Improvement Objectives

IO1 - Ensure children and young people who are looked after are supported to achieve their full potential.

<u>Outcomes:</u>

1. CCBC will have recruited more foster carers in order to meet the placement needs of children requiring foster placements. We want to reduce the number of Independent Fostering Agency placements that we use and ensure children are placed within the Borough to access local services when ever possible. We aim to improve Placement Stability for children, to promote more positive outcomes.

2. We want to improve the timeliness for children who require adoptive placements to be matched with and placed with adoptive families.

3. We hope to increase the education attainment levels of all Looked after children (LAC) in an education setting.

4. We want to increase the number of young people engaged in education, training and employment so it gives them the best opportunities and part of that is to build upon arrangements to place young people in suitable accommodation.

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CAERPHILLY
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
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Quarter 2 Progress Summary

What have we done well over the last six months?

- Formally launched the new 16 Plus Service
- Implemented the revised Homeless Protocol for 16/17 year olds in partnership with Housing and the Third Sector
- Confirmed commitment to the development of the South East Wales Adoption Service (SEWAS) which will now become fully operational in 2014
- Improved performance in respect of completion of Personal Education Plans (PEP's) for Looked After Children – 86% compared to 76% for the same period last year.

What areas do we need to improve on? and how are we going to do it?

SCC/033f – Percentage of former LAC in education/ training/ employment at age 19:

Members will clearly focus on the need to encourage young people to gain employment or engage in education and training. However, the number of young people that fall into this PI category is very small – 11 young people, so the percentage can be distorted by small variations. The reality is that the current cohort of young people, 5 out of 11 young people that this PI relates to, have particular issues in their lives or such complex needs or high levels of vulnerability that they are unable to engage. Of the 5 young people unable to engage; 1 is in Secure Accommodation, 2 are pregnant young women and 2 are disabled young people. These factors will continue to impact upon performance for the remainder of the year. We are in regular contact with these young people and offering support and advice to assist them to get back into education/training or employment.

However, it is important to note that this is a common feature reported across Wales and the year to date performance of 54.5% for Caerphilly compares favourably to the Welsh Average for 2012/13 of 56.4%.

CSPI_03 – The number of foster carers recruited:

This local measure is slightly below the target set for the first six months. However, despite recruitment campaigns, the Council is dependent upon applications being made by the public. The target of 25 new foster carers in a year is extremely ambitious and should be reviewed.

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<div align="center">Risks</div>

Title	Original Date	Original RAG	Original Likelihood of occurence	Original Impact	RAG	Likelihood of occurence	Impact	Mitigation actions
Failure to ensure that all children and young people in the borough who are looked after, are supported to achieve their full potential, could result in poor well-being, instability of placements and under-achieving in school.	01 Apr 2013	◆	4	4	⬦	3	4	Regular monitoring of all looked after children (LAC) to ensure that each child has a personal education plan in place, to ensure that all LAC have the opportunity to achieve well in school. Children's services continue to promote the well-being of looked after children and strive to promote placement stability and educational opportunities. This is evidenced in quarter 2 PI updates as the percentage of looked after children who experience one or more changes of school and the those who have had more than three placements are both below target.

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Actions

Title	Comment	Planned End Date	RAG	Overall Status	% Complete
1. To recruit and support sufficient foster carers to provide placements for looked after children and to improve placement stability.	Recruiting foster carers for looked after children continues to be a priority. Marketing campaigns target potential foster carers who are able to care for children, particularly sibling groups and older children. The Placement Unit plays a critical, active role in ensuring that placements for children and young people meet these priorities. Regular Out of Authority meetings review placements made with Independent Fostering Agencies and where opportunities exist and where appropriate plan for those children in placement be matched to in house carers. The planned date is 31st March 2014, however the recruitment of foster carers is an ongoing priority for the division.	31st March 2014.	⊖	In Progress	50
2. Carry out a review of the Gwent Adoption Service to ensure adoptive placements are available for children for whom adoption is the plan.	The review of the Gwent Adoption Service has taken place, as a result of the review it has been agreed that a single integrated Adoption Service for Gwent should be developed. Refer to action 5.	End of June 2013	⬆	Complete	100
3. 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.	Processes are in place to ensure Personal Education Plans for looked after children are in place. As at September, we had 86.70% of looked after children receiving a personal education plan within the first 20 school days. These are also addressed via regular Looked After Children (LAC) reviews. As at September, we carried out 96.90% of LAC reviews within the timescale. Although the planned end date is 31st March 2014, it is an ongoing priority of the division to regular monitor LAC and their personal education plans.	31st March 2014	⊖	In Progress	50
4. 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.	The Sixteen plus team was officially launched on the 6th September 2013. There will be a period of transfer of cases but it is hoped that the team will take responsibility for all 16 plus looked after children cases and homeless young people from end of September 2013. Also a protocol has been drawn up between Sixteen plus team and housing regards homeless 16/17 years olds.	31st March 2014	⊖	In Progress	50
5. Contribute to the development of a single, integrated Adoption Service for Gwent	Work is progressing to develop a single integrated Adoption Service for Gwent. There remains a national shortage of adopters, particularly for adopters of sibling groups and children with additional needs. The Caerphilly Adoption Service faces similar challenges and work is being undertaken with the Market Analyst to review the recruitment strategy in order to improve recruitment rates.	31st March 2014	⊖	In Progress	50

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Evidence

Title	Actual	Target	Intervention	RAG	Previous Period	Comment
CSPI_03 The Number of Foster Carers recruited.	9.00	12.00	6.00	⬆	4.00	
CSPI_04 % Of Children placed in Foster Care.	85.00	85.00	75.00	⬇	85.80	239/281
CSPI_05 % Of Children placed with adoptive families during the financial year.	2.49	3.00	0.00	⬆	1.42	3/281
EDU002ii The % of pupils in local authority care aged 15, who leave compulsory education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification		0.00	6.06			Annual Indicator.
SCC/001a % of LAC that began with a care plan in place	100.00	100.00	90.00	▬	100.00	48/48
SCC/001b % of LAC with a plan for permanence at due date	100.00	100.00	89.90	▬	100.00	27/27
SCC/002 % of LAC with one or more changes of school	5.20	8.00	10.00	▬	4.40	11/210
SCC/004 % of LAC who have had more than 3 placements during the year	4.60	6.20	8.00	⬇	4.30	13/281
SCC/021 % of LAC reviews carried out within statutory timescales	96.90	90.00	80.00	⬆	96.70	339/350
SCC/024 % of LAC receiving a PEP within 20 school days	86.70	85.00	76.50	⬇	90.00	13/15
SCC/033d % of former LAC in contact at age of 19	100.00	100.00	90.00	▬	100.00	Final - 11/11
SCC/033e % of former LAC in suitable accommodation at 19	100.00	95.80	85.40	▬	100.00	Final - 11/11
SCC/033f % of former LAC in educ/training/employment at 19	54.50	75.00	60.00	⬆	33.30	Final - 6/11
SCC/035 % of LAC achieving the Core Subject Indicator at KS2		64.28	59.28		58.30	Annual Indicator
SCC/036 % of LAC achieving the Core Subject Indicator at KS3		33.33	28.33		34.60	Annual Indicator
SCC/037 Average external qualifications points score for LAC		198.00	158.00		157.00	Annual Indicator
SCC/041a % of eligible children that have pathway plans	99.30	99.00	89.00	⬆	98.70	152/153
SCC/041b % of eligible children with a personal advisor	100.00	100.00	89.90	▬	100.00	170/170