

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL
NEATH PORT TALBOT SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY CABINET BOARD

8th June 2023

Report of the Director of Social Services, Health & Housing
- Andrew Jarrett

Matter for Information

Wards Affected All Wards

**INFORMATION SHARING IN RESPECT OF THE NATIONAL REVIEW
OF CARE PLANNING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SUBJECT TO THE PUBLIC LAW OUTLINE PRE-PROCEEDINGS**

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to share the outcome of the most recent inspection of the use of the Public Law Outline (PLO) pre-proceedings process within Neath Port Talbot Children Services.

2. Background

In November 2022, a field inspection took place in Children Services in relation to the use of the PLO process. Prior to the inspection Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), met with senior officers to explain that a National survey will be taking part in respect of PLO for all 22 Local Authority Children Services in Wales and out of the 22, 5 Local authority Children Services would be subject to a field inspection which would entail viewing files, interviewing staff, partner agencies, children and their families who are, or have been subject to PLO. NPT were to be the first to be inspected and the pilot Authority.

Being the pilot Authority meant that we collaborated with CIW to improve the survey and ensure that the questions were relevant to PLO and the data was able to be captured. Following the survey being returned, CIW spent three days within children services carrying out the inspection.

Prior to the inspection senior leaders had worked hard to develop a culture of partnership working which operationalises the principles of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) act 2014, and aligned the principles of the best practice expectations identified in the Public Law outline working group report 2021 throughout the service.

The inspection findings letter that was received post-inspection was very positive clearly highlighting areas of good practice identified within the service and some areas that can be developed further to enhance the response to cases subject to PLO. The areas that are being developed further are subject to working plan and these include areas such as the letter received by parent(s) following PLO ending and the development of a PLO information leaflet for parents which can be viewed on the following link: [PLO Information Leaflet](#).

3. Financial Impacts

There are no financial impacts arising from this report.

4. Integrated Impact assessment

There is no requirement for an integrated impact assessment.

5. Valleys Communities Impact

There are no implications.

6. Workforce Impacts

There are no workforce impacts arising from this report.

7. Legal impacts

There are no legal impacts arising from this report.

8. Risk Assessment Impacts

There are no risk management requirements arising from this report.

9. 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.

10. Counter Terrorism Impacts

The proposals are likely to have no impact on the duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

11. 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 proposals contained in this report are likely to compliment and work alongside the impact on the above duty. VAWDA SV is included in the priorities of the Board under exploitation.

12. Consultation

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

13. Recommendations

Not applicable.

14. Reasons for Proposed Decision

Not applicable.

15. Implementation of Decision

No decision to be made; for information only.

16. Appendices

Appendix 1 – CIW PLO Inspection Letter for NPT

17. Background Papers

None

18. Officer Contact

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