



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

18TH JULY 2023

REPORT OF THE CHAIR ON VISITS MADE TO FRONT LINE TEAMS BY MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD DURING THE 2022-23 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

Members of the Corporate Parenting Board undertake scheduled visits to front line staff working in Children's Services to better inform Members of the work undertaken by staff to safeguard the health and wellbeing of children in Rhondda Cynon Taf, particularly those who are in our corporate care, their various needs, and as a means of understanding the needs of those staff.

The visits are led by myself as Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care in my role as Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board, accompanied by the Vice-Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board, Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation & Welsh Language. An invitation to the visits was also extended to all Members of the Corporate Parenting Board.

During the 2022-23 Municipal Year, front line visits were made to the following teams:

- Disabled Children's Team
- Families Plus Team
- IAA (Information, Advice & Assistance) & EAT (Engagement & Assessment Team)
- Miskin, Therapeutic Families Team & Integrated Family Support Team
- West Intensive Team
- Youth Offending Service Prevention Team

I firstly wish to extend my thanks to the management and staff at each of the visits for their valuable time and for their openness to discussion. It was a pleasure to undertake these visits, as first time Chair and Vice-Chair and it was evident that our staff at Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council are committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for the children within our care and care leavers, despite uncertain and unprecedented times.

Themes identified throughout the visits:

- Despite the legacy of the Covid-19 Pandemic, morale was high, and the dedication and commitment of staff was impressive;
- Following the Covid-19 Pandemic, it was recognised that many case workloads had increased and become more complex;
- There was a need for future proposals for office accommodation to be addressed and communicated;
- The recruitment and retention of Social Workers is a UK wide issue which has meant shortages in key areas of the service. It was recognised that retention and recruitment was a problem in most service areas, except for the YOS Prevention Team; and



- Whilst in most service areas, integration with other agencies worked well, there were some areas that required improved arrangements.

CLLR G CAPLE
CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE
CHAIR OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD