

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 6th September 2017 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor W. Lewis – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

S. Evans – Fear L. Hooper

J. Harries S.Powell

Non – Committee Member in Attendance

County Borough Councillor M Adams – Chair of Overview and Scrutiny

Co-opted Members

Mr.J.Fish – 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

Mr P Nicholls – Head of Legal – Litigation, Planning & Environment, Community and
Children’s Services

Ms J Thomas – Service Improvement, Engagement and Complaint’s Manager

Ms N. Kingham – Business Manger Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from: County Borough Councillors S. Rees-Owen, J. Brencher , H. Fychan, S. Rees and R. Smith

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

14 MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on the 12th July 2017.

15 REPRESENTAION AND COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE ANNUAL REPORT

The Service Improvement, Engagement and Complaint's Manager presented Members with an overview of the operation and effectiveness of the Council's statutory Social Service complaints procedure between April 2016 and March 31st 2017 which provided information on lessons learnt from complaints and performance data for Children and Adult Social Services, together with achievements for 2016/17 and future developments.

It was explained to Members that the Local Authority provides a robust and effective service and that an increase or decrease in the number of complaints does not necessarily reflect a change in the standard of service provided. Members agreed that the numbers of complaints are relatively low in contrast to the number of people that come into contact with Social Services annually however the increase this year needs to be looked at.

The Group Director Community and Children's Services explained that the restructure of the Social Services department and the difficult nature of the work the service undertakes.

After considering the report Members **RESOLVED** to accept the report and its recommendations:

- Acknowledge the Social Services Annual Complaints Report
- Accept the work undertaken by the Social Services Complaints Team

16. CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

The Business Manager Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards presented the Annual Report 2016/17 for the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board (Children, Adults and the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH))

Members were informed that safeguarding involves both the protection of children and adults at risk from abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm.

Officers explained the structure of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board which is a Multi Agency Partnership that have responsibility for safeguarding children and adults at risk in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil.

It was brought to Members attention that in 2016/17 a joint regional multi agency Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board has been created and produced the first Cwm Taf Safeguarding Annual Report for all ages.

The Business Manager Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards highlighted the work that the board undertook during 2016/17. The report highlights that safeguarding can only be achieved through our strong partnership, where all Board agencies work together proactively and productively.

Members scrutinised the report in depth and after in depth consideration it was **RESOLVED** to:

- Acknowledge the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Annual Report.
- To receive an updating report from the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service in respect of supporting Children within the Authority.

17. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME REPORT FOR 2017/18

The Head of Legal – Litigation, Planning & Environment, Community and Children's Services presented Members with the Committee's Working Programme for 2017/18.

It was explained to Members that there is a requirement to devise and publish a Work Programme for each of the Council's Scrutiny Committees as set out in part 4 of the Constitution.

Members considered the work programme and it was **RESOLVED** to:

- Agree the Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2017/18
- Agree to establishment of a Joint Working Group with Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in respect of " Delivering Integrated Family Support Early Intervention and Prevention Services in RCT

W. Lewis (Chairman)

Meeting closed at 18:00pm