

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 Friday, 18 July 2014 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor G.E.Hopkins – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

(Mrs) M.E.Davies, (Mrs) C.Leyshon 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 – Actin Service Director, Access, Engagement & Inclusion

Mrs.A.Batley – Head of Prevention Services

Ms.J.Thomas – Complaints & QA Manager, Social Services

Mr.M.Free – Service Manager, RIRT/Miskin

4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs) E.Hanagan, S.Rees-Owen and R.K.Turner.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

6 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as accurate records, the minutes of the meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board held on 13 May 2014 and 13 June 2014.

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

7 EDUCATION OUTCOMES OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN IN RCT DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/2013

In his report, the Group Director, Education & Lifelong Learning provided the Board with information in relation to the education outcomes of Looked After Children in Rhondda Cynon Taf during the academic year 2012/2013.

The Board were informed that the data included in the report highlighted the breadth of support provided to Looked After Children through the Ymbarel

LAC Education Team and also highlighted a number of areas for development that had been identified, as follows:

- Encourage schools to access Looked After Children training provided
- Pupil data, collated by the Behaviour Support Assistance to be updated regularly, i.e. checklists and target sheets
- Review the collation and analysis of Out of County data
- Attendance and attainment data needs to be fully utilised to ensure targeted support was appropriately provided
- Continue with the improvements in the performance indicators.

The Board Members were also provided with feedback from the Education & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee following its own consideration of the above-mentioned report at its meeting on 9 July 2014. The Board Members were informed that to better understand the education difficulties experienced by Looked After Children and to specify the information required to regularly scrutinise the Outcomes of Looked After Children to improve their educational outcomes, the Scrutiny Committee had created a Working Group to work in consultation with the Corporate Parenting Board in respect of this matter.

The Board Members were pleased to note the establishment of the Working Group and looked forward to receiving updates on its work at future meetings. It was also noted that the Working Group would work alongside the Corporate Parenting Board and there would be no duplication of work.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To note the information contained within the report.
- (2) To note the feedback from the Education & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee held on 9 July 2014 and await further updates from the Working Group.
- (3) To receive the next annual report in the Autumn of 2014.

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

8 TROS GYNNAL QUARTERLY ADVOCACY REPORT – JANUARY-MARCH 2014

The Board Members were provided with an overview of the operation and effectiveness of the Advocacy Service during the period 1 January 2014- 31 March 2014.

The report contained information on the number of referrals received and source, the nature of issues dealt with and a breakdown of the areas of Children's Services where children requested support.

Members noted that the current Advocacy Provider in Rhondda Cynon Taf, Tros Gynnal, would continue to provide the service up until 1st September 2014 when the contract would be transferred to the National Youth Advocacy Services.

Following consideration of the matter, it was **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report and the role of the Advocacy Provider.

9 **RAPID INTERVENTION RESPONSE SERVICE**
ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

The Board Members were provided with information about the first year activity of the Rapid Intervention Response Service which has been operating since April 2013 and developed as part of the strategic priorities concerning children and young people who become look after, through the LAC Action Plan.

Members welcomed the achievements of the Service within the last year and commended the Team on their performance and commitment.

Members were informed that they would be provided with regular updates on the Service and it was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

10 **SOCIAL SERVICES QUARTERLY COMPLAINTS REPORT – 1 APRIL-30**
JUNE 2014

The Board Members were provided with an overview of the operation and effectiveness of the statutory Social Services complaints procedure between 1st April – 30th June 2014.

The Complaints & QA Manager advised the Board that the Social Services Complaints Procedure (Wales) Regulations 2014 and the Representations Procedure (Wales) Regulations 2014 would come into force on 1st August 2014 and bring into being new Procedures that would bring the social services complaints and representations process in line with the Model Concerns and Complaints Policy and Guidance which has been adopted across public services.

The Complaints & QA Manager then outlined the main changes to the existing procedures, for Members' information.

Following consideration of the matter, it was **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report and work undertaken by the Complaints Unit.

11 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

12 REGULATION 32 REPORT

The Board was updated on the Regulation 32 Visits undertaken at the four Children's Homes – Bryndar, Nantgwy, Beddau and Treherbert during May 2014.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To note the report.
- (2) To receive a report at the next meeting of the Board on options available to allow for Board Member(s) to visit and engage with the young people residing at the Homes.

13 ANNOUNCEMENT

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Service Director, Children's Services was pleased to announce the appointment of a number of new staff. Seven Senior Practitioner posts had been filled along with ten Social Worker posts. Also, the new Group Director, Community & Children's Services would be in post on 1st September 2014.

**G.E.HOPKINS
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 3.45 p.m.