

OFFICIAL ATTENDANCE OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL'S CHARITY FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED CABINET COMMITTEE.

Minutes of the meeting of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Charity for the Visually Impaired Cabinet Committee on the 7th July, 2016 at 1pm at the Council Headquarters, Clydach Vale.

County Borough Councillors in attendance:-

G Hopkins – Chairman

R Bevan

M Forey

RCT Council:-

L Bridgman, Y Powell

Cardiff Institute for the Blind:-

K Harris – Director of Operations

1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman took the opportunity to welcome everyone to the meeting and welcomed Mr K Harris from the Cardiff Institute for the Blind (CIB).

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest made pertaining to the agenda.

3 RHONDDA CYNON TAF TRUST FUND FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE

The Head of Service, Short Term Intervention & Community Care referred Members to her report and reminded Members of the decision taken at their meeting on the 26th February, 2015 in respect of the extension of the contractual arrangements to the Cardiff Institute for the Blind (CIB) for a three year period and of their concerns in respect of the sustainability of the services in Rhondda Cynon Taf once all the remaining Trust Fund monies had been spent.

The Chairman called upon Mr Kieran Harris, Director of Operations, CIB to update the Trustees in respect of the contract for the provision of services to blind and partially sighted people between Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and CIB.

As part of his update, Mr Harris outlined for Members consideration the proposal to unrestrict the Trust fund advising of the benefits such an approach would have for the organisation in obtaining future funding streams, with the potential to sustain services beyond the contractual three year agreement.

The Chairman thanked Mr Harris for his update and opened up the item for Members comments.

Members spoke positively on the work of the organisation and the proposal presented and referred to the similar practices with unrestricted contracts by other local authorities.

One Member voiced his concerns over job sustainability and was reassured by Mr Harris that the proposal would have a positive impact on job sustainability in the future and proceeded to provide examples of such benefits.

The Chair queried the expenditure of the funds to date, to which Mr Harris responded and also commented on the data that could be provided to Members illustrating the expenditure of the funds. The option of quarterly invoices was raised as a potential option by the Head of Service, Short Term & Intervention.

Following discussions on the report it was **RESOLVED:**

- a) To note the report and rationale for the proposal in respect of unrestricting of funds, as presented by the Director of Operations for Cardiff Institute for the Blind (CIB)
- b) To unrestrict the Trust fund given by the Trustees of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Trust Fund for Blind and Partially Sighted People in RCT (the Trust Fund).
- c) To receive a further update by Cardiff Institute for the Blind on the progress of their work and applications for funding during January 2017, or when deemed appropriate by the chair.

(N.B. the chairman requested Mr Harris to leave the meeting during their deliberations)

This meeting closed at 13:25pm

Cllr G Hopkins

Chairman