

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING CABINET COMMITTEE 5th APRIL 2011

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN

ROTA VISITING UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to the Committee on rota visiting to Safeguarding and Family Support Service establishments.

2. CONNECTION TO THE CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITY

- 2.1 Corporate parenting is connected to the following community strategy themes:
- Young voices
 - Healthy Living
 - New Opportunities

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will be aware that there is a programme of rota visits to the children's and adults' social care establishments. Members undertake visits in pairs and written reports are submitted for noting or action. The current rota schedule runs from April 2010 until March 2011 and full guidance has been provided to all Members involved.
- 3.2 The Social Services and Housing Overview and Scrutiny meeting of the 21st December 2007 stated that 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 Members contribute to the safeguarding of our children, young people and vulnerable adults and help to ensure that the quality of care provided is appropriate. It is essential that opportunities are presented for Members to meet with people who receive services from us to listen to their views.
- 3.3 The minutes of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee on the 9th March 2010 stated that Members reaffirmed their commitment to rota visiting and the Committee agreed to promote the engagement of all elected members in rota visits.

4. CURRENT SITUATION

- 4.1 Following a report to this Committee in September 2010, it was requested that a review of the Rota visiting process be undertaken and reported back to the Cabinet Committee in March 2011.
- 4.2 As a consequence of this, two member development sessions were organised and all Members involved in the rota visiting programme were invited. During these

sessions, examples of completed rota forms and some specific examples of questions and helpful pointers to be considered in preparation for the visits were provided.

- 4.3 The documentation was discussed and amendments and additions have been made in time for the new rota starting in April 2011. Some additions include clarity on the role of Members, clear opening times and suggested times for visiting, suggestions on what to look for when visiting and the types of questions to consider plus clear direction on where to return the completed form.
- 4.4 Attached at Appendix 1 is a schedule of visits carried out to the four children's establishments since April 2010 together with a summary of the comments made. It is not possible to include every comment and the summary gives the main points to note.
- 4.5 The next rota visiting programme is due to commence in April 2011. All 54 elected Members have been contacted to invite them to participate in the forthcoming rota.

5. EFFECT UPON POLICY FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE RULES

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

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not applicable to this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications.

8. RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee consider the information provided in this report.

9. Contact Officer

Colin Turner
Head of Safeguarding and Family Support

10 Background Documents

None.

Hilary Anthony

Corporate Director - Children

Contact Officer

Colin Turner

Acting Head of Safeguarding and Family Support

Telephone: (01656) 642314

E-mail: colin.turner@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Sunnyside, Bridgend. CF31 4AR

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

**ROTA VISITING
PREMISES VISITED - APRIL 2010 TO JANUARY 2011**

	April 2010	May 2010	June 2010	July 2010	Aug 2010	Sept 2010	Oct 2010	Nov 2010	Dec 2010	Jan 2011
Bakers Way				✓	✓		✓	✓		
Cartrefle Community Home			✓✓	✓		✓✓				
Maesteg Community Home		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
Pant Morfa	✓		✓	✓✓	✓		✓	✓		
Total:	1	1	4	5	3	2	3	2	0	1

Summary of Comments:

Bakers Way	Aug 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bakers Way caters for service users to a high standard. The young people were happy and interacted well with staff who seemed to high level of motivation.
	Oct 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and children were found to be pleasant and that they were satisfied with present situation.
Cartrefle Community Home	Feb 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impressed by the cleanliness and neatness of the rooms which were well heated. The kitchen, bathroom and lounge which were immaculate. Residents were instructed and helped with managing budgets and independent living skills before leaving the establishment. The home is well maintained with a pleasant garden in the rear.
	March 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An excellent and necessary facility for the youngsters of the borough.
	June 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Councillors noted that the purpose of Cartrefle was to prepare young people for independent, flat-based living as well as conventional accommodation. Currently the establishment is under occupied due to the special needs of one of the residents. The ICT equipment was adequate. The boiler system was modern and designed for full occupation and the office furniture was of good quality.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Councillors also felt that the home would benefit from a reception area and a shower for staff.
	July 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment seemed to be well run and they discussed material needs for the home but there did not appear to be any. The two female residents had settled in well.
	Sept 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors were very pleased with the feedback they received from staff and residents. The home is in very good condition The standard of care provided is excellent The service users and staff have a good relationship and lived together in a happy environment.
Maesteg Community Home	Jan 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The home is in a pleasant setting with large tidy gardens. The common room had 3 modern computers, the kitchen was well fitted and very clean and the utility room was well equipped and beautifully clean. The children are able to invite their friends around and that a worker was always present day and night. The children were encouraged to look after themselves by cooking and washing their own clothes if they took an interest. The home was well run, spotlessly maintained and a credit to the staff that run it and look after the youngsters.
	Feb 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The home was all very clean and tidy and well kept. No problems reported.
	March 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a good working environment in the home with well used broadband access. The Cllr's noted that the CSSIW regularly commend the service provided at the home. The home enjoys a high success rate in dealing with challenging children, which is evident in excellent school attendance rates and academic achievements. Maintenance issues are dealt with speedily and the young people who live in M.C.H have no specific complaints. M.C.H is too valuable an asset to be closed. The Cllr's were informed that improvements to parking were unfortunately "cost prohibitive" at the moment, which is regularly causing problems.
	June 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The home was very clean and tidy and gave the impression of being very homely.
	July 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The home appeared comfortable and the staff were pleasant and seemed to have great regard for the looked after children.
	Oct 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was lots of lovely banter between the residents and staff. The two residents who were present were happy with the facilities, food and care. The facility was clean and seemed well cared for. The office staff were also caring too!
	Jan 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The staff continue to have an invaluable contribution to make to the service There is evidence of effective team work and rigorous

		<p>cost control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An informal interview with a resident confirmed that the facility was warm and friendly home. • The residents of the home had learned about the home closure from the newspaper. This has had a distressing effect on the three children in residence, who's physical and emotional needs are acute. • Staff are demoralised to have found out their fate through an outside source. The Councillors felt that the staff require a direct face-face briefing, where their concerns can be officially answered. • Two residents are in their GCSE school year and any inevitable disruption should be monitored and minimised.
Pant Morfa	March 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The home receives good support from both Porthcawl and Bridgend police. • The lounges, kitchen, bathrooms and bedrooms were in good order. • There was concern regarding about instances of violence by one or more of the service users against staff members. • There was concern with the level of stress involved in dealing with such challenging behaviour.
	June 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The house was clean. • Staff face challenging behaviour from their residents but they seemed to be cheerful. • One young resident confirmed he was happy at Pant Morfa. • Minor repairs needed on doors on kitchen unit.
	July 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Told that independence in the day to day running of the home was encouraged but the residents are supervised. • The bedrooms that were not occupied were in good order and were decorated in a unique way. • The food was prepared in house with help from the residents as the staff want to the residents to eat their meals. • A parent who was present couldn't praise the staff enough both for her child and for herself. She said "they were wonderful." • Each resident had their own room plus there were three different lounges. One of which was used as a computer/games room. It had a pool table and an exercise bike. • The staff are continuously decorating bedrooms to keep a good environment for the young people. • Overall impression of the place was very good • The staff at Pant Morfa were aware that one home is due to close and are anxious to know which one. • The house could do with a coat of emulsion.
	Aug 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decorative order throughout home was very poor. • A new boiler would also improve the home. • The kitchen also needs a total re-vamp.
	Nov 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents spoke highly of Pant Morfa and the care they received. • Residents interacted with the Councillors and the staff

		<p>member present in a manner which portrayed a happy and settled environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The residents were happy with the facilities provided and had an excellent rapport with members of staff.• Pant Morfa is a good facility with no cause for concern.
--	--	---