

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 7th December 2015 at 10am.

Present

County Borough Councillor G E Hopkins – In the Chair

County Borough Councillors:-

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

Officers in Attendance:-

Mr G Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children’s Services

Mr P Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services

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

Ms G Davies – Acting Service Director, Access, Engagement & Inclusion.

Ms M Meredith – Residential Services Manager

Ms J Thomas – Complaints Manager

Ms L Pearce – Head of Safeguarding & Standards

Mr C Mann – Team Manager, Reviewing Team

E Phipps-Magill – NYAS.

Mr C Dunn – Voices from Care, Development Co-ordinator

Ms T R Wyatt – Blue Print Forum Representative

21 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS.

The Chairman welcomed and thanked the representatives from the Blue Print forum for attending the meeting and for the benefit of the representatives, introductions were made

22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs) M E Davies and L Walker.

23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

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

24 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on the 26th October, 2015.

25 'VOICES FROM CARE' – BLUE PRINT FORUM.

The Voices from Care Development Co-ordinator along with Ms T Wyatt a young person representative, provided the group with a summary of the work undertaken by the Blueprint forum during April to September of this year. Members were advised of the involvement with the Children's Commissioner for Wales in respect of the 'My Planner App'. Ms Wyatt explained the benefits of the App to the Board, which contained information for Looked After Children and care leavers on rights and entitlements, financial help and independent living skills to help young people leaving care make the transition to independent living.

Officers discussed the different variety of information methods that the Council use to interact with LAC and after care leavers and Ms Wyatt queried whether the Council still used the DVD as an information sharing tool, for new residents into residential homes. Members were told of the benefits that this DVD brought to young people, providing them with the basic structure of a residential home setting and the care available from a young person's perspective. The Residential Services Manager confirmed that the DVD was still available and advised that it had also been presented to the Welsh Government as a form of best practice, and discussions ensued as to whether the DVD needed to be updated.

The Voices from Care Development Co-ordinator highlighted to the group the work the forum had been involved in with in respect of 'Voices from Care's 5 nations Project' which aims to promote the voices of Looked After Children and care leavers from across Wales, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland, with the work assisting in the development of the 5 Nations strategy over the next 3 years. Mr Dunn commented on the opportunity to improve outcomes and share best practices through the strategy and Ms Wyatt spoke of her experience once leaving care and the feeling of 'abandonment', with the reduced support compared to when in a residential setting. Ms Waytt spoke of the advances made in Scotland and the Children & Young People Bill being considered with the potential for raising the age to 24 for care leavers. Ms Wyatt also explained to the group both the negative and positive discrimination experienced as a care leaver and spoke of the need to change terminology so that those in and out of care were treated equally.

The Acting Service Director, Access, Engagement and Inclusion spoke of the potential to use part of the Schools Pupil Deprivation Grant to explore how the Authority could better assist

