

## **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 Thursday, 5 December 2013 at 10 a.m.

#### **PRESENT**

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

#### **County Borough Councillors**

(Mrs) C.Leyshon, R.K.Turner and L.G.Walker

#### **Officers in Attendance**

Mr.E.Williams – 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  
Mrs.P.Lonergan – Head of Looked After Children  
Ms.E.D.Pearce – Head of Safeguarding & Standards  
Mrs.A.Batley – Head of Prevention Services  
Ms.J.Thomas – Complaints Officer  
Mrs.A.Harris – Adoption Team Manager  
Mrs.M.Jones – Principal Solicitor

#### **18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence was received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs) E.Hanagan, (Mrs) M.E.Davies and P.Jarman.

#### **19 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

#### **20 ORDER OF AGENDA**

The Chairman informed the Board Members that the report of the Group Director, Community & Children’s Services, containing exempt information, in relation to the Child Practice Review would be brought forward to consideration at this point in the proceedings.

#### **21 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**

### **22 CHILD PRACTICE REVIEW REPORT**

In his report, the Group Director, Community & Children's Services informed the Board of the new guidance entitled "Protecting Children in Wales : Guidance for arrangement for multi agency Child Practice Reviews" which was published and implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013. The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board had been involved in contributing to the development of the New Child Practice Review process and accompanying guidance.

Members were further informed that the new Child Practice Review process was very much focussed on positive outcomes for children and young people through learning lessons to improve multi agency safeguarding practice.

At the meeting, the Board was presented with an individual Concise Child Practice Review Report (CTSCB 01/2013) that had been considered by the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board and the recommendations contained therein had been accepted and an action plan developed to take forward the recommendations.

The Board was provided with a brief outline of circumstances resulting in the Review which was undertaken between 14<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 together with details of the learning outcomes arising from the case and actions for Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board and its member agencies.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report and that following today's meeting, a Summary of the Review would be placed on the website of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board and thereafter, on the Council's website.

### **23 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** to open the meeting to the press and public.

### **24 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the Corporate Parenting Board held on 17 September 2013.

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

### **25 SOCIAL SERVICES QUARTERLY COMPLAINTS REPORT – 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2013 – 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013**

The Board was provided with an overview of the operation and effectiveness of the statutory Social Services complaints procedure between 1<sup>st</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

The report contained information on the number of complaints received, the nature of the complaints and any lessons learnt as well as detailing Councillor, A.M. and M.P. enquiries and the number of compliments received.

The Board was also provided with a summary of comparative figures from each Local Authority in Wales received from the Welsh Government Independent Complaints Secretariat.

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

### **26 DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICE**

In his report, the Group Director, Community & Children's Services informed the Board of proposals to establish a National Adoption Service for Wales and also outlined the involvement of the Rhondda Cynon Taf CBS Adoption Service in the proposals.

Attached to the report was the report submitted to the Cabinet on 28 October 2013 in relation to the matter and the recommendations that had been accepted at that meeting.

The Board was informed that updated reports would be submitted in due course on the progress of establishing a National Adoption Service and following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to note the information.

### **27 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**

**28 REGULATION 32 REPORT**

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, Nantgawn, Beddau and Treherbert during September 2013 and outlined the current position within all the Residential Children's Homes and Respite Service.

The Board was also provided with the CSSIW Inspection Report for Treherbert Community Home on 24 July 2013.

Following consideration of the reports, it was **RESOLVED** to note the reports in respect of each of the four Children's Homes.

**A.DAVIES  
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 11.20 a.m.