

Report of Director or Elected Member Visit to Front-line Service within Children's Services (VCI Recommendation 41)



Matters to be considered	Visit details and outcomes	Additional Comments including any follow up action required or taken
Individual(s) visiting setting	Fenella Bowden	Visit with Cllr Sarah Merry
Author of report	Fenella Bowden	
Date of Visit	16.01.20	
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Date reported to CPAC		
Setting Visited	Eastern High School	
General description of visit – e.g. number of staff (approx) involved in meeting visitor; number spoken to and engaged in discussion; whether the visit involved service users and/or carers	I met with several members of staff at the school including the Deputy HT; SENCo, & Safeguarding officer. The purpose of our visit was to see for ourselves the work that the school is doing to support our looked after children & their carers.	.
Positive messages gathered from visit	There are 26 CLA at the school & only a few need academic intervention. The biggest need is support for emotional wellbeing & managing traumatised CLA. There are 330 pupils on the SEN register, 34% of the school. They have been successful in obtaining 25 statements in 4 years. The school has a strong team & staff are Trauma trained	

	<p>using Trauma Informed Practice. The staff are proactive with identifying the emotional & educational needs of our yp. The ELPC for Yrs 7/8 works well in helping yp adjust to High School. The school uses its PDG to employ a permanent Counsellor as the CAHMs waiting lists are too long. Staff wellbeing is also supported.</p> <p>I had a tour of the school & saw a number of intervention resource areas including the Hafan. I was pleased to hear that the School does not use pupil exclusion but find different ways to tackle problems.</p>	
<p>Concerning messages gathered from visit</p>	<p>The key messages were:</p> <p>Kinship carers – their need for support from CS together with funding for the carers to enable them to provide for the child;</p> <p>In many Kinship arrangements there is no one objectively organising contact with birth family & siblings; & there are no respite provisions;</p> <p>The lack of provision in Cardiff for an emotional trauma centre for yp who need it;</p> <p>The need for stronger advocacy. To support</p>	

	<p>the family & the yp in care. Many (kinship) carers lack the capacity to access resources & to cope with a 'battle' with CS; Schools are plugging the gaps that are being caused by lack of support from external services & family circumstances</p>	
<p>Were there any safeguarding concerns and if so what were they?</p>	<p>There is a role FT Safeguarding Officer on the staff in view of the issues that the school faces with these yp. The issue of young people being placed in unsafe situations outside of the school environment, and the lack of appropriate response from CS, I believe should be seen as a safeguarding concern.</p>	
<p>Were there any concerns regarding the level of service being provided and if so what?</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>Were there any other concerns?</p>	<p>None</p>	

Copy to team, establishment, manager, worker, etc

Date: 15.1.20

Visitors Position and Signature

Date Sent to Manager of Setting: