

Improvement Objectives

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

Outcomes:

1. Continue to recruit sufficient foster carers in order to meet the placement needs of our Looked After Children (LAC). We plan to reduce the reliance on Independent Fostering Agency placements and maintain 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 improve the engagement of young people leaving care, in education, training and employment in order to give them the best opportunities.
5. Continue to improve the range of accommodation options for young people leaving care and those facing homelessness.

A greener place to live, work and visit
Man gwyrdach i fyw, gweithio ac ymweld



Improvement Objectives

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

2014-15 Six Month Progress Summary

What have we done well over the last 6 months?

- Numbers of Looked After Children and children on the Child Protection Register remain stable
- Successful implementation of the Children's Services Reconfiguration
- Successful reconfiguration of the Business Support function across the Service including the establishment of centralised business support for Child Protection Conferences and LAC Reviews
- South East Wales Adoption Service (SEWAS) fully operational
- Performance across all Performance Indicators has been maintained and places Caerphilly in the top quartile in Wales

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

- All the Improvement Objectives are on track to meet the agreed target or have already exceeded the agreed target.

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

Title	Comment	RAG	Overall Status	% Complete
06. Continue to recruit sufficient foster carers in order to meet the placement demands of Looked After Children (LAC) to reduce reliance on Independent Fostering Agency placements and maintain Placement Stability levels below the Welsh Average of 10%	<p>The Fostering Team continues to actively recruit potential foster carers and in the first half of 2014/15, 7 new carers have been successfully approved by the Fostering Panel. The target to recruit 25 new carers over the Improvement Objective timeframe has been exceeded with the total now standing at 30. The Foster Carer Recruitment Strategy will be revised during the autumn in readiness to implement in 2015/16.</p> <p>Placement stability is currently reported at 3.9% and is projected to remain below the Welsh Average of 10%.</p>		Complete	100
08. Ensure that children requiring adoptive placements are suitably matched and placed with adoptive families in a timely manner	SEWAS has been fully operational since April 2014 and working practices are continuing to be developed and strengthened. In the year to date we have successfully placed 8 children for adoption, 3 in Quarter 1 and 5 in Quarter 2, hereby exceeding the annual target of 3.		Complete	100
09. Improve the educational attainment levels of Looked After Children.	Whilst the academic achievements of Looked After Children are only reported annually, a key indicator of success is the timely completion of Personal Education Plans and to date 100% of LAC have a PEP in place within timescales. This is an improvement on last years rate of 95% and it is hoped it will be maintained for the remainder of the year.		Complete	100
10. Improve the engagement of young people leaving care in education, training and employment.	Members will remember the number of young people included in this cohort is relatively small (7/14) and most of the young people have had significant issues to overcome in their lives making it difficult for many of them to engage positively in education, training or employment. In the year to date we have maintained last years performance at 50% in line with the target. Members can be reassured that 100% of our care leavers have Pathway Plans in place, are in contact with the Council and are in suitable accommodation.		In Progress	50
11. Continue to improve the range of accommodation options for young people leaving care and those facing homelessness.	The Sixteen Plus Team, working closely with Housing and Supporting People colleagues continue to identify and develop a wide range of accommodation options for young people leaving care and homeless 16/17 yr olds. Performance to date confirms that 100% of young people known to Children's Services are placed in appropriate accommodation that meets their identified needs.		Complete	100

IO1 - Ensure children and young people who are looked after are supported to achieve their full potential.**How much did we do?**

Title	Actual	Target	Intervention	RAG	Previous Period	Comment
% Of Children placed with Caerphilly Foster Carers.		45.00	43.00		47.00	Local annual indicator.
% of LAC that began with a care plan in place	100.00	100.00	90.00	↑	98.00	54/54
% of LAC with a plan for permanence at due date	100.00	100.00	89.90	↓	100.00	36/36
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	5.00			This data will be available once Key Stage 4 data is confirmed in December 2014/ January 2015.
The Number of Foster Carers recruited.	30.00	25.00	12.00	↑	23.00	7 new carers have been approved by the Fostering Panel.

How well we are doing?

Title	Actual	Target	Intervention	RAG	Previous Period	Comment
% of LAC achieving the Core Subject Indicator at KS2		78.57	59.28		71.43	Annual Indicator
% of LAC achieving the Core Subject Indicator at KS3		41.66	28.33		42.86	Annual Indicator
% of LAC reviews carried out within statutory timescales	94.00	90.00	80.00	↓	94.00	264/281
% of LAC with one or more changes of school	2.00	13.70	15.00	↓	1.90	4/203
Average external qualifications points score for LAC		200.00	158.00		238.00	Annual Indicator

Is anyone better off?

Title	Actual	Target	Intervention	RAG	Previous Period	Comment
% of LAC who have had more than 3 placements during the year	3.90	10.00	12.00	↓	4.10	10/258
% of LAC receiving a PEP within 20 school days	95.20	85.00	76.50	↓	100.00	20/21
% of former LAC in suitable accommodation at 19	100.00	95.00	85.40	↓	100.00	14/14
% of former LAC in educ/training/employment at 19	50.00	50.00	40.00	↓	54.50	7/14
% of former LAC in contact at age of 19	100.00	100.00	90.00	↓	100.00	14/14
% of eligible children with a personal advisor	100.00	100.00	89.90	↓	100.00	164/164
% of eligible children that have pathway plans	100.00	100.00	89.00	↓	100.00	132/132
% Of Children placed with adoptive families during the financial year.	3.10	3.00	0.00	↑	1.07	8/258