

RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

Key Decision ☒

Operational Decision ☐

SUBJECT: Treherbert Community Home

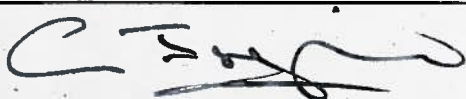
PURPOSE OF REPORT:

In accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation this report has been prepared to accompany the indented officer delegated decision of the Group Director, Community and Children's Services, as set out below:

To seek a decision on whether to continue to place young people in Treherbert in light of the number of incidents involving residents that have occurred over the last eight months and the expected Non Compliance Notice issued by CSSIW after their Inspection in July 2016.

DELEGATED DECISION (Date): 20 SEPTEMBER 2016

To not place any further young people in Treherbert pending a review



Chief Officer Signature

C. SINGARINI

Print Name

20.9.16.

Date

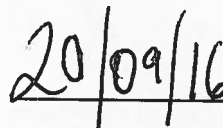
The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution



CONSULTATION



CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE



DATE

CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE

CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.

IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

YES NO ☒

Reason for urgency:.....

If deemed urgent - signature of Mayor or Deputy Mayor or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

.....
(Mayor)

.....
(Dated)

NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.

FOR CABINET OFFICE USE ONLY

PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES

PUBLICATION

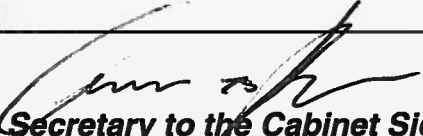
Publication on the Councils Website:- 22/9/16

DATE

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 5 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Subject to Call In the implementation date will be 30/9/16
DATE

 Secretary to the Cabinet Signature	CHRISTIAN S HANAGAN Print Name	<u>22/9/16,</u> Date
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Further Information

Directorate:	Community and Children's Services
Contact Name:	Ann Batley
Designation:	Service Director for Children's Services
Tel.No.	01443 490400

APPENDIX

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

20TH SEPTEMBER 2016

TREHERBERT COMMUNITY HOME

**AUTHOR: Ann Batley, Service Director Children Services,
Tel. No. 01443 490400**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek a decision on whether to continue to place young people in Treherbert in light of the number of incidents involving residents that have occurred over the last eight months and the expected Non Compliance Notice issued by CSSIW after their Inspection in July 2016.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To not place any further young people in Treherbert pending a review.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 A number of incidents have occurred recently within Treherbert Community Home that has accumulated in a Non Compliance Notice being served on the authority under the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales Care Standard Act 2000. The incidents and recent Non Compliance notice has questioned the viability of the future use or need for the home.
- 3.2 Before a long term decision can be taken with regard to the future of the Home it is necessary to undertake a review of commissioning options across the service area

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Treherbert Community Home is part of RCT's portfolio of residential establishments and can accommodate 4 young people. The introduction of the Minimum Standards Act 2004 saw regulatory changes in the statement of purpose for each of our homes and Treherbert's statement of purpose was changed to focus on young



people aged between 15-18 who required support to gain the skills needed for independent living.

- 4.2 This resulted in Treherbert having to change how they approached the delivery of care for young people and having young people placed with them who were often in the later years of their care experience and who had entrenched extreme behaviours. This also resulted in the home frequently being targeted by local criminals who exploited the vulnerability of the young people and with the staff at the home having to work very closely with the police to try and safeguard the young people and avoid the need to disrupt the young people's long term plans and placement stability.
- 4.3 The care provided to these young people focused on building their independence and resilience in order for them to move on positively. Treherbert had some success with this, which can be evidenced over the years through the CSSIW Inspection Reports that have shown that the home has improved year on year in regards to the quality of care it provides and its ability to meet Regulation and Standards.
- 4.4 In January 2016 concerns were raised through the Regulation 32 process in relation to the matching of young people moving into the home. The concerns were specifically related to high levels of risky behaviours being presented by the groups of young people being looked after at Treherbert and the resulting management of these complex behaviours by staff.
- 4.5 After the adverse Regulation 32 report, the admissions to Treherbert were suspended and it became apparent, when trying to match young people to Treherbert, that it was now necessary to change Treherbert's Statement of Purpose to allow Treherbert to accept younger children to enhance the matching process.
- 4.6 However, concerns in relation to the behaviour of young people at Treherbert again began to escalate in April 2016. The young people who had been matched as suitable for Treherbert's amended Statement of Purpose were now presenting challenges to staff in the form of verbal and physical threats, damage to property and absconding.
- 4.7 The situation at the home did stabilise but soon deteriorated and in May 2016 a fire occurred at the home which resulted in the home having to be closed to prevent any further risks to the young people who were based there, and the staff. Since this incident the home has undergone all necessary repairs to the building and is now being used to temporarily accommodate one individual.



5. ANALYSIS

- 5.1 The recent pressures on Children's Services and experiences with Treherbert highlight the need to consider what types of residential establishments are needed in the future to accommodate the complex needs of the young people who are becoming looked after. In order to consider the commissioning options for the service a detailed review is required to determine the long term implications.
- 5.2 The current situation presents an opportunity to review what is required, to meet changing service needs. If a decision was made not to use Treherbert until a review was completed this would also solve the issues presented by the Non Compliance Notice because CSSIW would have to be notified of our intention. This option would in effect "moth ball" the premises until a full review of the needs of our Children Looked After population could be undertaken

6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment is not considered necessary at this time.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 To-date no formal consultation has been undertaken but due to the seriousness of the incidents that have occurred at Treherbert, meetings have been held with the local area Councillors and immediate neighbours.
- 7.2 The neighbours acknowledged the rise in the number of incidents that have occurred in the last few months and one reported being subjected to verbal abuse and that the young people attracted young people from all over the site but recognised that some of the incidents were caused by local children not those at Treherbert.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 There are no direct or adverse budgetary implications arising from this report if the recommended action is agreed. There may be financial implications in addressing the notice of non compliance and from the outcome of the commissioning review but these cannot be determined at this time.

9. STAFFING

- 9.1 Should we proceed with the recommended action we would need to work with HR to minimise impact on staff and re-deploy where



possible. Initial discussions would suggest that we can accommodate the vast majority of current staff within the service.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

10.1 Need to address non compliance notice

11. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN/OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP

11.1 The provision of effective responses to the needs of children and young people is a key priority for the Council and is supported by the recommended course of action

13. CONCLUSION

13.1 Until the current concerns are fully addressed and a formal response to the non compliance notice determined it is not considered appropriate by the Director of Social Services to place any further young people in the home.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Children and Young People



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR,
COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

20TH SEPTEMBER 2016

TREHERBERT COMMUNITY HOME

Background Papers

Non Compliance Notice issued by CSSIW after their Inspection in July 2016

**Officer to contact: Ann Batley, Service Director for Children Services,
Tel. No. 01443 490400**