

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held at the Abercynon Sport Centre, on Wednesday 8th November 2017 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor S. Rees – Owen – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

J. Brencher S Powell

W. Lewis

Non – Committee Member in Attendance

County Borough Councillor G. Thomas – Vice Chair of
Overview and Scrutiny

Co-opted Members

Mr S. Jones – Voting Elected Parent/ Governor Representative

Officers in Attendance

Mr G Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children's Services

Ms A. Batley – Service Director Children's Services

Mr P Nicholls – Head of Legal – Litigation, Planning & Environment, Community and
Children's Services

Ms. A. Harris – Regional Adoption Manager, Vale, Valleys & Cardiff Collaboration

Mr J. O'Brien – Head of Cwm Taf Youth Offending Services

Others in Attendance

Mr D Marshall – CSSIW Representative

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from: County Borough Councillors A. Calvert, S. Evans, H. Fychan, J. Harries, L. Hooper, R. Smith, S. Rees, and Co-opted Members Mr J. Fish and Mrs S. Jones

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED - In accordance with the Code of Conduct, there were no personal declarations of interests made, pertaining to the agenda.

32. MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on the 11th October 2017.

33 VALE, VALLEYS AND CARDIFF ADOPTION COLLABORATIVE (VVC) ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

The Chair welcomed Ms Angela, Harris, Regional Adoption Manager to the Meeting and invited her to present the report.

The Regional Adoption Manager explained the background of the Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative which is comprised of the adoption services of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Cardiff Council, Merthyr Tydfil C.B.C and Rhondda, Cynon, Taf C.B.C and is one of five regional collaborative which form part of the National Adoption Service.(NAS)

The Regional Adoption Manager explained that all adoption services are required to provide an annual review of their service as set out in Regulation 22 of the Local Authority Adoption Service (Wales) Regulations 2007 and in addition , Section 15(c) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Joint Adoption Regulations) (Wales) 2015 and is required to be brought before Scrutiny.

Ms Harris explained the current position of the VVC to Members along with the findings of the Annual Report. Members were also informed of the future priorities

for the service. Following the presentation of the in-depth report The Regional Adoption Manager responded to Members questions.

A Member asked in respect of post adoption support what is available for the adopters. In response to the query the Regional Adoption Manger explained that there is an adoption support plan put in place which will identify any specialist intervention and packages of support put in place, support will vary depending on the needs of the child and adopters.

Members felt that they would benefit from an updating report after the forthcoming review of the service has taken place to assess the whether the issues are being addressed to improving the Adoption Service outcomes.

Members were keen to engage with adopters and get their views on the adoption process. The Regional Adoption Manager explained that the service run fun days and small groups.. Members would like to attend to interact with families going through the adoption process. Ms Harris will arrange a meeting.

The Chair thanked the Regional Adoption Manger for her report and Members **RESOLVED** to:

- Receive a report after the review in December from the Adoption Service
- Arrange for a group of Members to speak to adoptive families in the near future
- To congratulate the staff within the Adoption Service for their continued hard work.

34. CWM TAF YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE REPORT

The Head of Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service presented Members with the findings and outcomes of the Full Joint Inspection of the Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service (YOS) which took place in March 2017, the findings of which were published in July 2017.

It was explained to Members that Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service is a statutory partnership legislated by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and provides services across two local authority areas, namely Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil. In August 2014 the Local Authority YOS areas merged to form Cwm Taf YOS. Members were informed that the aim of the service is to prevent the offending and re-offending of children and young people. The Statutory partners involved are South Wales Police, Cwm Taf University Health Board, HM Prison and Probation Service along with Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil Local Authority areas.

The Head of Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service went on to inform Members of the Full Joint Inspection (FJI) process. It was explained to Members that the FJI of Cwm Taf YOS was announced in February 2017 and commenced on the 13th March 2017.

It was explained that HMI Probation led the FJI programme with partner inspectorates covering health, children's social care, education and police being full members of the inspection team contributing to inspection judgements.

The Head of Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service took members through the report and presented them with the key recommendations for improvement within 12 months following the publication of the report. He explained that the improvement plan was last reviewed in September 2017 with all areas being on target for completion / achievement. It was also brought to Members attention that the YOS has commenced the implementation of the improvement action plan and has carried out its first formal review of achievement against the objectives set as identified within the "RAG" section of improvement plan. The Service has established defined dates on which to complete formal reviews.

After delivering his report the Head of Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service responded to Members question. All Members were in agreement that it was an excellent report and congratulated the Service for all its hard work.

Members asked what provisions had been put in place to secure suitable accommodation for children and young people in the Authority as this was a key concern for the Committee. Officers responded to the question explaining that a great deal of work is being undertaken and it would be reported back at a future meeting.

After further consider it was **RESOLVED** to:

- Acknowledge the findings and outcomes of the Full Joint Inspection of the Cwm Taf YOS
- Acknowledge the post inspection improvement plan
- Receive further reports in due course in order to be satisfied of the progress and improvements being made as a result of the improvement action plan.

Before the conclusion of the Meeting the Group Director Community and Children's Service informed Members that the Head of Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service will be leaving the Authority to take a new role in another Authority. Members congratulated and wished him well for the future.

S. Rees – Owen (Chair)

Meeting closed at 7:10 pm