



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 10 July 2019 at 5.00 pm at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park. Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

County Borough Councillors - Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Members in attendance:-

Councillor W Lewis (Chair)

Councillor J Brencher	Councillor J Harries
Councillor A Calvert	Councillor S Powell
Councillor H Boggis	Councillor M Diamond

Co-Opted Members in attendance:-

Mr J Fish, Voting Elected Parent / Governor Representative
Mr K Wilhite, Voting Elected Parent / Governor Representative

Officers in attendance:-

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr P Nicholls, Service Director, Legal Services
Mr G Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Ms G Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services

County Borough Councillors in attendance:-

1 Welcome

The Vice Chair welcomed new and existing Members to the first Meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal year 2019 -20. She explained that she would be chairing the meeting as County Borough Councillor S Rees Owen has sent her apologies due to having an operation recently.

Members and Officer would like to wish the Chair of the Children and Young People a speedy recovery.

2 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

3 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from the following County Borough Councillors S. Rees- Owen, S. Evans, H. Fychan, M. Powell, M Griffiths, G.Jones and G. Stacey

4 **Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 13th February 2019, 6th March 2019 and 20th March 2019 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

5 **Children and Young People Scrutiny Work Programme 2019/20**

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications presented Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee with the draft Work Programme up until the end of December 2019 following it being endorsed by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 1st July 2019.

Members were reminded recall that at the special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held the 1st May 2019, a report was presented which provided a response to the request from committee members to review the Council Scrutiny arrangement and to update Members on the progress from the WAO report in respect of the Council's Scrutiny arrangements 'Fit for the Future'.

Member considered the content of the work programme in depth and put forward their views and suggestions.

In respect of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service, a Member requested that it be placed on the work programme for a senior member of the leadership team to address the committee on what contribution CSC has on raising standards in schools across RCT.

Members **RESOLVED** to

- Agree the Children and Young People Scrutiny Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2019/20 (up until December 2019 in the first instance)
- Agree that the Work Programme will be reviewed at quarterly intervals to ensure the items identified for inclusion are relevant and that any additional referrals are incorporated.

6. **Training**

. The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications asked Members to consider their training requirements for the new municipal year including any specific training requirements that will assist the Members with their role as a Member of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee going forward. The Service Director also highlighted that this would also apply to the Co-opted Members of the Committee.

After some consideration, Members **RESOLVED** to inform the Democratic Services Officer of any requested needed.

7 **Director of Social Services Draft Annual Report**

The Group Director Community and Children's Services presented Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee with the Draft Director of Social Services Annual Report for 2018-19.

It was highlighted that the Social Service and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 includes in part 8 of the Code of Practice a requirement for the Director of Social Services to prepare and publish an annual report about the exercise of the Local Authority's social services function

The Group Director Community and Children's Services continued to explain that the report must evaluate the performance of the Local Authority in relation to the delivery of its social services function in respect of that year and include lessons learned. It must also set out objectives in relation to promoting the wellbeing of people who need care and support, for the forthcoming year.

It was explained that Members comments were sought on the content of the Directors of Social Services Annual Report 2018 -19, and will be considered when preparing the Final Report.

The Chair thanked the Group Director Community and Children's Service for a very comprehensive report and proceeded to open the meeting up for Members observations and comments.

A Member congratulated the Group Director and the Service for the continued hard work that has been done and for a balanced report that highlighted strengths but also areas for improvement. . The Members asked a number of question relating to key pressures on the range of wellbeing services and sought assurances that these were being supported by Cabinet/Council going forward

In respect of the pressures on the service, Members asked whether workforce retention had an impact on staff and in respect of the resilience, family service the Member asked if the service is meeting the demand. In reply, the Group Director explained that staffing remains a challenge and explained the work being done with colleges and other organisations, which is proving a positive experience.

In respect of the specific question regarding the Resilient families service the Group Director confirmed that the pressure on the service had increased resulting in additional resources being allocated. It is pleasing to see that families are referring themselves which is a positive step

Another Member thanked the Officers for the report and suggested that maybe we could have case studies that showed failings as well as positive outcomes so we could learn form.

Members thanked the Group Director for the report and **RESOLVED:**

- To Acknowledge the draft Rhondda Cynon Taf Director of Social Services Annual Report.

This meeting closed at 5.40 pm

**CLLR W LEWIS
CHAIR**