



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

18TH OCTOBER 2022

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Board with the Draft Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board:

- 2.1 Provide comment as appropriate on the draft Annual Report (which is attached as Appendix 1 to the report) before its presentation to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee, and finally to Cabinet.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Under the Leader's Scheme of Delegation (the 3A) the Corporate Parenting Board, comprising of a cross party membership was formed to take the lead in ensuring that the Council fulfils its responsibilities as corporate parent's to children who are looked after and formulate Council policy in respect of children who are looked after and children in need.
- 3.2 As part of the Board's Terms of reference, the Board must report its work to the Cabinet and it has been agreed that this will take the form of an Annual Report.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The first Annual Report for the Corporate Parenting Board was produced for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.
- 4.2 The contents of the report acted as a useful basis for a number of upcoming topics which the Members felt needed particular attention in the 2016/17 Municipal Year.
- 4.3 This is the seventh Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board, which seeks to provide a summary of the role and work of the Board undertaken during the 2021/22 Municipal Year and its ambitions going forward. The report is attached as Appendix 1.

5. THE WORK OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD 2021-22

- 5.1 During the 2021-22 Municipal Year, the Corporate Parenting Board considered the following range of reports, which led to challenging discussions:

- Regulation 73 Reports
- Complaints & Compliments
- Advocacy
- Employment, Education and Training Programmes for CLA
- Independent Reviewing Officer Report
- RCT Forum
- Overview of the Community Wellbeing and Resilience Service
- CLA Educational Outcomes Improvement Strategy
- Cwm Taf Regional Fostering Front Door Update
- Miskin Annual Report
- Therapeutic Families Team Annual Report
- Vale, Valleys & Cardiff Regional Adoption Annual Report
- Fostering Service Quality of Care Report
- Housing Offer for Care Leavers
- One Child Practice Review

- 5.3 The Corporate Parenting Board has developed a robust and varied Work Programme for the 2022-23 Municipal Year, to continue good practice and to enhance transparency. Members can also raise any matters that they would like to add to the programme during the year.

- 5.4 In addition to its standard items, the following key elements of focus have been identified by the Corporate Parenting Board for the 2022-23 Municipal Year:

- The review of performance data
- Elected Member Training opportunities
- Education, Employment and Training Opportunities for CLA

- The Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People who are Looked After and Care Leavers
- Strengthening the link with young people – invitations to meetings to be sent when appropriate
- Children Looked After Prevention Strategy
- Monitoring of Independent Sector Placements
- Frontline Visits/Virtual meetings for Members

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 The report has been prepared in accordance with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's constitution.

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 In respect of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, the work of the Corporate Parenting Board meets the Five Ways of Working:

1. Working together with other partners to deliver objectives

The Corporate Parenting Board considers reports and presentations from various service areas of the Council. Members are aware that a number of partners and areas must contribute to tackle the range of different issues, which young people may experience, such as mental health, education and budgeting.

2. Involving those with an interest and seeking their views

The Corporate Parenting Board provide looked after young people and care leavers in RCT with the opportunity to attend meetings and have

their voice heard. It allows them to promote their life experiences at a strategic, policy and legislative level and provides Members with the chance to hear first-hand experiences.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The Corporate Parenting Board Annual report outlines the work undertaken in the 2021/22 Municipal Year and features the priority areas to consider moving forward, which will ensure that the Council provides continuous improvement to the services that it delivers for its children and young people within the Looked After System.