

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 26th July 2017 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Borough Councillors

J. Brencher	J. Harries	S. Rees
A. Calvert	L Hooper	W. Lewis
H. Fychan	S. Powell	R. Smith

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

Officers in Attendance

Ms E. Thomas Director of Education and Lifelong Learning
Mr P Nicholls – Head of Legal – Litigation, Planning & Environment, Community and Children's Services
Mr B. Whittingham, School Improvement, (Secondary)
Mr T Britton, School Improvement (Primary)
Ms A. Richards, Head of 21st Century Schools
Ms C. Edwards, Head of Transformation and Data Systems and Schools Admissions
Ms J Allen, Head of Attendance and Wellbeing
Ms C. Hutcheon, Head of Youth Engagement and Participation and SEET Service
Ms C Jones – Head of Access and Inclusion Service
Ms C Hendy – Democratic Services Officer

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from: County Borough Councillor S.Evans-Fear and Co-opted Member Mr S Jones

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

9. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING

The Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting of the Education aspect of the Committee

10. PRESENTATION FROM HEADS OF SERVICE WITHIN EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

The Chair explained to Members that as the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee covered a wide range of topics under the remit of Education, Members would be presented with an overview of each of its service areas.

The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning introduced the Heads of Service who presented an overview of the following areas:

- Framework for Challenge and Support (School Improvement Primary) presented by Mr T Britton Head of School Improvement Primary;
- Access and Inclusion Service presented by Ms Ceri Jones, Head of access and Inclusion;
- School Improvement within Secondary Schools, presented by Mr Bernard Whittingham, Head of Achievement, Secondary;
- School Attendance and Wellbeing Service presented by Ms Jessica Allen, Head of Attendance and Wellbeing Service;
- Youth Engagement and Participation Service and SEET Service presented by Ms C. Hutcheon, Head of Youth Engagement and Participation and SEET Service;
- 21st Century Schools presented by Ms A Richards Head of 21st Century School; and

Schools Admission Service presented by Ms C Edwards Head of Transformation and Data Systems and Schools Admissions.

Following the responses to questions raised by Members, the Chair thanked the Officers for their very informative and helpful presentations and Officers left the Meeting.

11. URGENT ITEM

The Head of Legal, Litigation, Planning & Environment, Community and Children's Services explained to Members that the Meeting of Full Council held on the 19th July 2017, the following Notice of Motion, as amended in accordance with paragraph 10.4.1 of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution was adopted:-

“ That this Council will research the availability of free sanitary products, such as tampons and towels, in all secondary schools in the County as acknowledgement that they are as essential as toilet paper for the personal hygiene of female pupils.”

At the Council Meeting held on the 19th July 2017 Members will recall that many Councillors spoke on this item and suggested many areas could be reviewed by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee such as the provision of such products to be made available free of charge in primary schools as well as secondary schools, and therefore research be undertaken as to whether this provision is available in any or all of the primary schools; a standardised approach to be used across schools in RCT.

It was explained to Members that this matter be expedited in order that the findings and recommendations from Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee would be reported to Cabinet and or Council, if felt appropriate in October 2017.

After in depth discussion it was **RESOLVED** –

- To establish a Working Group of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to deal with Notice of Motion of the availability of free sanitary products in schools.
- That nomination to sit on the Working Group be given to the Democratic Services Officer to enable the first meeting to be convened.
- For the Working Group to report back to Committee, Cabinet and Council with its recommendations.

S Rees – Owen (Chairman)

Meeting closed at 7:35pm

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