

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Wednesday 7th September, 2016 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor (Mrs.) C.Leyshon – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

S.Carter
(Mrs) J. Cass
M.Griffiths

P. Jarman
(Mrs) S.Jones
B.Morgan

B.Stephens
G.Thomas

Member(s) in Attendance

County Borough Councillor G. Smith – Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny
County Borough Councillor C. Willis - Scrutiny Performance Management
Co-ordinator

Co-opted Members

Mr.J.Fish – Voting Elected Parent/Governor Representative
Mr. C. Jones - Representing GMB

Officers in Attendance

Mr.G.Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children’s Services
Mr.P.Nicholls – Head of Legal Litigation
Ms. A .Batley – Service Director Children’s Services
Ms. N. Thomas – Early Years Family Service Manager
Ms. G. Beynon – Play and Family Information Service Manager

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from: County Borough Councillors H.Boggis, (Mrs) J.Bunnage, S.Evans- Fear, R.K Turner and L. Walker.
Co-opted Member - Mrs S Jones

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED - In accordance with the Code of Conduct, there were no personal declarations of interests made, pertaining to the agenda.

11. MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on the 17th July, 2016, subject to it being noted that County Borough Councillor G. Thomas was in attendance at the meeting.

REPORTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

12. PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN

The Play and Family Information Service Manager and Early Years Family Service Manager outlined the report to Members for their comments. The Report was presented to Cabinet on the 23rd June 2016 where it had subsequently been endorsed and agreed that both the Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) and Action Plan would be submitted to Welsh Government.

Members raised concerns in respect of the timescales and dates within the report as they seemed unclear and confusing.

The Group Director Community and Children's Services took Member's comments on board and confirmed that the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan would be looked at in detail and this would be reported back.

The Committee expressed their concerns as to why Members hadn't been given the opportunity to scrutinise the report prior to going to Cabinet.

Service Director Children's Services explained that the Welsh Government has now requested an annual plan rather than a 3 year plan as previously highlighted in the CCSW Report, this gives the Committee time to scrutinise the progress.

In respect of the criteria setting out the data (R.A.G) in the Assessment process Members were concerned over the shortcomings in certain areas of the assessment plan which included:

- Insufficient Play Provision for Disabled Children and how this was going to be tackled.
- Concerns were expressed over the health and wellbeing of the children in the Local Authority and how would the Play Provisions identify young children with obesity and other life style related conditions.

The Play and Family Information Service Manger and Service Director Children's Services confirmed that the provisions for Play Provision for Disabled Children is being looked at under the Assessment Plan and Members will be kept up to date with the progress.

Service Director Children's Services explained to Members that the health and well being of children and young people in Rhondda, Cynon, Taf is paramount and that intervention at an early age is something the Local Authority work on with education in the community. The Authority are working closely with parents and community groups such as Community First, Family First to try and help families get a better understanding of what is needed for a healthier life style. Members felt that they would find it beneficial to have sight of the Community First Review.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was **RESOLVED** – To:

- Provide members with an update of the current position picking up the points identified above.
- Update the Members with Information in respect of the provisions for Play Sufficiency Structure for Disabled Children.
- Obtain information from Head of Communities and Prosperity in respect of Community First Review.
- The Head of Communities and Prosperity will also be asked to attend a future Meeting to provide Members with the Information.
- Keep Members updated on outcome of the Play Sufficiency Assessment that was presented to Welsh Government.

13. REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN RESPECT OF NATIONAL TRANSFER FOR UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN

In her report the Service Director Children's Services provided Members with information in respect of the National Transfer of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

Following a lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED** – That arrangements would be made for the Chair, Vice Chair and County Borough Councillor M. Griffiths to meet and collate the Member's concerns and relay the information from the Scrutiny Committee to Service Director Children's Services before the Report is presented to Cabinet.

Meeting Terminated 6.25p.m

(MRS.)C.LEYSHON - CHAIR