



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

11th December 2024

**Report of the Head of Children and Young People Services –
Keri Warren**

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All wards

Report Title:

Neath Port Talbot Council Children and Young People Services
Placement Commissioning Strategy 2024-2027.

Purpose of the Report:

To seek Member approval to implement Neath Port Talbot Council
Children and Young People Services Placement Commissioning
Strategy 2024-2027.

Executive Summary:

The Placement Commissioning Strategy 2024-2027 (Appendix 1) sets out Neath Port Talbot Council's ('the Council') plans to deliver on placement sufficiency for Children and Young People and Welsh Governments Eliminate Profit Agenda.

Officers are seeking Members approval to implement the strategy.

Background:

The Council has a duty to ensure that there is sufficient accommodation for Children and Young People who are looked after under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2024 ('The Act').

In line with the Act, the Council's primary objective is to support children to remain with a parent or person with parental responsibility when safe to do so.

If this is not possible or not safe to do so, then consideration should be given to a placement with a family, friend or other person connected to the child or young person. If these options are not possible or not safe then a range of alternative provisions will be considered.

These can include foster carers, residential children's homes or supported accommodation for example.

Welsh Government has recently introduced the Health and Social Care (Wales) Bill, which seeks to remove profit from children's social care which will likely reduce the number of providers operating in Wales, particularly within the residential care provision.

The Placement Commissioning Strategy 2024-2027 sets out our plans to ensure sufficient quality alternative accommodation is available to children and young people, taking into account the eliminate profit agenda.

Financial Impacts:

Taking forward the priorities within the Placement Commissioning Strategy 2024-2027 will be undertaken in line with the available budget.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016). The first stage impact assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment was required.

An overview of the Integrated Impact Assessment has been included below in summary form only and it is essential that Members read the Integrated Impact Assessment, which is attached to the report at Appendix 2, for the purposes of the meeting.

Overall, the initiative is expected to achieve positive outcomes as it sets the plan to deliver on placement sufficiency and eliminating profit.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

The Placement Commissioning Strategy 2024-2027 is a high level document intended to meet the needs of the whole county borough including the valleys communities.

Furthermore, as actions to take forward the priorities within the Strategy are developed, consideration of the impact on supporting valley communities will be given as part of the individual impact assessments.

Workforce Impacts:

The contents of this report do not have any impact on the Council's workforce.

Legal Impacts:

There are no legal implications associated with this item.

Risk Management Impacts:

There are no known risks associated with this item.

Consultation:

Consultation will be carried out for individual initiatives set out in the Placement Commissioning Strategy.

Scrutiny Observations:

The item was considered at the Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee on the 7th November. The scrutiny committee asked for some additional wording to be added into the document. We agreed to insert additional wording within the report. We have therefore updated the document which now has reference to the words 'when safe to do so' within the first paragraph under the 'background'.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Members approve Neath Port Talbot Council Children and Young People Services Placement Commissioning Strategy 2024-2027.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To ensure a robust plan is in place to continue to deliver and commission a range of services for Children and Young People.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Neath Port Talbot Council Children and Young People Services Placement Commissioning Strategy 2024-2027.

Appendix 2: Integrated Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers:

- West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Area Plan 2023-2027
- West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Population Needs Assessment 2022-2027
- West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Social Care Market Stability Report 2022
- NPTCBC Corporate Plan 2024-2027
- NPTCBC Children & Young People Social Care Strategic Plan 2023-2026
- NPTCBC Adult and Children's Social Care Market Stability Report 2022
- NPTCBC Public Participation Strategy 2023-2027
- Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) Cymru,

Eliminating Profit from the Care of Children who are looked after.
Contribution to the Regulatory Impact Assessment March 2024

-  [Eliminating Profit RIA Final .docx](#)

Officer Contact:

Keri Warren, Head of Children & Young People Services

Email: k.warren@npt.gov.uk

Victoria Smith, Principal Officer

Email: v.smith@npt.gov.uk

Hayley Short, Principal Officer

Email: h.short@npt.gov.uk

Gemma Hargest, Commissioning Officer

Email: g.hargest@npt.gov.uk