

**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 Monday, 17 November 2014 at 2.00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

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

**County Borough Councillors**

(Mrs) E.Hanagan, (Mrs) M.E.Davies and L.G.Walker

**Officers in Attendance**

Mr.G.Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children’s Services  
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  
Ms.J.Thomas – Complaints & QA Manager, Social Services  
Mrs.M.Meredith – Residential Services Manager

Ms.E.Phipps-Magill – NYAS

**23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors S.Rees-Owen and R.K.Turner.

**24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**25 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on 22 September 2014.

**26 PRESENTATION – CARE2WORK AND THE TRAINEESHIP PROGRAMMES**

The Board received a presentation from Ms.Emma Brabon, Employment and Training Co-ordinator for Looked After Children in respect of the Care2Work Programme.

The Board was informed that the Care2Work programme sought to provide looked after children and care leavers with encouragement and support to identify and access a range of training and employment opportunities. The

programme provided benefits to the young people by developing confidence and self esteem, raising skill levels and aspirations, empowering them in making a successful transition into employment/training/education, developing work ethic and raising awareness of employment and training opportunities. Examples of some of the opportunities available during 2014 were provided.

The Board then received Mr.Alistair Cope, Programme Co-ordinator of the Traineeship Programme.

The Board was informed that the Traineeship Programme started in 2005 and was funded by the Council. Six places a year were offered on a two year paid training contract. During this time the trainees would develop skills, knowledge and gain experience working within the Council and possibly, future employment within the Council. The structure of the programme was outlined along with the support mechanisms in place for the young people taking part. Mr.Cope stated that one of the main difficulties in running the programme was finding placements within the Council's service areas and he pointed out that this was crucial in the future.

Two of the young people who had taken part in the above-mentioned schemes, Maggs and Owain, were present at the meeting and gave their views on what they had gained from being involved with the programmes which they both agreed had given them a sense of direction in their lives and future careers.

The Chairman then thanked the Programme Co-ordinators for all their work and the young people for meeting with the Board Members and sharing their experiences.

## **27 PRESENTATION – “ACTIONS OF A GOOD CORPORATE PARENT”**

The Chairman informed the Board that he, along with Mr.Andrew Gwynn, the Service Director – Children's Services, had recently met with representatives of the 'Blueprint Forum' and as a result, he had invited them to this meeting to talk to the Board about Corporate Parenting.

The Chairman introduced Mr.Christopher Dunn, Development Co-ordinator for "Voices from Care", a Charity that works with young people who are or have been looked after children in Wales and facilitates the Blueprint Forum.

The Board was informed that the Blueprint Forum had created their own Corporate Parenting Charter which set out a series of pledges agreed by members of the Forum. These pledges were highlighted by representatives of the Forum, i.e. Laura, Tyff and Dan, who were present at the meeting to speak to the Board about their own experiences of being 'looked after children'. The Board also received a presentation and video outlining the views of young people on what makes a good corporate parent.

Mr.Dunn then outlined the following ideas for future collaborations between the Forum and the Council in respect of Corporate Parenting:

- Assist in the development of looked after children
- Deliver training to Foster Carers and Elected Members
- Assist in the development of young person friendly literature
- Develop a newsletter

and a discussion ensued thereon.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting to talk to the Board and sharing their experiences.

Following consideration of ways of moving forward with the Forum's ideas, it was **RESOLVED** that there would be continuing discussions between the Forum, the Group Director, Community & Children's Services and other relevant Officers to assist in improving the lives of looked after children in the County Borough.

It was **ALSO RESOLVED** that representatives of the Forum be invited back to talk to Board Members during 2015.

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

### **28 PUBLIC LAW OUTLINE REPORT 2014**

In his report, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services informed the Board Members of changes introduced by the Public Law Outline (PLO) in relation to Care Proceedings and their impact of both Legal Services and Community Services within the Council.

Members noted that the PLO sets out the procedure for completing public law family cases, i.e. care proceedings within 26 weeks from the date of issue and the Director, Legal & Democratic Services was pleased to announce that Judge Parry had recently indicated that 84.8% of cases within Rhondda Cynon Taf were now completed within 26 weeks with an average case duration of 21.4 weeks which was a remarkable turnaround from the position the Council faced two years ago. Judge Parry also indicated she was very grateful for the hard work that had gone into achieving this welcome change.

Following consideration of the report, the Board Members also wished to place on record their thanks to all concerned in achieving the latest position.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and the impact upon Legal and Children's Services.

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

### **29 SOCIAL SERVICES QUARTERLY COMPLAINTS REPORT 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY – 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

In his report, the Group Director, Community & Children's Services provided the Board with an overview of the operation and effectiveness of the statutory Social Services complaints procedure between 1 July – 30 September 2014 and following consideration thereof, it was **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report.

### **30 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**

### **31 REGULATION 32 REPORT – RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOMES**

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

The Residential Services Manager outlined a summary of the inspection outcomes and it was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**G.E.HOPKINS**  
**CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 3.40 p.m.