



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on Monday, 22 March 2021
at 10.00 am .

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

Councillor C Leyshon (Chair)

Councillor G Hopkins Councillor J James
Councillor S. Rees-Owen Councillor E Griffiths

Officers in attendance

Mr P Mee, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Ms C Miles, Childcare Solicitor
Ms A Lloyd, Service Director, Children's Services
Ms C Jones, Head of Access & Inclusion
Ms J Thomas, Complaints & QA Manager, Social Services
Ms S Edwards, Service Manager, Children's Services

Others in attendance

29 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed the attendees to the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board and apologies for absence was received from County Borough Councillors J. Rosser and R. Yeo.

30 Declaration of Interest

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

31 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on the 25th January 2021.

32 Fostering Service Quality of Care Annual Report 2019-20

The Service Manager thanked Members of the Corporate Parenting Board for the opportunity to present the Annual Fostering Service Quality of Care Report. Firstly the Officer apologised for the delay in presenting the report and explained that this was due to the demands of responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Service Manager explained that the Quality of Care Report is compiled as a requirement under the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016. Regulation 52 of the Local Authority Fostering Services (Wales)

Regulations 2018. Members also acknowledged that there is a requirement to the local authority manager to put suitable arrangements in place to establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and improving the quality of service.

The Service Manager continued and informed Members of the current staffing structure of the service. It was explained that currently the service consists of four teams:

- Regional Recruitment Team;
- Placement and Assessment Team;
- Kinship Assessment Team; and
- Fostering Support Team.

In relation to the delivery of the service progress was made in relation to carer support and consultation, education and the establishment of the regional front door was very pleasing to see.

The Service Manager presented Members with an overview of the quality of Service provided across the fostering teams which can be found under the following four sections of the report:

1. People feel their voices are heard, they have choice about their care and support and opportunities are made available to them;
2. People are happy and supported to maintain their on-going health, development and overall well-being
3. People feel safe and protected from abuse and neglect; and
4. People live in accommodation the best support their well-being and achievement of their personal outcomes.

The Service Manager highlighted that foster carers are encouraged to participate in learning and development opportunities and this works both ways, during this reporting period the RCT fostering service has undertaken a series of consultation events where we have gained foster carer views and experiences in order to improve the service.

Members were also updated on the Fostering Wellbeing programme, the National Fostering Framework which Members found it pleasing to see that RCT has actively signed up to ensuring that this new framework is rolled to our carers.

The Service Manager concluded her report by explaining that RCT Children's Services will continue to ensure the support is there for children, foster carers and families and presented Members with the priorities for the year ahead which were:

- Consultations – Improve reporting systems and enhance understanding of foster carers , young people and parents experiences;
- Foster Carer Profiles – Available for young people in a child friendly format and the social workers to improve the matching process;
- Health and Education – Improve how data can be collected and contribute to the monitoring process;
- Pioneer Foster Carers – Encourage development and links with education and provide advise and guidance to foster carers;
- Parent and Child training- Encourage existing foster carers to transfer to this provision;
- Recruitment campaigns – Assess and recruit foster carers locally;
- Kinship Care – Monitor the resources available to respond to demand;

- and
- Foster Panel – Annual training event to support the Quality Assurance role of the foster panel.

The Chair thanked the officer for her report and opened up the meeting for Members questions and observations.

A Member commented that they were pleased to see the establishment of the Kinship Assessment team and explained that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee had recently received a report in relations to Kinship Care which had be brought to the Committee from a Notice of Motion that had been presented to Council. The Member wanted reassurance from Officers that once any work had been updated on the service it would be reported back to the Scrutiny Committee for further discussion.

Another Member referred Officers to Page 18 of the report and wanted clarity in relation to the fostering wellbeing project, the Member asked if the Board could receive data to evidence the outcomes in future reporting.

After further deliberation Members **RESOLVED** to Acknowledge the content of the report and receive updates in due couse.

33 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.

34 Social Services Quarterly Complaints & 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 October 2020 – 31st December 2020.

The report contained information on the number of complaints received, the nature of the complaints and any lessons learnt, as well as detailing Councillor, A.M and M.P enquiries and the number of complaints received.

Following consideration, Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the content of the report.

This meeting closed at 11.15 am

**Cllr C Leyshon
Chairman.**