



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

29TH JANUARY 2018

**THE USE OF MIDWAY TRANSITIONAL CARE AS A
NON FRAMEWORK PROVIDER**

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S
SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER,
COUNCILLOR C LEYSHON**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an overview and the background information to consider the use of Midway Transitional Care as a support provider to meet some of the needs of our 16+ CLA and care leavers.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Corporate Parenting Board:
- 2.2 Note the information contained within this report and the actions being taken to monitor the use of Midway Transitional Care placements.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Since the provision of the 16+ service, there has been growing awareness that a number of young people, who are transitioning from 16+, require a range of different provisions instead of traditional residential and foster care models.
- 3.2 Within RCT we have recently experienced a number of young people where existing residential care placements aren't always able to meet the needs. This may be due to the existing models of care, or that the natures of the young people and their needs aren't matched to the range of services available.

- 3.3 Placement searches have been made for all these 'hard to place' young people with ongoing requests having no responses or tenders being offered.
- 3.4 RCT Children's Services with Local Authorities across Wales have therefore to provide placements for these young people and have had to increase the use of non framework providers for 16+. This could be attributed to larger system need but also due to their specific needs of the young people and the lack of available vacancies within our existing framework providers.
- 3.4 Despite having an effective a range of 'Step Down' provisions such as supported accommodation, semi independent support services and supported lodgings a independent review carried out by Practice Solutions highlights that there continues to be a lack of provisions to meet the needs of our 16+ Children Looked After and Care Leavers population.
- 3.5 The risky behaviours exhibited by some young people, together with the range of additional needs they can have, including mental health and developmental needs, unfortunately has resulted in residential establishments struggling to be able to provide the flexibility and or autonomy that this particular group of young people are requesting. Young people have a choice about where they want to live, and what kind of accommodation they would like. This is a fundamental approach when working with young people in developing the plan that they want.

4. CURRENT SITUATION:

- 4.1 Prior to becoming a 16+ service, RCT's Aftercare Team had historically used semi independent providers such as the 'Leaving Care Company' and 'Aspirations Care' to provide bespoke transitional support packages for young people about to leave care. These packages were initially set up to provide support for young people who lived out of county. The success of this model relies on its ability to source private rented properties and sub let them. The provider acts as the sub tenant and provides tailored support around the young person. This model has been used by local authorities across England and Wales.

The use of these services evolved as the Aftercare Team began using these packages to support the transition of the 'harder to place' care leavers who wanted to return back to RCT prior to turning 18, refused to go into any residential establishment and who also continued to need support post 18 because alternative placements could not be found. This practice continued with the introduction of the 16+ Services and a number of young people have been having support using this model

This model of support is presently being provided by Midway Transitional Care Services LTD. It is a Welsh company operating from Monmouthshire. They are a non-framework and non registered support provider who are currently working with CSSIW towards registration.

Currently there are three young people from RCT accessing the services of Midway Transitional Care Ltd. The three young people placed there are subject to individual weekly monitoring and manager reviews. Monitoring of the use of this provision also occurs through the Safeguarding Quality Assurance Group and the Children Looked After Quality Assurance Group.

4.2 **CASE STUDY OF A YOUNG PERSON CURRENTLY PLACED WITH MIDWAY:**

Summary:

- Date of Birth of young person: 7th May 2000
- History of Children's Services involvement since a baby.
- Name was placed on the Child Protection Register on a number of occasions.
- Also been open under the category of Child in Need at various intervals.
- Interim Care Order granted on 16.10.2010.
- Care Order granted on 13.08.2011 and has remained looked after since
- Presenting risks included: high periods of going missing, substance misuse, poor attachment, criminal activity, physical assaults, dealing of substances

Placement History

- Had 20 different foster care and residential placements. Usually broke down because of extreme behaviour issues and risk presented to other young people.
- Moved to a residential establishment in Southampton in March 2016.
- Placement broke down and no other alternative able to be found.
- In April 2016, Midway Transitional Care Ltd approached to provide a alternative placement.
- Moved into a Midway placement in May 7th 2016.
- Remains in the placement and has refused to consider any other alternative, even though over the period of time with Midway alternatives have been found.

Present circumstances

Behaviours have improved and a gradual reduction in his support package has been achieved. The flexibility of this support approach has worked well.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This is an information report therefore no Equality and Diversity Assessment is required.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 This is an information report therefore no consultation is required.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 None

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The 16+ Services works within the regulatory requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 9.1 This model of service provision compliments the Council's Corporate Priorities to promote independence and positive lives for everyone by ensuring:

- Rhondda Cynon Taf children and young people will receive a great start in life.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 This report highlights the challenges of finding appropriate accommodation for this particular age group. This is due to the importance of meeting their particular needs and supporting them around their choice and control around the accommodation they feel they need.

Currently there continues to be a need for a range of supported and semi supported accommodation options for young people who are 16+. More planning could be considered around current and best practice models used across authorities in Wales.

Children's Services have recently commissioned Practice Solutions to carry out research into the accommodation needs of children's services. This has resulted in an accommodation strategy being formulated. However other areas for consideration are:

- 1) Expanding and developing the 16+ supported lodgings scheme that is currently in place.
- 2) Consideration and exploring the development of an in house transition service which could provide a transition support service rather than commissioning services such as Midway Transitional Care Ltd.
- 3) Increasing the number of training flats. To facilitate more opportunity for developing independence for CLA who are preparing to leave care.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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