



EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 20TH FEBRUARY 2025

**SUBJECT: CARE INSPECTORATE WALES (CIW) INSPECTION OF
CAERPHILLY FOSTERING SERVICE**

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present Scrutiny Committee with the report of the regulatory inspection of Caerphilly Fostering Service undertaken by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

2. SUMMARY

2.1 CIW undertook an inspection of Caerphilly County Borough Council's Fostering Service between 29th July and 2nd August 2024. The inspection focused on the extent to which the Fostering Service is complying with the legislative regulations set out within The Local Authority Fostering Services (Wales) Regulations 2018. The inspection also focused on the outcomes for individual children who rely on the service.

2.2 The full Inspection Report is attached at Appendix 1 and is being presented to Scrutiny Committee for information purposes only.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the content of the Inspection Report.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To ensure Scrutiny Committee is aware of the work of the Fostering Service, the positive work that has taken place and the recommendations from the Inspection.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Fostering Service is managed by Caerphilly County Borough Council Children's Services with the Fostering Team Manager being supervised by a Service Manager within Children's Services Divisional Management Team.
- 5.2 The attached Inspection Report provides a review of the activities undertaken during inspection week including an overview of performance of the service. It also includes one recommendation for improvement.
- 5.3 Scrutiny Committee Members will see that the Inspection feedback was extremely positive and a good reflection of both the Team and the Service with the following strengths identified:
- The commitment, passion, experience and skill of Team members
 - The leadership, management and culture of the Team
 - The co-location with other teams within Children's Services
 - The clear business processes and adherence to policies and procedures
 - Feedback from foster carers was positive in terms of the support they receive
 - Evidence of improving positive outcomes for children
- 5.4 There were no areas of 'non-compliance' with regulations identified which is a significantly positive outcome. There was just one 'area for improvement' noted relating to Regulation 52 which is the completion of the 'Quality of Care' Report. Whilst the Inspectors were positive about the content of the Caerphilly report, they clarified that the report should be completed every six months rather than annually. This was able to be addressed with immediate effect.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no assumptions made or presumed in this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 This report is for information purposes only, so the Council's full Integrated Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no direct funding implications for the Council arising from this report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no personnel or HR implications arising from this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 The report is for information purposes and reflects the views of consultees.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014

Author: Karen Williams, Service Manager, Children's Services

Consultees: Cllr Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Care
Cllr Donna Cushing, Education and Social Services Scrutiny
Committee Chair
Cllr Brenda Miles, Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Vice Chair
Gareth Jenkins, Interim Corporate Director of Social Services
Children's Services Divisional Management Team

Appendix 1: CW Inspection of Caerphilly Fostering Service Report – September
2024