



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 11TH FEBRUARY 2014

SUBJECT: IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE 1 - PROGRESS UPDATE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to Members in respect of progress against Improvement Objective 1 – Ensuring children and young people who are Looked After are supported to achieve their full potential.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Appendix 1 provides a six-month update on the identified actions for Improvement Objective IO 1. The Council is required to set Improvement Objectives under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. Success, or otherwise, of delivery of Improvement Objective outcomes forms part of the Auditor General's annual assessment of the performance of the Council.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 This Improvement Objective has direct links to the Council's agreed Corporate Priorities and also to the Caerphilly Delivers – Single Integrated Plan.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Under this Improvement Objective the Council committed itself to the following key Outcomes:

- Recruit more foster carers in order to meet the placement needs of children requiring foster placements.
- Reduce the number of independent fostering Agency placements that we use.
- Improve placement stability for children, to promote positive outcomes.
- Improve the timeliness for children who require adoptive placements to be matched with and placed with adoptive families.
- Increase the education attainment levels of all looked after children (LAC) in an education setting.
- Increase the number of young people engaged in education, training, and employment.

- 4.2 The following actions were identified to deliver the outcomes:

- To recruit and support sufficient foster carers to provide placements for looked after children and to improve placement stability.

- Carry out a review of the Gwent Adoption service to ensure adoptive placements are available for children for whom adoption is the plan.
- To monitor all looked after children (LAC) and ensure that each child has a personal education plan in place, to ensure that all LAC have the opportunity to achieve well in school.
- Build on the existing leaving care team by developing a 16+ team and ensure the Council remains in contact with and supports the children leaving care.

4.3 Completion of the action “Carry out a review of the Gwent Adoption Service to ensure adoptive placements are available for children for whom adoption is the plan” has led to the identification of an additional action:

- Contribute to the development of a single, integrated Adoption Service for Gwent.

4.4 **Progress against each of the above actions is reported in Appendix 1.**

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 An Equalities Impact assessment is not required as the report is for information.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct Financial Implications associated with this report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct personnel implications associated with this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The result of all consultations have been incorporated into this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Scrutiny Committee consider the progress being made against the Improvement Objective and whether the evidence provided is satisfactory.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To ensure the Council is delivering the Improvement Objective IO 1

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Measure 2009.

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Background Papers:
Caerphilly Council's Improvement Objectives 2013/14

Appendices:
Appendix A Improvement Objective Dashboard