



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

**PARTICIPATION UPDATE 2022 TO 2023 FOR CARE EXPERIENCED  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

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

**Author: Nicole Katchi, Graduate Officer- Participation (Children's Services)**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress achieved in taking forward the Participation Strategy 2023-2026 and to provide feedback on the participation activities Children's Services have held during 2022-2023.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the information contained within the report.
- 2.2 Scrutinise and comment on the information provided.

**3. BACKGROUND/ PROGRESS TO DATE**

- 3.1 The Participation Strategy 2023-2026 (Appendix 1) has now been finalised and a steering group has been established to take forward the implementation plan. A key action in the strategy implementation plan is the establishment of a Task and Finish group to redevelop our public facing information for children, young people and families.
- 3.2 The 'Get Involved' survey for Children Looked After (ages 4 to 17) and Care leavers (ages 18 to 24) was launched in November 2022 until mid-February 2023. Appendix 2. There have been 66 responses. The survey asked care experienced children and young people about what is going well, what could be better and how they would like to get

involved with Children's Services and their preferred methods of communication.

- 3.3 Young people received survey feedback as part of a 'You said', 'We will', 'We did' mechanism in an arts and crafts workshop at Pontypridd Museum in February 2023. Survey infographic summaries which detail the findings and how Children's Services propose to respond have also been sent to all children looked after and care leavers. This is through Children's Services staff networks, social media, YEPS, 16+ Team, CLA Virtual School, Residential, Foster care and Kinship care. The survey feedback has also been used to inform the Participation Strategy Implementation Plan.
- 3.4 The Transform Team in Children's Services have worked with young people in Residential and Foster Care to develop videos about why staying local matters to young people in RCT. These videos were shown to the Deputy Minister for Social Services in March 2023 and shared with elected members of the council in a series of informative sessions.
- 3.5 In December 2022, some RCT care experienced young people contributed to a summit where recommendations for change were made to Government Ministers. This work has culminated in a Declaration signed by the First Minister and young ambassadors across Wales in May 2023, which ensures rights are observed and services across Wales work to remove barriers to improving outcomes for care experienced young people. A report has been produced by Welsh Government and we are awaiting further information (Appendix 3)

#### **4. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 4.1 This is an information report. The implementation plan will be discussed with the Children and Young People Steering group and young people going forward.
- 4.2 An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the future implementation process.

#### **5. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 5.1 This is an information report.
- 5.2 Further consultation will however be undertaken as part of the work of the participation strategy.

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

6.1 There are no direct financial implications aligned to this report.

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

7.1 The legal requirements for children and young people are set down within the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

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

8.1 This links to the Children's Services Delivery Plan 2023 to 2024 that, 'Children's Voices Are Heard: To improve engagement with children and young people, to ensure co-production and that the voice of the child is heard in service development and delivery.'

8.2 It also links to the work of the Children's Commissioner for Wales that champion's the development of a Children's Rights Approach grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

## **9. NEXT STEPS**

9.1 The Transforming Participation Steering Group to take forward the implementation plan and key milestones for evidencing children and young people's voice.

- Task and finish group established to develop our public facing information for children, young people and families.
- Working with Children's Services colleagues, young people and ICT in developing the accessibility of the 'My Voice, My Review', with the aim of encouraging care experienced young people to participate in 'what matters most' to them for their review meetings.

9.2 A **proposal** to facilitate an autumn workshop with care experienced young people to develop coproduction between the Corporate Parenting Board and young people in RCT. This links to the signing of the commitment by the First Minister for Wales and Young Ambassadors (May 2023) for developing 'The Vision' for what radically reformed services should look like and should deliver for care experienced children and young people (see appendices).

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

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

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