

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING CABINET COMMITTEE

9 MARCH 2010

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - CHILDREN

REPORT ON ELECTED MEMBERS' ROTA VISITS TO RESIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN BRIDGEND

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide information to the Committee on rota visiting by elected members to the four children's homes managed by the Safeguarding and Family Support Service.

2. Connection to the Corporate Improvement Plan/Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 Corporate parenting supports the following corporate priorities:

- Children Today, Adults Tomorrow
- Supporting our Disadvantaged Communities
- Creating Learning Communities

and is connected to the following community strategy themes:

- Young voices
- Healthy Living
- New Opportunities

3. Background

- 3.1 Every elected member has legal responsibilities under the Children Act 2004 as a corporate parent to the children in the care of Bridgend County Borough Council. It is the responsibility of all councillors, as corporate parents, to be satisfied that there is a joined up, effective and holistic approach to meeting the needs of looked after children through policy and planning. The Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee came into existence in October 2008 and is one of the main vehicles of the Council for ensuring it meets its responsibilities in this area.

- 3.2 Members will be aware that there is a programme of rota visits to the 4 children's homes – Cartrefle, Pant Morfa, Maesteg Community Homes and Bakers Way short breaks service. Members undertake visits in pairs and written reports are submitted for noting or action. The current rota schedule runs from June 2009 until March 2010 and full guidance has been provided to all elected members involved.

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 Raising awareness of the importance of rota visiting is key to ensuring that every councillor fulfils their role as a corporate parent. To this end, it is important that elected members contribute to the safeguarding of our looked after children and young people and those leaving care and help to ensure that the quality of care provided is satisfactory. It is essential that opportunities are presented for councillors to meet with people who receive services from us to listen to their views.

- 4.2 As part of the Local Authority's compliance with the Care Standards Act 2000, Regulation 32, monthly inspections are carried out by officers who are independent of case management and of the home itself. The inspection reports note the frequency of elected members' rota visits and these reports are made available at CSSIW inspections of our residential establishments. For members of the corporate parenting cabinet committee, it is important that there is participation in the scheme, where feasible, and that committee members encourage all councillors to support wider participation in the new rota programme from April 2010.
- 4.3 Attached at Appendix 1 is a schedule of visits carried out to the four children's establishments since April 2009 together with a summary of the comments made. Members will see that between April and July, no rota visits were undertaken but that, in October, 3 visits were made to Maesteg Community Home. Out of 36 possible visits to the four children's establishments between April and December 2009, only 13 were carried out (including the three visits to Maesteg Community Home in October).
- 4.4 The next rota visiting programme is due to commence in April 2010. All 54 elected members will be contacted to invite them to participate in the forthcoming rota. Attached at Appendix 2 are the rotas for January, February and March 2010 for information.

5. Effect Upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

- 5.1 There is no effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee receive the information provided in this report and promote engagement of all elected members in rota visits.

Hilary Anthony
Corporate Director Children
2 March 2010

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Background Documents

See Appendix 1 and 2

**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL – SAFEGUARDING AND FAMILY SUPPORT,
CHILDREN'S DIRECTORATE**

**ROTA VISITING
PREMISES VISITED - APRIL 2009 TO DECEMBER 2009**

	Apr 2009	May 2009	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	Sept 2009	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009
Bakers Way Respite Care House					✓	✓			
Cartrefle Community Home					✓		✓		
Maesteg Community Home					✓	✓	✓✓✓		
Pant Morfa Community Home					✓	✓			✓
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	4	3	5	0	1

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

Bakers Way Respite	24/08/2009	Everything in order, alterations due to commence at the home, all seems satisfactory.
	28/09/2009	The Cll's were pleased with the high standard of the facilities provided for the service users. Unfortunately, there were no service users present during their visit.
Cartrefle	24/08/2009	Found everything to be in order and staff and residents appeared satisfied.
	21/10/2009	The Cllrs noted that Cartrefle caters for service users aged 16-18 and encourages them to use their independence. The Cllrs added that the they are catered for in a happy environment.
Maesteg Community Home	26/08/2009	The Cllrs met two young people during their visit. They appeared to be happy and the staff also seemed pleased to be there. The home provided a good family environment. The residents are encouraged to cook a little for themselves and to help to be more self reliant and confident. They are also expected to keep their rooms clean and tidy. The children are allowed out during the summer, to visit cinema etc providing they are with responsible people and are home by 9:30pm.
	28/09/2009	The Cllrs noted that the Community Home Offered a good standard of facilities to its service users. The staff were friendly and co-operative. Unfortunately, there were no service users present at time of the Cllr's visit.
	01/10/2009	The Cllrs were shown around the centre by a team leader who was professional, enthusiastic, showed considerable knowledge and applied diligent application to his role. The Cllr's were briefed thoroughly on arrival which was followed by a walk around the home. They observed and discussed the home's business plan which had been delivered since 2001. The office was highly organised and impressive. The required administration of the home was excellent. The home was immaculately clean, well presented and thoroughly well organised. Various matters were discussed including a briefing on its client service user. It was reported that the home had no problems with the surrounding area and that they had an excellent relationship with the community. The Cllrs noted that Maesteg Community Home was a fine example of how a community home should be managed. It was a highly successful visit.
	02/10/2009	The Cllrs noted that there were no children at the home as they were all at school. The staff members had no concerns about the home or any other factors attributed to the general running of at the home. The staff also commented that the children are all getting on ok with each other.
	19/10/2009	The Cllrs noted that they were extremely impressed with the décor of the lounge and kitchen area which staff had redecorated to achieve a more homely, relaxed, calming influence in their decorating pursuits. The Cllrs met the officer in charge and they commented that he was informative and enlightening which they appreciated whilst looking at the potential benefits in the care of children both now and in the future. They commented that there was good staff care and that the welfare of the children was evident. It was an enjoyable visit for the Cllrs and they found it very informative and want to wish Maesteg Community Home luck for the future.
Pant Morfa Community Home	24/08/2009	Everything seemed to be in order, met with three young people and staff and they appeared to be satisfied.
	22/09/2009	The Cllr's met with a pleasant senior residential worker. The Cllr's met with one of the residents who's demeanour during the visit was happy-go-lucky, well mannered and compliant. He seemed appreciative of the staff and their efforts and spoke fondly of them. The establishment was well run, comfortable, clean and tidy. They were very impressed throughout. The member of staff who showed them around was very experienced, knowledgeable and experienced and show great concern for her residents.
	17/12/2009	The Cllr's noted that Pant Morfa caters for young people with a variety of complex needs and requirements. The service users they spoke to were happy and well looked after in a warm and caring environment.

Forthcoming visits January 2010

Team 1	Breakaway, 14/16 Abbey Road, Kenfig Hill Glyn Cynffig Hostel, School Road, Kenfig Hill
Team 2	Cwm Calon, Castle Street, Maesteg Vernon Hart Centre, Heol Ty With, Coegnant Road, Nantyffyllon
Team 3	Ty Cwm Ogwr Resource Centre, Pantyawel, Ogmere Vale 'B Leaf', Bryngarw Country Park
Team 4	Maesteg Community Home, 21 Brookfield Road, Maesteg Bakers Way Respite House, 2a Bakers Way, Bryncethin, Bridgend
Team 5	Ty Penybont Day Centre (Cartrefle Retirement Project), 110c Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend Cartrefle Community Home, Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend Minerva Street Centre, Minerva Street, Bridgend
Team 6	Pant Morfa Community Home, 31 Pant Morfa, Porthcawl
Team 7	Hyfrydol, Off Turberville Street, Maesteg Bryneithin Resource Centre, Crown Road, Maesteg
Team 8	Maesteg Craft Factory, Units 23/24 Heol Ty Gwyn Industrial Estate, Maesteg Glanyrafon Resource Centre, Heol Y Ysgol, Tondu, Bridgend
Team 9	Bryn y Cae, Cae Brackla, Brackla, Bridgend Bridgend Day Centre, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend
Team 10	Maesglas Resource Centre, 64 Mount Earl Bridgend ARC (formerly Ty'r Ardd), Sunnyside, Bridgend
Team 11	Persondy Day Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig Wood B, Unit 50, Tondu Enterprise Park, Bryn Road, Tondu, Bridgend

February 2010

Team 1	Cwm Calon, Castle Street, Maesteg Vernon Hart Centre, Heol Ty With, Coegnant Road, Nanttyffyllon
Team 2	Ty Cwm Ogwr Resource Centre, Pantyawel, Ogmores Vale 'B Leaf', Bryngarw Country Park
Team 3	Maesteg Community Home, 21 Brookfield Road, Maesteg Bakers Way Respite House, 2a Bakers Way, Bryncethin, Bridgend
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Team 11	Breakaway, 14/16 Abbey Road, Kenfig Hill Glyn Cynffig Hostel, School Road, Kenfig Hill

March 2010

Team 1	Ty Cwm Ogwr Resource Centre, Pantyawel, Ogmore Vale ‘B Leaf’, Bryngarw Country Park
Team 2	Maesteg Community Home, 21 Brookfield Road, Maesteg Bakers Way Respite House, 2a Bakers Way, Bryncethin, Bridgend
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