



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 10TH FEBRUARY 2015

SUBJECT: IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE 1 – 2014-15 SIX MONTH UPDATE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide a six monthly update to Members in respect of progress made in 2014-15 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 A provides the 2014-15 six-month update on the identified actions for Improvement Objective IO 1. The Council is required to set Improvement Objectives under the Local Government (for Wales) Measure 2009. The successful 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- Improve the engagement of young people leaving care in education, training and employment in order to give them the best opportunities.
- Continue to improve the range of accommodation options for young people leaving care and those facing homelessness.

- 4.2 Progress against each of these outcomes is reported in Appendix A.

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.

Author: Gareth Jenkins: Assistant Director Children's Services
Consultees: Dave Street: Corporate Director Social Services
Social Services Senior Management Team
Colin Jones: Head of Performance & Property Services
Ioan Richards: Performance Management Unit
Gail Williams: Acting Head of Legal Services
Cllr Robin Woodyatt: Cabinet Member for Social Services
Cllr David Hardacre: Cabinet Member for Performance, Property & Asset Management

Background Papers:
Caerphilly Council's Improvement Objectives 2014-15

Appendices:
Appendix A - Improvement Objective Q2 update report.