

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 22 January 2014 at 10 a.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor (Mrs) A.Davies – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

(Mrs) E.Hanagan, S.Rees-Owen, R.K.Turner and L.G.Walker

Officers in Attendance

Mr.P.J.Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services

Mr.A.Gwynn – Service Director, Children’s Services

Mrs.G.Davies, Acting Service Director, Access, Engagement & Inclusion

Mrs.P.Lonergan – Head of Looked After Children

Ms.E.D.Pearce – Head of Safeguarding & Standards

Ms.S.Edwards – Reviewing Team Manager

Mrs.J.Preston – Service Manager, Children’s Services

29 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from County Borough Councillor (Mrs) M.E.Davies.

30 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interests in matters pertaining to the agenda.

31 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on 5 December 2013.

REPORTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN’S SERVICES

32 INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER (IRO) REPORT

In his report, the Group Director, Community & Children’s Services provided the Board Members with information regarding the discharge of the Independent Reviewing Officer functions for the period 1st April – 30th September 2013/

The key themes highlighted in the report related to:

- Maintaining good performance in relation to reviews being held within timescale;
- Continued developmental work undertaken by the Reviewing Team relating to personal education plans for looked after children;
- Outcomes from the approach developed for the resolution of problems or issues identified by the Independent Reviewing Officer in relation to care plans for individual children; and
- Outcome focused review reports.

Following consideration of the matter, it was **RESOLVED** to note the information.

33 SAFEGUARDING ACTION PLAN REPORT

In his report, the Group Director, Community & Children's Services informed the Board Members of progress made in respect of the Children's Services Safeguarding Action Plan and the Head of Safeguarding & Standards highlighted the key achievements and difficulties associated with actions contained within the Plan in 2013.

A discussion ensued and it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To note the progress report.
- (2) To receive a further progress report in 12 months.

34 RCT YOUNG CARERS SERVICE AND ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

The Board Members were informed of the positive work being undertaken by the Young Carers Service within Rhondda Cynon Taf and they were provided with the Annual Report 2012-2013 in relation to the Service.

Members were pleased to note that due to raising awareness and ensuring that young carers were identified, there had been a 43% increase in contacts during 2012-2013 compared to 2011-2012. Details of the progress made during the year were reported and following consideration of the matter, it was **RESOLVED** to note the report and work undertaken by the Young Carers Service.

35 CSSIW INSPECTION REPORT

In his report, the Group Director, Community & Children's Services advised Members of the outcome of unannounced inspections undertaken at Treherbert, Beddau and Bryndar Children's Homes between July and November 2013 by The Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales.

Members noted that the inspection reports were very positive about each of the Homes and the efforts made by staff to provide a high standard of care for the looked after young people.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** to note the information.

36 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended) for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely, information relating to a particular individual. Transparency in the conduct and capabilities of individuals will be discussed and considered. Consequently, it is considered, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing information by virtue of which the meeting is likely not to be open to the public during its consideration.

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES CONTAINING EXEMPT INFORMATION

37 REGULATION 32 REPORTS – RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOMES

In his report, the Group Director, Community & Children's Services updated the Board on the Regulation 32 Visits undertaken at the four Children's Homes – Bryndar, Nantgwyn, Beddau and Treherbert during November 2013 and following consideration thereof, it was **RESOLVED** to note the reports in respect of each of the four Children's Homes.

**A.DAVIES
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 11.30 a.m.