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RHONDDA CYNON TAF
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CABINET STATEMENT

**TITLE: BAIL ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES (BASS) –
ADDRESSES IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

DATE: 26th March 2008

BY: Councillor Russell Roberts, Leader of the Council

The Council is leading the campaign against the decision to use two properties in the County Borough as bail accommodation. This decision was taken by ClearSprings, which provides the Bail Accommodation and Support Service, and was the subject of no consultation with the Council, whatsoever. This is a matter which the Council has no authority or jurisdiction over although ClearSprings are required undertake meaningful consultation.

I have written to the company's Managing Director and the Secretary of State for Justice, Jack Straw MP, outlining in the strongest possible terms our objection to the proposals at 8 Beaumaris Close, Tonteg and 1 Brook Street, Treforest. I know that both local Members for Tonteg have made strong representations on this issue and discussed it with residents at public meetings.

What we are particularly concerned about is that ClearSprings has leased property without either consulting the local community, the Police or the Council. The fact that Gwauncelyn Infant and Junior Schools are only 200 yards away from Beaumaris Close makes this area a preposterous and ill thought out selection.

I can report that following our representations, ClearSprings has improved its approach somewhat and our officers have arranged to meet with the organization on 10 March. We have been informed that no further placements will be made at 8 Beaumaris Close, which is currently occupied by a young mother and her baby, and 1 Brook Street, which is unoccupied, until further consultation with ourselves.

At the forthcoming meeting, officers will discuss the suitability of properties as bail accommodation due to their location and will insist that ClearSprings seeks a more appropriate location for this type of facility.