

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (COMBINED)**

**Minutes** of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (Combined) held at the Council Headquarters, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 at 5.00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

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

**County Borough Councillors**

H.Boggis	S.Carter	(Mrs.)J.Cass
S.Evans-Fear	P.Jarman	(Mrs.)S.Jones
M.Griffiths	B.Stephens	L.Walker
G.Thomas	R.K.Turner	

**Non-Committee Member(s) in Attendance**

County Borough Councillor L.M.Adams – Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Co-opted Members**

Mr.J.Fish – Elected Parent/Governor  
Mr.S.Jones – Elected Parent/Governor

**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.Kingham – Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Business Manager  
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

**20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors J.Bunnage and B.Morgan.

**21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED** – to note that in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct there were no declarations of interest made at the meeting pertaining to the agenda.

**22 TRAINING –  
EFFECTIVE SCRUTINY FOR POSITIVE OUTCOMES AND DIFFERENT WAYS OF  
WORKING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WELLBEING OF FUTURE  
GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT, 2015**

The Committee received Ms.K.May, Head of Democratic Services and Mr.D.Hurford, Head of Policy (Improvement and Governance) of the WLGA, who provided Members with a joint training session encapsulating the following topics:-

- Effective Scrutiny for Positive Outcomes (Ms.K.May)
- Different Ways of Working in Accordance with the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015 (Mr.D.Hurford)

The training delivered to Members in respect of Effective Scrutiny for Positive Outcomes commenced with a discussion around “What is the purpose of scrutiny?” and “What do you want to achieve here?” thus reminding Members that following the implementation of the new Scrutiny Structure within Rhondda Cynon Taf in May, 2015, that scrutiny is to be more outcome focussed with better engagement with citizens and stakeholders. The key characteristics of scrutiny – Environment, Practice and Impact were also recapped upon together with questioning and listening skills.

Following on from the Joint training session with Members of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and this Authority on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016 and the reports that were presented to both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 respectively in respect of the establishment of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee between Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councils to scrutinise the Cwm Taf Public Services Board, Members received Mr.D.Hurford of the WLGA who provided further training and information in respect of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015.

Mr.Hurford informed Members that the essentials of the Act are:-

- The 7 Wellbeing Goals
- Public Bodies have a new statutory sustainable development duty – which covers how they govern themselves and how they will deliver outcomes
- Public Bodies have to produce Wellbeing Objectives (and statements) by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 and report on them annually
- Public Bodies have to work in partnership through new statutory Public Service Boards who in turn have to publish Wellbeing Assessment (by May, 2017) and then produce Wellbeing Objectives and a Wellbeing Plan by May, 2018 (and report on it annually).

Mr.Hurford further outlined the role of PSB Scrutiny which gives Members the opportunity for democratic oversight of other public services. However, it was acknowledged that the Act does not provide for joint scrutiny of PSBs and therefore the establishment of the joint arrangements between Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and this Authority have been in accord with Section 58 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure, 2011 and the Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees)(Wales) Regulations, 2013.

Following the responses to questions raised by Members, the Chair thanked both Ms.K.May and Mr.Hurford for their joint presentation and Mr.Hurford left the meeting.

## **23 CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16 INCLUDING THE ANNUAL PLAN 2016/17**

With the permission of the Chair, the Committee considered the above Annual Report and Annual Plan which was presented by Ms.N.Kingham, Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Business Manager.

Ms.Kingham reported on the structure of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board (CTSCB) which is chaired jointly by the Director of Community and Children's Services (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council) and the Chief Officer for Social Services (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council) and she outlined the work that had been undertaken by the Board from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016 which was in compliance with the Social Services and Wellbeing Act, 2014.

Members were informed that National Safeguarding week commences on 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 and that Cwm Taf was the first in Wales to hold such an event last year, resulting in the Welsh Government adopting the concept as a National event.

The Group Director, Community and Children's Services indicated that this was the first report and plan of its kind and suggested that future reports and plans be looked at in their draft format thus giving Members the opportunity to undergo pre-scrutiny prior to publication and that any comments in respect of the 2016/17 plan would be taken on board.

Following consideration of the Annual Report 2015/16 and the Annual Plan 2016/17, Members congratulated the Officers for the work undertaken in producing both documents and it was **RESOLVED** – to note the contents of the documents and should Members have any comments to make in respect of the 2016/17 plan they be submitted direct to the respective Officers.

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

### **24 UPDATED SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

In his report, the Director, Legal and Democratic Services made reference to the decisions that were made at the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on the 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 (Minute No.7 refers) where Members agreed:

- That meetings of the Committee take place on a three weekly cycle (to reflect the need to consider those topics dealt with under the individual Education and Children's Social Services Work Programmes at separate meetings. The meeting on the sixth week being a combined meeting to consider those issues which bridge the two service areas;
- the dates of meetings for the remainder of the year;
- that following a period of six months, the revised approach be reviewed by Members of this Committee to assess the effectiveness of the new arrangements;
- To agree the initial list of work topics for the 2016/17 municipal year.

Members were informed that following on from the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2016, discussions had taken place with the Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee in conjunction with the relevant Officers and attached at Appendix 1 to the report was a revised copy of the Work Programme which had been devised to incorporate the topic areas which had been agreed from the list of service areas/themes that come within the remit of the Committee as well as those topics which had been carried forward from 2015/16.

Following consideration of the revised Work Programme, it was **RESOLVED** – to agree the Work Programme as attached to the report at Appendix 1 subject to an

additional item being included in respect of a review being undertaken regarding the changes being made regarding behaviour support and learning support that children receive in schools.

**(MRS.)C.LEYSHON  
CHAIR**

**The meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.**