

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING – N. JARMAN

14 January 2016

MATTER FOR INFORMATION

WARDS AFFECTED: All

PROGRESS UPDATE ON MANAGING SITUATIONS AT HILLSIDE (YOUNG PEOPLE)

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update Members of the progress made in the review of the processes of managing incidents within Hillside. This will include the reporting of incidents to the police and safeguarding of young people.

Background

2. Hillside Secure Centre is a Secure Unit which is maintained by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and as such it is subject to the provisions of the Children Act 1989 and the guidance and regulations for residential care deriving from legislation. It is approved by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales for the purpose of restricting the liberty of children. The registered person is Mr. Nick Jarman.
3. All sanctions are in line with the Children's Homes (Wales) Regulations 2002 and the Guidance on Permissible Forms of Control in Children's Residential Care (Department of Health and Welsh Office 1993). All significant incidents are recorded in detail and copies sent to appropriate persons and available on site for

inspection purposes. This will include contact with the Police and Safeguarding of young people.

4. Previously at a meeting of this Committee, Members had sought clarification on the Centre's response and processes of managing incidents within the home. Members were informed that procedures were in place to safeguard young people and when necessary a process of reporting and contacting the police. However, it is acknowledged through our internal review, that there is a need to improve these processes to improve outcomes both for young people and employees within the provision.
5. The review of current processes and procedures has commenced and there is further work to be done to improve on current process. In particular, to further strengthen processes and practice through a joint protocol with external agencies. This would include South Wales Police as one of the partner agencies.
6. The protocol will need to be collaboratively developed and have a more comprehensive input from our partners across the various internal and external agencies. This protocol would acknowledge the good practice and professionalism of all agencies and staff working with children in care and would set out to:
 - Strike a balance between the rights and needs of children in residential homes, social care staff and the Local Authority.
 - Support and develop clearer processes for addressing offending incidents in residential homes.
 - Clarify the information required by the police and Crown Prosecution Service in considering prosecutions.
 - Emphasise the importance of regular and effective liaison between residential home staff and the local police.
 - Reinforce and extend the multi-agency links and commitment to reduce offending by children in care within Hillside.
 - Strengthen the use of alternative approaches in social care settings including the use of restorative practice in resolving conflict.
7. It is clear from the work to date that there was no clear protocol which existed between Hillside, South Wales Police and other external agencies which was inclusive of the aforementioned aims. Therefore, officers have embarked on a significant review of current processes

and procedures which will involve a thorough consultation process with external agencies to establish a more robust joint protocol.

8. The Centre Manager will report back to Committee at a later date with a Joint Protocol. This will further improve upon current practice and procedures that are currently in place.

Financial Impact

9. None

Recommendations

10. The report to be noted.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

11. Matter for information, no decision required.

Implementation of Decision

12. Matter for information, no decision required.

Officer Contact

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