

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 5 p.m.

**PRESENT**

County Borough Councillor C. Leyshon – in the Chair

**County Borough Councillors**

S.Carter                      (Mrs) S. Jones                      L. Walker  
(Mrs) J. Cass                      B. Stephens

**Non – Committee Member in Attendance**

County Borough Councillor C Willis – Scrutiny Performance Management  
Coordinator

**Co-opted Members**

Mr.J.Fish – Voting Elected Parent/Governor Representative  
Mrs S Jones – Voting Elected Parent/ Governor Representative  
Mr S. Jones – Voting Elected Parent/ Governor Representative

**Officers in Attendance**

Ms A. Batley – Service Director Children’s Services  
Mr P. Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement  
Mr P.Nicholls – Head of Legal, Litigation  
Lesley Lawson – Performance Manager

**62. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from: County Borough Councillors H. Boggis (Mrs) J Bunnage, S. Evans- Fear, M.Griffiths, P.Jarman, B. Morgan, G.Thomas, R. Turner

### **63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **64. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Subject to it being noted that Mr P Nicholls Head of Legal Litigation was omitted from the minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017 but was present at the meeting.

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

### **65. CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING BOARDS CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

The Service Director Children's Services present the report to Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee outlining the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards Child Exploitation Strategy and Action Plan.

The Service Director Children's Services explained during recent years and months a high profile well publicised reports have provided an opportunity to assess and improve the multi- agency response to child sexual exploitation.

Members were informed of the Independent Report into Child Exploitation in Rotherham by Alexis Jay OBE along with the report of Dame Louise Casey.

The Service Director Children's Services went on to explain the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board (CTSCB) established a multi –agency task and finish group to assess local service and responses in the context of the learning identified by both of the reports. It was explained to Members that the Safeguarding Board has a strategy and action plan , the plan uses the frame work set out in the National Action Plan based on the following Outcomes know as the four **P's** ,**P**repare, **P**revent, **P**rotect and **P**ursue.

The Service Director Children's Services explained that Welsh Government requested an update report against the action Plan in November 2016 which shows that whilst much work is still required a great deal has also been achieved. Officers took Members through the rest of the report in depth.

The Chair thanked the Officers for the Report and opened the meeting up for questions. Members reviewed the Action Plan looking at all points especially the Amber rating.

A Member asked what work and information is being given to schools to inform pupils of what is available to them. Officers explained that there are posters leaflets with contact details of safeguarding services which will assist them if they have any concerns. Safeguarding training is also given to staff to deal with this type of situation.

A Member put a question forward in respect of use of mobile phones and what impact this has on the children's safety especially in the school environment and how this is being monitored. Officer explained that there is work being undertaken in respect of digital safeguarding and we are trying to be one step ahead of the young people which can be challenging.

Members were concerned that the National sexual exploitation day on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017 which was set to raise public awareness about their role in safeguarding young people at risk was not widely advertised as most of the Members were unaware that it was taking place. In reply Officers explained that the events have been advertised across the authority and apologise for any oversight.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Receive Information of events on a timely basis
2. Receive compiled data at a future meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

#### **66. PROGRESS MADE BY THE COUNCIL IN RESPONSE TO THE WALES AUDIT OFFICE REPORT IN RESPECT OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY ARRANGEMENTS TO SUPPORT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN FOLLOW UP**

The Committee received a report from Service Director, Performance & Improvement in respect of the progress made by the Council to address the proposal for improvement made by Wales Audit Office in its report 'Local Authority arrangements to support safeguarding children follow up.'

Members recognise the important role Wales Audit Office play in supporting ongoing improvement and delivery. Members were informed that at its Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 the Cabinet considered the WAO Report in respect of the Local Authority Arrangements to support safeguarding children follow up be referred to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Members were presented with the report and considered it in depth. Members were pleased to see that positive progress had been made around the action plan.

A Member queried the amount of policies still needing translation and asked when this would be complete. Officers informed Members that safeguarding policies in schools have been translated and the rest would follow shortly.

Members expressed their views and concerns in relation to number of children on the child protection register and requested update report in respect of safeguarding monitoring and felt this could be a piece of work that could be looked at over the next municipal year.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their report.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive updating reports at future meetings.

The Chair thanked the Vice Chair, Members and Officers for all their hard work over the year and wished them all well.

(Mrs) C Leyshon

Chairman

Meeting closed at 17:40pm

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