RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT FOR CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

22ND SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENTATION ON ADVOCACY AND THE ROLE OF THE INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY PROVIDER AS A 'CRITICAL FRIEND' TO CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 For the Corporate Parenting Board to receive information on the new Advocacy Provider.

1.2 To provide the Corporate Parenting Board with detail of the Children's Commissioner for Wales recommendation that a representative from the commissioned advocacy service should be a co-opted member of the Corporate Parenting Board.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board should note the presentation of Emma Phipps Magill from the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS), the work of NYAS and

2.2 Consider the recommendation of the Childrens Commissioner for Wales to Local Authorities, that a senior representative from their commissioned advocacy service becomes a co-opted member of the Corporate Parenting Board.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 At Corporate Parenting Board on 17 July 2014, members noted that the Advocacy Provider contract for Rhondda Cynon Taf would be transferred to the National Youth Advocacy Service from 1st September 2014.

3.2 In 2012 the Children's Commissioner for Wales undertook a review of Advocacy provision across Wales and produced a report 'Missing Voices'. The report highlighted that many vulnerable children with whom Local Authorities work do not have their voices heard and are unable to access advocacy.

3.3 The report identified that service provision across Wales was inconsistently funded and resourced and made a number of recommendations to improve practice and commissioning arrangements.

3.4 A further report was produced this year with the recommendation to Local Authorities that: "A senior representative from their commissioned advocacy service is a member of the corporate parenting panel".

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