

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Healthier Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 6 October 2021

LOCATION: Council Chamber, Penmorfa

TITLE: Update regarding of recruitment of Welsh speaking Foster Carers in Ceredigion

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To advise Committee Members of the current situation in relation to the recruitment of Foster Cares and specifically Welsh Speaking

REASON SCRUTINY HAS REQUESTED THE INFORMATION: Update requested by the committee members

BACKGROUND:

The Fostering Service in Ceredigion provides short and long term placements for the Looked after Children of Ceredigion. The age range for the service is from birth to 18 years of age. Currently Ceredigion County Council has 31 registered Foster Families.

There are also 16 Kinship carers (also known as family and friends) who have been identified and progressed through the same processes as mainstream Foster Carers and registered to provide care and support for specific Looked after child/ren as outlined in their individual registration. Ceredigion's Kinship carers are located all across the UK.

Current position

There are currently under 5 children within Ceredigion mainstream/Kinship Foster placement who are identified with Welsh as their preferred language of choice. However, there are children who do attend Welsh medium Education and the service recognises the importance of supporting and promoting the Welsh Language and Culture.

The following table provides an overview of the current position relating to foster carer ability of the Welsh language;

ALTE Level	Welsh Listening and Speaking (Number of carers)	Welsh Reading (Number of carers)	Welsh Writing (Number of carers)
0	6	11	14
1	9	9	5

2	5	1	2
3	2	0	1
4	0	1	0
5	1	1	1

Areas of further development for the service

Recruitment – Key element for the service moving forward is to work with National and Regional recruitment campaigns that will provide a range of specifically targeted opportunities utilising National resources including media e.g. S4C and ITV advertisements. This will be enhanced by a local County Engagement and Communication plan that will focus on targeting specific campaigns driven by the identified needs for our Looked after Children in Ceredigion e.g. engaging with Young Farmers, Merched y Wawr and wider community groups.

Language support – To provide Ceredigion Foster Carers with opportunities to improve their language skills through accessing training via opportunities provided through Porth Cymorth Cynnar.

Cultural support – To develop an annual social and integration plan maximising on the heritage and culture of Ceredigion providing the Foster Carers with the knowledge and access to the wealth of local heritage, natural environments and cultural activities available locally. The service will be working in conjunction with Porth Cymorth Cynnar, Education and 3rd sector organisations to enhance and celebrate the wealth of local provision available to Ceredigion Foster Carers.

RECOMMENDATION (S): To note the information contained within the report.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

Contact Name: Donna Pritchard
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Date of Report: 24.08.2021
Acronyms: None