

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CABINET COMMITTEE - CORPORATE PARENTING
HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 1/2/3, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND,
ON TUESDAY, 31 MARCH 2009 AT 4:37PM

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
M Thomas - Corporate Resources & Improvement
K J Watts - Children and Young People's

Officers

H Anthony - Corporate Director - Children
S Pryce - Head of Regeneration and Development
L Harper - Head of Safeguarding and Family Support
M Shephard - Head of Healthy Living
E Davies - Group Manager Legal Services
G P Jones - Principal Cabinet and Committee Officer
C Turner - Group Manager Assessment & Case Management

15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from, Councillor S Smith, the Corporate Director – Communities, and the Head of Housing.

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Head of Safeguarding and Family Support advised that the work programme was intended to be presented at the next ordinary meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Committee - Corporate Parenting held on 3 March 2009 be approved as a true and accurate record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor D Sage, the Deputy Leader in attendance at the meeting.

18 PERMANENCE POLICY

The Head of Safeguarding and Family Support presented a report which sought adoption of the Permanence Policy. She explained that the policy provided the framework of the emotional, physical and legal conditions that provided a child a sense of security, continuity, commitment and identity.

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) requires that all “Looked After Children” have a plan for permanence by the time they have been looked after for 4 months. The first consideration of the Authority is to determine whether the child can be returned or rehabilitated home with their birth parent(s). Other options apart from adoption are also considered which include residence orders, special guardianship orders, long term foster care and care orders. These options allowed relatives and families to become involved with the care of their young relatives.

She added that the options for permanence plans were sometimes run in parallel until the transition into adulthood in order to ensure the best outcome for any “Looked After Children”.

Members welcomed the report but queried how the success of the permanence plans would be measured. It was explained that there was a performance indicator for the establishment of the permanence plans and that the if the plan did not work to the benefit of the individual the alternatives would be considered and a new permanence plan would be prepared.

Members asked what financial support was available to families to assist in the prevention of children coming into care. The Head of Safeguarding and Family Support informed the meeting that there was no direct financial support to families but assistance could be provided to help with accommodation and other important facilities. Support for the various options such as Special Guardianship orders did have some financial remuneration based on the age and circumstances of the child or young person.

The Chairperson informed the meeting that the selection standards that foster carers had to achieve before they were approved were very high, and that many parents may find it difficult to meet such rigorous criteria.

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee approves the Permanence Policy in relation to Looked After Children.

The meeting closed at 5.04pm