



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

**24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020**

### **CWM TAF REGIONAL STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES**

#### **REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, CLLR. LEYSHON**

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#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to update Members on the progress made since the development of the Cwm Taf Statement of Intent for Children and Young People: 'A Shared Regional Strategy for Supporting Children, Young People and Families.'

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the content of this report.

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To ensure that Cabinet are aware of the advancements made since the approval of the Cwm Taf Statement of Intent for Children and Young People: 'A Shared Regional Strategy for Supporting Children, Young People and Families'

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The establishment of the Regional Partnership Board and completion of the Population Needs Assessment led to the development of a Regional Partnership Statement of Intent for children, young people and their families.
- 4.2 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Cwm Taf University Health Board, together with a range of stakeholders, worked together to produce the shared regional statement of intent. The initial document was presented to Cabinet in November 2017. It set out a shared commitment to deliver services jointly, under the Social Services and Well Being Act (Wales) 2014.
- 4.3 From the 1st of April 2019, the Regional Partnership Board changed to include the redefined Health Board boundary with the inclusion of Bridgend. This provided an opportunity to review the governance arrangements and priorities for the region.

## **5. PRESENT POSITION**

5.1 Since the Statement of Intent was approved the Children and Young Person's Strategic Group (including members from Bridgend) has become well established. The Group meets regularly and has acknowledged the need to work more effectively together, to commission and deliver services and to ensure that the voices of children and their families are embedded within any processes or systems developed. Chaired by the Director of Children's Service for Rhondda Cynon Taf, the group is multi-disciplined with representation from across the region including education, the voluntary sector and newly appointed service user/carer representatives.

5.2 The Regional Priorities are as follows:

### **5.2.1 Emotional Wellbeing**

To ensure an effective and robust pathway is in place to improve the mental health and Emotional wellbeing of children and young people from universal to specialist Services.

To inform this work the following actions are underway:

- Scope the evidence base regarding emotional Wellbeing services for children and young people from universal to specialist services. (This is to include Community resources to support resilience).
- Develop a robust mapping of current services against the model identifying any duplication, variation or gaps in provision.
- Make recommendations to address findings, including identifying where existing resources could be utilised more effectively.

In addition to the mapping, ICF revenue funding has been identified for 2019/20 and 2020/21 to support the development of third sector and community support for children and young people. With a focus on collaboration and co-production, these new projects will form part of the enhanced model of service delivery and also form part of a wider strategy locally to improve referral pathways, access and integration and build community resilience.

The Public Services Board has also identified emotional wellbeing as being a priority. This has allowed for cross partnership collaboration in relation to developing and endorsing the Prevention & Early Years Grant and the Early Years Pathfinder Grant Scheme. Through clarity of local outcomes, the Region was able to develop proposals across the two schemes, thus maximising resources and avoiding duplication.

### **5.2.2 Regional Children and Young People with Complex Needs Multi-Agency Framework**

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg shared regional strategy for supporting children, young people and families includes the regional ambition to have a full range of integrated services for children, young people and families with complex needs to provide care and support at the right time and place.

In order to achieve this and following on from the publication of the 'Good Practice Guidance and Toolkit for Integrated Commissioning for Children with Complex Needs' by the National Commissioning Board for Wales (NCB), in Autumn 2018 a Regional Workshop was arranged. Facilitated by IPC in September 2019, the workshop has helped to support the Region in furthering the discussion and planning with regards to better meeting the needs of children and young people with complex needs. The session enabled there to be exploration on how to address some of the barriers and challenges to further joint working and consider how current commissioning arrangements measure up to the guidance and how they can be further developed.

To build on the recommendations identified in the workshop, IPC will undertake further work with the group to develop a regionally agreed definition of complex needs and a Children and Young People's with Complex Needs Multi-Agency Framework.

### **5.2.3 Regional Commissioning Opportunities**

An example of a Regional development is the Multi-Agency Permanence Support Service (MAPSS) that will be up for tender shortly. The multi-disciplinary service will seek to improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children looked after (CLA), and those with a plan for adoption through helping children with, or at risk of mental illness and emotional and behavioral difficulties. The service will also support professionals, carers and adopters in meeting needs and improving relationships and placement stability. The Service will support children to ensure multi-agency practice with looked after children across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region is preventative, pro-active, planned and promotes permanence.

### **5.2.4 Learning Disabilities**

In relation to learning disability, an 'all age' joint statement of intent has been developed in the former Cwm Taf area. This reflects the principles and vision of the Children's Statement of Intent, which the Children and Young People's Group were very involved in developing. The Learning Disability Statement of Intent describes a shared commitment to deliver a new model for health and social services, focused on the following key messages:

- Maximise the use of universal services
- Increase early intervention, prevention, information, advice and assistance
- Build community support and develop people's independence
- Sustain people in their own homes
- Enable people to live full lives and achieve their potential
- Keep people safe
- Make the best use of our resources

A joint Steering Group was established to drive forward the vision and specific working groups to address the initial themes of: Preventing loneliness and isolation by increasing community inclusion, reducing stigma, housing, further education, employment, training and lifelong learning and communications.

In 2019/20 the themes were refined and membership extended to include Bridgend. The three priority areas for development in 2019/20 are health, home and employment.

### 5.2.5 Transition

Transition was also an area of priority. For Cwm Taf the developments were taken forward through the Safeguarding Board which reported back through the Regional Group. The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board has developed 'Principles & Approach to Transition: Preparing young people to succeed in adulthood'. The following principles have been adopted by Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil;

1. Planning and decision making should be carried out in a person-centred way
2. Support should be co-ordinated across all services
3. Planning should start early and continue up to age 25
4. All young people should get the support they need
5. Young people, parents and carers must have access to the information they need
6. Families and carers need support
7. A continued focus on transitions

Transition in Bridgend had progressed differently prior to Bridgend becoming part of the Region. Bridgend's Transition service had been in place since 2017, it was initially a pilot but following a review in May 2019 it was agreed that the transition service would be renamed the Children's Disability and Transition Team (CDT) and it became part of Bridgend CBC's core business. This integrated team of staff from across Children and Adults Services work together to assess, plan and review the care plan for all eligible Children and Young People to ensure that they receive the appropriate package of care and support during their transition into adulthood. It is based on the same principles as the Cwm Taf model.

This priority, although not yet progressing at the same pace in each area, is an example of acknowledging the different approaches within individual areas but still working towards a regional approach. Through the partnership structures within the region there is an opportunity for organisations and localities to learn from one another.

## 6. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

## 7. **CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 This is an information report, therefore, no consultation is required.

## 8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 8.1 There are no financial implications attached to this report.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

9.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 is the significant influence for this report. The fundamental principles of the Act, of note, are:

- People - Putting an individual and their needs at the centre of their care and giving them 'voice in' and 'control over' reaching the outcomes that help them achieve well-being.
- Wellbeing - Supporting people to achieve their own well-being and measuring the success of care and support.
- Earlier intervention - Increasing preventative services within the community to minimise the escalation of critical need.
- Collaboration - Strong partnership working between all agencies and organisations.

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

10.1 The Statement of Intent will complement the Council's corporate priorities to promote independence and positive lives for everyone by ensuring:

- Health and social care services will be personalised and integrated with more people supported to live longer in their own homes.
- Rhondda Cynon Taf's children and young people will receive a great start in life.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

11.1 The Cwm Taf Regional Statement of Intent for Supporting Children and Young People and Families provides a basis for robust governance arrangements that feed directly into the Regional Partnership Board. It allows for opportunities for greater collaboration and understanding of partners' roles and responsibilities to ensure children and young people receive the support they require. The planning groups and structures include parent and carer representatives and a wider range of agencies, from statutory to universal and third sector.

11.2 Through the Regional structures, there have been opportunities to develop services and to better understand the gaps and challenges.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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**Background Papers**

Cabinet – 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 - Social Services and Wellbeing Act: Implementation Programme Regional Social Services and Wellbeing Programme

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