



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**

#### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR ON VISITS MADE TO FRONT LINE TEAMS BY MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD DURING THE 2023-24 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 2023-24 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
- East Intensive Team

There is a visit scheduled to take place at a later date to the Youth Justice Service 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. Once again, it was a pleasure to undertake these visits 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.

Themes identified throughout the visits:

- Despite the post Covid legacy, morale was good, or had increased with dedicated and committed staff;
- It was recognised that case workloads had continued to increase and had become more complex;
- It was acknowledged that costs had increased, including for placements and school transport;
- It was recognised that recruitment and retention continue to be an issue which continued to mean shortages in some key areas of the service, although vacancies



being managed. It was also recognised the need to expand the graduation scheme for future management succession;

- It was acknowledged that social trends are being seen in RCT that are common in Cardiff; and
- Whilst in most service areas, integration with other agencies worked well, there was a need to explore improving relationship with RCT Housing with the aim of a more coordinated approach.

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