

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 12th July 2017 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor S. Rees- Owen – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

J. Brencher H. Fychan S. Rees
A. Calvert W. Lewis

Non – Committee Member in Attendance

County Borough Councillor G. Thomas – Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny

Co-opted Members

Mr.J.Fish – Voting Elected Parent/Governor Representative
Mrs S Jones – Voting Elected Parent/ Governor Representative
Mr S. Jones – Voting Elected Parent/ Governor Representative

Officers in Attendance

Mr G Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children's Services
Ms A. Batley – Service Director Children's Services
Ms T Prosser – Acting Head of Service Intensive Intervention / E.A.T
Mr P Nicholls – Head of Legal – Litigation, Planning & Environment, Community and
Children's Services
Mr T Garthwaite - Independent Consultant
Ms C Hendy – Democratic Services Officer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from: County Borough Councillors J. Harries, L. Hooper, S. Powderhill and S Evans – Fear

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING

The Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee welcomed Members and Officers to the first meeting of the new committee. The Chair went on to welcome Mr Tony Garthwaite Independent Consultant to the committee.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on the 22nd March 2017.

5. TRAINING SESSION – ACHIEVING EFFECTIVE SCRUTINY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Members of the Committee received a presentation facilitated by Mr Tony Garthwaite, who is a former Director of Social Services and Corporate Director who currently acts as an independent consultant. Mr Garthwaite has had experience of assisting a number of Welsh Authorities in his capacity as an expert advisor to the Centre of Public Scrutiny the objectives of the presentation was to:

- Develop a better understanding of the key issues facing Children's Services in the next year and beyond;
- Explore best practice in the Scrutiny of Children's Services;
- Identify priorities for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

The Service Director Children's Services also presented key priorities and challenges for Children's Services which are Early Intervention /Prevention, Children Looked After, Safeguarding and Workforce. Members and Officers engaged in discussion in respect of way in which the Committee are able to bring more outcome based scrutiny for the Children and Young People of Rhondda, Cynon, Taf.

Members of the Committee found the presentation very informative and agreed to take in to account all key areas when taking the work programme forward.

Members went on to discuss the work programme and it was **RESOLVED** - any topics Members wish to added to the work programme should be E-mailed to the Chair or Democratic Service Officer to be considered as part of the final work programme for September 2017.

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES.

6. DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services informed Members that the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 includes in Part 8 a Code of Practice with regards to the role of the Director of Social Services, which shows an ongoing requirement for the Director of Social Services to publish an Annual Report.

The Group Director Community and Children's Services explained to Members that the Committees comments were sought on the contents of the Director of Social Services Annual Report 2016/17 which would form part of the formal consultation process.

The Director of Social Services Annual Report provided Members with delivery, performance, risks and planned improvements of the Social Services function in the Council.

Members of the Committee thanked Officers for the timely report and after an in-depth discussion **RESOLVED** - that Members of the Committee would send their views to the Group Director of Community and Children's Services who will incorporate the comments of Members in the final report that is to be presented to Cabinet.

S. Rees – Owen (Chairman)

Meeting closed at 7.00pm

These minutes are subject to approval of the next Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee