

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**CORPORATE PARENTING CABINET COMMITTEE
15 NOVEMBER 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 2011 until March 2012 and full guidance has been provided to all Members involved.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.4 The Committee received a report on 5th April 2011 informing them of the review of the rota visiting process and the Member development sessions that have been undertaken. Following this, amendments and additions were made to the rota guidance

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is a schedule of visits carried out to the four children's establishments between April and September 2011 together with a summary of the comments made. It is not possible to include every comment and the summary gives the main points relating to the welfare of children and young people, as discussed at the meeting in April.

- 4.2 The next rota visiting programme is due to commence in May 2012. All elected Members will be contacted to invite them to participate in the forthcoming rota.
- 4.3 In January 2011, Cabinet approved the closure of Maesteg Community Home as part of the Residential Redesign project. This work is progressing and currently refurbishment work is being undertaken on the two remaining units, it is hoped this will be completed in November with a view to Maesteg closing by the end of the year. This will mean that rota visits will no longer be required for Maesteg in the New Year.
- 4.4 During a number of recent Member visits to children's homes, a small number of residential staff raised concerns about resource and management issues. Whilst it is important for Members to listen to such feedback, Members primary role is to consider any themes and issues specifically relating to the children and young people resident within the home and the care they receive.

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 There is no negative impact relating to equality characteristics arising from this report.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications.

8. Recommendations

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

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Corporate Director – Childrens

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Background Documents

None.

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

**ROTA VISITING
PREMISES VISITED - APRIL 2011 TO SEPTEMBER 2011**

| | April 2011 | May 2011 | June 2011 | July 2011 | Aug 2011 | Sept 2011 |
|--------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Bakers Way | ✓ | | | | | ✓ |
| Cartrefle Community Home | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| Maesteg Community Home | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Pant Morfa | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓✓ | | |
| Total: | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 |

Summary of Comments:

| Establishment | Date | Comments | Actions taken |
|--------------------------|-----------|---|--|
| Bakers Way | Apr 2011 | A Regulation 32 visit reported favourable. No issues regarding services for young people reported. | No follow-up actions |
| | Sept 2011 | No issues regarding services for young people reported. | No follow-up actions |
| Cartrefle Community Home | May 2011 | No service users present. The councillors were shown examples of how young people are being prepared for independent living. | No follow-up actions |
| | Aug 2011 | Spoke to two service users who were happy in stable surroundings. | No follow-up actions |
| Maesteg Community Home | Jun 2011 | Positive report on changing situation | No follow-up actions |
| | Jul 2011 | Spoke to a young person who was positive about future arrangements | No follow-up actions |
| Pant Morfa | May 2011 | Positive visit. | Service manager is aware of manhole cover in back lane causing a potential hazard and is working to resolve the issue. |
| | June 2011 | Spoke to a resident who was happy and well cared for. | No follow-up actions |
| | July 2011 | There were two visits: 1 st visit - No young people present. 2nd visit - No issues regarding services to young people were reported. | No follow up actions |