

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.

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2014-15 End of Year Summary

What have we done well over the last 12 months?

- Numbers of Looked After Children have reduced and stabilised.
- Numbers of children on the Child Protection Register continue to be stable.
- Recruitment of foster carers over the period of the Improvement Objective has exceeded the target set.
- South East Wales Adoption Service (SEWAS) has been fully operational throughout the year and through effective joint working a small number of children who had been waiting for adoptive placements, have all been successfully placed.
- 94% of LAC have a Personal Educational Plan in place within 20 days of starting school - this performance has been maintained from 2013-14.

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

- All the Improvement Objectives have been achieved or exceeded the agreed target.
- Looked After Children will always be a statutory priority group for the Council to support.
- Performance needs to be maintained in the context of potential cuts in service.
- Implementation of the revised Foster Care Recruitment Strategy will continue to be monitored closely to ensure adequate numbers of carers are approved to meet demand.

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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 over the three year span of this Improvement Objective have recruited 33 new carers, significantly exceeding the original target of 25.</p> <p>Placement stability has increased by one percentage point from 9.4% in 2013/14 to 10.4 for 2014/15. Whilst this is disappointing, it still places us at the Welsh average.</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 practice is now well embedded. We have successfully placed 12 children for Adoption this year significantly exceeding the original target of 3. Over the three year period, 54 children have been adopted.	⊖	Complete	100
09. Improve the educational attainment levels of Looked After Children.	<p>A key success indicator for ensuring children's educational needs are being met in school is the completion of the Personal Education Plan and performance has been maintained this year at 94.10%.</p> <p>School attendance levels for LAC have also been maintained at 95.5% in Primary Schools and 91.7% in Secondary Schools</p> <p>Overall academic attainment has increased with the average external qualifications points score rising from 238 in 2013/14 to 322 for the current year. It is important to note that the number of children included in this cohort is small and small variations in ability will have significant impact on the scores.</p>	⊖	Complete	100
10. Improve the engagement of young people leaving care in education, training and employment.	Members will remember that the number of young people in this cohort is relatively small (8 young people out of a possible 33). The young people not engaged include young people with significant and complex disability, young parents, young people in prison or remand, all of whom are unable to engage in education, training or employment but have to be reported in the data set. Members can continue to be reassured that 100% of Care Leavers have Pathway Plans in place and are in contact with the Local Authority.	⊖	Complete	100
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

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Title	Actual	Target	Intervention	RAG	Result 12 Months Ago	Comment
% Of Children placed with Caerphilly Foster Carers.	49.63	45.00	43.00	–	47	135/272
% of LAC that began with a care plan in place	100.00	100.00	90.00	–	100	Final - 135/135
% of LAC with a plan for permanence at due date	100.00	100.00	89.90	–	100	Final - 76/76
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	0.00	5.00	–		This is FINAL data and refers to the Academic Year 2013/14.
The Number of Foster Carers recruited.	33.00	25.00	12.00	–	23	Local Indicator (quarterly)

How well we are doing?

Title	Actual	Target	Intervention	RAG	Result 12 Months Ago	Comment
% of LAC achieving the Core Subject Indicator at KS2	63.64	78.57	59.28	↓	71.4	Final - 7/11
% of LAC achieving the Core Subject Indicator at KS3	34.78	41.66	28.33	↓	42.9	Final - 8/23
% of LAC reviews carried out within statutory timescales	95.20	90.00	80.00	↑	97.5	Final - 539/566
% of LAC with one or more changes of school	8.50	13.70	15.00	–	8.3	Final - 18/211
Average external qualifications points score for LAC	322.00	200.00	158.00	–	238.1	Final - 8861/27

Is anyone better off?

Title	Actual	Target	Intervention	RAG	Result 12 Months Ago	Comment
% of LAC who have had more than 3 placements during the year	10.60	10.00	12.00	↓	9.5	Final - 29/272
% of LAC receiving a PEP within 20 school days	94.10	85.00	76.50	↑	95.2	Final - 48/51
% of former LAC in suitable accommodation at 19	100.00	95.00	85.40	↑	93.3	Final - 33/33
% of former LAC in educ/training/employment at 19	54.50	50.00	40.00	↑	60	Final - 18/33
% of former LAC in contact at age of 19	100.00	100.00	90.00	–	100	Final - 33/33
% of eligible children with a personal advisor	100.00	100.00	89.90	–	100	Final - 149/149
% of eligible children that have pathway plans	100.00	100.00	89.00	–	100	Final - 112/112
% Of Children placed with adoptive families during the financial year.	4.41	3.00	0.00	–	4.70	Final - 12/272