



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

27th June 2023

PROPOSAL FOR AN 'INFORM' SESSION

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

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board:

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

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

4. BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

The Proposal

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

4.6 During this input, we will also:

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

Intended outcomes

4.7 Corporate Parenting Board members will:

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

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out.

6 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

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

7 CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

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

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

9.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

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

10.1 The content of the proposed session links directly to:

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

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

11. CONCLUSION

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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