



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

20TH NOVEMBER 2023

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION

Author: Hannah Jones – Council Business Unit

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Cabinet with the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report.

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 eighth Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board, which provides a summary of the role and work of the Board undertaken in the 2022/23 Municipal Year. The report is attached as Appendix 1.

4.4 The 2022/23 Annual Report was approved by the Corporate Parenting Board at its meeting held on [18th July 2023](#).

5. THE WORK OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD 2022-23

5.1 During the 2022/23 Municipal Year, the Corporate Parenting Board considered the following range of reports, which led to challenging discussions:

- Regulation 73 Reports;
- Social Services Complaints & Compliments;
- Advocacy data;
- Employment, Education and Training Programmes for CLA;
- Independent Reviewing Officer Updates;
- Member Frontline Visits;
- Fostering Wales;
- Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service;
- All Wales Protocol for reducing the criminalisation of Care Experienced Children and Young People 2022;
- Pupil Deprivation Grant;
- Virtual School Model;
- Child Practice Review;
- Participation and Engagement Updates;
- Independent Sector Placements;
- Charter for Parents in Care & Leaving Care;
- Children Looked After Prevention Strategy;
- Miskin & Therapeutic Families Team Annual Update;
- Vale, Valleys & Cardiff Regional Adoption Annual Update;
- Young Carers Annual Update;
- Fostering Service Quality of Care Report;
- Local Authority's Housing Offer for Care Leavers; and
- Implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (ALNET) Act 2018 and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Code 2021 In Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

5.2 The Corporate Parenting Board has developed a robust and varied Work Programme for the 2023/24 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.

5.3 In addition to its standard items, the following key elements of focus have been identified by the Corporate Parenting Board for the 2023/24 Municipal Year:

- The review of performance data;
- Elected Member Training opportunities;
- Government Initiatives in relation to CLA;
- Participation and Engagement with CLA;
- Mental Health & Wellbeing Support for CLA;
- Updates in respect of the Children Looked After Residential Care Strategy 2022-2027;
- Safeguarding;
- Virtual School Model; and
- Magu project.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

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

7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

7.1 There is no consultation required for this report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

9. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATION(S)

9.1 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

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

11.1 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...'

11.2 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.

12. CONCLUSION

11.1 The Corporate Parenting Board Annual report outlines the work undertaken in the 2022/23 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.