

REMOTE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Minutes of meeting held on 8th January, 2024

Present: Councillor E. Williams (Chair); Councillor S. Lloyd-Selby (Vice-Chair); Councillors J.E. Charles, W.A. Hennessy, and N.C. Thomas; Dr. I. Johnson, L. Carver (Director of Social Services), M. Booker-Southard (Learning Links Manager • Standards and Provision), A. Woolcock (Team Manager), T. Dickinson (Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, C. O'Dare (Team Manager 15 Plus), J. Rudge (Team Manager, Children and Young People Services), C. Western (Members and Committee Services Assistant).

Also present: J. Beynon (Policy Officer), R. Goodhew (Operational Manager for Family Support), J. Redrup (Safeguarding Officer) and K. Britten (Deputy Head Teacher Ysgol Y Deri).

(1)	Apologies -
	These were received from R. Evans and K. Conway.
(2)	Minutes and Matters Arising – 13th November 2023 -
	The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record with amendment to apologies from Councillor Dr. I. Johnson at the last meeting.
(3)	Meeting the needs of Children with Disabilities - Joint Presentation by CYPS and L&S' – Rob Goodhew & Alison Woodcock -
	<p>R. Goodhew Introduced himself to the Panel as the Family Support Manager for the Vale that covered two Family Support Teams and the Child Health and Disability Team. He was joined by A. Woolcock (Team Manager for the Disability Team) and K. Britten (Deputy Head from Ysgol Y Deri with responsibilities to secondary provisions). A short presentation and slideshow was shared by A. Woolcock.</p> <p>Child Health and Disability Team was formed in 2002, prior to that it was run by Children Servies. Although if there were issues around child protection, social workers from Children's Services would then get involved. The Children with Disabilities Team was established to recognise Children First, whilst also recognising that children with disabilities faced multiple obstacles to realising opportunities, and it mirrored the recognition of rights that were entrenched in legislation nationally and internationally.</p> <p>A photo was shared of the team last year at Porthkerry Park where they volunteered to litter pick along with a Wellbeing Tai Chi session for staff. It was noted that the team then had sessions which focused on identifying services and resources that were available to families in the Vale of Glamorgan.</p>

A Team Structure was shared on screen, A. Woolcock explained that she had worked for the Council for many years in different roles within this section and was formed in the original team in 2002. After being the Team Manager for almost 4 years she had a great understanding of the types of work and what the other roles and responsibilities were included within the team.

A. Woolcock went on to explain the responsibilities of each team members from Social Workers to transitional Social Workers.

Social workers often would be involved with families for many years, which could be a great source of support and connection to the families. Many had worked with the families through safeguarding issues, but maintained relationships, which meant that consistency and knowledge was maintained. The transition role ensured that a smooth transition for young people to Adult Services. This could potentially be a time of great anxiety for families and the young person involved, and a good transition could ease those concerns.

Services and resources were put in place when the young person turned 18. The Social Care officers provided opportunities to undertake direct work with the children and young people, meeting their needs to have independent skill support or providing part of that safety net when child protection was a factor.

Training and support from the Council was undertaken frequently to ensure that the Council had a good base of social work staff.

A. Woolcock went on to explain that their services were aimed at working with children and young people who were aged between 0 to 8 and 18, who had a permanent and substantial disabilities that was moderate or serious and which impacted on their day-to-day functioning due to either:

- A significant visual impairment,
- A significant hearing impairment,
- A profound communication impairment which included Aspergers syndrome,
- A severe learning disability,
- A significant physical disability.

The impact of the disability must be on the child / young person's ability to be safe, to develop skills and to be part of their local community growing up, if the team could see that there was potential for the young person to access local services, then they would signpost them.

As a team they were currently working with 193 children and young people, and they not only worked with the disabled child directly but also with the families too.

	<p>Whilst at 193 children currently open to the team, 59 of those children were part of sibling groups working with the whole family. It was noted that consistency and a holistic approach could help with building relationships and identify and sources of problems, but also, of potential solutions to these problems.</p> <p>The last slide showed the spread of ages of the young people they worked with, and that during teenage years it was often a critical age for families.</p> <p>The issues that the family experienced on a day-to-day basis and were often experienced by non-disabled children, but disability could add that additional stressor. It was also noted that the pictures shown in the slides were of the young people that they had worked with and supported.</p> <p>A. Woolcock noted that there was no single fix to all the issues that the families may be experiencing. The team would support and respond to those needs, keeping the young person and their family at the centre. Other agencies were involved where required to help meet the needs as much as possible with the emphasis on supporting the family to be independent and to function as they believed or wanted. Our involvement for their issues or concerns could range from daily to sometimes twice yearly.</p> <p>A diagram was shown of an example if there was a very stable package of support. The diagram included all the different agencies which they might need to call on and how and all the different ways in which the team may meet that young person's need and for that family's needs.</p> <p>Positive feedback from a family member was also shared with the Panel as part of the presentation. It was also raised that the Team did not work in isolation and very much relied on colleagues from other areas of the Council and external organisations, be that health, education, Action for Children, or any of the other third sector partners. A. Woolcock thanked everyone for their time and handed over to K. Britten.</p> <p>K. Britten spoke of case studies relating to 4 learners. This showed how they had grown and progressed through many school projects.</p>
(4)	<p>Draft Children and Young People Who Need Care and Support Strategy – Rachel Evans Joanna Beynon -</p>
	<p>L. Carver noted that in R. Evans' absence they were unfortunately unable to go into depth with regards to the changes made to the strategy. J. Beynon spoke of the monitoring process and how future actions could be added. It was also noted that the Strategy would be going to future Scrutiny meetings and had already been out for queries and comments.</p>
(5)	<p>Transgender Toolkit report – Jason Redrup -</p>

	<p>The item was presented by J. Redrup, the Council’s Safeguarding Officer for ALN and Wellbeing, who advised that the report and “Toolkit” needed to be reported to Corporate Parenting Panel as reporting dates had changed since the production of the report and therefore had to come to this Panel before any Scrutiny meetings.</p> <p>The purpose of the report was to advise members of the findings of the consultation on the revised Vale of Glamorgan Council’s Transgender Inclusion Toolkit and Guidance Document for Schools and Other Settings.</p> <p>The Vale of Glamorgan Council’s Transgender Inclusion Toolkit and Guidance Document for Schools and Other Settings as currently published was approved by Cabinet on 30th April, 2018.</p> <p>In recognising social, political, and legal contexts and that these changed over time, more recently the Council had been progressing its review of its Toolkit having liaised with colleagues from both Welsh Government and other Local Authorities in England and elsewhere in Wales. As the report was not available to Panel members it was agreed for it to be shared with the Panel via email and any responses to be sent to the Clerk.</p>
(6)	Children Looked After – Breakdown - Karen Conway -
	Unfortunately, apologies were given on this agenda item due to no officer being present at the meeting.
(7)	Any Other Business –
	<p>Future agenda items were discussed, identifying a presentation regarding children with disabilities in January.</p> <p>The date of next meeting was confirmed as 18th March, 2024 at 5.00 p.m.</p>