

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 11TH April, 2016 at 10am.

Present

County Borough Councillor G E Hopkins – In the Chair

County Borough Councillors:-

C Leyshon, M Norris, L Walker and M Weaver.

Officers in Attendance:-

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

Mr P Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services

Ms A Batley –Service Director, Children's Services

Ms L Pearce – Head of Safeguarding & Support

Ms G Davies –Service Director, Access, Engagement & Inclusion.

Ms S Edwards – Service Manager Children Looked After & Support Services

Ms J Thomas – Complaints Manager

Mrs E Wilkins – Cabinet Business Officer

47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs) E Hanagan and M E Davies

48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Cllr M Weaver made the following personal declaration of interest in respect of agenda item 5 “my niece is a social worker who is named within the report”.

49 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on the 8th February, 2016.

50 CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT.

The Chairman referred Members to the draft report before them, which provided a summary of the role and work of the Board for the 2015/16 Municipal Year and queried whether Members were happy with the contents. The Chairman commented that this was the first annual report of the Board and in accordance with the Leaders Scheme of Delegation; the report was to be presented before Cabinet.

Members commented positively on the report and agreed that it was a good reflection of the Boards work over the Municipal year and highlights the areas the Board would like to further progress over the next Municipal Year.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the officers for their assistance over the year in helping Members deliver the necessary outcomes and improvement in services for the benefit of the children and young people within the Looked After System, and also thanked the Members themselves.

Following discussions the Board **RESOLVED**:-

- a. To agree the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2015/16
- b. That the Chairman of the Board presents the report at the next meeting of the Cabinet on the 19th April, 2016.
- c. That a link to the final report is forwarded to the CSSIW for information.

51 CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES INSPECTORATE WALES INSPECTION OF RCT FOSTERING SERVICES 18-22ND JANUARY 2016.

The Head of Safeguarding and Support and the Service Manager, Children Looked After and Support Services provided Members with the outcome of the Annual Regulatory Inspection of the Fostering Service by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate (CSSIW).

The officers commented positively on the reports and thanked the staff for actively taking forward the work and the officers also highlighted the areas for improvement identified within the report.

The Chairman thanked the officers and spoke positively on the significant improvements witnessed with the service in comparison to previous years. The officers agreed with the improvements and again reflected on the enthusiasm of the staff and the hard work of the teams in achieving this success, although assured members that the position was to be regularly monitored. The Officers also commented on the good relationships built with foster carers and commented on the recognition of foster carers by the Authority through the foster carer awards.

One Member queried whether the 'When I'm ready' scheme was still continuing to which officers confirmed that it was. The Chairman took the opportunity to advise Members of initial discussions taking place in respect of a 'fostering framework', mirroring the current direction of travel as the National / Regional Adoption framework and added that the Board would be provided with further details in respect of these proposals when appropriate.

Members **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the Fostering Services Inspection Report.

52 SOCIAL SERVICES QUARTERLY COMPLIMENTS AND COMPLAINTS REPORT.

The Complaints and QA manager presented her report to the Board which provided an overview of the operation and effectiveness of the statutory social services complaints procedure between 1st October 2015 – 31st December, 2015.

Members were advised that the report contained information on the number of complaints received, the nature of the complaints and the lessons learnt, as well as detailing Councillor, AM and MP enquiries and the number of compliments received. It was advised that the report also provided a summary of the Welsh Governments Independent complaints secretariat of comparative figures from each Local Authority in Wales.

In accordance with minute 40b of the last meeting, the Complaints and QA manager circulated the current staff guide to 'Communicating with Councillors, AMs and MPs' in respect of Complaints and Compliments and it was agreed that this would be put as an agenda item for the next meeting, to see how this could be amended and adapted for Members usage.

The Chairman commented on the forthcoming training in respect of safeguarding on the 27th April and again spoke of the importance of Members attendance at the training.

Members commented on the statutory timescales set in respect of some of the targets within the report and discussions evolved in respect of the measuring of outcomes in respect of the data collected and comparisons with other local authorities. Member also commented on the reporting of ombudsman findings following complaints to the Board for information.

It was **RESOLVED** :-

- a. To Note the Contents of the Report.

- b. That the current staff guide be put as an item on the next agenda of the Board for members to discuss how it could be amended and adapted to suit Members needs.
- c. That future Ombudsman findings are presented to the Board when appropriate

53 CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY, DELIVERY PLAN AND RISK REGISTER.

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services referred the Board to the report before them which had been presented to Cabinet on the 17th March, 2016, with Cabinet subsequently approving and adopting the Policy contained within the report.

Members were advised that the Group Director, Community & Children's Services and the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services had been identified as the responsible roles for corporate safeguarding for the Council.

Members commented on the need to continually raise awareness amongst the local communities and with Elected Members on each person's responsibility in respect of safeguarding and spoke of the E-Learning opportunities that could be taken forward for Elected Members.

Following discussions the Board **RESOLVED** to note the report.

54 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) for the next 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.

55 REGULATION 32 REPORTS – RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOMES

The Head of Safeguarding and Support provided the Board with an update on the Regulation 32 visits undertaken at the four children's homes – Beddau, Treherbert, Bryndar and Nant Gwyn for January 2016.

The officer outlined a summary of the Inspection outcomes and it was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

56 TREHERBERT REGULATION 32 REPORTS

The board were provided with an update on the previous concerns raised in the Regulation 32 visit to Treherbert Community Home.

Members commented positively on the update and the improvements noted and **RESOLVED** to note the report.

57 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(a) **Looked after Children Awards**

Members were reminded that the LAC awards were taking place on the 21st April, 2016 at the Muni Arts Centre in Pontypridd and that the Children’s Commissioner was also to be in attendance. Officers advised that the launch of the LAC website was also being taken forward at the event and that officers had taken on board members recent comments in respect of the website.

G E Hopkins

Chairman

The meeting terminated at 11.30pm



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