



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board meeting held on Wednesday, 18 July 2018 at 10.00 am at the Block F, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park. Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

County Borough Councillors - Corporate Parenting Board Members in attendance:-

Councillor C Leyshon (Chair)
Councillor J James Councillor S. Rees-Owen

Officers in attendance

Mr G Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Ms A Batley, Service Director, Children's Services
Ms J Thomas, Complaints & QA Manager, Social Services
Mr C Jones, Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Ms M Meredith, Residential Services Manager
Ms J Davis, Service Manager for Safeguarding and Support

Others in attendance

Mr J. Llewellyn-Thomas

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors G. Hopkins, R.Yeo, L.Jones and J. Rosser and from representatives of the Blueprint Forum.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

3 MINUTES

The Corporate Parenting Board **RESOLVED** to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th May, 2018.

4 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

The Senior Executive & Regulatory Business Officer provided the Corporate Parenting Board with the report outlining the draft work programme for the 2018/19 Municipal Year. The officer explained that the programme acts as a useful method of managing the Board's work load and is a fluid document which can be amended throughout the year to reflect any changing priorities the Board may have.

Members **RESOLVED** to note the content of the report.

5 CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

The Senior Executive & Regulatory Business Officer provided Members with the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report for the 2017/18 Municipal Year. The

Annual Report highlighted the vast amount of work considered by the Corporate Parenting Board over the previous year, referring to both the successes and the challenges.

The officer explained that should Members approve the draft report, it would be presented at the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee for information and then to Cabinet for final consideration.

Members were pleased with the robust report and the goals which were outlined for the Board moving forward. It was **RESOLVED** to note the content of the report and that the Chair would attend the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee on 12th September 2018 to present the report.

6 BLUEPRINT FORUM

Apologies were received from Members of the Blueprint Forum who were unable to attend the meeting and therefore, the Service Director, Children Services, highlighted the key successes of the Blueprint Forum for Members' information. The officer praised the Blueprint Form for their active engagement on both a Local and National level, with trips to locations such as 10 Downing Street, London for Christmas.

Members noted the huge successes of the Blueprint Forum and the Chair urged Members and Officers to attend the drop in sessions on peer advocacy to hear the thoughts and opinions of the young people.

Members welcomed representatives of the Blueprint Forum to the future meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board and **RESOLVED** to note the content of the report.

7 INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER (IRO) REPORT

The Service Manager for Safeguarding and Support presented to the Corporate Parenting Board the report outlining the recent activity of the Independent Reviewing Service.

Members were pleased to learn that a key priority of the service was the continuing emphasis on the child being at the centre of the Reviewing process and that they have the same reviewing officer throughout. This not only results in better planning but provides consistency for the child.

The officer advised that despite pressures, continuous work was being undertaken to strengthen the resolution process and the IRO quality assurance role, to ensure the completion of comprehensive care plans. The officer added that a robust system was in place to monitor the progress of reviews and ensure that the children who are no longer at risk of significant harm do not remain on the Child Protection Register longer than necessary.

The officer advised Members that development of the Two Sides website was ongoing and in consultation with young people from the Blueprint Forum, and that the report would be presented to the Board in September.

Members praised the IRO Teams for their continuous work in such a challenging service area, and were pleased to learn that there was a focus on encouraging children to participate in the Blueprint Forum and strengthening the link between

the services.

Members **RESOLVED** to note the content of the report.

8 TO CONSIDER PASSING THE FOLLOWING UNDER-MENTIONED RESOLUTION:

It was **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of the exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of the Schedule 12A of the Act.

9 MR JOHN LLEWELLYN-THOMAS - REGULATION 32 REPORTS

Members received Mr John Llewellyn-Thomas who provided an update on the findings and process behind the Regulation 32 visits undertaken at the three children's homes – Beddau, Bryndar and Nantgwyn.

Members took the opportunity to thank Mr Llewellyn-Thomas for prompting robust discussion where a number of questions were asked by both Members and Officers. Members were pleased to learn of Mr Llewellyn-Thomas' personal stories and findings from the visits and extended an invitation to future meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report.

10 SOCIAL SERVICES QUARTERLY COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS

The Service Improvement, Engagement & Complaints Manager provided the Corporate Parenting Board with an overview of the operation of effectiveness of the statutory Social Services complaints procedure between 1st January, 2018 and 31st March, 2018.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to note the content of the report.

11 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair took the opportunity to remind Members of the Corporate Parenting Board to provide their availability for the Frontline Visits for the 2018/19 Municipal Year. The Chair explained that the visits were an opportunity for Members to informally meet with staff of the respective service areas, to gain further understanding of the work conducted and to learn of the successes and challenges they experience.

Ms E. Phipps-Magill, NYAS, advised that the NYAS quarterly update report would be presented at September's meeting along with a short presentation in respect of a case study to give Members a better understanding of the advocacy process. It was added that NYAS were currently consulting on a number of advocacy issues and had also been commissioned by Welsh Government, to consult on 'Independent Visitors', which all Board Members were encouraged to participate in.

This meeting closed at 11.00 am

Cllr C Leyshon - Chair.