

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 7th March 2018 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor S. Rees- Owen – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

J. Brencher	H. Fychan	S. Powell
A. Calvert	J. Harries	S. Rees
S. Evans	M. Powell	W. Lewis

Co-opted Members

Mr J. Fish – Voting Elected Parent/ Governor Representative

Officers in Attendance

Ms A. Batley – Service Director Children’s Services
Mr P Nicholls – Head of Legal – Litigation, Planning & Environment, Community and Children’s Services
Ms Z Lancelott – Head of Engagement and Participation

62. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from: County Borough Councillor R. Smith and Co – opted Member Mr S. Jones.

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED - In accordance with the Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor S. Evans declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 3 as she has personal knowledge of the service.

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 10th January 20178 subject to it being noted that County Borough Councillor H Fychan was present at the Meeting .

65. RHONDDA CYNON TAF RESILIENT FAMILIES SERVICE UPDATE

The Head of Engagement and Participation presented to Member the Resilient Families Service presentation with the aid of Power Point. It was explained that there have been many changes within the Children's Service over the last few years.

It was reported that the Resilient Families Programme has been put in place to bring together a range of strategic work streams and priorities to provide a single focus for all partners to engage with and commit to the delivery of family focused early intervention support services that make a difference to families in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Members were presented with a chart setting out the areas within the Integrated Family Support frame work.

In her presentation the Head of Engagement and Participation explained to Members the Key Principles of the service which are:

- The Resilient Family Service will be effectively identify families at risk of family breakdown before they get to crisis point as well as continuing support for families no longer required statutory intervention
- Opportunity to deliver swift, effective consistent and bespoke support to families . Focusing on assessing and addressing the level of resilience families have to deal with the challenges they face, the key function of the resilient families service is to
 - Identify the right families in need of support at the right time
 - Employ a proactive engagement focused approached
 - Provide swift family- led assessment
 - To remove practical barriers to positive change
 - Provide timely, appropriate and effective interventions.

This in turn will deliver improved support to families in quicker response time; shorter and sharper diagnostic assessment; a single point of contact and a proactive practical support to engage with interventions designed to increase resilience levels.

It was explained that the service comprises of four teams delivering in the following ways:

- The Assessment, Brokerage and Review Team,
- The Families Plus Team,
- The Children with Additional Needs Service (CANS), and
- The Families Team

It was also explained that the creation of the service will deliver the new Team Around the Family arrangements in the County Borough. Members were presented with slides showing how the process works and the key changes that the service provides.

The Head of Engagement and Participation reported to the Committee that the Resilient Families Service went live on the 15th January 2018, and that the staffing structure will be fully operational by April 2018. Members were presented with performance data of how the service is currently performing.

At the end of the presentation the Head of Engagement and Participation presented an animation clip showing how accessible and user friendly the service is and that Rhondda Cynon Taf as an Authority is willing and able to help families in need.

The Chair thanked the officers for a very positive and exceptional presentation and opened the meeting up for questions.

Members asked in respect of timescales for referrals are we meeting the dates, it was explained that assessments are undertaken within 2 weeks of the referral and a family plan is in place within 4 weeks.

Members raised concerns relating to disengagement from support by families and what is being done to stop this happening. The Service Director Children's Service explained that the work would be done with the individuals and statutory referral to Children's Services would be considered.

A Member asked question relating to working with education and schools in respect referrals to Educational Psychologists. Officers explained that schools will refer to the Educational Psychology Service as to avoid duplication we need to work together in a universal way.

Members felt that work should be done to promote the service and working with Family engagement Officer, Health Visitor, GP surgery would be an excellent way to start.

Members thanked the officers for a very informative presentation and felt that the presentation had come to the Committee early into the process and felt that a full report on the service should be brought back after a full 6 months of it being in operation.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- Receive a more detailed report in 6 Months time
- Receive case studies in respect of how the service works with families

Meeting Closed at 7:00pm

Cllr S. Rees- Owen

(Chair)

Cllr S Rees- Owen

(Chair)

These minutes are subject to approval at the next appropriate meeting of the Committee