



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on Wednesday, 8 May 2019 at 10.00 am at the Block F, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park. Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

### **County Borough Councillors - Corporate Parenting Board Members in attendance:-**

Councillor C Leyshon (Chair)

Councillor G Hopkins    Councillor R Yeo  
Councillor L Jones

### **Officers in attendance**

Ms A Batley, Director of Children's Services  
Ms C Jones, Head of Access & Inclusion  
Ms C Miles, Childcare Solicitor  
Ms J Thomas, Complaints & QA Manager, Social Services  
Mrs. J Allen, Children and Young People's Service Manager  
Ms M Meredith, Residential Services Manager  
Ms R Ceshion, Childcare Delivery Manager  
Ms K Edmonds-Daniel (RCT Forum)

#### **54 Declaration of Interest**

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

#### **55 Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

#### **56 Voices from Care - RCT Forum**

Ms K Daniels, a representative of Voices from Care Cymru, provided the Corporate Parenting Board with the progress report for the RCT Forum for the period October 2018 – March 2019.

Members were pleased to learn that following a number of drop in events, there had been an increase in the number of young people participating with the service. It was also exciting to hear that since the last update provided to the Corporate Parenting Board, two young people from the RCT Forum had gained positions on the Board of Trustees.

The representative spoke of a vast range of events and activities undertaken by participants at the RCT Forum, including the NSPCC Launch, which took place in January 2019. It was explained that such events, which allow the young people to consult with professionals are invaluable as not only are the young people encouraged to have a voice but they are able to receive constructive feedback.

In respect of the Emotional Wellbeing and Mindfulness course run by the charity,

Gofal, which six young people participated in during March 2019, the representative thought it important to speak of the 'soft' outcomes achieved by the young people. Members recognised that more often or not, the soft outcomes are not highlighted in reports but make a huge difference to the lives of children and young people. It was pleasing to learn that the participants had provided feedback and recommendations regarding the mental health services on offer, which in turn had built their own confidence and self-esteem.

Discussions ensued around an exciting new intergenerational project, which was supported by Welsh Government and in conjunction with Age Connect, to reduce isolation for care leavers and older people. Members learned that the first of three events would take place in June 2019, which would aim to bring together ten persons from each generation for a gaming session. The Corporate Parenting Board spoke highly of the project, commenting that both generations would be able to learn through fun activities.

Going forward, the representative explained that outreach work would be undertaken to potentially establish a group for 11 – 14 year olds. Members learned of work, which had been formed in conjunction with the local schools to identify whether there is a need for a group to target the younger age range, and not just care leavers.

The Chair thanked Ms Daniels for such a positive report, commenting that she would look forward to further updates in the near future. Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the update.

## **57 Registered Childcare Provision Update**

The Childcare Delivery Manager presented the report, updating Members on the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) registered childcare settings overseen by the Community, Wellbeing and Resilience Service (CWRS).

The officer explained that there are a number of childcare provisions that are registered with CIW, six of which are run by the Local Authority. Members learned that three of the provisions were due to be inspected within the next 12 months and that two recent inspections had taken place, one at Tylorstown Flying Start Childcare and the other at Pontypridd Day Nursery and Flying Start Childcare. Both reports were positive, highlighted good leadership and evidenced that recommendations had been or were in the process of implementation.

Discussions ensued around the use of the Welsh Language within each childcare setting, with Members recognising the need for such a vital service in all provisions. Members were encouraged to learn that a Welsh Language Champion and an official Monitoring Officer were appointed to ensure that staff feel confident to speak the language to a high standard. The Cabinet Member for the Welsh Language spoke of a previous visit made to the registered childcare settings in his capacity of Chair of the Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group and was pleased to see that comments had been taken on board.

The Chair thanked the officer for the positive update and it was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the update.

**58 NYAS**

The Service Director, Children's Services reminded Members that following a retendering of advocacy process with Merthyr and Bridgend, Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) Cymru would be the new advocacy service in place of NYAS.

Following consideration of the NYAS Quarter 4 progress report, Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the update.

**59 To consider passing the following under-mentioned Resolution:**

It was **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of the exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of the Schedule 12A of the Act.

**60 Social Services Quarterly Complaints and Compliments**

The Service Improvement, Engagement & Complaints Manager provided the Corporate Parenting Board with an overview of the operation of effectiveness of the statutory Social Services complaints procedure between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

The report contained information on the number of complaints received, the nature of the complaints and any lessons learnt, as well as detailing Councillor, A.M and M.P enquiries and the number of complaints received.

Following a lengthy discussion around GDPR regulations, Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the update.

**61 Regulation 73 Reports**

The Residential Services Manager provided the Board with an update on the Regulation 73 visits undertaken at the three children's homes – Beddau, Bryndar and Nantgwyn.

The officer outlined a summary of the inspection outcomes and it was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the content of the report.

**This meeting closed at 10.55 am**

**Cllr C Leyshon  
Chairman.**