

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 Monday , 19th December, 2016 at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Borough Councillors

H.Boggis	S. Evans - Fear	B.Stephens
J. Bunnage	M.Griffiths	G. Thomas
S.Cater	P. Jarman	L. Walker
S. Evans – Fear	(Mrs) S. Jones	

Non-Committee Member(s) in Attendance

County Borough Councillor C. Willis – Scrutiny Performance Management Co- ordinator

Co-opted Members

Mr.J.Fish – Elected Parent/Governor

Officers in Attendance

Mr.P.Nicholls – Head of Legal Litigation
Ms.A.Batley – Service Director, Children’s Services
Ms.G. Davies – Service Director for Access, Engagement and Inclusion
Mr. J.Palmer – Director of Primary, Community and Mental Health
Dr P Davies – Assistant Director of Operations, Mental Health
Dr T. Gardiner – Clinical Director CAMHS

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs) J. Cass and B.Morgan and Co –opted Member Mr S. Jones

42 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.

43 REPORT OF HEAD OF PLANNING, CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES
CWM TAF HEALTH BOARD

The Chair welcomed the Director of Primary, Community and Mental Health, Assistant Director of Operations, Mental Health and Dr T Gardiner Clinical Director, CAHMS, to the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

The Director of Primary, Community and Mental Health introduced his colleagues to Members and explained that they would provide Members with a presentation to assist with their understanding of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

With the aid of PowerPoint presentation slides Members were given an in depth presentation on the complex service and the associated difficulties of running a service which has such media and political interest. Members were informed that the service has seen an enormous recovery over the last 18 months and the changes in waiting times for CAHMS has dropped significantly. There have been new investments to the service over the last 12 months. This new investment within Cwm Taf has contributed the further development of specific service areas.

Crisis/ Section 136/T4CYP – This is a service for young people presenting in mental health crisis.

Primary Mental Health Service – To enhance capacity of current service in order to deliver Part 1 of the Mental Health (Wales) Measure

Early Intervention in Psychosis – To Support the training of Tier 1 professionals regarding the signs and symptoms of Psychosis that will help facilitate early identification, treatment and management that will support recovery.

Neurodevelopmental Disorder - To enhance the capacity of the current service in order to achieve improved access to services, implement a more prudent approach so as to reduce waiting times for assessment and diagnosis. This achieved through enhanced family support and training and increased joint working.

Network wide investment has included

CAPA – which involves the enhancement of the current therapies and further development of psychological therapies, including the introduction of the Choice and Partnership Approach (CAPA)

Social Worker Tier 4 – There has been a bid agreed by the Welsh Government to enable the recruitment of a social work post in the Tier 4 unit. This has been funded from each of the Health Boards

Waiting List Initiative – allocation of funding has been made available from Welsh Government in order to reduce the waiting lists prior to the 28 day target from April 2016.

Members were informed that a very successful waiting list initiative has been running across Cwm Taf and the current maximum waiting time in Cwm Taf CAHMS is now 22 Weeks (1 outlier and then it drops to 16 weeks.) This is from a maximum waiting time of 107 weeks at the start of the waiting list initiative. .

The choice and partnership approach should enable the reduction of waiting times to

28 days by April 2017. Members were informed of the benefits of CAPA and it was explained that by the 1st March all new referrals will be processed through the CAPA system, which will provide a choice of appointments and a range of options, including co – partnership programmes and a review after six months.

In respect of training, a sustainable training and clinical supervision programme designed to support and enhance the skills of new and existing staff has been developed.

– Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) and Systemic Family Therapy Training groups are due to commence in Cwm Taf in January 2017.

Network wide Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) has been established
British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) accredited CBT supervisor training has been provided by 2 Network staff members.
Psychodynamic/ attachment based training provided by Tavistock Clinic for Primary Mental Health Service staff.

The Director of Primary, Community and Mental Health explained to Members that the additional funding for Welsh Government has allowed the improvement of a range of psychological therapies such as CBT, DBT, Family Therapy and Psychodynamic and attachment approaches. He explained that the outcomes from the range of interventions provided will be routinely monitored using standardised measures to ensure quality of care.

The Director of Primary, Community and Mental Health went on to explain the need to ensure continued success post the Waiting List Initiative. He informed Members that there are a number of dependencies that require further consideration including:

Development of comprehensive Neurodevelopment Disorder Services will need to be considered as part of the demand and capacity model.
Implementation of the all age Integrated Autism Service will prove significant to ensuring early intervention to emerging needs and difficulties
Continued development of Primary Mental Health Services and improved links to Primary Mental Health Services for Adults (16 – 25 years)
Effective links with local commissioned Children's Services
Need for a shared vision and responsibility for early intervention and prevention and the commissioning decisions of in relation to partnership grants.

In his conclusion the Director of Primary, Community and Mental Health explained there is a very high degree of scrutiny, with significant funding (circa £1.5m) and the development of new services along with partnership working with Educational Psychology, Learning Disability, Children and Young People and Social Services is deemed to be absolutely critical now the service is stabilising.

The Chair thanked Officers for their presentation and welcomed Members Questions.

One of the Members of the Committee asked if you identify the problems earlier within the home would this help in the long term? Officers explained that early intervention is key however many of the problems do not appear until many year later.

Members questioned in respect of the 28 day waiting time and sought clarity on what criteria will be used to assess the priority of the needs of the children. In response to this question the health professionals explained that all children are a priority and will be assessed for their individual needs within 28 days.

A member of the Committee asked whether there would be additional assessments provided by the Educational Psychology Service as part of the new Autism Service. It was explained that the Educational Psychology input is currently provided by Education. The Neurodevelopmental received funding of £385,000 for the autism referral service, which included assessment for diagnosis and training patients and carers. Educational psychology contribute to this assessment. The Service Director for Access, Engagement and Inclusion explained that the Educational Psychology Service continues to provide protected core services to Cwm Taf Local Health Board. In future, this service will operate as a traded service and there is will opportunities for different agencies, including Health, to purchase additional input should they wish to do so. .

Members expressed their views in relation to the process with the GP Assessment and the length of time that it takes for children to be seen within the CAMHS and in respect of the mental health budget what percentage of the budget would set aside for the service. Officer explained that the budget is not a big and is fairly small in comparison. GP's are working together with schools and other organisation to address this.

One of the Committee Members commented that he was pleased to see a positive rapid improvement assurance with the joined up approach (CAPA Module) and a more imbedded approach is need to take the process further forward.

Members asked what was being done in respect of the working together approach with PSHB. Stand together work further in a more integral way and come back in a 12 months time to see where we are in respect of the new services etc.

The Chair thanked the officers for their time and report. It was **RESLOVED:**
to acknowledge the report and its context
to receive a progress report in approximately 12 months time.

44. REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN SERVICES AND THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee considered the report in respect of the Outcomes of Children Looked After (CLA) in RCT during 2015 / 2016 which was presented to them by the Service Director for Access, Engagement and Inclusion and the Service Director for Children's Services. The Service Director for Access, Engagement and Inclusion explain that the report is to provide Members with an update on the educational outcomes of Children Looked After (CLA) in Rhondda Cynon Taf during 2015 / 2016. She explained that the Children Looked After Team within the Access & Inclusion Service endeavours to reduce the risk of poor educational outcomes through individual,

group, whole school and strategic approaches.

The data in the report provided both local and national data and it was reported that it should be noted that there are different reporting mechanisms for these datasets. National data considers children looked after regardless of where they are placed in their respective care placements. Local data reports relate to children and young people who are looked after and educated in Rhondda Cynon Taf only. The scope for making direct comparisons between local and national data sets are therefore restricted.

The Service Director, Access, Engagement and Inclusion explained that National data detailed on the Welsh Government Stats Wales website, suggests that on the 31st March 2016 there were 625 looked after children and young people within Rhondda Cynon Taf, which is the the second highest for Wales for the total number of children and young people who were looked after and the highest for Wales for number of statutory school aged children. Members were informed in depth of the data provided in the tables of the report.

Members raised question in relation to the figures provided and questioned what work was being done to ensure the best outcome for the children and young people who fall in to the category of (CLA). Officers explained that a lot of work is being done across both generic and specialist services, and that this includes working with foster carers and training them to support the needs of the children in their care.

In relation to (CLA) pupils who have a statement of special educational needs both within and out of county is disproportionately high compared to the wider population and this highlights the complexity of the need with this vulnerable group of learners. . Data suggests that a high number of learners needing intervention at either early years/school action, early years/school action plus and a statutory level. A member asked if there were any figures in respect of the total numbers of learners with a statement of special educational needs in the local authority, The Service Director Access, Engagement and Inclusion explained that she did not have these figures to hand but would come back to the next appropriate meeting with this information (Percentage of learners with statements of special educational needs in Rhondda Cynon Taf at December 2016 was later found to be 2.12%).

Members raised concerns in respect of the attendance achieved for children looked after at secondary level of education and asked what could be done to improve. Officers explained that this is an area for further development.

A member commented that there was a dip in the performance across Key Stage 3 and asked what work could be done to help raise the performance in the future. Members were informed that challenge advisors would work closely with individual schools to address any specific areas of concern and that all schools are required to interrogate data sets and use this to inform their self-evaluation and school improvement planning processes.

Members also raised concern in respect of the late release of data from Welsh Government which did not help the Scrutiny Committee to achieve their aims in a timely manner.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESLOVED** to report at a future meeting of the Children and Young People Committee feedback from Welsh Government in respect of data collection and the reason for delay.

Note: County Borough Councillor Jarman wished to have recorded the fact the she voted in favour of the following lost motion:-

“That the data collection provided by the Welsh Government and the local authority are distributed at different timescales thereby making it difficult to make comparisons. Therefore the Welsh Government be asked to provide such data as from 31st March to 1st April each year. Also in relation to the outcomes Children Looked After in RCT during the academic year 2015/16, there is clear evidence that there needs to be a more cross cutting approach and there for the matter be referred to Cwm Taf Public Service Board for them to consider making this a priority on their work programme.

45. REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

In his report, the Director of Legal and Democratic Services made reference to the decisions that were made at the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on the 14th July 2016 (Minute No.7) 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 Services Work Programme at separate meetings. The meeting on the 6th week being combined to consider those issues which bridge the two service areas.

The Chair explained to Members that the revised approach has been in operation for a 6 month period and as agreed at the meeting held on the 14th July 2016, Member need to consider whether they are happy with the new way of working or whether they wish to revert back to the previous arrangements of the combined approach.

After a lot of consideration Members **RESOVLED:** to continue with the three weekly cycle and review at the end of the municipal year.

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

The meeting closed at 6:50 p.m.

These minutes are subject to approval at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee