



FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Date Written	March 2024
Report Author	Joanne Llewellyn
Service Area	Children's Services
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non exempt
Committee Date	17 th April 2024

Residential Policies

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides Council with the policies required by the Children's Residential Services Team that need to be approved for the department to be compliant with the Registration and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 (RISCA regs) and the Regulated Services (Service Providers and Responsible Individuals) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (RS).
- 1.2 The report outlines the reason for the report and policies.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

- 2.1 The policies as outlined in section 4 of the report, to be implemented in April 2024, be approved.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The children's residential service is recently developed and consequently the department requires a set of policies to enable registration of Merthyr Tydfil's children's homes with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). The RS regs sets out how local authority residential services may comply with the requirements imposed by the Regulations. To enable Merthyr Tydfil's children's residential service to be regulation compliant and 'inspection ready' it has been important to develop the department's policies and processes.
- 3.2 Due to this being a new service there are many policies for council to consider enabling the team to ensure that all required policies are in place and ready for any inspections. The policies meet the regulations and any other statutory duties and ensures high quality of care. It is hoped that clear policies will enable higher quality

care and clear direction for residential staff and the young people. This should provide guidance and direction on expected behaviours. These policies also hold the department to account on their legal duties.

- 3.3 Due to the elimination of profit for children's social care agenda high quality children's residential services are vital to enable to return of children to their home local authority and to increase numbers of placements available.

4.0 POLICIES

- 4.1 The following policies require council approval and sign off:

4.1.1 Admission and commencement of the service (reg 14)

This policy outlines the process to admit a child into the service, the meetings and paperwork that is required in line with the regulations and also Merthyr Tydfil's children's residential services ethos. (This is available via the Background Papers link - Background Paper 1).

4.1.2 Supporting children to manage their money (reg 28)

This policy outlines the requirements to support children with their money how to ensure clarity of the young person's money, pocket money expectations and how to prevent fraud in relation to the young person's money. (This is available via the Background Papers link - Background Paper 2).

4.1.3 Behaviour management (use of control or restraint) (reg 29)

Merthyr Tydfil has an ethos of restraint as a last resort and processes should always be used to escalate and use verbal methods as much as possible. Rewards rather than consequences should be used as much as possible and links to the trauma informed approach used by the service. (This is available via the Background Papers link - Background Paper 3).

4.1.4 Staff support and development (reg 36)

Policy to identify support for new staff and expectations in support and development for all staff including training, induction and probation. (This is available via the Background Papers link - Background Paper 4).

4.1.5 Infection Control (reg 56)

Policy to help staff reduce infection transmission and good hygiene practice within the children's homes. (This is available via the Background Papers link - Background Paper 5).

4.1.6 Medication (reg 58)

Policy indicating management of medication, if self-administered or administered by staff. How to safely store medication and safe practices. (This is available via the Background Papers link - Background Paper 6).

4.1.7 Prevention of bullying and dealing with bullying (reg 12 (2))

A policy and document enables staff to understand different types of bullying, how to identify this and deal with incidents both with the perpetrator and victim to prevent recurrence. (This is available via the Background Papers link - Background Paper 7).

4.1.8 **Missing/absent without permission (27 (5))**

A policy to help staff understand the actions they are required to take if a child is missing or absent without permission to reduce the risks and enable the child to return home safely. (This is available via the Background Papers link - Background Paper 8).

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 These policies are requirements for the department to be compliant with legislation. There are limited financial implications associated with these policies.

6.0 **INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

6.1

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Neutral
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	3 of 4	0 of 4	1 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5
3. Protected Characteristics (including Welsh Language)	3 of 10	0 of 10	7 of 10
4. Socio-economic Disadvantage	0 of 6	0 of 6	6 of 6
5. Decarbonisation	2 of 6	0 of 6	4 of 6
6. Biodiversity and the resilience of Ecosystems	Maintained	Enhanced	Reduced
	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1
7. Consultation and Engagement	Undertaken	Due to be Undertaken	Not Required
	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1
8. Data and Evidence	Yes		No
	1 of 1		0 of 1
Summary			
The main positive impacts are:	Residential services provide a high quality service and is regulation compliant.		
The main negative impacts are:	No negative impacts have been identified.		

LISA CURTIS JONES
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

COUNCILLOR JULIA JENKINS
CABINET MEMBER FOR
SOCIAL SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Policies: - Admissions and commencement of the service. - Supporting children to manage their money. - Behaviour management (use of control or restraint). - Staff support and development. - Infection control. - Medication. - Prevention of bullying and dealing with bullying. - Missing/absent without permission.	March 2024	All Policies are available via the Background Papers link.
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.