

Isle of Anglesey County Council	
Report to:	Executive Committee
Date:	30th May 2023
Subject:	Children Looked After and Leaving Care Strategy 2023-2028
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Gary Pritchard- Children & Families Services
Head of Service / Director:	Fôn Roberts, Director of Social Services & Head of Children and Families Services
Report Author:	Saul Ainsworth & Emma Edwards
Tel:	01248 751887
E-mail:	Emmaedwards@ynysmon.gov.uk
Local Members:	

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

The following recommendations are put to the Committee for consideration:

Recommendation

1. That the Committee consider the Children Looked After and Leaving Care Strategy 2023-2028 and make comments on its content.
2. That the Committee accept and approve the Strategy.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

This strategy sets out Ynys Mon County Council's commitment; explaining how we shall be an effective and trustworthy corporate parent for any child or young person who is in our care, irrespective of their age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, faith or disability. We shall also ensure our young people receive good-quality advice and support when they leave care. The offer of support to care leavers will be transparent and shared with all young people before they leave care as part of their care planning.

The Strategy is shared with the Executive for approval.

Ch – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

NA

D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

NA.

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):		
1	How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island?	The Children Looked After and Leaving Care Strategy 2023-2028 sets out the commitment, vision and direction for our Corporate Parenting.
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how?	As above.
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom.	Yes, the Strategy has been developed by the Corporate Parenting Panel, which consists of multi-agency representatives.
4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how.	
5	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.	
6	If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.	
7	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.	

E – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Senior Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	N/A. Panel is Chaired by the Chief Executive
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	As above
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	As above
4	Human Resources (HR)	N/A
5	Property	N/A
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	N/A
7	Procurement	N/A
8	Scrutiny	18 th April 2023
9	Local Members	N/A

F - Appendices:

Children Looked After and Leaving Care Strategy 2023-2028

Ff - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

None.

Ynys Môn

THE ISLE OF

Anglesey



Children Looked After and Leaving Care Strategy 2023-2028



www.ynysmon.gov.uk



Fôn Roberts
Head of Children & Families & Director of Social Services

Welcome to Ynys Môn's Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy (2023 – 2028). Coming into care is usually a traumatic experience and a great majority of children who become looked after do so because of abuse, neglect or family difficulties.

Ynys Môn's Looked After Children and Care Leavers are incredibly important to us. We are ambitious for our most vulnerable group of children and young people and continually seek to ensure every child and young person who is looked after has the opportunity to thrive; be safe and protected from harm and exploitation; reach their potential; be emotionally and physically healthy and be supported and prepared for adulthood.



Councillor Gary Pritchard
Portfolio Holder – Children (Social Services) & Youth Services

Every child and young person on Ynys Môn should have the best possible start in life and be given every opportunity to thrive.

As corporate parents, our vision is to ensure that children and young people receiving care are no different and are given the same support, the same encouragement, and the same opportunities to achieve the best outcomes in all aspects of their lives.

We have a moral and social responsibility to work together as public services and local communities to work together to offer our children and young people with the opportunities they require to succeed and thrive.

Why do we need a Children Looked After and Leaving Care Strategy?

Corporate parenting refers to the shared responsibility across the Council to ensure that children and young people in our care or leaving care are supported to thrive; they are 'our children'.

The role the Council plays in looking after children & young people is one of the most important things we do. The Local Authority has a unique responsibility to the children & young people we care for, as well as those leaving our care.

A good corporate parent should have the same aspirations for a child/young person in care, as a good parent would have for their own child. It means providing them with the stability and support they need to make progress; and helping them to set ambitious goals for themselves. It means celebrating their successes, but also recognising they will sometimes make mistakes and need help to get back on track. It also means supporting them to gain the skills and confidence to live independently, whilst letting them know they have someone to call on for help if the going gets tough.

Our strategy is produced to set out how we intend to challenge ourselves as corporate parents over the next five years. It provides the legal and local context in which we operate, our vision for children & young people in care, as well as those leaving our care and how we intend to deliver on the priorities which are set out in legislation.

Who is the strategy for?

Rate of Care: 95/10000

150 children and young people looked after

63 Care leavers

10 Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers




65% Children & Young People living with foster carers

75% children & young People living on Ynys Mon

Legislative Framework

We aim to support most of our children and young people within their own families and communities; however, for a small number, this is not possible, and they require alternative care arrangements (either in the short term or long term).

Children and young people are in our care either by virtue of a court order or with the agreement of their parent(s) or guardian(s). A child or a young person may come into care as a result of temporary or long-term difficulties faced by their parents, as a result of abuse, neglect or a range of difficulties. The delivery of our children is underpinned by a number of key pieces of legislation:

- Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014)
- Children Act (1989)
- Leaving Care Act (2000)
- Children Act (2004)
- Children & Families Act (2014)

Our Vision, Our Commitment

Our Vision

The children and young people of Ynys Mon who are looked after or leaving care are, 'Our Children'. This fundamentally shapes our vision and aspiration for them. Ultimately, we want all our children to receive support to develop into adults who contribute and who demonstrate positive principles and values.

Our commitment

We will be an effective and trustworthy corporate parent for any child or young person who is in our care, irrespective of their age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, faith or disability. We shall also ensure our young people receive good-quality advice and support when they leave care.

The offer of support to care leavers will be transparent and shared with all young people before they leave care.

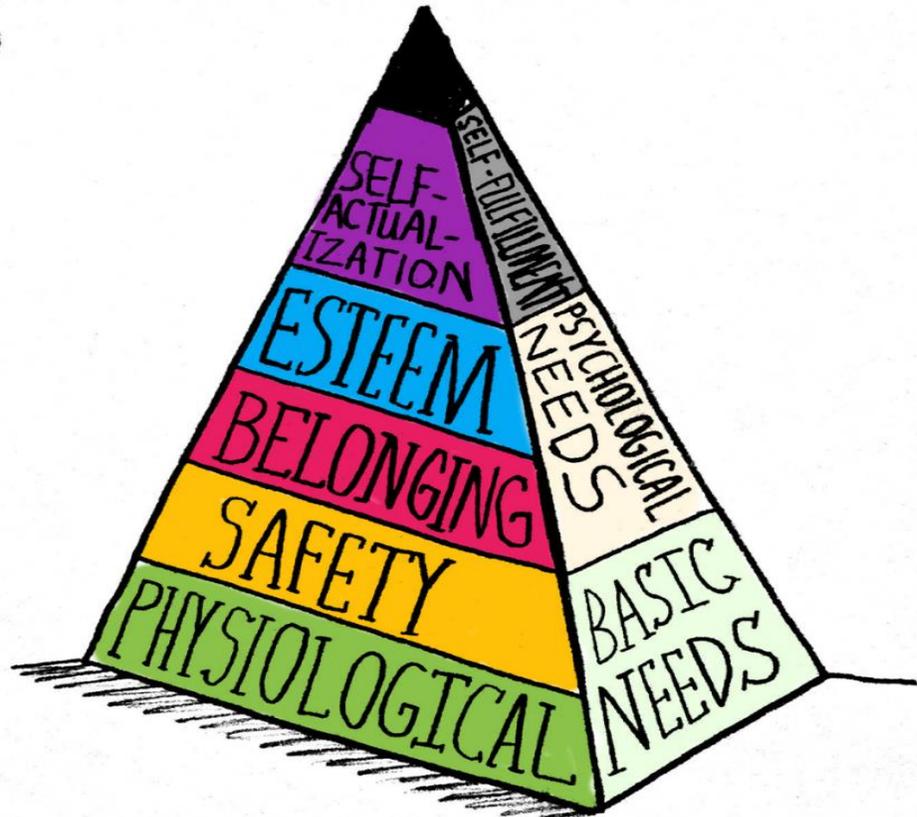
We will listen to our children & young people in order to help them make the most of their lives and in addition in how services are shaped to make the most of our resources.

How are we going to do this?

The Corporate Parenting Panel will meet quarterly to:

- ✓ Challenge and scrutinise in order to continually improve standards to help our children & young people achieve the best they can
- ✓ Ensure we are meeting our statutory duties and responsibilities to a high standard
- ✓ Ensure effective partnership working to meet the needs of our children & young people
- ✓ Elicit the views of our children & young people to effectively shape the development of services.

Maslow's Pyramid: Hierarchy of Need



Maslow's 'hierarchy of need' pictorially demonstrates a five-tier model of human need. Needs lower down the hierarchy must be met before people can attend to the needs identified in the higher tiers. As corporate parents, we want to provide the foundations to enable our children and young people to be able to meet their basic needs independently as they grow towards adulthood, which in turn will enable them to attend to their higher needs.

As Corporate Parents we will:

1. Protect our children and young people from risk and vulnerability
2. Know our children and young people their needs, talents and aspirations, and promote their interests
3. Hold high aspirations for their present and their future and expect the best for and from them
4. Take an interest in their successes/challenges and celebrate their achievements
5. Listen to their views and ensure these views influence practice, service and policy changes
6. Recognise, support and respect their identity in all aspects
7. Support high academic and vocational achievement. Support their enterprise and creative contributions
8. Support their health, emotional wellbeing and resilience through access to the right services at the right time
9. Support them to be ethically informed citizens
10. Support their transition to adulthood by preparing them to become responsible citizens
11. Learn from compliments and complaints from children and young people

Strategic Priority: Elected members' challenge

Why is this important?

In order to support our children and young people, in addition to those leaving our care, it is important that elected members and officers across the Council have an understanding of the issues faced by our young people as they grow, develop and prepare/enter adulthood.

What are we going to do?

We will ensure that elected members possess the key knowledge and skills to both challenge and scrutinise the service's ability to collectively and effectively meet the needs of our children and young people.

How are we going to do this?

We will:

- ✓ Arrange a workshop for elected members and officers to develop their understanding of this strategy in the context of the type of issues our young children face
- ✓ Ensure the Corporate Parenting Panel meets quarterly with an opportunity to challenge and scrutinise data and reports presented by officers across the partnership
- ✓ Ensure members of the panel have an opportunity to meet with some of our children & young people to gain first hand understandings of their experiences

Strategic Priority: Accommodation

Why is this important?

It is essential that the service has placement choice in order to best meet children & young people with placements in accordance with their identified needs. This is likely to lead to increased stability for our children & young people, which is the bedrock for the potential for improved life chances and opportunities.

What are we going to do?

Ensure we have enough of the right type of placements to accommodate the children & young people we care for.

How are we going to do this?

We will:

- ✓ Continue to work with Foster Wales nationally and regionally to increase the numbers of foster carers to meet the diverse needs of our children
- ✓ Continue to build on the successful Catref Clyd small group home programme to enable more of our young people whose needs are best met by residential care to remain living on the island within their communities
- ✓ Continue to offer prospective foster carers enhanced benefits to encourage fostering for the Council
- ✓ Continue to take advantage of new technologies in supporting our foster carers and small group homes.

Strategic Priority: Care Leaver Accommodation

Why is this important?

It is essential that the service has placement choice in order to best meet children & young people with placements in accordance with their identified needs. This is likely to lead to increased stability for our children & young people, which is the bedrock for the potential for improved life chances and opportunities.

What are we going to do?

Ensure we have enough of the right type of placements and living arrangements for our young people leaving our care.

How are we going to do this?

We will:

- ✓ Contribute to the Support People tendering process relating to accommodation for vulnerable young people, ensuring our young people's voices are heard
- ✓ Continue expansion and development of 'When I'm Ready' to enable more of our young people to remain in their foster placements post 18, if this is their desire
- ✓ Further develop 'pathway' partnership meetings between Social Services (Adults and Children & Families) and Housing Provider Services to ensure individual young people's accommodation needs are met, with a view to reducing homelessness

Strategic Priority: Emotional Health & Resilience

Why is this important?

Looked after children and care leavers are over-represented in mental health services in comparison with the general population. We want to address this trend for our children.

What are we going to do?

We will promote the emotional health and resilience of our children in order that they are better equipped emotionally as they move into adulthood

How are we going to do this?

We will:

- ✓ Continue on our journey to becoming a trauma informed island, ensuring that those who care for our children (foster carers/residential workers), those who teach our children and those who support our children.
- ✓ Continue our training package for the island's workforce so that the Trauma Recovery Approach is embedded enabling professionals/carers are informed and skilled
- ✓ Review the impact of the Trauma Recovery Strategy via the key performance indicators established within that strategy
- ✓ Co-locate CAMHS practitioners with Social Care staff to facilitate and enhance effective joint working for individual children

Strategic Priority: Education, Employment & Training

Why is this important?

Care leavers are over-represented in unemployment figures, which often contributes to over-representation across a range of poverty indices. We want to equip our young people with the skills, knowledge and abilities which will enable them to gain employment, develop their independence and contribute positively to society and their local communities

What are we going to do?

Increase the number of care leavers in education, employment and training.

How are we going to do this?

We will:

- ✓ Measure the impact of the Basic Income Pilot (BIP) upon education, employment and training, which provides care leavers reaching the age of eighteen years between July 2022 and June 2023 with a basic guaranteed income
- ✓ Evaluate the impact of the independent living skills accredited diploma, which is available to ten care leavers during 2023-24
- ✓ Evaluate the impact of the 16+ Youth Engagement & Progression Panel, which focuses upon the needs of young people leaving care whom are not in education, employment or training.