

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Monday 16th March, 2015 at 10.05am.

Present

County Borough Councillor G E Hopkins – In the Chair

County Borough Councillors:-

(Mrs) E Hanagan, (Mrs) M E Davies, (Mrs) C Leyshon and LG Walker.

Officers in Attendance:-

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

Mr P J Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services

Mr A Gwynn – Service Director, Children’s Services

Mrs G Davies – Acting Service Director, Access, engagement and Inclusion

Ms J Bush – Training Officer

Ms J Thomas – Complaints & QA Manager, Social Services

Ms M Meredith – Residential Service manager

Ms E Phipps-Magill - Nyas

40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors S Rees-Owen and R K Turner.

41 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised Members of a Special Meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board on the 22nd April to consider a Child Practice Review.

42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interests made in matters pertaining to the agenda.

43 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board held on the 19th January and 11th February 2015.

REPORTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES.**44 SOCIAL SERVICES QUARTLY COMPLIMENTS & COMPLIANTS REPORT – 1ST OCTOBER – 31ST DECEMBER 2014.**

The Complaints & QA Manager, Social services presented her report to the Corporate Parenting Board Members, which provided an overview of the operation and effectiveness of the statutory social services complaints procedure between the 1st October 2014 to 31st December 2014.

Members commented on the positive report with the increase in the number of compliments received. The Complaints & QA Manager commented on the change in process in respect of blue car badge appeals and Members commented on the need for all Elected Members to be made aware of the changes in the process.

Members also discussed the reference in the report to 'No Local Councillor Enquiries Received' and both officers and Members agreed that this was because Elected Members were bypassing the Councils complaints procedure and instead going direct to Officers. The chairman commented that awareness of the correct procedures for reporting all queries and complaints should be highlighted within the forthcoming corporate parenting training for all Elected Members.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** that:-

- a) A letter should be sent from the relevant Cabinet Member to all Elected Members advising them of the complaints and compliments procedure
- b) The procedure for reporting all queries / compliments and complaints should be addressed within the corporate parenting Member training sessions.

45 CHILDREN'S SERVICES MODEL FOR CONSULTATION.

The Service Director Children's Services provided the Board with an update on the progress made in developing a Children's Services delivery model for Rhondda Cynon Taf and reminded Members of the reasons needed to develop the model going forward.

The Board were advised that the suggested Model, appended to the report, was out for consultation and over 250 staff had already been consulted with, through different events. It was added that following consultation a finalised service configuration/structure would be developed for consideration by Cabinet Members.

The Service Director concluded by adding that the revised operational model and its implementation would address the agreed service improvement priorities for Children's Services and would inform the revised service configuration / structure required to deliver the priorities and address the ongoing requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.

One Member commented on the support provided with the development of the Model from the Institute of Public Care at Oxford Brookes University and the Officers spoke

positively of the support and the work the Institute is currently conducting with the Welsh Government in respect of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.

Ms Phipps-Magill queried whether there was the intention to consult with young people on the service delivery model, and offered Nyas's assistance in taking this forward.

Members of the Board took the opportunity to enquire over the developments with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the Service Director advised that Children's Services would be working from the MASH in April and spoke positively of the good work undertaken with Adult Services. The Service Director advised that an update on the working of the MASH would be provided at a future meeting.

The Board **RESOLVED** to note the report.

46 CORPORATE PARENTING – MEMBER DEVELOPMENT TRAINING.

The Chairman thanked the Training Officer for attending the meeting and commented on the forthcoming Member training sessions that had been arranged on the 25th March and 22nd April, for all Elected Members on the topic 'Corporate Parenting'. The Chairman commented on the opportunity available to the Board to give their comments and views on the areas that needed to be addressed in the training.

The Training Officer advised that the training on the 25th March was aimed at Child Protection issues, with the 22nd April focusing on Corporate Parenting. The Officer referred Members to the training handouts provided at previous training sessions and also referred to the Corporate Parenting Councillor workbook by the Welsh Local Government Leadership Academy.

Members commented on the need to reference the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) within the training so that all Members were aware of the new way of working, and as discussed earlier in the meeting the protocol for contacting officers also needed to be addressed. It was also suggested that the current consultation on the remodelling of children's services should be highlighted during the training,

The Training officer thanked the Members for their feedback and commented that the working of MASH and the Children's Service remodelling would be best placed in the Child Protection training on the 25th March.

47. SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

The Chair of the Community & Children's Services Scrutiny committee, Mrs M Davies provided the Board with an update on the work currently being undertaken by the Looked After Children scrutiny working group.

The Chairman of the working Group advised Members that the group had met on 3 occasions to date and explained that the terms of reference for the scrutiny review was to 'ensure that the Council is obtaining best value for its expenditure in relation to the placement costs of Looked After Children' and to report any proposed measures for improvement through to the Executive.

The Board were advised that the group had met with Ms Alison Smale, the Regional Commissioning Manager of the Children's Commissioning Consortium Cymru, who provided the group with an overview of the work of the Consortium and how its introduction has had a stabilising influence on the costs, with particular reference to

the savings witnessed within Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Board were advised of other types of information and data received and scrutinised by the working group.

The Chairman of the group concluded her update by reiterating the concerns felt by the group in respect of the timely assessments of young children's mental Health, commenting that any delays may lead to an escalation in behaviour problems which could be a contributing factor for entering the care system and ultimately requiring the specialist 'out of county' placements.

The Board thanked the Chairman of the scrutiny working group for her update and commented positively on the work undertaken to date. Members of the Board commented on their concerns in respect of CAHMS and it was commented by officers that these concerns were reflective across other Authorities, and Welsh Government were currently reviewing this area.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Davies for her update and welcomed sight of the final report once the scrutiny review was completed. The Board **RESOLVED** to note the update.

48 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from meeting under Section 100A(4) of the local Government Act 1972 (as amended) for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely, information relating to a particular individual. Transparency in the conduct and capabilities of individuals will be discussed and considered. Consequently, it is considered, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing information by virtue of which the meeting is likely not to be open to the public during its consideration.

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES CONTAINING EXEMPT INFORMATION.

49 REGULATION 32 REPORT – RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOMES.

The Board were provided with an update on the regulation 32 visits undertaken at the four Children's homes –Beddau, Treherbet, Bryndar and Nant Gwyn during the period December to January 2015.

The Residential Service Manager outlined a summary of the inspection outcomes and it was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

G.E Hopkins

Chairman

The meeting terminated at 11.20am.