

**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 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 at 10am.

**Present**

County Borough Councillor G E Hopkins – In the Chair

**County Borough Councillors:-**

M Davies, L Walker and M Weaver.

**Officers in Attendance:-**

Mr P Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services

Ms A Batley –Service Director, Children's Services

Ms L Pearce – Head of Safeguarding & Support

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

Ms S Edwards – Service Manager, Children Looked After & Support Services

Ms J Thomas – Complaints Manager

Ms H Williams – Cabinet Business Officer

**14    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs) E Hanagan & J Watts, G Isingrini, C Hanagan (RCT) and Emma Phipps-Magil (NYAS Cymru)

**15    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, there were no declarations of interest pertaining to the agenda.

**16    MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.

**17    YOUNG CARERS ANNUAL REPORT 2016**

The Service Director, Children's Services provided Members with an update on the RCT Young Carer's Service and Annual Report 2015-16. Members were referred to section 4 of the report where the positive work undertaken was explained. The officer advised that 240 young carers were currently known to the young carers service.

The Chair commented on the difficulty of identifying young carers at schools and praised the ongoing work undertaken to recognise them. Councillor Walker added that it was positive to see schools taking a pro active approach with more individuals coming to the surface.

The Service Director, Access, Engagement & Inclusion reminded Members of the annual event for young carers at schools which is a chance to celebrate these individuals.

Following discussions the Board **RESOLVED**:

- a. To note the contents of the report and the work undertaken by the Young Carers Service

**18    SOCIAL SERVICES QUARTERLY COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS**

The Complaints Manager, Jayne Thomas provided Members with an overview of the operation and effectiveness of the statutory Social Services complaints procedure between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

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.

Members spoke positively on the report and were pleased to see that the number of compliments remained consistent. The Chair queried whether staff were informed of any personal compliments about them and was assured that this was the case.

Members raised the concern over the number of staff issues contained within the report and were assured by officers that this had been identified and would continue to be monitored. The Service Director, Children's Services added that staff training would be beneficial in ensuring individuals are confident in respect of communicating with complainants.

It was **RESOLVED** :-

- a. To Note the Contents of the Report.

## **19 ACM AUDIT REPORT**

The Service Director, Children's Services updated Board Members on the findings of an Internal Audit undertaken by Children's Services regarding Child Protection Cases held by Assessor Care Managers (ACM's) during 2015/2016.

The officer advised that the outcome of the assessment was positive with figures demonstrating that the total number of children registered on the Child Protection Register where ACMs case manage remained lower than those of 2015.

The Service Director referred Members to page 58 of the report, where the future recommendations of ACM's were listed. Members were pleased with the findings of the audit, commenting that this would help erase any concerns the CCSIW may have.

Members queried the remodelling of the service in respect of the staffing levels. The officer explained that a recruitment process had been undertaken, but due to the nature of the roles, could take up to five months for staff to actually start in post. It was advised that retention is always an issue in Social Services, with staff tending to move on after approximately three years.

The Chair advised that the ACM Audit Report would be presented as an update to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee in the near future.

It was **RESOLVED** :-

- a. To Note the Contents of the Report.

## **20 A CWM TAF PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC INTENT: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE LOOKED AFTER**

The Service Director, Children's Services provided Members with an update on the 'Cwm Taf Partnership Statement of Strategic Intent: Children and Young People who are Looked After'. The officer explained the development of the strategy, informing Members that it now covers all partner agencies, including the Cwm Taf University Health Board, police, voluntary and third sector.

The Members had the opportunity to view a short film created by a citizen panel of looked after young people expressing their views on being looked after. The Board spoke positively of the film, commenting that it's both pleasing and important to hear the first hand opinions of the young people.

The Service Manager, Children Looked After & Support Services advised Members that the messages had been taken on board with changes underway to improve the system. It was explained that further information would be given to children during the transition to new foster care homes, such as virtual profiles and photographs, with emphasis being placed on Life Story Work. Councillor Davies added that improvements such as the ones listed above would help contain some of the worries the children may have during the transition period.

The Complaints Manager informed Members that a survey had been recently undertaken with children in line with the Social Services & Wellbeing Act with feedback being submitted to Welsh Government. It was advised that this survey be presented to the Board in the New Year, to tie in with information provided in this report.

Following discussions the Board **RESOLVED** :-

- a. To Note the Contents of the Report.

## **21 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.

## **22 CCSIW RESIDENTIAL INSPECTION REPORT**

The Head of Safeguarding and Support provided the Board with an update on the CCSIW Inspections undertaken in 2016 at the four children's homes – Beddau, Treherbert, Bryndar and Nant Gwyn.

The officer outlined a summary of the Inspection outcomes and it was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**23     REGULATION 32 REPORTS**

The Head of Safeguarding and Support provided the Board with an update on the Regulation 32 visits undertaken at the four children's homes – Beddau, Treherbert, Bryndar and Nant Gwyn for June/July 2016.

The officer outlined a summary of the Inspection outcomes and it was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**The meeting terminated at 11.05am**

**Councillor G Hopkins**

**Chair**

