

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CABINET COMMITTEE - CORPORATE PARENTING
HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 1/2/3, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND,
ON TUESDAY, 3 MARCH 2009 AT 4:00PM

Present: -

Councillor A E Davies - Chairperson

Councillors

M E J Nott - Leader
D Sage - Deputy Leader
H J David - Cabinet Member - Resources
L C Morgan - Cabinet Member - Wellbeing
J C Spanswick - Cabinet Member - Communities

Invitees:

Councillors

Overview and Scrutiny Corporate Parenting Champions

M W Butcher - Strategic Partnerships and Governance
R D Jenkins - Health and Wellbeing
S Smith - Community Renewal and Environment
K J Watts - Children and Young People's

Jess - Aftercare Representative
Mikey - Aftercare Representative

Officers

H Anthony - Corporate Director - Children
A Harris - Corporate Director - Wellbeing
S Pryce - Head of Regeneration and Development
L Harper - Head of Safeguarding and Family Support
L Mumford - Legal Officer
G P Jones - Principal Cabinet and Committee Officer
S Driscoll - Aftercare Team
D Carter - Aftercare Team

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Thomas, the Corporate Director - Communities, The Head of Housing and the Head of Healthy Living.

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

13 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Head of Safeguarding and Family Support advised that the planned schedule of the work programme was to be revised and provided a verbal briefing to update the Committee. She added that an updated report would be presented at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Committee - Corporate Parenting held on 13 January 2009 be approved as a true and accurate record.

14 STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE - FOSTERING, ADOPTION AND CHILDREN'S HOMES

The Chairperson welcomed the invitees and in particular the new Head of Regeneration and Development and those representing the Aftercare Service. She outlined the role of the Committee and explained the importance of involving young people in the development work of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.

The Head of Safeguarding and Family Support presented a report which sought approval of the revised Statements of Purpose for the service areas specified within the report and in line with regulatory requirements. She explained that the Children's Homes Regulations (Wales) 2002, the Fostering Services Regulations (Wales) 2003, and the Local Authority Adoption Service (Wales) Regulations 2005, that there is a requirement that each of the children's homes and service areas have a 'Statement of Purpose'.

She then outlined the key elements of each of the statements of purpose and Members had the opportunity to discuss the issues that were raised. These included the:

- demanding criteria for becoming a Foster Carer and the inclusion of the issues that exempt potential carers from becoming foster carers such as smoking, alcohol and substance abuse;
- use of restraint on service users the training requirements to undertake this action;
- Pan Wales Agreements for Independent Carers;
- definition of the needs of those accommodated in Cartrefle Children's Home;
- ethos and philosophy in the children's homes;
- unauthorised absence procedures;
- arrangement for child protection and bullying;
- contact arrangements for accommodated children;
- extensive qualifications of the service providers;
- involvement of the young people in the operation of their residential accommodation;
- management of behaviour.

Members indicated that the descriptions of the statements of purpose for each of the service areas had been very informative. It was requested that other opportunities and activities for younger people be considered. This could include the use of "foster granny's" where senior members of the community would benefit from the company of young people accommodated within these children's homes.

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee approves the revised individual 'Statement of Purpose' for the named service areas referred to in the report.

The meeting closed at 5.04pm