

Improvement Objectives

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

Outcomes:

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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End of year 2013-14 Progress Summary

What have we done well over the last six months?

- Formally launched the new 16 Plus Service in September 2013.
- 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 reviews for Looked After Children – 97.50% compared to 96.50% for the same period last year.
- % of LAC with a personal education plan in place has increased to 95.20% compared to 85.40% last year.
- The average external qualification points score for LAC is 238 compared to 157 last year.
- % of eligible children that have pathway plans has increased to 100% compared to 99.30% 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 –30 young people, so the percentage can be distorted by small variations. The reality is that the current cohort of young people, 18 out of 30 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. However, we continue to be in regular contact with the individual young people concerned and continue to offer support and advice to assist them to enter education, training or employment.

SCC/004 – Percentage of LAC who have had more than 3 placements during the year:

Out of a total of 275 looked after children, 26 had more than one placement during the year. There are a number of issues relating to the data informing this PI including: a planned return home to family or a move to an adoptive placement is counted as a move for the purposes of this PI despite the fact that it ends the period of the child being Looked After and is therefore a positive move. In addition, all Looked After Children on 1st April are automatically counted as having had one placement move even if they are in long term and stable placements. As a result our performance of 9.50% is actually very positive and remains under the Welsh average of 10%.

CSPI_03 – The number of foster carers recruited:

Scrutiny Committee Members will recall discussions held in February 2014 where clarity was sought regarding the target setting for this local performance indicator. Committee acknowledged that a target of recruiting an additional 25 carers within a year was extremely aspirational and unlikely to be achieved. Committee agreed that the target of 25 was intended to apply to the overall Improvement Objective timescale and not to each financial year. To date we have exceeded expectations and already recruited 23 additional carers so we are confident that the target will now be achieved and exceeded.

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Title	Original Date	Original RAG	Original Likelihood of occurrence	Original Impact	RAG	Likelihood of occurrence	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				
Blank Risk								

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Title	Comment	RAG	Overall Status	% Complete
1. To recruit and support sufficient foster carers to provide placements for looked after children and to improve placement stability.	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The target to recruit 25 additional foster carers relates to the timeframe of the Improvement Objective and proportionately has been exceeded in 2013/14.</p>	🟢	Complete	100
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.	🟢	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.	<p>Processes are in place to ensure Personal Education Plans for looked after children are in place. As at March, we had 95.20% 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 March, we carried out 97.50% of LAC reviews within the timescale.</p> <p>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.</p>	🟢	Complete	100
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 in September 2013. Following a period of transfer of cases, the team have now assumed responsibility for all Looked After Children aged 16 plus years and their work with vulnerable young people has already received credit from CSSIW. The percentage of eligible young people with Pathway Plans in place has increased to 100% in 2013/14 and the percentage of young people 'in contact at age 19 yrs' has been maintained at 100%. Supporting young people Looked After, Leaving Care and/or facing homelessness will continue to be a priority for the Division going forward in 2014/15.	🟢	Complete	100
5. Contribute to the development of a single, integrated Adoption Service for Gwent	Work continued throughout 2013/14 to develop a regional Adoption Service covering the five Local Authorities in Gwent. Everything is in place for the new service called the South East Wales Adoption Service (SEWAS) to be fully operational on 1st April 2014.	🟢	Complete	100

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Title	Evidence			RAG	Previous Period	Comment
	Actual	Target	Intervention			
CSPI_03 The Number of Foster Carers recruited.	23.00	25.00	12.00	↑		
CSPI_04 % Of Children placed in Foster Care.	84.00	85.00	75.00	↓		232/276
CSPI_05 % Of Children placed with adoptive families during the financial year.	4.70	3.00	0.00	↑		13/276
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	Final - 92/92
SCC/001b % of LAC with a plan for permanence at due date	100.00	100.00	89.90	↓	100.00	Final - 67/67
SCC/002 % of LAC with one or more changes of school	8.30	8.00	10.00	↓	8.30	Final - 18/218
SCC/004 % of LAC who have had more than 3 placements during the year	9.50	6.20	8.00	↓	9.40	Final - 26/275
SCC/021 % of LAC reviews carried out within statutory timescales	97.50	90.00	80.00	↑	97.30	Final - 633/649
SCC/024 % of LAC receiving a PEP within 20 school days	95.20	85.00	76.50	↓	93.80	Final - 40/42
SCC/033d % of former LAC in contact at age of 19	100.00	100.00	90.00	↓	100.00	Final - 30/30
SCC/033e % of former LAC in suitable accommodation at 19	93.30	95.80	85.40	↑	92.90	Final - 28/30
SCC/033f % of former LAC in educ/training/employment at 19	60.00	75.00	60.00	↓	57.10	Final - 18/30
SCC/035 % of LAC achieving the Core Subject Indicator at KS2	71.40	64.28	59.28	↓	58.30	Final - 10/14
SCC/036 % of LAC achieving the Core Subject Indicator at KS3	42.90	33.33	28.33	↓	34.60	Final - 6/14
SCC/037 Average external qualifications points score for LAC	238.10	198.00	158.00	↑	157.00	Final - 6428/27
SCC/041a % of eligible children that have pathway plans	100.00	99.00	89.00	↑	99.30	Final - 145/145
SCC/041b % of eligible children with a personal advisor	100.00	100.00	89.90	↓	100.00	Final - 163/163