



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

## **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CABINET**

**10<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Report of the Director of Social Services, Health & Housing –  
Mr Andrew Jarrett**

**Matter for Information**

**Wards Affected** All wards

### **WESTERN BAY ADOPTION SERVICE (WBAS) QUALITY OF SERVICE REPORT - MARCH 2024**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Cabinet about the performance and progress of the Western Bay Regional Adoption Service, in the form of the Quality of Service Report for Q3 & Q4 2023-34 (**Appendix A**).

#### **Executive Summary**

The report is to update the Cabinet of the work of the Regional Adoption Service. The Regional Service is based on the old Western Bay footprint (Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea), and this is set out in legislation. In terms of operational work the service functions well and offers the adoptive families across the region an effective service. The report and its attachments highlight the breadth of work the region now covers and highlights key performance information over the last 12 months.

#### **Background**

Adoption has, and continues to receive, high levels of attention from both the UK and the Welsh Government. Members will be aware that

the creation of a National Adoption Service (NAS) is one of the key policy strands of the Welsh Government, as enacted in the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014. This Act provides powers, under Part 9, for Ministers to direct local authorities to collaborate in relation to adoption services and to prevent any local authority from withdrawing from these collaborations in the future.

The Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Joint Adoption Arrangements) (Wales) Directions 2015 came into force on 13th March 2015. The primary purpose of these Directions is to ensure effective joint arrangements are in place between local authorities in Wales for the delivery of adoption services

Schedule 1 of the Directions sets out which local authorities must collaborate with each other. For the Western Bay region the local authorities are Swansea, Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot. Swansea host and manage the regional service on behalf of the partner agencies, this having been approved by Cabinets in all three local authorities in April 2014. The Western Bay Adoption Service (WBAS) is integrated into the National Adoption Service (NAS) as one of the five identified regional collaborative. The National Service is underpinned by the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Joint Adoption Arrangements) (Wales) Directions 2015.

The Regional Service is overseen by a quarterly Management Board chaired by a Director (currently the Director from Neath Port Talbot Council). The Board is comprised of the Heads of Children's Services from the three local authorities, a representative from health (currently the Medical Advisor from Swansea Bay University Health Board), education (currently the Team Manager for Pupil Support in Swansea), the National Adoption Service Central team and also a representative from the Voluntary sector (currently the Director of Adoption UK). Twice yearly joint committees are also held which are attended by the three Heads of Service and the three lead cabinet members for children.

### **Financial Impacts**

There are no financial impacts arising from this report.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

There is no requirement for an integrated impact assessment.

### **Valleys Communities Impacts**

There are no implications.

### **Workforce Impacts**

There are no workforce impacts arising from this report.

### **Legal Impacts**

There are no legal impacts arising from this report.

### **Risk Management Impacts**

There are no risk management requirements arising from this report.

### **Crime and Disorder Impacts**

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the Council in the exercise of its functions to have “due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:

- a) Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment);
- b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- c) Re-offending the area”.

There is no impact under the Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

### **Counter Terrorism Impacts**

The report has no impact on the duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

### **Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts:**

Section 2(1) of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 introduced a general duty where a

person exercising relevant functions must have regard (along with all other relevant matters) to the need to remove or minimise any factors which:

- (a) increase the risk of violence against women and girls, or
- (b) exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims.

The report has no impact on the above duty.

### **Consultation**

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

### **Recommendations**

Not applicable.

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

No decision required; for information only.

### **Implementation of Decision**

No decision required; for information only.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Quality of Service Report, 1<sup>st</sup> October – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

### **List of Background Papers**

Not applicable.

### **Officer Contact**

Andrew Jarrett, Director of Social Services, Health & Housing,

Email: [a.jarrett@npt.gov.uk](mailto:a.jarrett@npt.gov.uk)

Nichola Rogers, Regional Adoption Manager, Western Bay Adoption

Service Email: [N.rogers@westernbayadoption.org](mailto:N.rogers@westernbayadoption.org)