

**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – LEGAL AND REGULATORY  
SERVICES**

**2 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**ROTA VISITING**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide information to the Committee on rota visiting in relation to the Council's Children's Social Care establishments.

**2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priority**

- 2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2013-2017 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The amended Corporate Improvement Objectives adopted by Council on 3 April 2013 formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2013 and 2017. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 Background information on the role of Members in undertaking visits to social care establishments is set out in the officer's report at appendix A.
- 3.2 A programme is developed of rota visits to social services establishments including three in relation to Children's Services as well as those for Adult Services. Members undertake visits in pairs and complete written reports which are submitted to the Director for noting or action.
- 3.3 At a Cabinet meeting in September 2003, it was resolved that "Rota visiting is continued as a method for monitoring standards of care in social service establishments".
- 3.4 A similar report on adult social services establishments has been presented to the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to adult social services establishments.

**4. Current Situation**

- 4.1 The officer's report and a schedule of visits carried out are attached at appendices A and A1 respectively.

- 4.1 Attached at Appendix A is an update report from the Children's Directorate on the Rota Visiting Scheme, together with the schedule of visits carried out to the three children's establishments between October 2012 and March 2013 and a summary of the comments made, (Appendix A1).
- 4.2 When considering the report, Members may wish to consider addressing the following questions to the invitees in order to help focus discussions:
1. *What is the current situation regarding numbers of elected Members who are engaged in the scheme? Have the number of visits improved due to the 1:1 training sessions and additional Members signing up to rota visiting on an ad hoc basis?*
  2. *How has the Directorate responded to the comments within the Annual Internal Audit Assurance Report, which noted that only a small number of Member rota visits are being carried out and highlighted this as an area for improvement?*
  3. *What are some of the reasons that are coming across from Members for their non-attendance? Is there anything that could be done to address these?*

## **5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules**

- 5.1 The work of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend.

## **6. Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 The equalities implications are set out in the Officer's report at Appendix A.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications.

## **8. Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to:

- i. Consider and note the content of the Officer's report;
- ii. Explore issues consistent with its challenge and support role;
- iii. Decide how it wishes to progress future Scrutiny of this item.

**Andrew Jolley,**  
**Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Regulatory Services**

**Contact Officer:** Rachel Keepins, Scrutiny Officer

**Telephone:** 01656 643613

**Email:** [scrutiny@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@bridgend.gov.uk)

**Postal Address:** Democratic Services - Scrutiny  
Bridgend County Borough Council,  
Civic Offices,  
Angel Street,  
Bridgend,  
CF31 4WB

**Background Documents:**

None