



**CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

GWŶS I GYFARFOD O'R CYNGOR

C.Hanagan
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democratidd a Chyfathrebu
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf
Y Pafiliynau
Parc Hen Lofa'r Cambrian
Cwm Clydach CF40 2XX

Dolen gyswllt: Uwch Swyddog Gwasanaeth Democratidd (01443 424081)

DYMA WŶS I CHI i gyfarfod o **PWYLLGOR CRAFFU - PLANT A PHOBL
IFAINC** yn cael ei gynnal yn ar **DYDD IAU, 22AIN HYDREF, 2020** am **5.00 PM.**

Caiff Aelodau nad ydyn nhw'n aelodau o'r pwyllgor ac aelodau o'r cyhoedd gyfrannu yn y cyfarfod ar faterion y cyfarfod er bydd y cais yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd. Gofynnwn i chi roi gwybod i Wasanaethau Democratidd erbyn Dydd Mawrth, 20 Hydref 2020 trwy ddefnyddio'r manylion cyswllt uchod, gan gynnwys rhoi gwybod a fyddwch chi'n siarad Cymraeg neu Saesneg.

AGENDA

Tudalennau

1. YMDDIHEURIADAU

Derbyn unrhyw ymddiheuriadau ffurfiol gan Aelodau'r Pwyllgor Craffu – Plant a Phobl Ifainc

2. DATGAN BUDDIANT

Derbyn datganiadau o fuddiannau personol gan Gynghorwyr, yn unol â gofynion Côd Ymddygiad y Cyngor.

Nodwch:

1. Mae gofyn i Aelodau ddatgan rhif a phwnc yr agendwm mae eu buddiant yn ymwneud ag ef a mynegi natur y buddiant personol hwnnw; a
2. Lle bo Aelodau'n ymneilltuo o'r cyfarfod o ganlyniad i ddatgelu buddiant sy'n rhagfarnu, rhaid iddyn nhw roi gwybod i'r Cadeirydd pan fyddan nhw'n gadael.

3. COFNODION

Derbyn cofnodion o gyfarfod blaenorol y Pwyllgor Craffu – Plant a Phobl Ifainc ar y 9fed o Fedi 2020

5 - 10

ADRODDIADAU'R CYFARWYDDWR GWASANAETH- GWASANAETHAU DEMOCRATIADD A CHYFATHREBU

4. DIWEDDARIAD O SEFYLLFA DDIWEDDARAF Y CYNGOR O RAN YMATEB I COVID -19 O SAFBWyNT ADDYSG

Derbyn diweddariad mewn perthynas â sefyllfa ddiweddaraf y Cyngor o ran ymateb i COVID-19 o safbwynt Addysg

11 - 16

5. RHAGLEN WAITH Y PWYLLGOR CRAFFU - PLANT A PHOBL IFAINC 2020/2021

Aelodau'r Pwyllgor Craffu – Plant a Phobl Ifainc i drafod y Rhaglen Waith ar gyfer Blwyddyn y Cyngor 2020/21.

17 - 24

6. ADOLYGIAD Y CADEIRYDD A DOD Â'R CYFARFOD I BEN

Adlewyrchu ar y cyfarfod a'r camau gweithredu i'w dwyn ymlaen.

7. MATERION BRYD

Trafod unrhyw faterion sydd, yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd, yn faterion bryd yng ngoleuni amgylchiadau arbennig

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu

Cylchreliad:-

(Y Cyngorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol Y Cyngorydd S. Rees-Owen a Y Cyngorydd J Edwards – Cadeirydd ac Is-gadeirydd, yn y drefn honno)

Y Cyngorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol:

Y Cyngorydd S.Evans, Y Cyngorydd J Brencher, Y Cyngorydd H Fychan, Y Cyngorydd A Calvert, Y Cyngorydd S Powell, Y Cyngorydd M Powell, Y Cyngorydd M Griffiths, Y Cyngorydd Owen-Jones, Y Cyngorydd S Morgans, Y Cyngorydd G Stacey, Y Cyngorydd L De Vet and Y Cyngorydd W Jones

Aelodau Cyfetholedig:

Mr M Cleverley, Cynrychiolydd Cymdeithas Genedlaethol yr Ysgolfeistri ac Undeb yr Athrawesau a'r Panel Athrawon

Mr J Fish, Cynrychiolydd Rhiant-Lywodraethwr wedi'i ethol

Ms A Jones, Cynrychiolydd UNITE

Mr C Jones, Cynrychiolydd GMB

Mrs C Jones, Cynrychiolydd Undeb Cenedlaethol yr Athrawon a'r Panel Athrawon
Mr D Price, Cynrychiolydd UNSAIN/UNISON
Mr A Ricketts, Cynrychiolydd Awdurdodau Esgobaethol â'r hawl i bleidlais
Mrs R Nicholls, Cynrychiolydd Rhiant-Lywodraethwr wedi'i ethol

Tudalen wag



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting on
Wednesday, 9 September 2020 at 5.00 pm held Virtually.

County Borough Councillors - Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Members in attendance:-

Councillor S. Rees-Owen (Chair)

Councillor W Lewis	Councillor J Brencher
Councillor H Fychan	Councillor A Calvert
Councillor S Powell	Councillor M Powell
Councillor M Griffiths	Councillor G Jones
Councillor G Stacey	Councillor M Diamond
Councillor J Edwards	

Co-Opted Members in attendance:-

Mr J Fish, Voting Elected Parent / Governor Representative
Mr C Jones, Representing GMB
Mr K Wilhite, Voting Elected Parent / Governor Representative
Mrs R. Nicholls, Voting Elected Parent / Governor Representative

Officers in attendance:-

Mr P Nicholls, Service Director, Legal Services
Mr G Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Ms A Browning, Head of Children's Looked After Service
Mrs J Clark, Head of Safeguarding
Ms T Prosser, Head of Service
Ms A Lloyd, Service Director, Children's Services

County Borough Councillors in attendance:-

7 Declaration of Interest

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

8 Chair's Welcome & Announcements

The Chair welcome Members and Officers and Cabinet Member for Children's Service Cllr Tina Leyshon to the Meeting of the Children's Services aspect of the Committee. The Chair gave a warm welcome to the newly appointed Director

of Children's Services Ms Annabel Lloyd to the Committee and along with Members looked forward to working with her going forward.

The Chair also brought to Members attention that Mr K Wilhite Co-opted Voting Member and Parent Governor would be leaving his role on the Committee due to him returning to the USA. On behalf of the Committee Members wished him well and thanked him for his hard work and dedication throughout his time as a Member of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee. The Committee agreed that a letter is sent form the Chair on behalf of the Committee to thank him for his service and to wish him well in his future adventures.

9 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 22nd July 2020 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

10 UPDATE ON COVID 19 POSITION IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF (Children's Services)

The Director of Children's Services thanked Members for the warm welcome and explained that the purpose of the report and verbal update is to allow the Committee to scrutinise and challenge the Council's response to the Covid 19 Pandemic taken from the Children's Services perspective.

The Director of Children's Services explained that she would give the update in two parts. The first part would cover the initial service adjustment to Covid 19 from the beginning of the lockdown under the following headings:

- Transformation of the service;
- Safeguarding Children;
- Risk Assessment of Cases ;
- Risk Assessment of face to face work including YOS;
- PPE;
- Supporting CLA, carers and Homes;
- Work with partners including Courts;
- Managing Performance, working differently and communication; along with;
- The Benefits and Challenges.

The Chair invited the Cabinet Member for Children Services to give her view on the service.

After presenting her overview the Director of Children's Services opened up the meeting for questions.

Co- opted Member Mr K Wilhite thanked Members for their kind words and put forward a question regarding data and costs in respect of the youth service he felt it would help the Committee to understand the comparison of the before and during the Pandemic, he also felt that the Committee would benefit from some statistic in relation to the other services and initiatives provided over this period. The Director of Children's Services confirmed that over 300 childcare place had been made available, however there isn't any contrast data at present. With the permission of the Chair the Director Children's Service agreed to speak with the Head of Community Wellbeing and Resilience and provide Members with a

response.

Another Member thanked the Service for all its hard work during these unprecedented time and wanted clarity on some points of the Directors update.

The Member found it intriguing that some children were benefiting by not attending school for long periods of time and asked if this is something we could learn from.

The Director of Children's Services highlighted that Looked After Children need to go to school and there is no sufficient evidence at this stage to say otherwise, she went on to explain that relationships for vulnerable young people can be an issue when transitioning in respect of attachment and relationships and in some cases additional time in placement has benefitted the development of attachment and placement relationships.

The Member wanted clarification in respect of the support for our disabled children and their families during this time with even more pressures on families.

It was explained that families have in most cases work well and Children's Services have tried to work differently and provided them with greater support. The Head of Service went on to explain that at first families didn't want support, the officer went on to explain that the service provided support in different ways with residential staff offering alternative services and worked alongside the Children Looked After education service and Educational Psychologist .

Co-opted Member questioned the partnership working during this time and asked for clarity on partnership work with the CAMHS Service, the Member also asked for clarity on the pressures on the resilience family service going forward as many service have had to take a step back during this time. .

The Director explained that work with CAMHS had continued and online services had been made available to help with the pressures . The Head of Services continued to explain the challenges that were faced during lockdown had been greater than before. In respect of the resilience family service the R.A.G system is in place and families continue to receive a service

Members echoed the concerns regarding the CAMHS and asked what other action of support are we offering to families and a Member asked if the support given had stretched to the Welsh language provision especially Children Looked after.

The Director explained that Children Looked After service continued to keep in touch with young people which includes Welsh Language learners. The Head of Service to explain that there is some extra funding grant provision from Welsh Government was in its early stages and did not have the full information to hand however this would be sought from the Senior Educational Psychologist School Support and Improvement Officers regarding the CLA Provision and this would be reported back at a later date.

Members felt it would be helpful to have more reports and further in-depth information. Officers explained that additional information will be provided at future meeting and written responses would be sent to Members as soon as possible.

With regards to the Recovery phase the Director of Children's Services explained that it was important to check on both staff and families wellbeing. It was explained that a staff survey had been carried out with regards to the agile working and on balance the staff are doing well with a 75% response to the survey. Safe office space has been found for staff to carry out duties with a look to a more hybrid approach in the future.

Members were informed of the 7 child care hubs that had been established, and the work that had been carried out by the YOS under the new arrangements.

Members were also informed that each service is safely and gradually increasing face to face work and is continue the work with families .

A Member commented that it was strange talking about a recovery phase /plan as a local lockdown could be likely and asked what plans were in place to address the Winter months with children's wellbeing put at a greater risk, the Member explained as of now children have been able to play outside and face to face contact was more manageable. Members wanted clarity on how we support these vulnerable people going forward.

The Member acknowledged that officers from the Education department was not present at the meeting to answer some of the points raised but had concerns that carers would find these added pressures difficult. It was asked what support are we giving to schools potential increase in cases etc. are the hubs ready. The Member went on to comment that it would be beneficial to receive this information from the education service to avoid anymore upheaval going forward.

Officers explained the Service has a contingency plan , graduated response, The Director of Children's Services meets with heads of service regularly during fast moving situation .

It was also explained that communication is of the utmost importance and daily meeting are arranged to support families with RAG process in place to respond to any new concerns etc.

Members continued to put further questions and concern regarding the safety and wellbeing of the Children& Young People across the County Borough and

RESOLVED :

- To receive a written response in respect of data and costs regarding the Youth Service.
- To receive a written response in respect of the identification of vulnerable families from the Head of Service
- That questions regarding education would be passed to the relevant department and the response would be sent to Members as soon as it is available.

11 Urgent Business

The Committee RESOLVED that there was no urgent business to discuss.

This meeting closed at 7.10 pm

**CLLR S REES-OWEN
CHAIR.**

Tudalen wag



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

22nd October 2020

**UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S LATEST POSITION IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19
FROM AN EDUCATION PERSPECTIVE.**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATIONS**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide members of the Children and Young People's Committee with the opportunity to scrutinise, review and challenge the Council's current position in response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic by considering verbal update from the Director of Education & Inclusion along with Service Director, Public Protection.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:-

- 2.1 Consider the verbal update from the Director of Education & Inclusion Services & Service Director, Public Protection in relation to the Council's response to COVID-19, from an education perspective.
- 2.2 Subject to 2.1 above, request the Service Director Democratic Services and Communications to report any relevant and further information to the next Committee.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide Members with an update on the critical actions taken by the Council over the Summer period and inform Members of the current COVID 19 processes and practices in RCT Schools

- 3.2 To support the committee's considerations of the Council's response, from an education perspective, and the current plans being undertaken for the Autumn Term.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 With the introduction of [the Local Authorities \(Coronavirus\) \(Meetings\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 in May](#) all local authorities in Wales have been provided with the opportunity to resume their committee processes.
- 4.2 The Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee met for the first time under these arrangements on 22nd July 2020 where the Members were provided with a verbal update from the Director of Education in respect of actions taken by the Council since the COVID 19 restriction were imposed and also provided Members with an overview of future steps the Council considered in respect of service planning and the recovery phase.

5. SCRUTINISING THE OF THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- 5.1 This Committee is being held to provide the opportunity for the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Committee, to once again consider the service response of the Council to date. Importantly it provides the opportunity for members to receive information in respect of these issues relating to the remit of the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Committee. **Members are asked to consider the information and determine whether there are any issues on which they would like to receive further information or review in greater detail at a future meeting.**
- 5.2 Given the fast moving nature of these matters, it is important to acknowledge that information may need to be provided to Scrutiny in different formats, with a focus on a smaller range of issues relating predominantly to the Council's activity around COVID-19.
- 5.3 There will be further reports to Cabinet in the coming months which will outline how the Council continues to respond and prepare for the future. The Cabinet considered the Service Recovery Plans of the Council, at its meeting on the [28th July 2020](#). The Council has also received position statements on a regular basis through September from the Council Leader, Chief Executive and members of the Senior Leadership Team.
- 5.4 **It is important to acknowledge, in the current circumstances, that facilitating the opportunity for Senior Officers to provide up-to-date information directly at the committee meeting provides the most effective way for Scrutiny to be engaged in these matters.** In doing so, the opportunity will continue to be afforded for Scrutiny to be updated with the

latest developments as they unfold, providing greater scope to engage in these matters and request information and additional reporting as deemed appropriate by Committee Members.

- 5.7 This Scrutiny committee will receive the latest information and evidence from Director of Education & Inclusion in respect of the Recovery Planning and the Contingency Phase at this meeting at its first meeting of the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2020/2021.
- 5.8 As part of the review of these matters, it is proposed to receive information and evidence from the Cabinet Members where appropriate.
- 5.9 To support the smooth conduct of this virtual scrutiny meeting, members are encouraged to seek clarification on specific matters, particularly of a ward nature, outside of the meeting, if these questions do not relate to recommendations set out for Member’s considerations.

6. SUPPORTING PAPERS & INFORMATION

- 6.1 As general information for the committee, the following table reflects the key guidance documents sent to stakeholders with attached links to the Council website where appropriate:

Document	Date of issue / circulation
1. Childcare Settings Guidance: Issued to assist early years childcare providers with measures to be taken at their settings in relation to the pandemic	
Protective Measures in Childcare Settings v4	15/09/20
2. Distance Learning Guidance for Schools	
Safeguarding Considerations for Distance Learning v4 - 17.09.20	17/09/20
3. Frequently Asked Questions – for parents / carers: Covering a number of issues including – school safety measures; cleaning; transport; catering and free school meals; uniform; confirmed cases of COVID-19. These FAQs are published on the Council’s website – www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolreturnfags	
FAQs for parents – v5 (September return to school)	25/09/20
4. Parents/carers - messaging	
Text message to parents – September 2020 – link to FAQs for return to school and examinations, plus breakfast club application form	03/09/20

Messaging for Parents - Getting back to School and the School Run	09/09/20
Director's Letter to parents – breakfast clubs	10/09/20
Director's Letter to parents – self-isolation (accompanied by: COVID-19 Related Pupil Absence: A Quick Reference Guide for Parents; Process map – confirmed cases)	20/09/20
Director's Letter to parents – letter seeking parent/carer support for preventative measures for reducing the risk of transmission outside of schools, safe parking outside of schools and when managing suspected or confirmed cases. To include a helpful flow chart for parents when managing symptoms and risks.	To be sent by 20/10/20 at the latest.
5. Parents – videos and social media – Autumn term. The below videos / captions have been published many times via the Council's social media channels	
Autumn term FAQs: https://twitter.com/RCTCouncil/status/1296734390823813120 Video – autumn term: https://twitter.com/RCTCouncil/status/1301192237179637760 Walking to school: https://twitter.com/RCTCouncil/status/1300842380908728321 Avoid gatherings: https://twitter.com/RCTCouncil/status/1301781043167531008 ALN travel placements: https://twitter.com/RCTCouncil/status/1301173363927404545 Face coverings on buses: https://twitter.com/RCTCouncil/status/1301543241158930433	
6. Reopening Schools - Guidance document issued to headteachers: Regularly updated to reflect changes in the local and national position and to reflect updated guidance from the Welsh Government	
Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance for the safe re-opening of schools VERSION 6 – October 2020	15/10/20
7. Template letters and flowchart provided by the Director of Education and Inclusion Services for schools to share with parents / carers advising of actions to be taken in relation to suspected and confirmed cases	
Confirmed Case Flow Chart (Primary) Confirmed Case Flow Chart (Secondary) Template - Letter to Parents 1 – Potential Close Contact Template - Letter to Parents 2 – Confirmed Case	17/09/20

Template - Letter to Parents 3 – Confirmed Close Contact	
Template - Letter to Parents 4 – Return to School Notification	

- 6.2 The Director of Education & Inclusion Services will provide the most update information and a synopsis of the Council's response, from an education perspective, to date.

7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 Engagement has been undertaken with Director for Education & Inclusion in respect of the contents of this report.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not currently required - the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 10.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

11. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

- 11.1 This is an information report presenting the Cabinet report which outlines how the Council is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 Whilst it is proposed that Scrutiny is presented with a regular package of information identifying the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic (pressure points on Council services relating to COVID-19, along with the business of reinstating some services and the recovery and service planning process), Members are asked to acknowledge the fast-moving nature of this situation, which has necessitated the need to provide up-to-date information as part of the meeting, to effectively allow Scrutiny to consider these matters.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT
1985**

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE

22nd October 2020

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
&**

COMMUNICATION



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 22ND OCTOBER 2020

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME: 2020- 2021 MUNICIPAL YEAR

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee with a Forward Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2020/2021 (October to December 2020 in the first instance).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:-

2.1 Acknowledge the contents of the proposed draft Children & Young People Scrutiny Work Programme for the 2020/21 Municipal Year (October –December 2020), attached as Appendix 1 to the report

2.2 Consider progress, achievements, and the effectiveness of the scrutiny work programme and scrutiny practice; and,

2.3 Consider and determine other matters it may wish to consider, challenge and scrutinise over this period, taking consideration of the factors set out in section 4.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is proposed that Members of the Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to consider its work programme for the 2020/21 municipal year and that the proposed work programme allows for an element of flexibility (taking a 3 month view) and taking into account any additional consultative documents or legislative matters requiring attention.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Members will recall that the [Local Authorities \(Coronavirus\) \(Meetings\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020](#), published at the end of April, provided the opportunity for committee functions to operate virtually. At that time, Members supported the proposal for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, as the Council's overarching Scrutiny Committee, to take a council-wide approach and consider those key matters that ordinarily would have been under review by the four themed scrutiny committees.

4.2 At its meeting on the 30th July 2020, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the Council's Performance Report, 31st March 2020 year end, as part of the temporary arrangements set in place to progress and establish virtual committee arrangements. All members of the council were invited to attend and contribute to this matter.

4.3 Members of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee met on two occasions, on the [22nd July](#) Members received a verbal update from the Director of Education and Inclusion Services in relation to the Councils response to COVID 19 from an education perspective and on the [9th September 2020](#) Member were presented with an overview of the work that had been carried out by Children's Service in response to the Pandemic.

4.4 Following the Councils Annual General meeting held on the 16th September 2020 Scrutiny is now able to present its forward work programmes for the 2020/21 Municipal Year, initially on a three month basis so as to provide members of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to undertake a review of the work programme in December 2020.

4.5 The Committee continues to acknowledge the current pressures on the Council as it focuses on the impact of the pandemic and its associated plans for response and recovery. Committee recognises the desire to resume a 'business as usual' approach in terms of the scrutiny work programme, however, Committee will need to be mindful of these ongoing pressures. Members are asked to acknowledge the balance required for a flexible and supportive scrutiny work programme that has clear objectives, expectations and lines of questioning. Importantly, this approach allows for business critical matters to be prioritised.

4.6 With this in mind the Children & Young People Scrutiny forward work programme, attached at Appendix 1, sets out a manageable and realistic scrutiny activity for the next three months allowing for the more pressing matters to be considered whilst having the flexibility to respond to emerging issues.

4.7 Members are reminded that given the current climate the forward work programme priorities are subject to change should other specific business need to be considered by the Committee on this date.

4.8 The Committee is invited to consider areas for further scrutiny by the committee.

5. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

5.1 The Children & Young People Scrutiny Work Programme has been developed in discussions with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Children & Young Scrutiny Committee and the relevant senior officers.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 12.1 (Part 4) of the Council's Constitution.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

9.1 This work programme takes consideration of the Council's Corporate Plan, the work programme of the Cabinet and the service response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 Members of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee are asked to identify any items they would like to review in greater detail and to agree the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for the 2020/21 Municipal Year (up until December 2020 in the first instance).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22ND OCTOBER 2020

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &

COMMUNICATION

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMMES

Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

‘Holding the Executive to account in respect of all three priorities within the Council’s Corporate Plan....Economy (Building a strong economy), People (Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone), Place (Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work).’

Each of the Council’s Scrutiny Committees is responsible for setting and agreeing its own work programme by identifying a list of themes and topics which fall under the remit of each individual Scrutiny Committee. Following discussion with the Chair, Vice Chair and Scrutiny Members a practical, realistic and timetabled programme can then be developed.

The scrutiny forward work programmes should provide a clear rationale as to why particular issues have been selected; be outcome focussed; ensure that the method of scrutiny is best suited to the topic area and the outcome desired; align scrutiny programmes with the council’s performance management, self-evaluation and improvement arrangements.

Throughout the year, there are a number of ways in which additional issues can be considered for inclusion in the Scrutiny Work Programme and ideas for inclusion may come from a number of sources such as:-

- Individual Councillors;
- Performance or budget monitoring information;
- Inspection reports;
- Referrals from Council (such as Notices of Motion), Cabinet/Audit or other scrutiny committees;
- Service users;
- Monitoring the implementation of recommendations previously made by the Committee; and
- Local Residents

The Cabinet is also required to produce forward work programmes and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee keeps abreast of forthcoming items or topics which may enable scrutiny to be involved in the development of Council policy prior to its formal consideration by Cabinet. It is important to bear in mind that an element of flexibility is applied to each individual work programme that provides Committees with the capacity to scrutinise new / urgent issues that arise during the year.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE					
Date/Time	Overarching Item	Officer	Cabinet Member	Invited/ In attendance	Scrutiny Focus
22 nd October 2020, 5pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children & Young People Scrutiny Work Programme 	Director of Education & Inclusion Services Director of Children's Services Service Director of Democratic Services & Communications			Scrutiny & Challenge – For Members of the CH&YP Scrutiny Committee to consider the work programme for 2020/2021.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on the latest position within the Education Service regarding COVID 19 	Director of Education & Inclusion Services Head of Capital Projects & Support Services Management			Scrutiny & Challenge – For Members to consider the ongoing work of the Service.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Needs 	Director of Education & Inclusion Services Director of Children's Services Service Director of Democratic Services & Communications			To consider and develop a schedule of training requirements for members of the CH&YP Committee.

4th November 2020, 5pm Children's Services	Recovery Plan to contingency Planning in respect of COVID 19 Update.	Director of Children's Services			Scrutiny & Challenge – To receive an update on the recovery and service planning process.
	Update in respect of the Disabled Children's Team Review carried out by CIW	Director of Children's Services Head of Service			Scrutiny & Challenge – To consider the work undertaken by the service in response to the review of the Service
18th November 2020, 5pm Education	CSC Update in respect of work carried out during the COVID 19 Pandemic	Director of Education & Inclusion Officers from CSC			To receive an overview of work carried out by CSC in respect of the COVID 19 Pandemic and consider their forward plan.
2nd December , 5pm Joint Meeting with both services	Resilience and wellbeing of Children & Young People	Director of Children's Services Head of YEPS Service Resilient Family Service, ALN Service Attendance & Wellbeing Service Director of Education			Scrutiny & Challenge – To receive an update from both Service Areas in respect of the work carried during the COVID 19 Pandemic and future plans

Other Areas for exploration:-

Future 21st Century School proposals

WESP

CAMHS

CSC Annual reporting

Engaging Young People

Counselling Services (especially looking at the Children's mental health what work could be done to address the trauma that children have suffered during Covid 19)

Young Carers mental health and wellbeing.

Play therapy for Children to address their worries going forward from the effect of Covid 19 on their Health & Wellbeing.

(N.O.M RE: Kinship Carers)

To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors J James and L Hooper. It is estimated that there are 200,000 children being brought up by family members or friends in the United Kingdom in what is termed as 'Kinship Care'. These kinship carers have stepped in to care for children whose parents are unable to look after them and keep their families together, and it represents three times the number of children in the national foster care system – and is a growing figure. Kinship care is one of the main ways to provide a sense of security, continuity and belonging for children who cannot live with their parents and it provides high levels of stability and enduring support well into young adulthood. However, the support that is offered to kinship carers throughout the country lacks consistency, and carers often feel isolated, abandoned and 'hung out to dry'. This is in marked contrast to the support that foster carers and adoptive parents can receive. This Council recognises the invaluable work that kinship carers do for their loved ones, often under the most trying of situations, and is committed to providing the help, engagement and support that they need. This Council requests that a report be considered by the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Committee to look further into the role of kinship care in the County Borough and to work closely with Grandparents Plus to identify ways in which it can meet the needs of kinship carers and those in kinship care.