

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 26th October, 2015 at 10.30am.

Present

County Borough Councillor G E Hopkins – In the Chair

County Borough Councillors:-

(Mrs) E Hanagan, C Leyshon, M Norris, L Walker and M Weaver.

Officers in Attendance:-

Ms A Batley – Interim Service Director, Children’s Services

Ms C Jones – Acting Head of Access & Inclusion

Ms N Thomas – Service Manager – Early Years & Family Support.

Mr C Mann – Team Manager, Reviewing Team

Mr K Mitchell – Children’s Complaints Officer

12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs) M E Davies and E Phipps-Magill – NYAS.

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

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

14 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on the 27th July, 2015.

15 ‘IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATORY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITHIN THE REVIEW PROCESS.

The Team Manager provided Members with an update following the presentation received at the previous Board meeting from the Graduate officer in respect of improving engagement and participatory opportunities for young people who are looked after and accommodated by the Council. The officer provided updates on each of the 7 recommendations put forward by the Graduate Office following its review.

Members discussed the recommendation in relation to the website design and build and were advised that the website would be live by the 30th November with the launch on the 22nd December, 2015. Members queried whether they could have sight of the website pages before the launch and officers agreed that screenshots of the WebPages could be emailed to Members for comment and feedback prior to the launch.

The Chairman reiterated the positive work undertaken by the Graduate Officer and welcomed the update provided. Members also welcomed the continuation of the Children's consultation and the expression of interest from the majority of the young people involved to continue with the consultation group. Members queried whether some of the young people could attend a future meeting of the Board to provide an insight as to their feedback on the project and whether they felt it has made a difference

Following Discussions the Board **RESOLVED**

- a. To note the contents of the report
- b. That screenshots of the Webpages be emailed to Members for comment prior to the launch
- c. That Members be formally invited to the launch of the website on the 22nd December, 2015.
- d. That the young people involved in the consultation group be invited to attend a future meeting of the Board to provide feedback on the project.

16 FLYING START UPDATE.

The Service Manager, Early Years and Family Support provided the Board with an update in respect of Flying start, providing information in relation to its background, services available, eligibility and the position of Flying Start within the County Borough.

The Officer provided information in respect of the implementation phases and funding, advising that early guidance from the Welsh Government stated that on average each child should receive £2100 worth of support although it was advised that the Welsh Governments budget allocation had been gradually reducing. The Officer also commented that the biggest complication with the programme was the fact that it was area specific.

The Service Manager continued her report by providing details in respect of the services available within the programme and the outcomes measured from each service.

The Chairman thanked the Service manager for her report and queried how the Flying Start Programme impacted upon LAC and its families. The interim Service Director commented

that it was recognised that LAC do access the service but further was needed to be done to target those families and it was added that it was difficult to measure the outcomes as yet. The Service manager added that the programme was now able to track 2-3year olds, but currently there was no baseline data to measure against.

Members of the Board commented on the other positive benefits from the programme which couldn't necessarily be measured in respect of promoting the interaction of the children with their parents through play.

The Chairman commented on the role of the Board as Corporate Parents and the importance in establishing the outcomes of those 'children in need' and LAC utilising Flying Start and how the programme helps keep children from becoming LAC, and those that are LAC, how accessing the service helps with attainments or helps them to return to their families. The Chairman asked that a further update on Flying Start and other early year intervention approaches be provided at a future meeting of the Board.

The Board **RESOLVED**

- a. To note the contents of the report
- b. To receive a further update on Flying Start and other early year intervention programmes at an appropriate time in the future.

17 SOCIAL SERVICES QUARTERLY COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS REPORT 1ST APRIL 2015 – 30TH JUNE 2015.

The Children's Complaints Officer provided the Board with the report which provided an overview of the operation and effectiveness of the statutory social services complaints procedures between 1st April 2015 and 30th June, 2015.

Members were advised that the report contained information on the number of complaints received, the nature of the complaints and the lessons learnt, as well as detailing Councillor, AM and MP enquiries and the number of compliments received. It was advised that the report also provided a summary of the Welsh Governments Independent complaints secretariat of comparative figures from each Local Authority in Wales.

Following consideration of the report, Members commented on the improvement noted with Councillors contacting the service through the correct channels.

The Board **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report and the work undertaken by the Complaints Unit.

18 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) for the next 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.

19 REGULATION 32 REPORTS – RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN’S HOMES

The Board were provided with an update on the Regulation 32 visits undertaken at the four children’s homes – Beddau, Treherbert, Bryndar and Nant Gwyn for June, July and August 2015.

The Interim Service Director, Children’s Services outlined summary of the Inspection outcomes and it was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

20 CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE

- a. The Chairman advised the Board that the recommendations of the Scrutiny Working Group looking into LAC had been received and would be reported to Cabinet. It was agreed that the report would also be presented to the Corporate Parenting Board for information.
- b. Members were also advised of the requirement under the Boards Terms of Reference to produce an Annual report, and advised that a report would come forward in the next few months for Members comments and contributions.
- c. Frontline visits had been scheduled and it was agreed that the following Members would attend the following visits:
 - Rhondda Office – 16th December – Cllr Hopkins; Walker & Leyshon
 - Cynon Office – 20th January, 2016 – Cllr Hopkins; Norris & Weaver
 - Taff Office – 17th February, 2016 – Cllr Hopkins; M Davies & Hanagan

One Member queried whether a visit to one of the homes could be coordinated for her as a new Member of the Board and Officers suggested that a visit to view the accommodation, during school hours could be arranged.

G E Hopkins

Chairman

The meeting terminated at 11.40am