedd ganddynt i'w ddweud.

PENDERFYNODD y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol:

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

16 DIWYGIADAU RADICAL: OS NAD NAWR, PRYD?

Darparodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau i Blant, Gwasanaethau i Blant, wybodaeth am adroddiad Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg Senedd Cymru yn dilyn ymchwiliad mewn perthynas ag ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cymru i ystyried cyfleoedd radical i ddiwygio'r gwasanaethau presennol ar gyfer plant sy'n derbyn gofal ac yn gadael gofal yn rhan o'r Rhaglen Lywodraethu. Yr uchelgais oedd gwneud yn siŵr bod Aelodau'n teimlo eu bod yn cael eu hysbysu am y gwaith o dan ddiwygio radical, mewn perthynas â gwasanaethau i blant, gan ddeall bod ganddo gysylltiad cryf â gwaith y Bwrdd. Roedd llawer iawn o wybodaeth yn yr adroddiad a chlywodd Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg Senedd Cymru dystiolaeth o amrywiaeth o ffynonellau, gan gynnwys Gwasanaethau i Blant RhCT, a oedd wedi darparu tystiolaeth ar ffurf fideo ac yn ysgrifenedig. Roedd yr adroddiad yn amlinellu'r dystiolaeth a glywyd, gyda nifer o argymhellion wedi'u nodi yn y tabl crynhoi lefel uchel ar dudalennau 109 – 116 yr adroddiad. Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau i Blant mai'r hyn a'i trawodd oedd yr anghydbwysedd cryf â chyfeiriad meysydd strategaeth gwasanaethau i Blant, yn enwedig o ran strategaeth y gweithlu mewn perthynas â chyfranogiad a lleisiau pobl ifainc, rhieni a gofalwyr/cynhalwyr o ran llunio a dylanwadu ar yr agenda ar bob lefel a gwneud yn siŵr bod

gwasanaethau sy'n gysylltiedig â gwella lles ac iechyd meddwl pobl ifainc yn cael eu datblygu.

Nododd Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau i Blant y byddai ymateb y Llywodraeth i'r argymhellion yn cael ei ddosbarthu yn dilyn y cyfarfod, gan gydnabod nad oedd yr holl argymhellion wedi'u derbyn, gyda rhai yn rhannol yn unig, er iddi nodi hynny mewn perthynas â'r meysydd sy'n cael eu datblygu gan y Cyngor ochr yn ochr â staff, teuluoedd a gofalwyr, roedd y rhain yn feysydd a dderbyniwyd i raddau helaeth.

Diolchodd y Cadeirydd i'r Cyfarwyddwr am ei chrynodeb o'r adroddiad a chydabu fod sylwadau diddorol ar dudalennau 113 a 114 o'r adroddiad, mewn perthynas â lleoliadau heb eu cofrestru a heb eu rheoleiddio, materion o ran rhedeg i ffwrdd a diwygiadau i'r cymorth parhaus mae pobl ifainc yn ei dderbyn wrth adael gofal. Cydnabu'r Cadeirydd bod dyletswydd gofal yn fater parhaus, oherwydd bod y plant hynny mor agored i niwed, ac roedd yn wych gweld bod y materion hynny'n cael eu trafod ar y lefel uchaf bellach, gan lywio'r polisi wrth symud ymlaen.

PENDERFYNODD y Bwrdd Rhianta Corfforaethol:

1. Nodi'r wybodaeth oedd wedi ei chynnwys yn yr adroddiad;
2. Derbyn adroddiad wedi'i ddiweddarau pan fydd penderfyniadau'r Llywodraeth ynghylch yr argymhellion yn hysbys.

17 TRAFOD CADARNHAU'R CYNNIG ISOD YN BENDERFYNIAD:-

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.

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

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 Rhianta Corfforaethol:

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.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 11.43 am

**Y Cyngorydd G Caple
Cadeirydd.**



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

2ND OCTOBER 2023

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR G CAPLE

Authors: Annabel Lloyd

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides information about the services that are available to improve the emotional well-being and mental health needs for young people with cares and support needs.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board:

- 2.1 Note the information.
- 2.2 Decide whether future reports are required.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Alongside partner organisations, the Council has a duty to prevent need from escalating, and to meet the needs of children with care and support plans; this includes children who are looked after and care leavers as well.
- 3.2 Welsh Government's recently published Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise from Wales ([Corporate parenting Charter | GOV.WALES](#)) includes the following undertaking at p.3 in relation to looked after young people and care leavers:
 - **Good Health** – We will provide support to access the right health care and advice needed to support the best physical, mental health and general well-being for all care-experienced children and young

people. This is because all children have the right to the best possible health and support.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Children's Services last provided information on the subject to Scrutiny Committee in 2022. Since that date there has been changes in service provision that is matched by increasing need.

4.2 Those developments have been summarised below:

4.3 Early Years Strategy

Responsibility for the **RCT Early Years Strategic Plan 2022-25** sits jointly with Education and Inclusion Services and Community and Children's Services. For the purpose of this strategic plan, Early Years is defined as the ante- natal period up until a child is 7 years of age.

This plan sets out Rhondda Cynon Taf's medium to long- term vision for ensuring families have access to the services they need during the Early Years and Foundation Phase of school and that children have access to quality provision in order to maximise their chances of leading a healthy, happy and fulfilling life. Acknowledging that strong collaboration between partners is fundamental to achieving the vision of *'Every child in RCT has the right to have the very best start in life with access to equitable and excellent Early Years Services'* the strategic plan identifies four strategic priorities:

- All children and families in RCT will have timely access to high quality services and early intervention and prevention support throughout the Early Years;
- Parents and carers are actively engaged in their child's development and learning from the ante-natal period to the age of 7;
- Effective collaboration between Children's Services, Education, Health and wider partners upholds a strong Early Years system across the County Borough that facilitates smooth transitions for all 0-7 year olds, that is understood and promoted by an appropriately trained wider workforce;
- Information sharing and data management supports the effective and timely identification of children at risk of not meeting the developmental milestones necessary to progress effectively through the early years and tracks the outcomes for children of interventions delivered.

- 4.4 Agreement has been secured from the Regional Partnership Board to allocate Regional Integration Fund money in 2023-24 to support the regional delivery of interventions to support children's emotional wellbeing. It will compliment the range of services that are already available via the Resilient Families Service and seeks to address a provision gap for children in this age group. In RCT this will see the implementation of an **integrated wellbeing pathway for 8-11 year olds** requiring support to build their resilience and improve their emotional and mental health and wellbeing. Focusing on the provision of support for children outside of school the project will focus on:
- A Child's Right to Play (UNCRC) acknowledging that play is a protective factor for children's wellbeing. The methodology will use the principles of play as an engagement technique to provide community based 121 support;
 - making support fully accessible and where necessary helping children to re-engage with universal services;
 - building a child's resilience to manage family relationships and cope in the home environment employing a systemic / relational approach to problem solving.
- 4.5 This pathway will also be compliant with the principles set out in the NEST Framework ([NEST framework \(mental health and wellbeing\): introduction | GOV.WALES](#)) that aims to improve the integration of services and support to meet the emotional and wellbeing needs of children and families.

Development of the Whole School Approach known as Shine

- 4.6 CAMHS In-Reach (SHINE) service was implemented in September 2022, and comprises of 3 team leads and 13 emotional wellbeing practitioners covering the entire Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) primary and secondary school's footprint.
- 4.7 The purpose of the team is to support and maintain early identification and appropriate input for the emotional and mental wellbeing of the children aged 4-18 years and staff within CTM schools.
- 4.8 The service complements the Whole School Approach by applying the assessment framework and identifying current mental health and wellbeing provision and needs of the individual schools. Reviewing their own wellbeing landscape enables the SHINE service to develop plans to address the deficits and build on its strengths.
- 4.9 Focus has been on planning in a co-productive manner improving the integration of services and ensuring wider access to trusted adults. School staff, Children and young people and parents/carers have had

the opportunity to access early help and enhanced support in a timely manner adopting the NEST/Nyth framework.

- 4.10 To date, 2 pilot phases of approximately half of the schools in CTM have been completed with phase 3 currently in progress, feedback from stakeholders so far has been extremely positive with good outcomes. Phase 4 will commence in January 2024 with an end date of April 2024 the completed pilot will then be fully reviewed and evaluated.
- 4.11 All schools have full access to a dedicated team lead and emotional wellbeing practitioner at all times throughout term time.
- 4.12 The prevention and early intervention approach is key to upskilling tier 1 professionals, whilst also maintaining their emotional and mental wellbeing. SHINEs aim is to ensure effective and robust pathways to improve emotional and mental health needs of children from universal to more specialist services. The service has significantly progressed since its implementation date and currently provides schools with:
- Consultation and school cluster forums.
 - Relevant Emotional Mental Health Training.
 - Multidisciplinary fora.
 - Parent/ School staff drop-in sessions.
 - Psychoeducation to all.
 - 1-1 and group providing low intensity support.
 - Support and advice into PSE days.
 - Universal and targeted provision of resources through QR codes and information packs.

The SHINE service operates an open access support policy to all schools.

Embedding the Single Point of Access for CAMHS

- 4.13 A single point of contact for access to CAMHS is now well-embedded provided access to consultation, advice and signposting for professionals and families. CAMHS colleagues have advised that there has been improvement in the waiting times for CAMHS assessments over the last 6 months following additional capacity being identified. The waiting list has reduced from 333 at the end of March 2023 down to 124 at the end of July 2023. As a result of the reduction in the waiting list 89% of patients receiving assessments in July were seen within 28 days. The average wait on the waiting list on the 8th September is 2.18 weeks and the longest wait is 3 weeks.

Launch of the Neuro-divergence Improvement Programme

- 4.14 On 6 July 2022 a Written Statement was published by Government outlining the understanding that services for autism and other neuro-divergent conditions are inconsistent and under-developed.
- 4.15 The Neuro-divergence Improvement Programme will take a whole systems approach and will be developed in partnership across sectors, such as health, education and social care. Improvement will be co-produced with people with lived experience. Looked after children are over represented in eth waiting list for assessment with waiting times of 2-3 years.
- 4.16 The improvement programme is intended to drive through transformational change reducing reactive activities such as waiting list initiatives, whilst continuing to grow innovative, co-produced services that support families pre and post diagnosis.
- 4.17 People face long waiting times to access diagnostic assessment and our looked after children are numbered amongst those waiting up to 3 years for assessment.
- 4.18 Whilst it is recognised that significant investment is required into diagnostic services to provide a more timely assessment, this alone may not have a significant impact on waiting lists or waiting times. Additional investment is intended to develop services to achieve the following outputs:
- The provision of pre and post diagnostic support models.
 - The provision of information, advice and support for those families and individuals who do not reach diagnostic thresholds.
 - Accessible information and resources pre and post diagnosis.
- 4.19 Colleagues at CTMUHB are coordinating;
- A Scoping Study to establish the support needs of parents with children who are Neurodiverse, with commissioned agency 'Together Better Consultancy'. The scoping study will review what support parents need for their children and what services already exist across the region.
 - A co-production Hackathon Event (20th Oct 23) – an event for professionals, parents, families and adults with lived experience is planned to help shape and **co-produce solutions** and help improve service - presentation at Board.

Development of a Therapeutic Approach for Children who are Looked After

4.20 MAPSS is a joint Local Authority and Regional Integrated Fund supported specialist therapeutic intervention service for care experienced children, especially those who have experienced placement breakdowns and those with plans for adoption. MAPSS is accessed via Children's Services Therapeutic Support Panel and is available for children with complex emotional and behavioural needs requiring a specialist therapy-led service that can deliver consistent and high quality intervention that includes:

- One off consultations to help make sense of the child's holistic needs and how best to support the child and their carers
- Provide a mixed model suite of suitable evidence based age appropriate therapies to address and overcome the difficulties the child is experiencing, including delivering trauma informed training to carers.

4.21 In the first year of commissioning MAPSS supported 108 children in RCT, with over 80% achieving placement stability.

Therapeutic Families Team (TFT)

4.22 This is a Council funded multi-disciplinary team offering consultation, therapeutic assessments and interventions. The team is made up of Systemic (Family) Psychotherapists and Educational Psychologists, the team receives referrals via the Children's Services Therapeutic Support Panel and is now part of the wider services approach to therapeutic provision for all children at risk of family breakdown and children looked after within our in house residential provision.

4.23 TFT offer a range of ways to intervene with individuals, families, and professionals, these include:

- Consultation.
- Individual therapy
- Family therapy with the whole family, or parts of a family and wider family network.
- Family Consultation/Choice appointments.
- Staff group supervision.
- Psychological Assessments.
- Trauma Recovery Model and TRM Panel.
- Group work.
- Non-Violent Resistance for individual families.
- Staff training and skills workshops

- 4.24 TFT have supported 111 children and families over the last 12 months, with 70% remaining in the care of parents or extended family.

Both MAPPS and TFT work from the foundation of the trauma recovery model and work to the therapeutic model that has been developed for RCT.

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 5.1 This is an information report and 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 Whilst each of these development has incorporated consultation including young person and parent / carer voice , there has not be consultation in relation to this information report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 There are no financial implications being brought to Corporate parenting Board's attention in this report, other than to note that services are under pressure due to demand.

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 Services to improve young people's mental health needs are developing. However, demand continues to exceed the services that are available. This is especially evident in relation to neuro -diversity.
- 11.2 Professionals will continue to work on developing services knowing that families need, and value responses that are integrated across the organisations.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

2ND OCTOBER 2023

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL 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

MAGU SERVICE

2ND OCTOBER 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR G CAPLE

Author: Julie Evans

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide Corporate Parenting Board members with information about the progress of the Magu service since its implementation in May 2023.

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 progress of Magu.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Magu Project delivers an integrated support pathway for pregnant women and fathers to be across early intervention and edge of care services, focused on building skills and resilience and reducing risk. This early intervention approach will deliver targeted support for families to prevent escalation of statutory involvement ultimately reducing the number of children entering care at birth or in their first year.
- 4.2 The Magu Project has been developed in line with the Welsh Government Strategy of Keeping Families Together and reducing the number of Children Looked After in Wales. The term "Magu" translates from Welsh as "to bring up, rear, nurture, raise, gain" and it promotes

the ongoing long-term nature of the support required to deliver better outcomes for children and their families.

4.3 The Magu Team works with families from 10 weeks of pregnancy remaining involved, if required, until the child turns one. We provide bespoke support and skill building to enable children to safely remain in the care of their parents. The aim is to provide high levels of intervention in the early stages reducing in intensity to ultimately empower families to be making positive use of community-based resources. If purposeful the Magu team can continue to support the family even if the outcome of assessments and work is that their child can no longer remain in their care.

4.4 Whilst all referrals are given consideration there is particular emphasis on prioritising support for care experienced parents and parents who have previously been permanently separated from their children as a result of care proceedings.

4.5 Magu Aims to:

- Reduce the number of children under 1 becoming looked after.
- Reduce the number of parent child separations and reduce the length of time of any necessary separation.
- Increase the numbers of children under 1 successfully reunified with parents
- Reduce the number of care experienced parents having children removed from their care
- Reduce the number of families entering repeat care proceedings.
- Increase the involvement of fathers with intervention.
- Increase the resilience of parents involved with the service to reduce future statutory intervention.

4.6 Progress to date

- Team have completed their training and are now fully operational.
- Service is integrating well alongside established Intensive Intervention Teams and wider Children's Services teams.
- Partner agency links are forming positively.
- 51 referrals May - September
- Work consists of care experienced parents, cases noted to be high risk of child protection and PLO, parents whose children have been subject to previous care proceedings, very young unsupported parents.
- Highest number of referrals relates to those involved in previous care proceedings followed by care experienced parents.

- Feedback so far from service users, case responsible social workers and other agencies is proving to be positive.
- Too early to provide any comparative data but this is anticipated to be available early 2024.
- Developing a new pathway to support care experienced parents where risk is not evident but unmet need is identified.
- Joint work with 16+ Service on Parents in Care and Leaving Care Charter
- Development of service user feedback process to inform and shape the service is almost complete. This will involve direct representation from those who have used the service in addition to the more traditional written evaluation and feedback.

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,

6 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Likewise, a Welsh Language Impact Assessment has not been carried out in relation to this specific report.

7 CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 Staff, partner agencies and parents have been involved in consultation, feedback is being used to continue to shape this Newly developing service.

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 Magu Project has been developed in line with the Welsh Government Strategy of Keeping Families Together and reducing the number of Looked After Children in Wales

- 10.2 Addressing the significant number of children removed from parents care at birth, is a clear priority in RCT. The creation of the Magu Project provides the opportunity to provide a continuum of support for pregnant women and their families from the earliest opportunity to prevent the need for statutory intervention. Investing additional resources now alongside existing efforts to ensure children and families receive the right support at the right time, will deliver cost saving longer term benefits to the Council.
- 10.3 The service delivery pathway the Magu Project offers will improve both the quality and timeliness of decisions that need to be made for those children most at risk. Tailored and intensive support throughout pregnancy and beyond offers the means to enhance parenting confidence and capability in the longer term, securing positive outcomes for children and families.
- 10.4 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
- 10.5 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.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

MAGU SERVICE

2ND OCTOBER 2023

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN DISCUSSION
WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR G CAPLE**

Officer to contact: Julie Evans, Head of Intensive Intervention

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

2ND OCTOBER 2023

INDEPENDENT REVIEWING SERVICE MONITORING REPORT TO THE GROUP DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**Authors: Emma Walters, Head of Partnerships
Ceri Mann, Reviewing Team Manager, RCT Childrens Services
Tel: 01443 490120**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide Corporate Parenting Board with information about the discharge of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) functions for children looked after (CLA) for the period **30th June 22 – 30th June 23**.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board note the information contained within this report.

3. THE REVIEWING SERVICE

The Reviewing Service currently sits within the remit of the Head of Service for Partnerships (previously referred to as Head of Safeguarding). It comprises of 11 IRO FTE posts of which 1 post is vacant but appointed too. Despite some changes, the service has continued wherever possible to maintain established trusted relationships with IRO's. There is continued assistance from Business Support staff who are responsible for taking notes in complex CLA Reviews, and a Team Manager who is line managed by the Service Manager for Safeguarding.

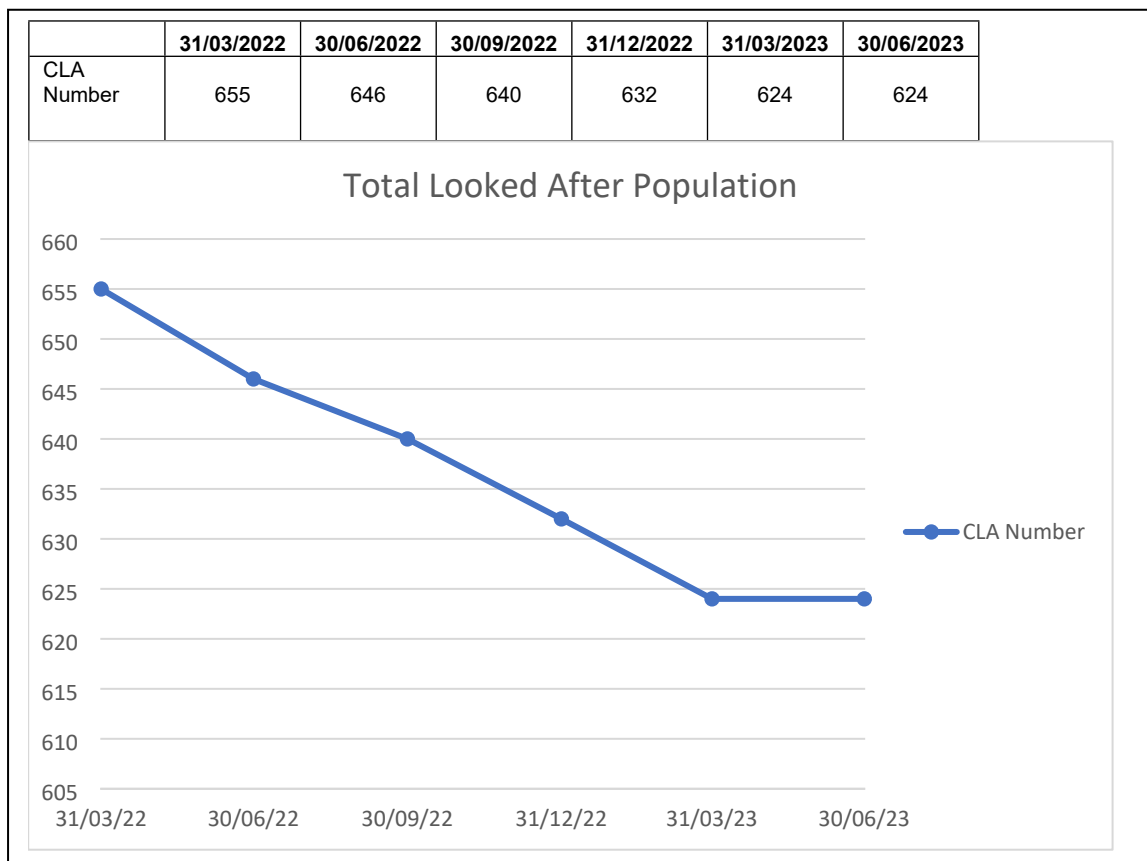
At the time of the last report, the reviewing service were operating to a remote delivery of service in line with the national guidelines as a result of the pandemic. Since moving into a pre-pandemic delivery, we are currently operating under a hybrid model of service delivery. We recognised the value and convenience of the remote technological infrastructure that we were reliant on throughout the pandemic, however as noted in previous reports, due to the nature of our service are, face to face meetings have always been our preferred option in line with best practice.

The hybrid model allows for children, young people and their families/carers and practitioners to request their chosen preference to the meeting. Any face-to-face request are being accommodated in a suitable venue. As a reviewing service, we are promoting the transition back to more 'face to face' meetings.

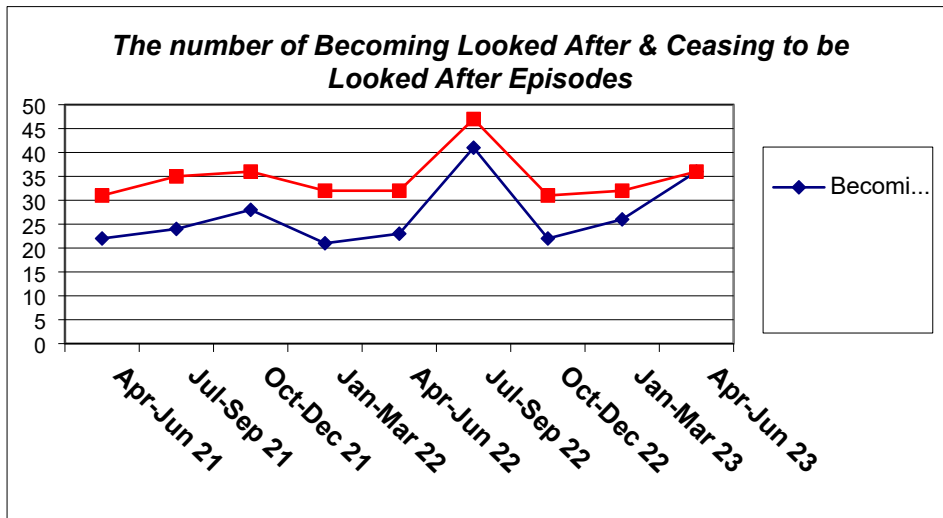
As noted above, the service has faced some significant changes in staffing, including a new head of service and more recently, service manager however, we have continued to operate to the same capacity and despite the many challenges faced since the beginning of the pandemic the commitment and professionalism of IRO's remains resolute in ensuring the best outcomes for children looked after.

4. PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Total Looked After Population

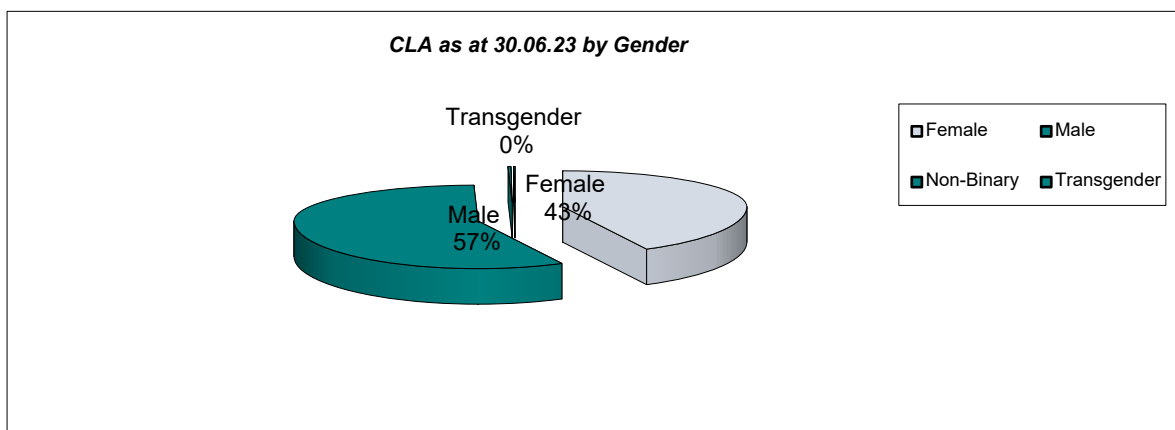


Children Becoming Looked After and Ceasing to be Looked After



	Apr-Jun 21	Jul-Sep 21	Oct-Dec 21	Jan-Mar 22	Apr-Jun 22	Jul-Sep 22	Oct-Dec 22	Jan-Mar 23	Apr-Jun 23
Becoming Looked After Episodes	22	24	28	21	23	41	22	26	36
Ceasing to be Looked After Episodes	31	35	36	32	32	47	31	32	36

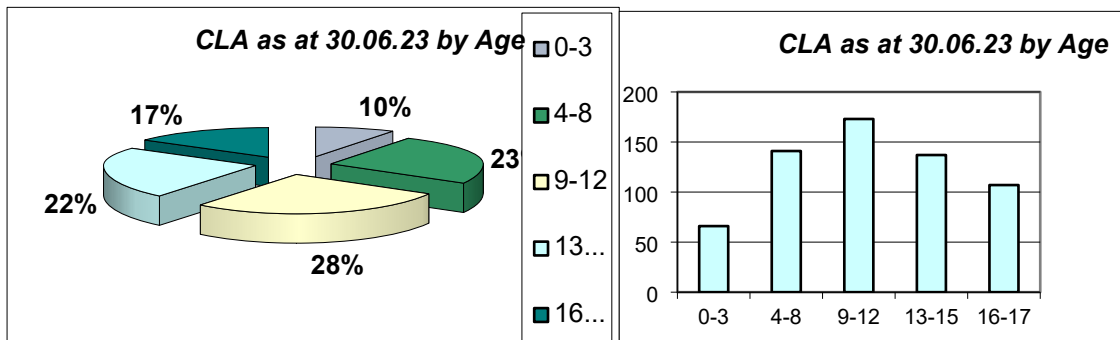
Children Looked After by Gender



CLA as at 31.03.22 by Gender	CLA as at 30.06.22 by Gender	CLA as at 30.09.22 by Gender	CLA as at 31.12.22 by Gender	CLA as at 31.03.23 by Gender	CLA as at 30.06.23 by Gender

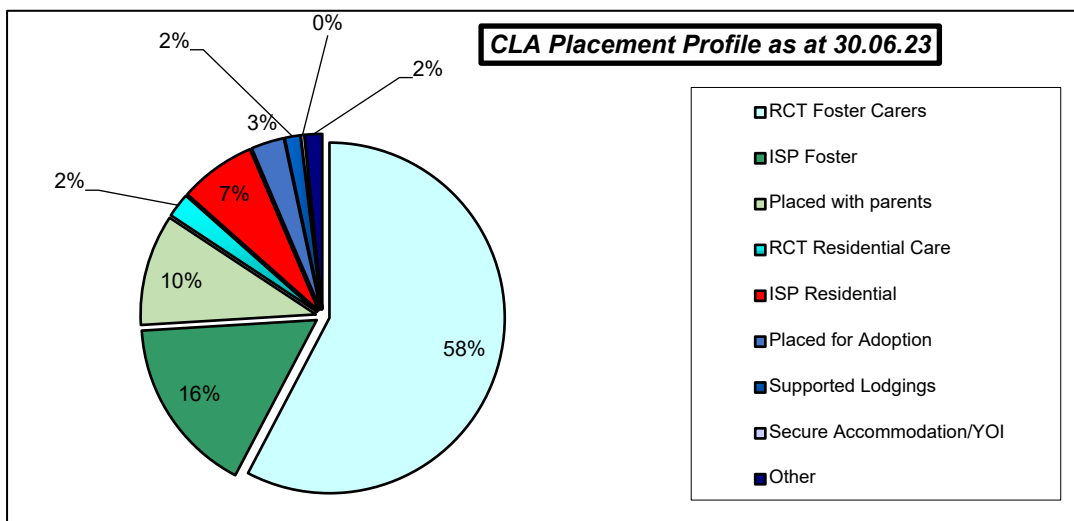
Female	284	273	267	263	264	265
Male	371	369	368	364	357	356
Non-Binary	0	2	2	2	2	2
Transgender	0	2	3	3	1	1
Total	655	646	640	632	624	624

Children Looked After by Age



	0-3	4-8	9-12	13-15	16-17	Total
CLA as at 31.03.22 by Age	96	148	164	145	102	655
CLA as at 30.06.22 by Age	92	146	167	146	95	646
CLA as at 30.09.22 by Age	76	148	173	145	98	640
CLA as at 31.12.22 by Age	67	146	170	145	104	632
CLA as at 31.03.23 by Age	69	135	170	131	119	624
CLA as at 30.06.23 by Age	66	141	173	137	107	624

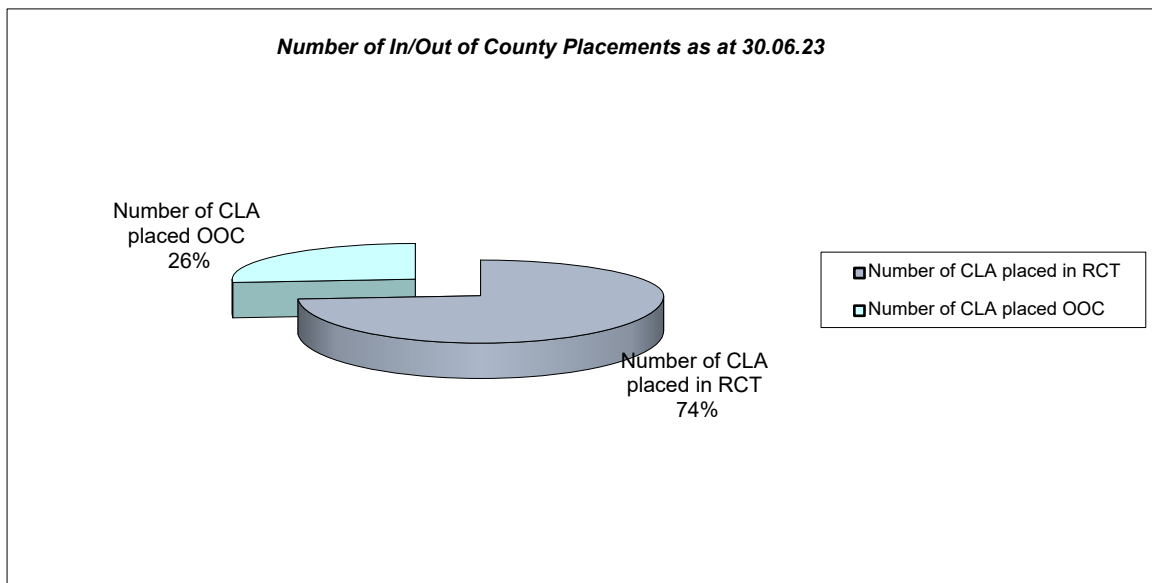
Placement Profile



	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23

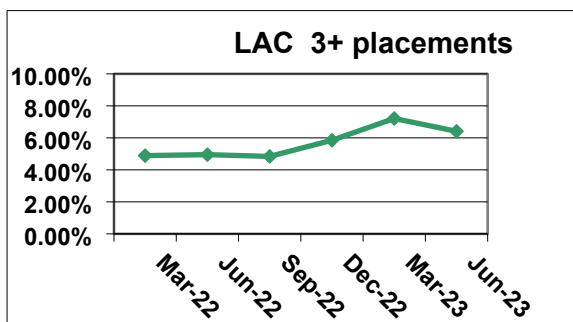
RCT Foster Carers	382	379	371	356	359	360
ISP Foster	119	113	109	108	103	102
Placed with parents	66	60	69	70	63	64
RCT Residential Care	10	12	12	11	9	14
ISP Residential	52	48	51	50	54	44
Placed for Adoption	17	22	15	20	22	19
Supported Lodgings	6	7	6	12	8	9
Secure Accommodation/YOI	0	0	1	0	1	2
Other	3	5	6	5	5	10
Total	655	646	640	632	624	624

Number of In/Out of County Placements



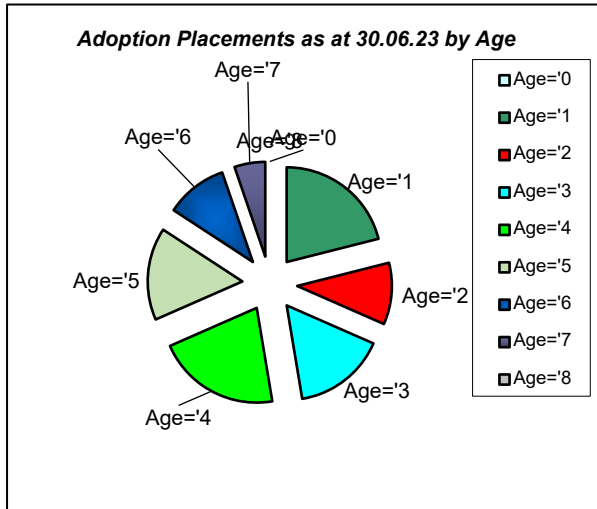
	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23
Number of CLA placed in RCT	473	465	466	455	458	461
Number of CLA placed OOC	182	181	174	177	166	163
Total CLA	655	646	640	632	624	624
% OOC	27.8%	28.0%	27.2%	28.0%	26.6%	26.1%

Children Looked After Placement Moves

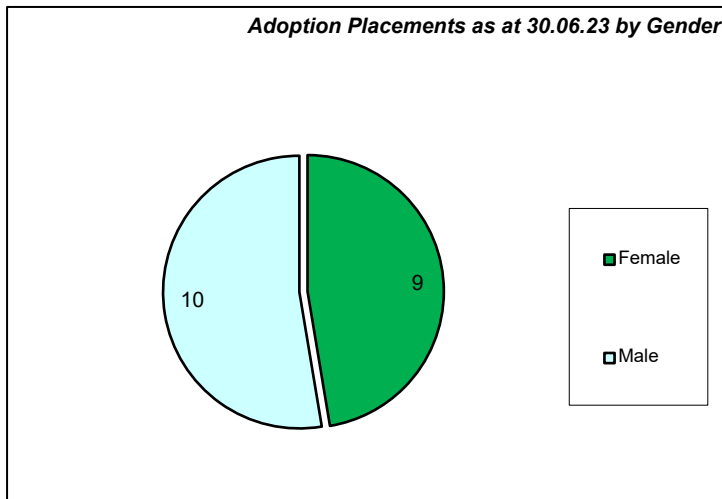


Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23
4.89%	4.95%	4.84%	5.85%	7.21%	6.41%

Adoption



Adoption Placements as at 30.06.23 by Age	Total
Age=0	0
Age=1	4
Age=2	2
Age=3	3
Age=4	4
Age=5	3
Age=6	2
Age=7	1
Age=8	0
Total	19



Adoption Placements as at 30.06.23 by Gender	Total
Female	9
Male	10
Total	19

Adoption Information	Total
Number of children placed for adoption as at 30.06.23	19
Number of children placed for adoption between 01.07.22 - 30.06.23	17
Number of Children adopted between 01.07.22 - 30.06.23	20

5. **REVIEW ACTIVITY 30th June 2022 - 30th June 2023**

CLA Number:

Overall, we are continuing to see a reduction in the number of children looked after. Comparative to end of Qtr 1 data 2022, this has reduced by 3.4 % however when compared to 30.03.20 when the number was 723 this has reduced by 13.6%. The number of children becoming looked after in 22-23 increased by 17.8% compared to the previous year (95/112).

Admissions and Discharges:

Our lowest number of monthly admissions was 4 children in December 22 and 17 children in August 22. When considering the monthly admissions there are no apparent themes that come out, however August may be considered a pressure point for some families due to the summer period.

145 children ceased being looked after between June 2022 and May 2023. This is a 3% increase in numbers compared to the same period June 21 - May 22 where 140 children ceased being looked after.

In relation to where the children reside upon leaving care, 51% of children returned home Family/Extended Family during the period which is the highest percentage. 19 children (13%) had Adoption Orders granted so now reside with their adoptive families. 32 children (22%) remained with foster carers either as a 'when I'm ready' arrangement upon turning 18 or subject to a Special Guardianship Order. Independent living accounted for 12% and these are mainly young people aged 16+.

41% of all children that ceased being looked after over the last 12 months were aged 16+. In relation to where the young people reside upon leaving care, 20 out of the 26 YP remain with their foster carers in 'When I'm Ready' arrangements and 6 children were open to DCT and have remained with their foster carers after transitioning to Adults Services. 17 YP left care and went into Independent Living placements which accounts for 29%. 15 children have returned to Family/Extended Family.

CLA by Gender:

When making a comparative to same Qtr last year Female CLA population has reduced by 2.9%. If compared to the same period in 2021 this has reduced by 9.5%.

When making a comparative to the same Qtr last year Male CLA population has reduced by 3.5%. If compared to the same period in 2021 this has reduced by 8.9%.

Males represent the highest proportion of the CLA population.

When considering gender and age group in children becoming looked after in 22-23, males represented 59.4 % of children BLA and were the only gender in the age groups, 6 (6), 11 (8), 12 (1), 16 (2), 17 (5) and females represented 39.6% of children BLA and were the only gender in the age group 8 (3).

2 children identified as non-binary and 3 as transgender.

CLA by Age:

As at the end of 30.06.23, 22% of admissions are children aged under 1 year old. The number has decreased by 4 when compared to the previous year and the trend shows that this age group continues to have the highest number of admissions.

The number of children aged 1-4 becoming looked after has increased by 3 compared to last year's figures, from 20 (21%) children in 2021-22 to 23 (20%) children in 2022-23.

The number of children being brought into care aged 16+ is 7 (6%) a decrease by 1 compared to the same period last year.

Based on current CLA numbers the highest number are in the 10-15 age group. This age group is consistently the highest percentage.

Placement Details:

Based on current CLA numbers, most children reside with Relative Carers (34%). The number has decreased by 12 when compared to the same time last year. Relative placements are the highest % among CLA aged 1-15. 69% of children aged under 1 are placed with RCT foster carers as at 15/06/23.

In House Foster Care placements continue to be higher than Independent Sector Foster Care. The number of Independent Foster Care placements has decreased by 9.7% when compared to Qtr 1 last year, from 113 to 102.

The number of children placed in external residential placements has decreased by 4 when compared to Qtr 1 last year (from 48 to 44). 67% of current external residential placements are occupied by 10-15 year olds.

YP aged 16+ have the highest % among CLA placed in Foster Care Ind. Sector.

The number of Parent & Child placements has increased by 1 when compared to the same period last year however remains the same number as in Qtr1 in 2021 (3).

The number of children placed with parents increased by 4 when compared to the same period last year.

74% of children looked after are residing within RCT. The number of children residing out of county has reduced by 2% when comparative with same Qtr last year. For many children and young people who reside out of county this may be with family members or in secure long-term placements where they are settled and/or a provision of specialist placement provision.

Placement Stability:

Children move placement for a variety of different reasons & some of the 3rd placements will relate to children's moves to a permanent long-term placement.

Performance had dropped from 5.9% at the end of December 2022 to 7.2% at the end of March 2023 although you will see an increase at end of Qtr 1 to 6.4%

Performance can also be affected by the continued high number of children looked after which can put pressure on placement availability.

Adoption:

13 children have had a Placement Order granted between June 22 and May 23. 6 children are currently residing in foster care placements and 7 children are placed with potential adopters.

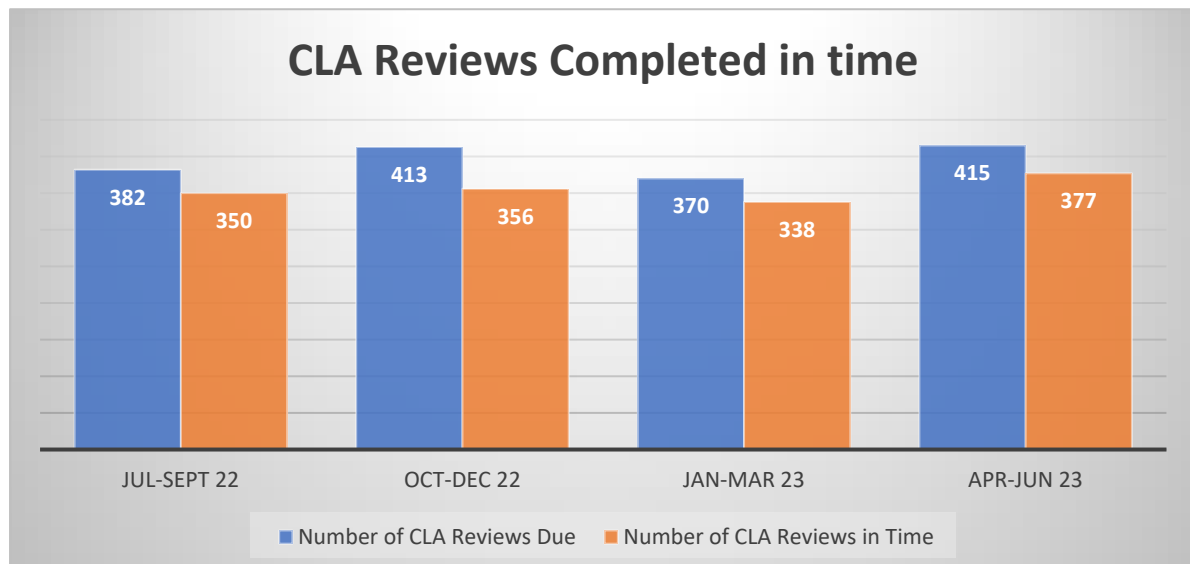
In comparison to the previous year there has been a 57% decrease of Placement Orders granted during 2021-22.

A total of 20 adoption placements were started between June 22 - May 23 which a decrease of 4 compared to the previous year.

19 Adoption Orders have been granted over the last 12 months which is a 21% decrease compared to the same period in 2021-22.

CLA REVIEWS

CLA Reviews in Time 30th June 2022 – 30th June 2023



	Jul-Sep 22	Oct-Dec 22	Jan-Mar 23	Apr-Jun 23
Number of CLA Review's Due	382	413	370	415
Number of CLA Review's In Time	350	356	338	377
% In Time	92%	86%	91%	91%

Quarter Comparators 2021 (over this reporting period)

	Jul-Sep 21	Oct-Dec 21	Jan-Mar 22	Apr-Jun 22
Number of CLA Review's Due	412	411	396	441
Number of CLA Review's In Time	386	376	363	408
% In Time	94%	92%	92%	93%

In addition, IROs chaired 16 combined CLA Reviews and Review Conferences to remove the names of children looked after under Care Orders from the Child Protection Register.

6. REASONS FOR CANCELLATION

156 CLA Reviews were not held in time between July 22 - June 23. The reporting period 4 (Jan-Mar) 2022 was our best quarter with only 28 reviews out of time. Reporting period 3 (Oct-Dec) 2022 seen the most reviews go out of time at 57. Every effort is made to ensure that cancelled reviews are reconvened within time, and where this isn't possible permission to go out of time is sought from a Service Manager or Head of Service. This is reflected in the significantly lower number of reviews that have gone out of time to those

that have been rearranged within time. For example, in reporting period 3, only 20% of cancellations went out of time (28/143) 115 meetings were rearranged in time. In reporting period 4, 31% of cancellations went out of time (57/181) 124 meetings were rearranged in time.

The reasons for cancellations and postponements vary although this year we has seen staffing resources have an impact on those meetings that are held out of time with 27.5% (43/156) rearranged due to no chairperson being available. 14.1% (22/156) due to the key worker not being available and 11.5% (18/156) due to other professionals not being available. The availability of professional's overall accounts for 53% of reviews being held out of time. Other change of circumstances account for 21.1% (33/156) and families and/or child's availability accounted for 10.2% (16/156).

7. **CURRENT ISSUES FOR THE REVIEWING SERVICE**

Whilst a considerable amount of work has been undertaken on optimum IRO caseloads in line with research and evidence of best practice, where necessary we are continuing to go above these to ensure our statutory duties continue to be met particularly when the availability of external chairs has become more difficult to source. We are continuing to undertake a monthly case load analysis and are utilising supervisions to monitor individual performance in respect of completion of paperwork. It is hoped that the new IRO appointment due to commence in October will provide further resilience and stability within the team.

Despite the staffing issues and demand, it is important to share with Corporate Parenting Board the extensive work that has been undertaken within the service including the successful introduction of mid-point reviews in line with AFKA Cymru Best Practice Guidelines – Reviewing and monitoring of a child or young person's Part 6 Care and Support Plan. This allows for more robust monitoring by the IRO and where appropriate timely resolution to issues that require formal escalation. Other key development work can be found below.

8. **RESOLUTIONS RAISED BY IROS**

In all the reviewing team have raised 16 resolutions over 2022 – 2023 with 7 of these being raised in reporting period 4. Of the 16 resolutions raised 8 were responded to within timescales. Where a response hasn't been received the Reviewing Team Manager has contacted the relevant team manager to request a response and on 4 occasion the Service Manager / Head of Service has taken discussions forward. 4 resolutions have been raised in Qtr 1 of 23-24 and one Stage 2 resolution meeting was held.

Some themes included:

Delay in Life Journey Work – IRO identified in midpoint review that work had not started the work that was required before child made transitional move to

secondary school. Outcome: Manager to address with work and case transferred to another team to commence work to avoid further drift and delay.

Delay in agreement for PWP – IRO concerned about drift as agreed actions in respect of overnight visits had not commenced. Outcome: HOS liaised and it was noted that additional information had been sought by II HOS and this had been resolved and the matter was moving forward.

Statutory Visit and Planning – Visits to the child had not taken place in line with statutory requirements and kinship carers reported they felt unsupported. Mother to child had not received parenting assessment to make representations on negative outcome despite SGO for grandmother nearing completion. Outcome: Team Manager acknowledged concerns and gave reassurance that visits were now taking place alongside multi agency meetings and a package of support and confirmed mother had received a copy of the relevant assessment.

Child not in Education – Child not in school due to cross boundary issues. Some home tutoring had began. Child has ALN but did not have an Individual Development Plan. Outcome: IRO escalated and RCT Virtual School arranged to liaise with all professionals and facilitate a PCP meeting in order to draft IDP.

9. **DEVELOPMENT WORK**

The Reviewing Service has continued to work on service developments throughout the year despite facing a number of challenges linked to staffing as a number of experienced IRO leaving the service area too pursue career development in other fields.

Some of the key areas of development nearing completion that will ensure the voice of the child is encapsulated throughout our practice include:

10. **IRO Roles and Responsibilities Practice Protocol**

This protocol seeks to improve outcomes for children looked after by providing guidance to independent reviewing officers (IROs) about how they should discharge their distinct responsibilities to children looked after by Rhondda Cynon Taff. We have aimed to keep the voices of children and young people and their rights consistently in mind as we have drawn up this protocol. Once this has been signed off at CSMT, IRO's will create a short training presentation that can be delivered across the teams and the wider multi agency network.

IRO Resolution Protocol

This in final draft and will be sent for sign off at CSMT imminently.

Becoming Looked After and IRO One Page Profile

First draft of the IRO BLA letter for young children and older children, young people has been completed and additional drafts are in progress to ensure it is accessible and informative using child friendly language for children with additional needs or disability. Most one-page profiles are completed, and it is anticipated that these will be enclosed in the BLA letter. Before final version is agreed we will consult with children and young people to gain their views in respect of the proposed drafts and consider any proposed amendments and ensure they are involved in co-producing these moving forward.

Equality: Public facing documentation will be available in English and Welsh and will note that they can be made available in different languages and formats on request.

Parent and Child Feedback Form

We have created a short feedback form that will be sent to parents/carers and children who attend their reviews. The purpose of this is to gain the lived experience of those accessing our service in order to continuously reflect, develop and improve our service.

CLA Review of Arrangements

This is in final draft version and is ready to be sent to Information Management to set up a tester form on Beta (WCCIS) for us to pilot. A complimenting child friendly agenda for CLA reviews is also nearing completion and child friendly version of this will be finalised and shared with children and young people.

The adoption review documents currently in use are those that were piloted in 2019 however these were never formally reviewed and finalised because of the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic. A regional face to face meeting was arranged in June 2023 and work is now progressing on the new template.

YEPS & 2 Sides

The information has now been uploaded to the 2Sides pages on the YEPS website and includes links to both the My Voice My Review consultation document and the "Is Anyone Listening" advocacy animation. We have recently shared the link with the childcare teams and invited them to provide feedback.

Updating the bespoke 2 Sides Website is on hold until discussions within the Participation Strategy, task and finish group have considered how the Local Authority will host its public facing information moving forward and whether 2 Sides should remain as a standalone site or whether the information would be better presented alongside other public facing pages.

My Voice My Review.

We have continued to experience challenges with the online platform that facilitates the My Voice -My Review consultation as there were technical errors with the link and the reporting mechanism. Continued consultation with the relevant department has taken place and on the recommendation of the Customer Improvement and Development Manager a request was made to consider whether a new digital process could be developed to meet our service needs. In recent months we have met regularly in order to progress this, (. In-house developers are confident that they can design a bespoke questionnaire that will meet our needs. This is under construction, and we will consult further with children and young people as soon as it is constructed. We are continuing to work closely with colleagues in DCT to create a version that will meet the needs of children with disabilities and/or additional needs.

Children's Rights

We have recently started to develop child friendly information sheets using the 7-minute briefing format. We have completed a Guide to Children's Rights and Making a Complaint-A Child Friendly Guide. We will consult and share these with children and young people and if they find them useful, we will ask them what other topics they would like to see and ensure they are involved in co-producing these moving forward.

11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

This is an information report therefore no Equality and Diversity Assessment is required.

12. CONSULTATION

This is an information report therefore no consultation required.

13. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

None

14. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

This is covered in the Appendix Document

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

The statutory responsibilities and good practice standards of the Reviewing Service compliment the Council's Corporate Priorities to promote independence and positive lives for everyone by ensuring:

- Rhondda Cynon Taf children and young people will receive a great start in life.
- Where children and young people are unable to live to live with their own parents, we put in place the care arrangements, including specialist accommodation, which will keep them safe and well. We will ensure that we listen to the voices of these children and young people by involving them in monitoring the action plan to address a child's journey through care from admission to exit.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

2nd OCTOBER 2023

TROS GYNNAL PLANT (TGP) CYMRU UPDATE

1. **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Board with an update of progress made by Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) Cymru.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the work undertaken by TGP Cymru, the content of which is attached at Appendix 1.

3. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is important for Members to note the progress, themes and issues highlighted by the TGP Cymru, in order to work in partnership to ensure the best possible outcomes are reached for those in our care system.

4. **BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 As part of the Board's Terms of reference, TGP Cymru are invited to attend meetings to enable both the TGP Cymru and Children Services to discuss issues that affect service delivery in the community on a strategic level and to work in partnership to provide improved and better outcomes.

5. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 There is no consultation required for this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

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

9.1 The work of the Corporate Parenting Board links directly to the Council's Corporate Plan priority – 'Rhondda Cynon Taf's Children will receive a great start in life...'

9.2 The work of TGP Cymru links to the Future Generations Well-Being Goal of a more equal Wales, by ensuring that children and young people are supported when decisions are being made about them. This ensures that young people have access to a range of information in order to fulfil their potential.

9.3 In addition to the duty to listen to young people and involve them in decisions, the Part 10 Code of Practice (Advocacy) of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 sets out the duties to consider the provision of independent professional advocacy in certain circumstances for:

- Children who are looked after (who should benefit from an active offer of professional independent advocacy) or have previously been looked after
- Children who are subject to an assessment of need or a care and support plan or child protection enquiries

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 TGP Cymru are invited to attend meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board, to provide a broader understanding and contribution into the services available to young people and vulnerable adults.

**Cwm Taf Morgannwg Independent Advocacy Service
RCT Care Experienced Young People and Care Leavers
Report**

Quarter One April 2023 – June 2023

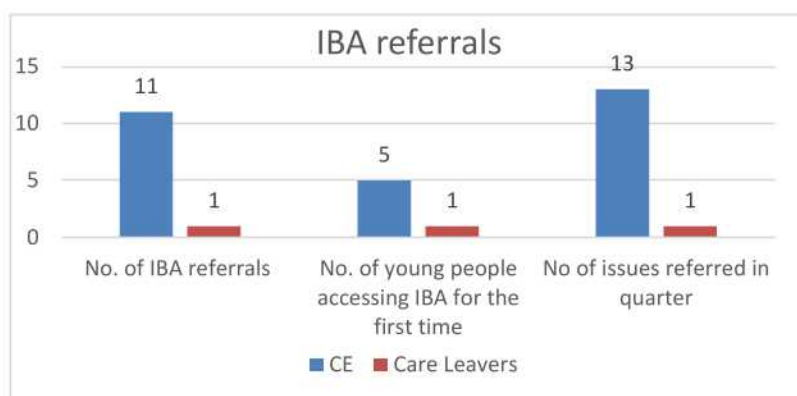


Activity Overview

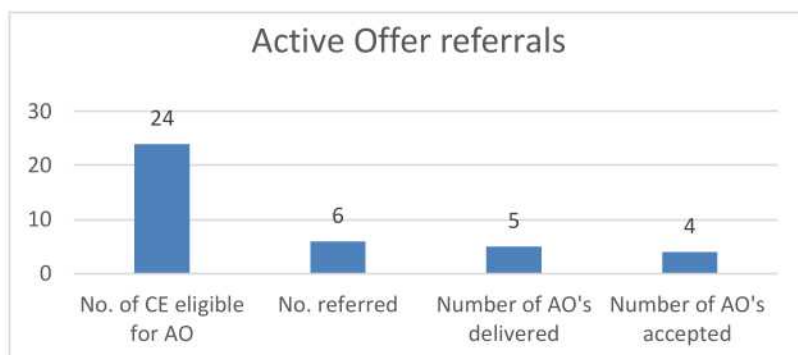
In quarter one, 49 young people accessed Issue Based Advocacy (IBA) and 29 young people were referred for the Active Offer (AO) across RCT. The majority of young people referred for advocacy services in quarter one were in the child protection arena rather than care experienced.

This report provides information on the service delivered to care experienced (CE) young people and care leavers only.

In quarter one, 11 CE young people accessed IBA, five less than in the previous quarter. Those 11 young people presented with 13 issues. Six care experienced young people were referred for the AO, the same number as in quarter four, and one care leaver was referred for IBA.



In quarter one, five of the 11 CE young people accessing IBA were doing so for the first time, two more than in the previous quarter.



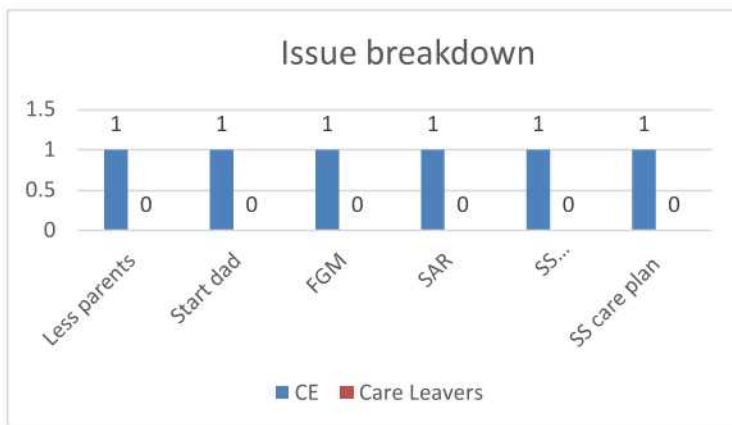
Four of the six young people referred for AO in quarter one became eligible for AO in the same period. The remaining two young people became eligible in the previous quarter.

Seven of the 24 young people who became eligible for AO via the CLA pathway were recorded as rejecting the opportunity to receive the AO in quarter one. They either did not want to meet with any professional or felt well enough supported by their social worker.

Six young people are recorded as accepting the opportunity to meet with an advocate and four were referred for AO. Two young people who are recorded as accepting have not been referred, although one of those two young people did receive advocacy services several years ago. Their names will be sent to RCT for investigation. We do not know if the seven remaining eligible CE young people have been offered the opportunity to receive the AO by their social worker as this is not recorded on the spreadsheet provided by RCT. This means 25% of those eligible in quarter one were referred for AO, compared to 18% in the previous quarter.



The most popular issues in need of advocacy support in quarter one, were placement followed by school issues. Placement was also one of the most popular issues in the previous quarter.

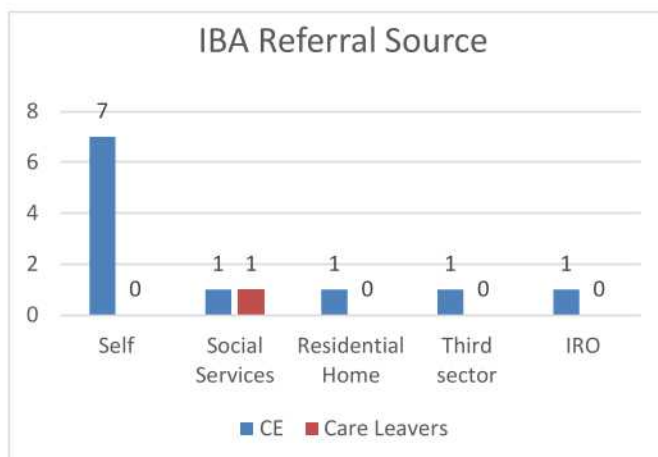


Two CE young people accessed IBA for support with two contact issues in quarter one. One relating to wanting to start seeing their dad, and the other wanted to reduce the time they spent with their parents.

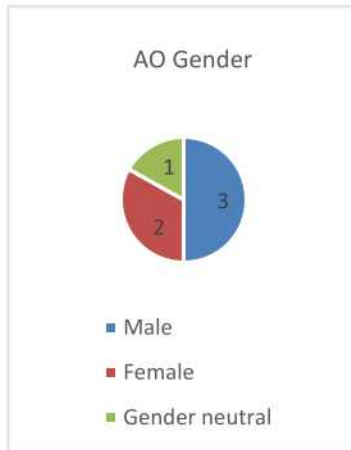
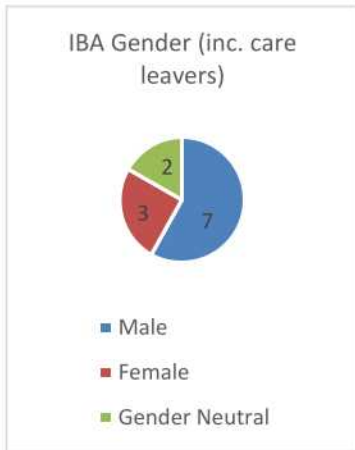
One young person asked for support at a family group meeting (FGM) and another asked for

support at a secure accommodation review (SAR).

Social services issues consisted of one young person wanting support around their relationship with their social worker and the other wanted to challenge some aspects of their care plan.

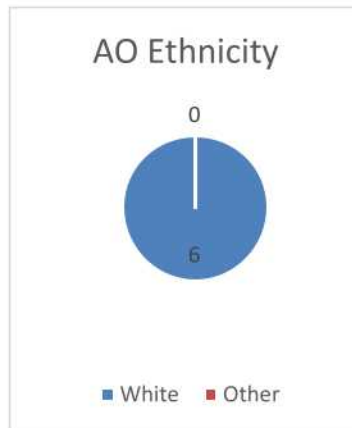
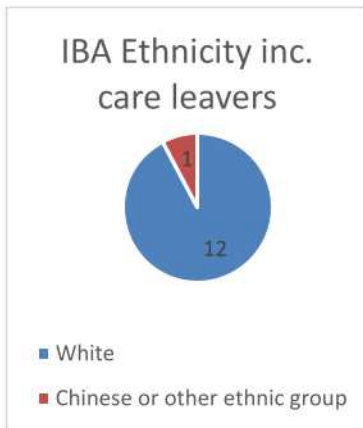


‘Self-referral’ and social services referrals continue to be the most popular route into the IBA service for care experienced young people. Self-referral is usually either the result of the young person accepting the AO and going on to received IBA, or the young person contacting their advocate directly with a new issue. One referral was made by a TGP Cymru FGM Coordinator.



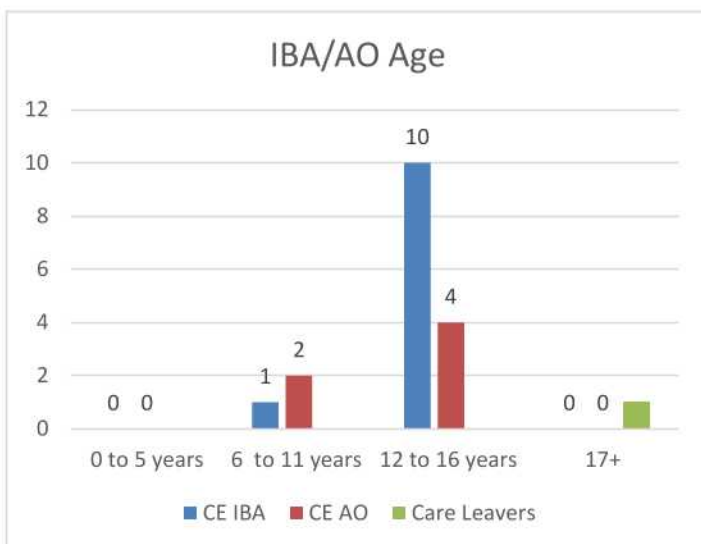
The majority of CE IBA referrals were for males for the second consecutive quarter. Two gender neutral young people were referred for IBA and one gender neutral young person was referred for AO.

Males also made up the majority of AO referrals, while more females were referred for AO in the previous quarter.



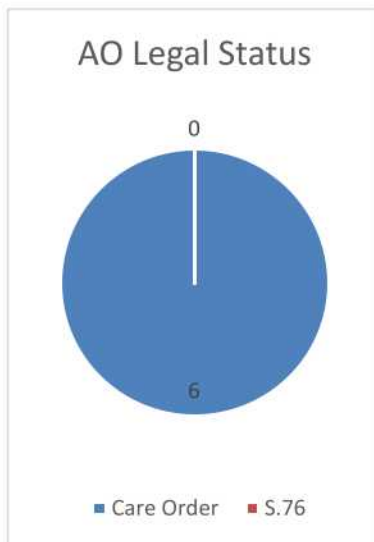
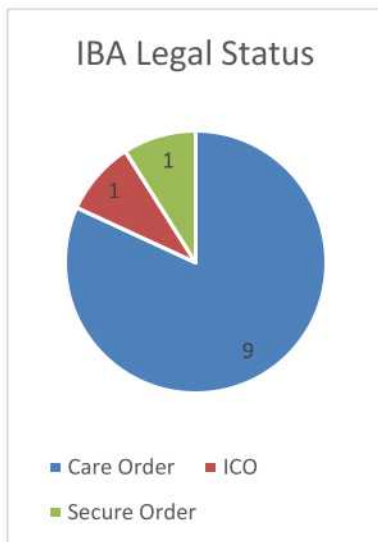
All but one of the 13 CE young people and Care Leavers receiving IBA in quarter one described themselves as white.

All six of the CE young people referred for AO in Q1 described themselves as white.



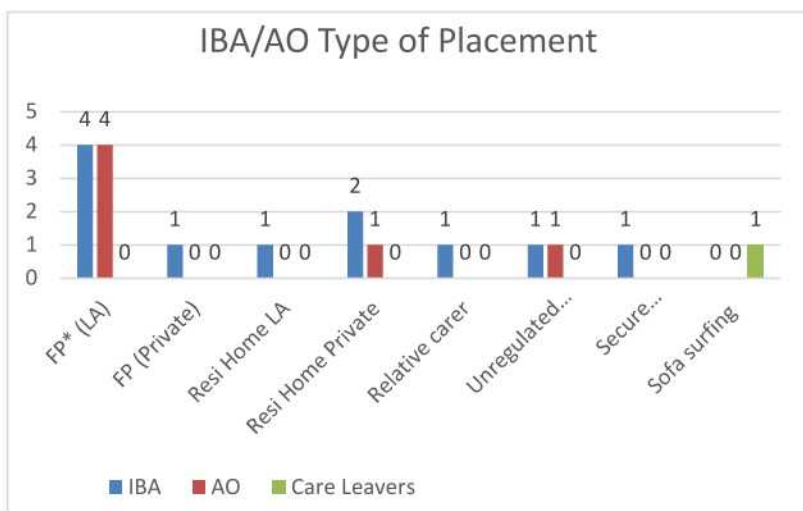
Most CE young people accessing the IBA service in quarter one were again aged between 12 and 16 years, followed by those aged between six and 11.

The majority of CE young people referred for AO were also aged between 12 and 16 years, a change from the previous quarter when most young people were aged under 12 years.

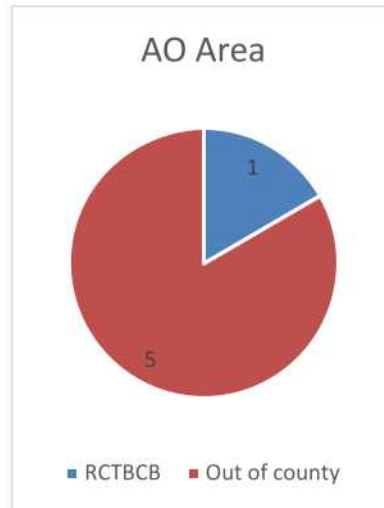
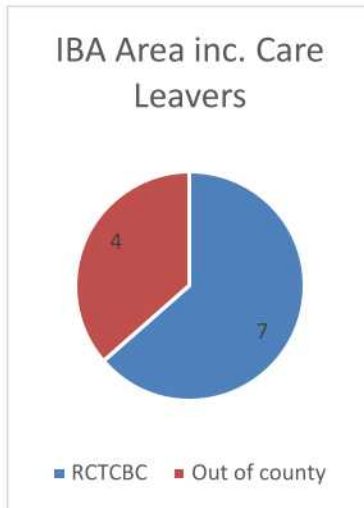


Most CE young people accessing IBA and AO in quarter one were again subject to full care orders.

One young person was subject to an interim care order and another subject to a secure order.



Most CE young people accessing advocacy services in quarter one were living in LA foster placements and community residential homes.



Advocates supported four CE young people living outside of RCT in quarter one. Other areas included Swansea, Neath, Cardiff and Torfaen.

Only one CE young person referred for AO lived outside of RCT, in Cardiff.

Other information

Three CE young people with additional needs were referred for IBA in quarter one. One has a diagnosis of ASD and ADHD along with physical disability, while another has additional learning needs.

One young person, whose needs mean they are unable to access the mainstream IBA service has accessed the Non-Instructional Advocacy (NIA) service instead. Several visits have been completed and an NIA report has been sent to the young person's IRO in relation to a school issue.

Visiting Advocacy

Residential Visiting Advocacy (RVA) continues in five Local Authority community homes across RCT. Face-to-face visits have continued monthly in Bryndar and Beddau. The remaining three homes, Carn Ingli, Nantygwyn and Ty Brynna have advised monthly visits are not appropriate and have requested the advocate visits every two months and stays connected via telephone contact instead. The RVA advocate is currently providing IBA to three young people living in RCT community homes.

The review of our RVA services is ongoing, although we made the decision to pause this piece of work to concentrate on recruitment and advocacy capacity during quarter one. The newly recruited senior advocate will lead on this piece of work following his induction period. This will include further consultation with staff and young people who live in community homes in RCT and Bridgend. The outcome of the review will allow us to make informed changes to ensure the RVA service is working as effectively as possible for young people living in community homes across Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

Service Information

The (C.E.) young people and Care Leavers advocacy quarterly progress report was shared at RCT Corporate Parenting Panel at the end of June.

The sudden resignation of a full-time team member due to illness in the previous quarter, and a change in circumstances for a casual advocate, has led to a decline in the number of young people who have had contact with their advocate within five working days of referral. Following recruitment in quarter one, we are pleased to report that three new team members will be joining the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Advocacy Service in the next quarter. These are, one full-time advocate, one senior advocate who will work 30 hours per week along with a new casual advocate. We are confident this will address recent capacity issues and allow us to respond effectively to the recent increase in advocacy referrals.

Following the retirement of Jackie Murphy, Rhiannon Beaumont-Walker has taken up the role of Chief Executive Officer of TGP Cymru as of the 1st of June. Rhiannon has been with TGP Cymru since 2006, when she joined the organisation as Team Leader to develop the Be Heard Advocacy Service in Newport.

In recent months, advocates have continued to report difficulty in obtaining feedback for young people when they have sent wishes and feelings reports to some social workers. On receipt of referral, social workers are made aware that the expectation is that the recipient of any wishes and feelings report will respond to the young person's wishes and feelings and the advocate will then visit the young person again to discuss the response. The lack of response, as well as being frustrating for the young person, also adversely affects the capacity of the advocate as it can mean some young people's cases are open longer than they need to be.

Conclusion and looking forward.

Referrals for CE young people and care leavers have remained fairly consistent when compared to the previous quarter. While we did observe a decline in those accessing IBA in quarter one, more CE young people accessed the service for the first time than in quarter four. We were also pleased to observe an increase in the percentage of eligible CE young people being referred for AO. We will continue to keep in contact with RCT and share information with a view to understanding the take up of advocacy services in the area.

Case Example

Please find below an example of advocacy work undertaken during the quarter from within RCT. The names have been changed to protect the young person's identity.

Situation: Mase is 15 years old and currently living in foster care. Mase was originally referred in 2021 after becoming looked after, and has accessed the service three times since, with three separate issues. Each time Mase has accessed the advocacy service, he has worked with the same advocate. In quarter one, Mase asked to speak to his advocate as he felt he wasn't being listened to by his social worker.

Action: The advocate asked Mase if he would prefer a phone call or a face-to-face visit as he had previously preferred to engage over the phone. Mase explained as he felt his issue was

urgent, he would prefer to speak on the phone, therefore the advocate arranged to call Mase at a time convenient to him. Mase explained last year, he travelled to see a family member for an event, and he was hoping to do the same this year but stay overnight rather than travel there and back in the same day. Mase was frustrated and anxious as the date was drawing nearer but despite calling and emailing his social worker for several weeks, he hadn't received a response. The advocate agreed to contact the social worker on Mase's behalf, and after several phone calls and emails managed to contact the social worker via the children's services admin team. The social worker explained he hadn't been in work due to illness, and apologised this hadn't been communicated to Mase. The advocate explained the urgency of the situation and the social worker agreed to undertake the necessary checks straight away.

Outcome: Unfortunately, despite the social worker completing the necessary checks, and initially indicating a positive outcome, a serious safeguarding concern meant Mase was unable to stay with his family member. Despite the outcome, Mase was happy with the advocacy support he received. We are pleased Mase has accessed his advocate for the third time and are confident he will continue to do so if further issues arise.

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