



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

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

13th July 2023

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SERVICES – K. WARREN**

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All wards

**NEATH PORT TALBOT CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SOCIAL
CARE STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 - 2026**

Purpose of the Report

To inform members of the draft Neath Port Talbot Children & Young People Services Social Care Strategic Plan 2023-6 (“Valuing our children’s future”) and seek approval to undertake a 60 day public consultation.

Executive Summary

This Strategic Plan sets out how Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (‘the Council’) aims to create a system that works for all children, young people and families where we work together to provide and commission integrated services for children and young people. Our ambition is for children to have the best start in life with their family, in their school and in their community.

Background

The purpose of the Children & Young People Strategic Plan 2023-26 “Valuing our children’s future” is to outline the strategic direction of

the Council for providing children and young people's social care and support.

We have reviewed and reflected on our Vision to create a Neath Port Talbot where everyone has an equal opportunity to be healthier, happier, safer and prosperous. And a place where *“All of our children and young people have the best start in life, so they can be the best they can be”*.

Our fundamental vision for Children and Young People Services remains: children, young people, families and communities are at the heart of what we do. We are proud of the positive outcomes achieved to date and the strength of partnership working. We are also ambitious for the future and for our children and young people, and we have high expectations of ourselves and partners, working with children, families and communities to improve outcomes.

We have set out the Strategic Plan covering three broad themes:

- Placement sufficiency (the right service at the right time)
- Recruit, retain and develop a highly-skilled workforce (a highly-skilled social worker for every child and family who needs one)
- Demand and complexity (providing specific and targeted support for families facing particular challenges)

Children's needs are best met by their own families if this can be safely supported. Helping families stay together is a key focus of Children's Services. Early intervention and prevention services can reduce the number of children and young people reaching the threshold for care and needing to become Children Looked After (CLA), or support them to return safely to their families in a timely manner.

We must manage risk effectively with families that are approaching the threshold for care, and work to ensure we only provide care to those children who need to be looked after outside of their family, and are supported to remain in the family home when it is safe to do so. We will

provide a range of effective interventions which support families to make changes whilst always ensuring that children and young people are kept safe.

Furthermore, the Strategic Plan will be subject to regular review to ensure it maintains relevance.

A copy of the Draft Strategic Plan is attached at Appendix 1.

Financial Impacts

Taking forward the priorities within the Strategic Plan 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 4, for the purposes of the meeting.

- No negative impacts identified at this stage and the indication is that the impact will be positive. Processes are in place to monitor the impact for any unintended negative consequences.

Valleys Communities Impacts

The Strategic Plan is a high level document intended to meet the needs of the whole county borough including the valleys communities.

The consultation will help identify any impact on Valleys Communities. Furthermore, as actions to take forward the priorities within the

Strategic Plan 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

It is proposed that, with Members' permission, a 60-day public consultation exercise is undertaken. This will consist of on-line surveys. In addition, officers will attend various groups and forums around the county borough to reach as many stakeholders, including citizens, service providers and other partner organisations as possible. A consultation document, an easy read version of the Strategic Plan, and plan on a page have all been developed prior to the consultation. In addition, all materials are available in Welsh.

Recommendations

Having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment it is recommended that Members grant permission for Officers to conduct a 60-day public consultation period for Neath Port Talbot draft Children & Young People Services Strategic Plan 2023-26 as detailed in Appendix 1.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To ensure a range of good quality care and support is available to meet the needs of vulnerable children resident in Neath Port Talbot.

Implementation of Decision

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

Appendices

Appendix 1: Children's Social Care Strategic Plan 2023-26;

Appendix 2: Children's Social Care Strategic Plan – Easy Read;

Appendix 3: Children's Social Care Strategic Plan – Plan on a Page;

Appendix 4: Integrated Impact Assessment;

Appendix 5: Children's Social Care Strategic Plan Consultation Document;

List of Background Papers

None.

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